

## Chapter 5

Greyson

Yesterday went pretty well with it being the first day, River and I were expected to "hang out". I was a little surprised when she offered to split up from Noah and me in the mall. I was also a little relieved. I had no idea what I was supposed to say to her or do with her. Not to mention, things got a little awkward in the car when Noah had made a comment about her not doing anything besides dance routines. As far as I was concerned, he wasn't wrong, but it really seemed to bother her. I could feel it in the car. I couldn't believe she didn't say something though, if it had upset her that much. She avoided it like it was nothing. I would never be able to do that. If something offends me, I say it. I don't let people just walk all over me.

When Noah and I walked out of the mall and saw a group of guys around my SUV, I was a little irritated by it. Maybe annoyed would be a better word. I'm not sure why exactly. I don't have an answer for it and, if anything, it was super weird. So, after I asked what was going on, I was okay with the fact we all loaded up and got out of there quickly. The crazy part was, Noah seemed a little irritated also about it. If he thinks I didn't notice the white knuckles of his gripping his bags so tight, then he is sadly mistaken. I noticed it, I recognized it and I will comment on it. Once the girls are away from us, of course.

We get back to our home and I park the SUV out front so we can all unload our stuff from here. I watched as River quickly got out and escaped inside to her room while Ava took off toward her house. Noah and I exchange a look but hop out of the car without further comments. I walked around to the back to grab our stuff out of the car but when he got to the back next to me, I decided to confront him.

"That was really strange, right?"

He turns and looks at me to nod while he says, "Yeah they just bolted, didn't even say anything to each other."

"I don't mean the way they took off dufus. I meant how we both were a little bothered by the fact they had guys hanging around them at the mall." I swat the back of his head.

He rubs the spot I hit, and then he realizes what I just said and stares at me wide-eyed. "... I umm-I'm not sure..."

I just shook my head. "Before you have a stroke on me trying to nish what you are going to say, I could sense your frustration with it. I also noticed the death grip you had on the bags, white knuckles and all." I shook my head, not being able to believe I am actually talking about this right now. "I was frustrated also, before you think I am sitting here calling you out. I just don't understand why it all felt like that."

Noah shrugged his shoulders. "Honestly, I don't even know how to answer that, it was weird though. I have never been like that. Something just coursed through me at the sight of the guys around them. I spent the entire ride home trying to gure out what it meant. I only had one thing that popped into my head about what it could have been, but honestly, I'm not even sure if that is it."

"What do you think it could have meant?" I asked.

I watch as his shoulders drop, it's as if he is weary of even saying anything, or maybe frustrated? "I remember my parents telling me stories about mates. We both know their story and your mom and dad's, but some people, well, they actually have to be around them while growing up or meet them before they realize they are mates. I don't think my theory is reliable though, because my frustration came out when I noticed the guys around Ava. I saw your eyes. You only had yours set on River. That just doesn't make sense with her being your sister. So I threw that one out the window as soon as it entered my mind." I visibly inched when he mentioned River is my sister. No one knows the truth behind her. Everyone besides my parents, his parents, uncle Mark, and Dr. Thompson knows that she truly is not my sibling. I absolutely hate lying to my friends. Especially since Todd is meant to be my Beta. Eventually, I will be able to ll him in on everything.

"Ugh, yeah, your theory is about as good as death, my man. How about we chalk it up to protectiveness over pack members and we can just move on with our day?" I slapped his back.

"Sounds good. I am going to head home though. Mom said something about how she needed my help with something. I don't know if it's a ploy or real, but I don't feel like testing her patience." I don't even hesitate to wish him luck and that I would see him later. Not a lot of people scare me, but my mother and Aunt Olive, they are denitely something I fear. Aunt Olive would never take no for an answer. Her threats are terrifying to boot. My mother, I know exactly what she is capable of. She is strong and her powers are erce. I fear my mother. I respect my father, I am not scared of him, but I respect him as my role model and superior. There is a difference between the two. Also, between us, I think my father is scared of my mother also. That man does absolutely everything and anything that she says.

Once I got inside, my father and mother approached me about tomorrow and told me that with it being River's birthday they would really like to have a nice family dinner. I have a meeting that I have to attend with the Elders tomorrow here at the pack house, but after that I will be free. I agreed and then decided I would spend the rest of the evening in my room relaxing. It isn't very often I get a down day. I swear I could sleep right now for 3 days straight and I would still be tired. I spend the rest of the evening in my bed just thinking about everything going on around me. I plan out some things I would like to do while I am on my break before I take over as king. I am thinking about today at the mall. I think about Noah talking to me about mates. Then I fell asleep while I was thinking about River and just the little bit of time I was around her today, it really wasn't that bad.

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I started to toss and turn about an hour ago in bed. I see the light coming through my room, so I know that it has to be morning. My beast has been driving me absolutely crazy for the last hour. I have a full blown headache now and it's super frustrating. I have a meeting to attend and I would like to spend the rest of my day icing my head and getting pain relief. He keeps yelling at me, telling me I need to get up and start on with my day. Finally, I jump out of bed when he tells me he feels something is going to happen and we need to leave our room right now. Panic sets in. I don't know what he is sensing. I hope it's not danger. I hope we aren't under attack. I haven't gotten any links from anyone and my father hasn't stopped by to grab me for any reason.

I ran out of my room in a hurry. I had tossed a pair of shorts on but I didn't waste any time with a shirt. I sprint toward the stairs and when I am just in reach of them I hear another door y open and feet padding down the hall toward me. Then my beast goes crazy. Just like that, I am frozen. I can't move. My heart, I don't think, is beating any longer. I don't know if my stomach is about to wrench all its contents or if I have butteries. My mind is screaming "MATE" but my body is screaming RUN. I have not a single clue what to do. So, I didn't do anything. I wait to see what happens. Then, when a movement is made, I watch as they disappear and run away from me. I actually nd myself upset about the loss of sight, the loss of contact that I didn't have but could have had. Then I nd myself wondering what the f\*\*k just happened and what the hell do I do now?!