

## Chapter 26

Dexter

I follow behind my mother as she leads my mate through the palace heading out back. I know my mother she will make sure we are far enough away from her flower beds.

I see Jon coming towards me.

"Jon, I call his name. "I thought you were following Cole?"

"I was he is held up in a small hotel, He knew I was following him so I backed off he thought he lost me and went to a small hotel.

"He won't stay there long, We need to get some guys on him."

"Already done I have two men posted there keeping watch. "

"Good, We need to keep tabs on him."

"There's something I need to talk to you about, "Jon says

"Can it wait? " I asked him," We told her everything, Jon, "

"How did she take it? "

"Pretty good, Dad freaked her out though,"

"How? What he do?"

"He let his hand shift to his dragon's claw, She saw it and let out a scream about having a panic attack. "

"Oh shit, Well your dad hasn't been known for his soft approach to things."

I had to agree with him on that. Dad is not one to sugarcoat things and beat around the bush he just comes out with it.

"Where are you heading off to? "

"Max asked to see my dragon, so I'm heading out back."

He nods.

"I'll catch up with you later then. "

"Comes to dad's office, I'll let you know when we are finished."

He tips his head turning and walks towards the elevator.

"Dexter, where are you? " I heard my mom call through the link.

"I'm coming I was talking with Jon," "Where are you guys?" I asked her as I stepped out the back door.

"We are down by the training field,"

I step off the back steps and start to run across the yard passing my mother's flower beds. I go down the small path as it cuts through the woods I can see the clearing ahead. I pick my pace up once I'm close enough I take one big step push off and leap out into the clearing.

I land planting my feet bending my knees placing my hand on the ground.

Just as I landed I heard a scream I looked over and saw Maxine holding her hand to her mouth.

"Damn it Dexter," I hear my mother say.

I just smile at her. "What? "

"Boy don't you what me! You scared the crap out of your mate you big oaf!"

I looked at Maxine her cheeks are red.

"Sorry Max, "I say as I reach them.

"It's okay, I guess I'm just a little jumpy."

She looks back at my mother.

"Sorry I didn't mean to scream."

My mother smiles at her.

"It's alright dear, it's not your fault he's a size ox."

"Mom! " I call out.

"I'm not an ox," I say looking at her.

She just brushes me off and looks back to Maxine.

"Okay, are you sure you want to do this? "

Maxine looked at me and back to my mother.

"Yeah, I'm sure if this is where I'm supposed to be then I need to get used to this all, "

My mother shakes her head and turns to look at me.

I look at Maxine I step closer to her reach out and grab her hand.

"If you are not ready we can wait, I don't want to rush you. "

"Dexter, it's okay really if I am what you guys think then I need to learn all this, plus you are saying I'm your mate so don't you think I need to see you for who you truly are, "

I couldn't help the smile that came to my face. She was taking this all in stride with everything she went through in the last couple of weeks she was showing strength and I loved it.

"Alright, I'm gonna need room to shift so why don't you go with my mother over by the tree line? "

She looks to where I point looks back at me smiles and shakes her head. She turn towards my mother and the two walked towards the tree line.

I stand there pulling my shirt over my head and realized I never changed my shirt the back was still ripped. I kick my boots off and pull my socks off I start to under my pants I stop and look over at the two.

"Um, mom you two want to turn around? I don't think you want to see me naked plus I don't think she is ready to either."

I call to her through the link.

I see my mom's eyes go wide.

"Yes dear sorry. "

She turns around pulling Maxine with her. I see Max put her hands up to cover her eyes.

I finish undoing my pants pull them off along with my boxers and pile them all on my boots. I close my eyes and think of my dragon letting his surface.

I feel my body heat up and soon my bones start to pop and crack. I don't feel pain anymore when I shift it comes naturally after you shift a few times the pain lessens.

I look down noticing my hands changing shape my fingers turn into claws as my talons take shape. I can feel myself getting taller as my legs grow out. My head begins to elongate feeling my nose stretching my neck becomes longer as my back grows long. I feel my scales stretching and lying flat against my body.

I stretch my wings out to their full span. I then stretch my neck out letting out a very satisfied grunt.

I looked to where my mother was standing with my mate who still had her eyes covered.

"Mom you can turn around. "

I tell her through the link.

She touched Maxine's arm I see her drop her hand from her eyes looking at my mom.

Mom tilts her head in my direction. Maxine slowly turns her head to look back. She then turns around completely she pulls her hand to her mouth with a gasp. I wanted to walk over to her but I was afraid I scare her I'm not exactly small.

"Mom, Bring her to me."

My mother places a hand on Maxine's back and guides her closer to me. I see her stop she looks up at me. She looks at my mother.

"Does he know it's me? " She asked.

"Yes, Dear it's still Dexter he can hear you he just can speak with you, He won't hurt you."

I see Maxine nod her head at my mother. I lowered myself so that I was laying flat I laid my head out so she didn't have to look up at me.

She stood there looking at me I inched closer to her she didn't step back so I inched some more sticking my nose out so it was flush against her. She slowly put her hand out and laid it against my nose I could feel the sparks flow through my body.

I try to inch closer because the feeling of her touching me was making me crave more. She places her other hand on me and walks back towards my body keeping her hands so they rub the whole length of my head.

I couldn't help the rumble that came out she stopped and looked at me. I tilt my head so her hand would rub my head again. She smiled up at me continuing to rub my head. I closed my eyes just enjoying the feeling of her hands.

The wind blew ever so softly causing her scent to float all around me. But then it hit me with a different scent I shot my eyes open picked my head up and looked in the direction the wind was blowing. I took a breath trying to get the smell again.

There it was I got a good whiff this time I let out a low growl. "Hunters!! "

"Dexter, " My mother calls me.

"Someone here, By the smell, they are not guests," I tell her.

I look back down and saw mom had her arms around Maxine.

I hear some twigs snapping along with some movement. I look to where the sound came from I see about five men walk out into the clearing.

I turn to face them.

"Dexter I called your father and Jon, "

I let out a grunt. "Get under me, Stay behind my front leg."

I don't look down I know they are there already I feel mom touch me.

The men keep walking closer to us I see they are carrying their weapons. Damn it Cole wasted no time in telling anyone, did he? I should have let Jon kill him.

I let out a roar causing them to stop in their tracks. I feel my mother walk out and stand in front of my leg. I know Maxine is behind still cause she has her hands against my leg I feel the sparks.

"You are not welcome here,"

I hear my mother's voice.

The men just scoff at her guess they didn't do their research too well. Everyone knows even the hunters know my mother hates being dismissed like that.

"If you turn around and leave right now I may just let you keep your lives, but if you do not leave this instance then I'll let my son roast your little asses, "

I hear the one guy laugh. " Such big words from women, Tell me where's your king? Did he leave you all alone without his protection... "

"Listen here you little shits, I may be a woman but I do not need my king to defend me, Now why don't you run along like I said you're not welcome here."

"Dexter," I hear my father.

"Dad hurry up there's five of them mom stalling them but it's not gonna last."

"I see the clearing, " I hear him say.

I look past the men and see my father and Jon come busting through to woods.