

Chapter 22

Dexter

"Well, what do we have here, "

I look at the four men standing by my truck.

"Cole," I say dryly.

"What no how ya been? or a nice to see you again. Just a simple Cole?"

"Well seeing how it's not nice to see you and I could care less about how you are doing, A simple Cole it is, Now if you would kindly be on your way we would like to leave," I see him look from me to Maxine and back to me and I see that smirk play come to his face, Dam it this is what I was afraid of happening if she was with me,

"Barb," I call her in my head.

"Yes, Dexter, What's wrong? "

"I need you to come out front and take Maxine back inside four hunters are out front call Jon he's too far for me to reach through the link."

"I'm coming hold tight, "

"Aren't you gonna introduce us to your friend? "

I see the look in his eyes he's up to something, I pull her behind me and give him a hard glare.

"Back off Cole," I gritted out to him I'm trying hard not to growl.

"Oh come now Dexter we mean no harm we just want to meet her, She seems like she is new here I've never seen her around here,"

He steps to the side and tries to see her. I turn my body so she is still behind me. With how small she is it's hard to see her standing there. I feel her grab my shirt and she has a tight hold.

"What is going on out here? "

I hear Barb's voice behind me. I peek over my shoulder and see her standing there hands on her hips. She doesn't like hunters for they are the ones who killed her husband.

"This doesn't concern you grandma take yourself back inside." Cole spats her.

"Barb take Maxine you two get inside."

"Oh no you don't young man," Barb starts "Your little butts are on my property in front of my business. Now if you don't want to get a little ass whooping by this old grandma I suggest you run along and leave my customers alone."

Her voice is hard and she is suppressing her dragon from coming forward

I can feel Maxine squeeze my shirt tighter and I can feel her start to tremble a little. Shit, she probably having a panic attack these guys are a lot like the ones who hurt her,

Cole steps towards Barb but he also steps sideways making us turn a little so the building wasn't behind us anymore.

Suddenly I feel Maxine being ripped away from my back. She had such a tight hold on my shirt that when they pulled her back it ripped my shirt. She lets out a scream. I spin around to grab her but I see the other guy holding a small silver knife to her throat. I couldn't help the growl that left my throat at the sight. I start to move toward them and he shakes his head and presses it a little harder against her. I stop moving.

"Well now did someone find their mate,"

I hear Cole ask as he walks back over and stands next to the one who has Maxine.

I look at Maxine she has her eyes closed and I can see the tears starting to fall my dragon is digging at my insides to come out they are threatening our mate she

hurting and scared, All he wants is too kill these guys so he can get our mate back in our arms.

"Leave her out of this," I growled at him "this is between you and I let her go. "

"Oh, now Dexter you know I can't do that by your reaction I'm gonna say she is of importance to you, Am I wrong? "

I'm about to answer him when I hear Jon.

"Dexter I'm behind the dinner coming around which side do you want me? "

"Right," Is all I say to him.

"Seems we have ourselves a little situation here Dexter, "Cole says as he looks at Maxine. He reaches up and touches her cheek, I growled at him he looks at me with a smile and drops his hand.

"Others will be pleased to know that Cold hearted prince has found his mate, "

He says it with the most sarcastic sound.

I look past them and see Jon sticking his head out from the corner. A smile appears on my face.

"Barb, "I call her in my head.

"I see him, Dexter, I'll get your mate you just get that ass off her. "

I had to hold my laugh she always had a way with words.

Jon sneaks out from behind the building and has moved to hide behind a car that's next to my truck.

"Don't touch the one who Max has a knife to her throat. "

"Clear, I'll grab Cole that will distract him for you. "

"You may want to rethink your steps Cole you know there's no way I'm letting you go anywhere or do anything to her, "

I spat at him hoping he would get the drift. I look back at Maxine and see she still has her eyes closed she looks pale like she gonna faint at any moment.

I let my claws grow down letting my fingers turn to talons I know my eyes have already turned to glow yellow as I let my dragon surface just a bit I can feel my teeth become elongated.

Look to the other two hunters that were still by my truck. I see them with terrified looks on their faces. They must be newbies I growl lowly at them and snap my jaw toward them. They turn on their heels and take off down the street. I look back over to Cole and let out a hard growl.

"Your growls don't scare me, Dexter, I've been doing this longer. "

I see Jon is behind him and he doesn't even know it. Jon let out a breath that sounded more like a growl. I see Cole stiffen at that he won't turn around he already knows it's Jon.

"Now I'll give you a choice, You can walk away today alive, or Jon there is gonna make your day turn bad, "

I say but my voice is deeper due to my dragon.

I see him thinking about what I said.

"He will kill your mate if you touch me," he says like he's won this argument.

"Not happening, " I growled.

"Jon," I say through the link.

He grabs Cole and wraps his hand around Coles' throat Jon has halfway shifted like me so instead of a hand it's a huge claw. He presses his talon against Cole's throat causing it to bleed a little. The guy who has Maxine seems lost at what to do.

I walk to Jon stopping next to him I can hear Cole gasping for air.

"Release her and we will let him go, "

He looks at Cole and then back to me he's trying to figure out what to do. We have his boss he knows if he hurts her Jon will not hesitate to rip Coles's throat out.

He slowly lowers the knife from her throat but keeps a hold of her.

I let myself shift back to normal.

"Maxine" I call her, She doesn't open her eyes.

"Maxine open your eyes and look at me, "

I say again. She slowly opens her eyes she looks at me and I can see the fear in them.

"He's going to let you go when he does your gonna walk to Barb and go inside, "

She looks at Barb who is standing off to the side she looks back at me and nods.

"Who said I'm letting her go first? You let Cole go first and then I'll let her go."

"Jon," that Is all I had to say. He tightens his hold on Coles' throat causing him to make a gurgling noise.

"Do I need to repeat myself, " I say to him

He shakes his head and lets Maxine go she starts to walk towards me when Barb grabs her. She wraps her arms around Maxine's shoulders and leads her back inside.

"Now let him go," The guy barks out.

I look at Jon and nod. Jon lets go of him and pushes him forward toward the other guy he lands on his knees. He coughs and spits while he reaches up and wipes the little blood from his throat.

I crouch down so I'm at eye level with him.

"Don't you ever attempt to harm my mate again? The next time you will pay with your life your lucky my mate was here or I'd have Jon rip your throat out. "

"You know people will target her now that you have found her I will tell everyone." He spits out. I grab him by his shirt lifting him as I stand up.

"I will kill anyone who dares harm her she is MINE,"

I throw him against the car we were near. "Now get out of here! "

I tell the other guy. He runs over and helps Cole up he is having to pretty much drag him away.

I turn to Jon. "Have someone follow them, I can't take a chance now that they found out about her. "

"On it," he says.

"Do you want me to hang around and go back with you? "

" No man I'm fine to get someone on them before they go in hiding we can't follow them. "

"Copy that, See ya later." he takes off in the same direction as the two hunters went.

I walk back into the dinner and look for Maxine I spot her in the back booth we were eating lunch in Barb is sitting with her. She has a glass of water in her hand she looks up and her eyes lock with mine I walk towards them Barb stands up.

"Thanks, Barb," I tell her she smiles at me and walks back to the bar. I sit down next to her.

" You alright?" I asked her.

She nods her head a little she's not as pale as before.

"Dexter, "She calls me.

"Yeah, "I say to her.

"What a mate! "

Well shit,