

## Chapter 80 Not Ready

Aspen's P.O.V.

I hate to admit it, but Jax is right. My baby is in the infirmary because of me and I understand why he told me to stay away, even though I want to hold her in my arms. Daniel looks furious after what Jax said, but I don't blame him for putting Hunter first.

She is his Mate and I know Daniel would react the same way if it was me in that room. I place my hand on his arm to calm both of us down and as our eyes lock I can tell that he is not angry at Jax, but at the both of us for not being honest with Hunter.

"Dad, will you let us know if there is any news?" I ask my Father before I pull Daniel with me. We walk back to our bedroom without speaking, both of us caught in our own thoughts and without thinking I lay down on the bed to slip off to sleep in seconds.

"She is awake and her injury is healed." I hear my Father's voice through the mind-link. "Thanks, Dad. I needed to hear that." I turn my head towards Daniel and tell him about my Father's link. He smiles at me before he kisses my forehead and I snuggle into his side.

"I know I already said this, but I regret not being honest with her. I have been asking myself the same question over and over again, but I can't find an answer to it. Why didn't I tell her that I knew who her Mate was, I didn't have to tell her everything.

But I should have told her I knew and that I wanted him to come clean himself, that it wasn't my place to tell. I know she wouldn't have liked it, but she would have accepted it." I mumble as tears roll down my cheeks.

Daniel holds me in his arms as we lay on the bed in silence and I know he has been asking himself that same question, even though he didn't believe me completely about all four of them being her Mates.

I still remember the first time I told him and I giggle as I remember the look on his face, still not sure if it was because of the fact that she has four Mates or the fact that they are his Sons.

Daniel's P.O.V.

Hearing Jax talk to Aspen like that made me nearly lose control to Joshua, for a moment forgetting that he is our Son. As I feel Aspen's hand on my arm I realize I would have done worse if she hadn't been in there and I am glad he left it to words only.

I listen to Aspen sob and I know she blames herself even before she starts talking. I have to admit that I have asked myself that very same question, but like Aspen I don't have an answer either.

I still can't believe we forgot it is her birthday today, I can't even remember if we got her a present and I sure as hell am not going to ask Aspen if we did. Because if we didn't she is going to freak out even more and that is the last thing I want right now.

It takes me a while before I have found the courage to bring up an other painful subject, "Aspen, I believe it will be best if we let her leave in the morning. I know you want to talk to her, but maybe it is best to let her process everything without fearing she might run into us."

I am surprised to hear Aspen agree with me, "Will you link our Dads and ask them to keep an eye on her?" She asks and I link them both at the same time to inform them of our decision. They seem a bit surprised but they agree to it none the less.

Hunter's P.O.V.

Unlike other times the darkness is soothing and I welcome the silence around me, I hear voices floating around me. They don't make sense to me yet, but I know they eventually will and I will wait until I can understand what they are saying.

I get startled when I hear Colt's voice, but I don't see anything unlike other times I have found myself here. It doesn't take me long to understand that I will not be seeing images this time around, I am only hearing voices as I try to focus on Colt's voice.

After a little while I hear multiple voices, I recognize Justice immediately and shortly after that I hear Slade. The five of them talk about what happened in the past two years and how much it affected all of us. None of them blame anyone as they realize that it is a very strange situation.

The more I listen to them the more I realize they are right, Mom and Pops weren't the ones to reveal the identity of my Mates and when I hear Brick tell them the remarks they would have made to one another I realize that my Mates each had a very good reason to keep their mouths shut.

Brick is right, none of us would have passed the opportunity to tease the hell out of one of them for having an underage Mate, especially my Mates, they would have made a sport out of it and I probably would have tried to beat all of them at it.

I listen as I hear them tell Justice how much they hated not having us near, that Colt threatened to leave Jayce without his Lycan and Justice tells him that that is impossible to do. Colt tells her he knows that, but that Jayce doesn't and the five of them start laughing their asses off.

Logan tells them that all of us have been miserable for one reason or another and there is nothing we could have done to change it, but he hopes that I will find away to make sure something like this never happens again.

Slowly their voices start to fade and I know it is time for me to wake up, but I am not sure if I am ready to face Mom. I might need a little more time to get to terms with everything and I think continuing my travels will accomplish that.

I slowly open my eyes to see two very worried faces hovering above me and I quickly close my eyes again as I giggle while four arms wrap around me, "Okay, let me breath." I say and as they release me I slowly open my eyes again.

"You scared the shit out of us, you hit your head and Justice was not healing you. Papa says she was probably to busy with helping you deal with what ever was on your mind and that..." I place my hand over Jax's mouth to stop him from rambling and I hear Jayce chuckle.

"Papa was right and I am fine now. Next time one of you can follow me to catch me, if you're fast enough." I say and Jayce tells me they will not let me out of their sight ever again.

Doc checks me before releasing me from the infirmary and once we are back on our own floor Jax tells me what happened after they had found me in the gardens. They both apologize to me for what they did to Mom, but they don't need to as I understand why they did it.

"I am not ready to face Mom and I don't want her to know when we are leaving. Will the two of you make sure everyone is ready to leave after breakfast?" They both nod their heads and Jax tells me he will get us some dinner.

"No, I told them I would meet them in the dining-room and that is what I will do, we can sit at the table with them" I say, but I have feeling we won't be seeing Mom and Dad at the dining-hall tonight.

Dinner was spend talking about which route to take and whether or not to alert the Pack of our arrival. "Uncle Luke, I don't think it is a good idea to warn them. I would like to see how they respond to a surprise visit and besides the Royal Family is not obligated to inform a Pack that they will be dropping by.

I know the Packs are no longer used to seeing a Royal at their Pack, but with Dad's identity out in the open that will become common again. I want to make sure that every Pack gets a surprise visit each year, even if it is just for a few hours." Uncle Luke has a huge grin on his face and his men all stare at me.

"Get used to it, boys. Hunter is very aware of the lack of knowledge on protocol by the majority of the Lycans and Werewolves and she loves pointing them out to whomever breaks them.

She also likes dishing out the punishment for breaking protocol, which I can guarantee you is an amazing sight to see." Pops says and the next few hours they listen to Pops telling them what I have done since I moved to the Palace.

"Your Highness, I hope you will inform us the second we screw up. I would like the chance to run like hell." John says with a straight face, but I see the twinkle in his eyes and we all burst out in laughter.