

Chapter 23

Maxine

My hands were shaking a bit

"Don't worry Dexter will be fine,"

I hear Barb say to me

"Who are those people?"

"Dexter is the prince and he has a lot of people who are always after what he has, Some people think by hurting him will get them the power and wealth they want,"

"So people just randomly go after him? That's crazy! "

"Yes it is but he knows how to handle it."

"Who was that other guy that showed up? "

"That was Jon. Dexter and he have been friends since they were little, "

I just nod Dexter had told me about his friend Jon.

I look up and see Dexter walking towards us he seems so calm after all that I've still freaked out and shaking. I feel Barb stand. Dexter thanks her and she smiles and heads back to the bar area. He slides into the booth.

"You okay? "

He asked me I shake my head while I look at the glass of water in my hand.

"Dexter," I say his name.

"Yeah, Max "

"What's a mate? "I see him stiffen up at that question.

"I heard the guy outside ask if you found your mate, What did he mean by that? "

Dexter rubs his face with his hand. He lays his hand back on the table he looks over at me. I can see the uneasiness in his eyes.

"How about we go back to the palace, We can talk there it's more private, I'll try and explain everything to you,"

I nod my head at him.

"Alright, " I say to him. He slides out of stand-up and I noticed his shirt was ripped in the back. Oh god, I must have done that when the guy pulled me.

"I'm sorry about your shirt, " I tell him I reach out and grab the ripped part and look at it. He chuckles

"It's alright it's just a shirt, You have a good grip on ya, "

"You ready? " He asked me while he has his arm extended out for me. I smile at him and loop my arm with his. He walks back out of the dinner and this time there wasn't anyone by his truck. He opens my door and I climb in closing my door he walks to the driver's side and gets in starts the truck up heads out from the parking lot. We ride in silence he seemed to be lost in his thoughts I was still trying to figure out what happen exactly. I don't understand why those men jumped us. I mean yes he's the prince but wouldn't they worry about getting into trouble for that? Plus I still didn't know what the guy meant when he said, mate. I've read some books about werewolves that used the term mate but that's not real it's fantasy those things don't exist.

I was so caught up in my thoughts I didn't realize we had made it back to the palace. The truck came to a stop out front Dexter jumps out and comes around before I even get the door open. He holds his hand out to me I take it he helps me out of the truck he shuts the door and we start to walk up the steps and head in.

"We will go to my office and talk ok, "

He says to me while walking in the door.

"Okay," I tell him.

He leads me through the halls turning a few times.

"I'm gonna need a map of this place 'cause I'm so gonna get lost just getting to my room,"

I laugh while walking with him. I hear him Chuckle at that.

" I can make you one if you want, I can highlight different ways for you as well, "

"I may need it this place is too huge to remember, how do you not get lost? "

"I've been here my whole life, "

"Oh, that makes sense I guess, "

He just looks down and chuckles at me. We stop at a door and he opens it. This is my office when I become king I will move up to the one my father uses. He walks us in and closes the door behind us.

"Here we can sit over there on the couch, I've asked for my parents to come to meet us they can probably explain this better than I can, "

I sit down and look at him he seems very nervous about whatever he is going to tell me, I should be nervous myself I mean I barely know him. Yet I find myself trusting him today was the first I felt normal again. Besides the crazy guys at the dinner, the day was nice. I find that I'm quite comfortable around Dexter. He makes me very calm even after what happened once he sat down by me I felt myself relax.

We hear a soft knock at the door.

"Come in, " Dexter calls out. The door opens and his parents walk in.

His mother comes straight to me.

"Did you get everything set up for your school? "

"Yes, I did Dexter helped me with all that."

"That's good, I think you will like the school, "

We hear someone clear their throat. We look over and see Dexter leaning against the front of his desk. He is looking down at the floor.

"Son you asked for us to come here. "

His father asked him. I see Dexter take a breath and look up at his father.

"Cole," That's all he said to his father.

His dad stands up.

"Where? " His dad asked.

His mom tenses up at that name.

