## **Chapter 18**

## Dexter

I lead her up the steps I was surprised when she left her hand in mine after I helped her out the door. We walk in the door I look at her out of the corner of my eye. She was just walking along with me she would look around but then look back forward. I was still unsure of what I wanted to do but having her this close was keeping my dragon calm.

I've decided to have her stay on the same floor as me in a spare room. I didn't want her staying in the staff quarters. They aren't bad but not that good and the thought of her behind there that far away from me wasn't agreeing with my dragon.

We stopped at the elevator doors.

"You guys have an elevator in the house?" She asked with the most shocked look on her face.

"Of course, dear," My mother tells her. reaching out and pushing the button. The doors open and we all step inside. My mother pushes for the fourth floor.

"I can't believe you have an elevator in your home, "

"It is normally used when we have to go higher than the third floor them steps will get ya," Dad tells her.

"Oh um, the staff quarters higher than the third floor?"

"No, they are in another part of the house more towards the back side they have servant access door halls to use so they aren't in the main area," He explains to her.

"Shouldn't I be going that way then?"

She asked sounding a little confused.

The elevator comes to a stop and the doors open. My parents step out first we follow behind. We walk a little down the hall when we stop at a door my mother opens it stepping to the side.

I walk her to the door grab her hand and let her walk in first. She stops and looks at me with an unsure look.

"It's ok go ahead, "

I nod my head towards the open door. She looks back ahead and walks through the door I walk in behind her. She is standing there in the middle of the room just looking around.

My parents walk in behind me she turns around to look at us.

"I hope you like it," My mother says to her.

"It's beautiful, is this my room?"

"Yes dear, This is where you will be staying."

"I thought I was to be staying in the staff quarters? Not that I'm ungrateful for this," She says and holds out her hands towards the room.

"But I'm completely fine staying in the other area. I'm not a picky person I'm very simple, "

I couldn't help but smile inside at her. She was willing to stay in a lower-ranked room and not in a luxury room.

"Nonsense my dear, " My mother walks over to her and takes her hands in hers.

"Please accept the room, We wanted to give you this so you would feel more at home, I know you are heartbroken over your family but I would like for you to think of us as your family now,"

My mother tells her. I see my mate's eyes fill with tears as my mother finishes. She pulls my mate into a hug rubbing her back. She pulls back and looks at her.

" So it settled you will stay here? "

My mate sniffles and wipes her cheeks.

"Yes, I will stay here thank you queen Laura for everything."

"It's just Laura, " Mom says to her.

She nods her head." Thank you, " She says softly.

"Alright now that we have that settled on to the schooling, Dexter will take you to the school, He will help you get set up there."

She looks at me and I give her a small smile. She returns it and I can see the pink start to show on her cheeks.

I walk over to her and my mother.

"Ready to go?" I asked her.

"Yes, Thank you."

I hold my arm out to her and she hesitates just a second before she loops her arm with mine. I turn and head back out the door leading her to the elevator again.

Once we reach the first floor I head to the front door. When I smell the perfume of the one person I was hoping to avoid.

Brenda comes walking towards us. Damn it.

She is looking between Maxine and me and the look she held showed she wasn't happy I had Maxine on my arm.

I stop keeping Maxine close to my side.

"Brenda, What can I do for you?"

I asked her calmly.

"I was just looking for you, Who's this?" She points to Maxine.

"She a friend, "

My mate is an innocent person she is extending her hand to Brenda.

"I'm Maxine, Maxine Martin it nice to meet you, "

Brenda stared at her hand. She didn't take Maxine's hand she looked at her "Brenda Anderson, I'm Dexter's fiance."

Maxine dropped her hand and slowly started to pull her hand from my arm. I quickly grabbed it placing it back. I looked at her out of the corner of my eye and saw her drop her head to look at the floor.

I look back at Brenda

" I'll only tell you one more time Brenda, We are not engaged nor will we ever be engaged. Now if you will excuse us, we are heading out, "

I walk past her leading Maxine away from her.

"Dexter, "I hear Brenda call me. I instantly stiffen she knows I dislike it when she uses my name like that.

I glare at her" Prince Dexter to you, "

I turn back around leading Maxine to the front door. We walk out the door and I see my truck is parked in the front. I walk her down the stairs I open the door for her.

"Thank you, "she says and climbs in.

I go around and get in the driver's seat. I fit so much better in my truck than them dam SUV. I start the truck up and head back out the drive. I can see her sitting there fidgeting with her fingers if I wasn't trying to figure out what Brenda and her father are up to Id throw her out of the house for that little stunt.

"I'm sorry about that back there, "

Breaking the silence.

"Oh um it's okay, I hope I didn't give her the wrong idea, "

"Trust me you didn't, She's not my fiance she thinks she is but it's only because she wants the status, "

"She very pretty,"

My mate says and I can hear the sadness in her voice.

"She's not my type, " I state.

" Why not? I mean she is beautiful she seems to be the whole package that every guy would want, "

"Not this guy, " I say and point to myself with a smirk.

"She looks like my sister, She always had the guys falling all over her, Even my parents liked her more,"

She looks down at her hands and I can see a single tear roll down her cheek.

Seeing her cry over her family only made me mad. I don't understand how her family could just give her up like that. Then not even wanting her back all the other parents were so beyond happy that we found their daughters. Yet hers simply didn't want her they didn't care that she was found and saved. What kind of people are they?

I reach out and take her hand in mine. She looks surprised at my gesture.

"Maxine, You are very beautiful don't ever let anyone tell you differently, You are unique in your way," I lift her hand and give it a soft kiss.

I set my hand back down but kept her hand in mine. I look at her and see she has a small blush on her cheeks.

" Thank you, Prince Dexter. "

"You can call me Dexter, " I tell her.

"Max," She replies. I look at her and raise my eyes brow.

"You can call me Max, What few friends I have they all call me that I like it better than Maxine,"

"Ok. Max, "

"Dexter," she says my name I almost let out a small growl. My dragon liked the fact that she said our name. We continue our drive we made small talk she told me about what classes were her favorite and how she wanted to travel the world. Mostly to get away from her home life she seemed so full of life and to top it she was sweet and the simplest person I've ever met.

God, what was I supposed to do...