## **Chapter 29**

## Maxine

Beep. Beep. I groan rolling over and shutting my alarm off. Laying flat on my back I covered my eyes with my arm.

It's five in the morning I told Amy I'd help her prepare breakfast today.

Dragging myself out of bed heading to the bathroom. Turning the water on in the shower.

I go to the sink and look at my reflection in the mirror. I have these dark bags under my eyes my face seems to be sunken in a bit. I guess from the weight I've lost with all the work I've been doing. My long red hair wasn't as full-looking. I look even paler than I was before.

My green eyes didn't have much shine to them lately,

Shaking my head I just turn away from the mirror.

I strip out my night clothes tossing them in the hamper.

I step in the shower getting myself washed up, I know I need to be quick Amy will be in the kitchen by six.

Quickly finishing my shower, I wrap my hair up in a towel as well as one around my body walk out of the bathroom and head to my small closet. I grab my clothes and hurry to get dressed looking at the clock.

Crap it's Five forty-five, I rip the towel off my head letting my wet hair fall down my back. I grab a hair tie pulling my hair up into a messy bun. Slipping on my sneakers I run out my door heading to the kitchen.

"Amy," I call out as I run into the kitchen.

Looking around I see her over by the stove.

"Hey I'm here, What do you want me to start with? " I ask her

"Max, Thanks for coming to help, You can start the bacon and sausage,"

"Sure thing," I walk over pulling out the pans and laying them on the stove, I head over to the frig pulling out the bacon and sausage packs,

Going back over to the stove I turn it on opening the packs so I can start to get them cooked up.

We make small talk while we are standing there cooking.

Soon the rest of the kitchen staff comes in to start their morning routine.

I finished up with the food I was cooking putting it all in the warming containers. I move to start the biscuits. Laying them all out on the cooking sheet I grab them putting them in the oven.

Amy was just about done with the pancakes I watched as she put the last few in the containers next to the ones I filled already.

One of the other ladies does up the eggs.

We both sit down at the counter waiting for the biscuits to finish.

Some of the other staff came in it was a couple of the younger help.

"Do you think the prince will ever return?" The one girl said.

"I heard he left cause he didn't want to marry the one women they picked for him, "The two of them continue to talk,

I just kept my head down no one knew I was Dexter's mate. I know he left cause of me I could tell by the look on his face that day.

I was new to this whole mate thing but hearing them talk about him made my heart break,

He was ashamed to have someone like me as his mate. I don't blame him he needs someone better than me,

I'm just a lonely human. No family or friends.

They thought I was a part dragon but they were wrong, Dr. Martin took a sample of my blood, and I haven't heard anything back.

So why would he stay with me?

Just then the oven timer goes off. I jump up quickly going over pulling the sheets of biscuits out and laying them on the top of the stove.

Once we have all the food finished it's now eight in the morning. The servers come in they start to fill plates, They begin taking them out to the dining area.

I wave bye to Amy and head out of the kitchen.

"Max," I hear Amy call me. I turn around and she is walking towards me with a small plate of food.

"Here, You shouldn't skip breakfast,"

She says as she hands me the plate.

"Thanks, Amy," I say to her. She smiles turning and going back into the kitchen.

I head to my room carrying my plate of food.

"Hey Max, "I hear someone call me. I turn to see who it was. "Jon, hey,"

I say back to him.

"You want to go a few rounds of training this morning?"

After that day of running into those men and having that feeling of being helpless, I decided I wanted to learn some self-defense.

I spoke with Laura about it she introduced me to Jon. He has been teaching me these last six months.

Jon and I have become good friends. He always told me how stupid Dexter was for leaving,

Jon is mad at him as well I mean he did leave him too. They have been friends forever Dexter just left without a word to him.

"Sure Jon, Um let me go change."

"Here I'll walk with you," He starts walking with me.

We get to my room I pop the door open walking in. Jon comes in he sits at the small desk I have in the corner I walk over and place the plate of food down.

