

## Chapter 23

I decided to spend more time with Kim and Jacob. I began to learn more about them, and I enjoyed it. They had actually told their parents about me, and strangely, their father stopped drinking. I knew the word for it, but I couldn't recall it.

But because of this, I was welcomed in their home. It all happened so fast, I was welcomed into their home, I exposed them to the true old traditions of the generation I was from, among other things. Their mother uncovered old cooking recipes, and I shared stories from when I was human, to which they were all enamored by.

I did not tell them about the Guardians, or Jack, they didn't really need to know about them.

The most surprising thing the family opened up to me on was their lineage. It was fascinating, I hadn't expected anything, especially when they got to one family member.

I cursed in my native tongue when I saw him, it was a crisp, perfectly preserved photograph of my younger brother Hania. My jaw dropped slightly when I saw his face. He couldn't have been more than 19 or 20 in this picture.

Their mother, Ciara, smiled, "He is my great great grandfather. This picture was taken in 1883." I smiled sadly.

"The last I saw him was in 1899." Ciara nodded.

"He was an elusive man, he could never settle in one place. He was lucky to avoid living on the reservation, but a er my great grandmother was born, we've been living here ever since."

"I'm so sorry. I've seen reservations all over the country... it's horrifying. None of you should be living like this." Kim shrugged.

"We make the best with what we can." There was a knock at the door and Kim when to answer it, based on how she greeted them it sounded like a friend of hers.

"Kim? Where are you and Diane going?" Ciara asked.

"Oh, Diane's sister found something cool near the graveyard! She wants me to go check it out! She says it looks like it's gold!" Ciara and her husband raised eyebrows but shrugged.

"Alright, be careful. Catori? Could you go with them? They have a tendency to end up in places they shouldn't." I chuckled and nodded and followed the girls. Goodness, they could run fast. Sure, I was a fast runner but never as fast as a couple of kids.

A er five minutes we arrived a little ways from the cemetery, where three kids were hanging around near a group of rocks, they were poking at something and whispering. Kim and Diane rushed over to join to take a look.

"It can't be gold guys, it has to be some animal." Kim laughed. I rolled my eyes as I followed her, as I was curious what it was myself.

"No it's definitely gold! It has some really pretty designs on it too!" One of the girls picked it up, "Why's it got a face on it?" I raised an eyebrow.

Since I knew these girls couldn't yet see me, I asked Kim to go get it, as the way they were describing this object sounded familiar, and she did so. She politely asked her friend to hold it, and once she got a good look at it, she handed it to me. I went to go behind the rocks and my hands began shaking.

It was my tooth box!

I was dumbfounded. How on earth did this thing end up here from the mountains where it was lost? Did someone find it but leave it behind for whatever reason? A million questions ran through my mind, but I decided the fact that I had it now was more important. Since I was here now, I decided to access my memories. Sure, I remembered quite a few things from my childhood, but I knew there were blank spaces in time, plus, I hoped it would help me figure out my center.

So I pressed the center diamond, and I felt myself lose my train of thought. All the best memories passed through, such as the day Hania was born, my mentor first moved in, or when my mentor got married and had his first child. Other memories consisted of me being with my family and having good times with them, especially with my mother.

When I came to, I felt a sense of recognition run through me, seeing all my interactions with my family, that was when it hit me, my center... My center was family!

And it made sense! It made complete sense!

"Kim? I have to go, it's pretty important. I'll come and see you later okay? Don't get yourself into any trouble." She nodded.

"Is everything okay?" I looked at my tooth box with a smile tugging at the corner of my mouth.

"It will be..." I whispered before heading back home, retrieving a snowglobe that North gave me, and teleported to the Pole. I couldn't believe it! I had my tooth box, the very first time I was holding it.

I scared the hell out of Bunny when I landed in front of the Globe.

"Bunny, I need to see North and Tooth."

"Everythin' a'right sheila?" I showed him my tooth box. His jaw dropped, "how'd ya find it?"

"I'll explain it shortly," I assured. He nodded and went to go get his fellow Guardians. While he was gone, and I knew he'd be for a little while looking for them. As he was gone, I savored how good it felt to remember everything again. The good memories as a human, not the bad ones when I first became immortal.

When the Guardians appeared, I burst into a huge smile and tackled them with a huge hug.

North chuckled.

"Good to see you so happy, Catori. Bunny tells us you found something?" I nodded and showed them my tooth box. Tooth's eyes lit up and she hugged me.

"How did you find it?"

"I didn't find it. Some girls on the Hopi reservation back home stumbled across it by chance. I don't know how it ended up near there, but all that matters is that I got it back."

"Did you access your memories?" I nodded.

"Yes, and I know what my center is."

[Continue reading next part](#) □