

Chapter 88

~AUSTIN~

I'm not sure what is happening to my heart right now. Why am I so scared that something could have happened to the girl? She was nothing to me. She wasn't my mate; she wasn't my sister; she wasn't related to me in any way at all. She wasn't a friend, and it seemed like Maya didn't like her at all. I usually made it a habit to dislike anyone my siblings didn't like, but I couldn't bring myself to dislike her.

She didn't give me any reason to. There was just something about her that made me want to protect her. I felt just as protective over her as I did over Maya. It was an unusual emotion for me, especially since I barely knew her. We've only spoken a few words to each other, yet I'm ready to risk everything to bring her back to us safely.

My wolf is searching ferociously, trying to pick up on her scent, but it's hard to find anything in this rain. It's messing with our tracking. And so far, we haven't found anything: no torn clothes, no strand of hair, absolutely zero sign of the girl. And I was beginning to lose my f\*\*\*\*\*g mind.

Why the hell did we take so long to start the search? Not once did I think things would have gotten to this point. I knew she had no experience in the forest, and even if she did, she wouldn't have remembered since she'd lost her memory, according to Kane.

I rock my head back and howl in pain. Why does it hurt so much? Who is she to me?

Another howl rocks the sky, and it sounds like Hunter. I know this wouldn't sound good to the girls back at the lake, but it's not something I can control right now.

I need to find her. I need to find her before she gets hurt. I had to.

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~MAYA~

How could I have been so freaking stupid? I put not only my life in danger but the life of my babies. The rain had caused me to slip and fall, and my ankle was sprained. Everything felt like it was in pain, and I was terrified that I had done something stupid that could threaten the life of my children.

I try to get up, but I can't move, not with my ankle like this. I soon realize that it's pointless trying to move. I was only causing more harm to myself by doing this.

But what else am I supposed to do? Should I wait here for someone to find me? Would anyone even come looking for me?

That was a stupid question. I had people that cared about me now. Of course, they will come looking.

I was sure that Gabriella and Arthur would have already started their search. She told me to return in half an hour, and I'm sure that it's already past that time. I didn't want to spoil the picnic for everyone, that's why I decided to leave to clear my mind. Somehow I still managed to ruin everything for them because I'm sure that they're all worried over me by now.

Kane always came to my rescue in the past, but I had a feeling that this time would be a bit different. He had Maya now, and he tried his best not to upset her. I'm sure the last thing she wants to see is him coming to my rescue. She won't let him do something to help me, and he won't want to do anything that would disappoint her.

Thinking about the two of them was not making this any easier for me. They are why I'm in this mess, to begin with. Because seeing them together was becoming too much of a torture for me. I've always thought that seeing Kane with Giselle was horrible but seeing him with Maya was a hundred times more devastating. I guess it's because I knew that this time he actually loved the woman by his side. I knew that he would do anything for her.

But why did it have to be Maya? Why her out of everyone on this damn planet?

I didn't think I despised anyone as much as I disliked Maya. She isn't the person I want Kane to end up with, and it's not just because I want him for myself. It's because I can see straight through her, and she's not as good as everyone wants me to believe she is. There is something terribly wrong with that woman. She was not the same Maya she used to be. I didn't have to know her from the past to see that she wasn't the same. And I'm not sure why it's taking everyone else so long to figure out what I saw.

They should have seen what I saw by now. I barely knew her and could tell that she wasn't right in the head. This woman seemed like someone who enjoyed making others unhappy. That alone could say that she was nothing like the woman Kane had fallen in love with.

I squeeze my temple as I try to remain calm. The rain was falling heavier than before, pounding against my body. There was lightning and thunder that rocked the skies. If I were terrified of the rain, it would have made things a lot scarier than it was now.

It didn't help that I was in nothing but a damn bikini. At least I didn't have to worry about clothes sticking to my skin with the amount of water all over me.

There was mud all around me, and I tried to move again, only to be reminded that it was best I stay in this position at least until the rain had eased up. But from what I could see so far, this rain was not even close to stopping.

"WHY?" I ask myself. "Why couldn't you have just stayed in the jeep? You didn't have to do this to yourself!"

My body jumps when I hear a powerful howl ripple through the sounds of the heavy rainfall.

My heart skips a beat, and I don't know why that howl sounds so familiar to me. Like I've been listening to it all my life. Who was that? Somehow I know it's a frustrated cry, one to let others know that I was in danger.

They were out looking for me. I'm not sure how to get them to come to me.

"HELP!" I scream. "I'm here!"

I don't think they will be able to hear me even though I'm screaming at the top of my lungs.

Another howl echoed throughout the forest, and I felt so helpless. They were looking for me, and I still had no clue how to alert them of my location.

"WHERE ARE YOU?" I hear someone roar above the pouring rain.

My heart jumps, and I know that it's Kane. He's here.

I couldn't believe that he'd come looking for me. Part of me thinks that I may be hallucinating. Why would he come looking for me when he knows it would piss Maya off and put his relationship under strain?

But when I hear his roar for the second time, I know that I'm not hallucinating.

He's here.

Kane is here.

And he's here for me.

My heart swells with joy.

"KANE!" I cry as loud as my body would let me.

He was coming. He was coming for me.