"You gonna eat your breakfast?" He asked me.

"No, I'm not hungry."

I walk to my closet get my clothes and walk to the bathroom.

I change out of my jeans and t-shirts getting into a pair of yoga pants with a black tank top.

I walk out of the bathroom and stop to put my sneakers on.

"He did it again didn't he?" He asked me.

I don't look up I keep my eyes on my feet.

I just nod my head a little

"Dam it, Why didn't you call me I would have come here and stayed with you,"

"It's okay Jon, It didn't last long," I say rubbing my hand over my chest.

A month after Dexter left one night I woke up screaming my chest felt like it was being stabbed with a knife. My body was so hot to the touch. The pain was almost unbearable.

Laura heard me screaming as well as Jon they came bursting into my room. Jon punched the wall yelling how he was gonna kick Dexter's ass. I didn't understand why he had anything to do with the pain.

Later Laura explained that the pain was from Dexter sleeping with someone other than his mate.

I cried so hard that night I know Dexter and I didn't do anything together heck we never even kissed but it hurt.

Jon and Laura stayed the night with me it took so much out of me. Ever since then if I would wake with those pains Jon would come to stay with me.

"I'm sorry Max," He says to me he is so ashamed of his friend right now.

"Hey it's okay Jon, really it doesn't hurt as bad anymore," All he does is nod his head.

"Hey, I almost forgot Tara is coming to visit this weekend." I see him look at me the smile that comes to his face with the mention of her name.

"That's good, I'm sure she will be happy to see you, Beside you could use a girl's day." He laughed

"Oh, you know you want to see her too, "

I tease him.

Jon like Tara but he won't admit it. She gets all shy when he comes around. Maybe she will turn out to be your mate, I say wiggling my eyebrows at him.

He doesn't say anything. Tara turns Nineteen this Saturday, She is human but I'm secretly hoping she is his mate,

They get along really well she's not old enough for him to recognize if she's his mate or not,

"Are you ready yet?" He asked me trying to change the topic.

"Yeah, Let's go," I say to him. He gets up and walks to the door I follow behind him.

I close my door walking with him chatting as we walk out of the house to the building next to it.

He opens the door for me to walk in and looks around the gym. No one's here I smile I like when no one is here.

"Let's warm up," I hear Jon say from behind me.

We go over to the mattresses to start our stretching.

Jon stops I see him get a faraway look on his face.

"Jon?" I say to him.

He snaps his head to me he has this look like he could kill someone.

"Jon what wrong," I walk to stand in front of him. He just looks down at me. I could see the anger building.

He shuts his eyes. "He's coming home," He gritted through his teeth.

I stood there a little confused.

"Jon, who are you talking about?"

He opens his eyes turns he begins to pace back and forth mumbling something under his breath,

"Jon," I call him again. but he keeps pacing. "Jon! "Again he doesn't stop.

I walk over and grabbed his arm he stops he spins to look at me.

"Who's coming home?"

He doesn't answer for a few minutes.

"Dexter, " He says lowly.

I take a sharp breath, I step back letting my hand drop to my side.

"What," I said softly.

"Max, Dexter came home, His father just linked me asking where you were, He doesn't want Dexter seeing you just yet,"

"I don't want to see him," I can feel the tears building in my eyes.

Jon reaches out pulling me into a hug. I fist my hands in his shirt. I buried my face in his chest.

Why was he here,

"Why did he come back?"

"Don't worry Max, You don't have to see him, Not now not ever if you want, "

I couldn't hold my tears anymore they ran down my face as I sobbed.

Jon held me tighter letting me cry it out,

"Jon get me out of here, Please!"

He lets go he nods his head. He grabs my hand walking me out of the gym. We head to the front of the house to make sure no one saw us.

He leads me over to his hummer opening the door I quickly get in. He goes to the driver's side climbing in.

He hits the key starting the hummer. He throws it in the driver taking off.