"We went to lunch at Barbs, When we were leaving they were waiting for us by my truck,"

He tells his dad.

I see his dad start to pace the room. His mom reaches over and grabs my hand.

"They didn't hurt you did they? "She asks

Before I could answer her. I hear Dexter

"They know about her, "

That was all he said.

"How? "His dad asked him.

"They grabbed her and ripped her away from me and something kinda surfaced."

"You didn't !! " His father asked.

"No, Not fully but he figured out who she is to me,"

I feel his mom tightens her hold on my hand. I look at her and she offers a smile.

I was starting to feel anxious I didn't understand what they were talking about but they all seem to know who this Cole guy was,

"I have Jon following him,"

Dexter tells his father.

"You let him go!" His dad yelled.

"I had to, They were holding a knife to Max's throat, Jon got a hold of Cole but for them to let Max go I had to let him go,"

Dexter yelled back to his dad.

I hear his mother gasp next to me I look over she worries all over her face.

"Oh my god," She lets go of my hand and grabs my chin she tilts it up and starts looking at my throat. I couldn't help the tear that left my eye. She was more worried about me than my mother would be. She lets go of my chin and grabs my hand again.

"What are we gonna do about this now?" His mother asked.

"Dexter if he knows about her the words gonna spread and you know what will happen then, "His dad says to him.

"We gonna have to tell her the truth," Dexter says while looking at me.

"It's too risky not to, She needs to know especially now that Cole knows. "

I was so lost in the conversation. I looked at his mom

"Truth about what? "I asked her. I see her sigh a bit and she looks at Dexter and his father.

"Are you gonna tell her or should I explain it? " She asked them

"How about we all explain, " His dad says and comes and sits on the other chair across from us. I looked back to Dexter he seemed a little reluctant about it but he nods his head and comes and sits on the arm of the couch by his mom.

"Alright my dear, Now I need you to have an open mind about what we are gonna tell you, An I want you to understand that in no way are you ever gonna be hurt

while you are here, We would never even think of hurting you we want you to be part of this family, Can you do that for me?"

"Um sure I think I can, I mean you guys have been super helpful and I feel I can trust all of you, I tell her.:

"Good," she says,

"There isn't an easy way to say this so I'm gonna come right on out with it, We are dragons and you are Dexter's mate, and we believe that you are also half dragon as well, "

She quickly blurted out. I just sat there not moving I don't think I even blinked. I was just frozen in one spot.

"Great dear you broke the poor girl, Maybe Dexter should have told her, "

"Oh shut up you. Like you two would have done it better."

"Maxine Dear, Are you okay? Please say something." She reaches out and pushes a strain of hair behind my ear. That snapped me out of it.

"Are you joking? Dragons don't exist, "

I said to them.

"Yes they do, " She says to me.

"We can show you," I hear his dad say to me.

"What? " I look at his dad.

"Well not fully show you, 'cause we don't have enough room the house after we shift here. "

He holds out his hand and I look down I see his dad's hand go from normal looking to his fingers grow longer and turn into these claw-looking things and I see brown scales appear all over his hand they go halfway up his arm.

"Oh my god, " I scream and jump up backing away from them. My heartbeat starts to beat faster my breathing is heavier. I clutch one hand to my chest and the other goes to my head. In a flash Dexter is standing in front of me he has his hands up.

"Max calm down just breathe no one is gonna hurt you I promise, Just listen to my voice, Max, "

He keeps walking towards me and I keep taking steps backward till I bump into his desk. He now is completely in front of me.

"Max you need to slow your breathing or you're gonna pass out, Let me help you, I can show you another way if you let me,"

I can feel myself getting lightheaded. He walks closer takes his hands and grabs mine and pulls me towards him he wraps his arms around me causing me to be pressed against his chest. I can hear his heartbeat I can feel the warmth coming off him. He starts to rub small circles on my back.

I instantly feel myself calming down my heart isn't beating out of my chest and my breathing is slowly leveling out. What is it about him that makes me so calm?