

Chapter 15

Dimitri

I rubbed my eyes. Multiple times actually. I couldn't be seeing this right.

Lily lay on the ground a few feet from me, panting heavily in her wolf form and whimpering quietly. I opened my mouth to say something to her, but it closed again of its accord. Words weren't processing for me right now. My entire being was dominated by shock and disbelief. Even more shocking, Ajax wasn't saying anything either. He was just as shocked as I was, maybe a little more.

After a whole sixty seconds ticked by, she finally lifted her head, shaking it a bit. Her eyes met mine and I gulped. For the first time in my life, I, Dimitri Varlos actually gulped.

"She's... they're beautiful..." Ajax whispered to me.

I simply nodded. Lily's wolf was pure white. Strikingly white, not a mark on her. A light glow surrounded her entire being, almost like fireflies were dancing around her. Her eyes were the same majestic green, a startling contrast with her fur. Even her nose was white. I briefly wondered if her tongue was too? A stupid thought, but I was dazed.

What had me pinned to the ground, unmoving, though was not only color, but her size. She was huge. Larger than any wolf I'd ever seen, larger than me. That point was only emphasized when she shakily got her to feet, causing me to crane my neck to look up at her. She stood around ten feet tall. It would take three of Ajax piled onto one another to measure up to her.

"She's a Mother Wolf." Ajax said.

"She...she can't be. They don't exist."

"Are you dumb or blind?!"

Definitely dumb. Slowly, I got to my feet, and Lily's eyes widened as if she just realized that I was so far beneath her. Taking a couple steps back, she looked down at herself. Shaking her head back and forth, she suddenly bolted through the trees away from me.

"Wait! Lily!" I called after her.

I shifted quickly, not even caring about my clothes, and took off after her. She wasn't hard to follow, obviously. Ajax was fast, but his speed was outdone by her long legs. She covered more space in one stride than we did in four. I would never catch up to her, so I could only follow and not lose sight of her. Finally, she stopped near the small lake in the woods. I also came to a halt, watching her from a distance. Should I approach her? She was gazing into the water at her reflection. And then she lifted her head and howled. The sound reverberated off the trees and filled the forest. It was so loud; I was certain it reached back to the pack. The soft glow around her became stronger, a shine instead of a glow. The sight of her like this would be forever etched into my memory.

And just like that, her eyes landed on me. There was no fear in me whatsoever as I approached her. Every story I'd ever heard of the Mother Wolf was filled with fear. I had none. Maybe because she was my mate, or maybe because I was an Alpha. Either way, I didn't care. Ajax was desperate to go to his mate, and when we reached her, they touched noses.

"Best forget about ever mating in wolf form. There's no way." I snickered.

"Shut it. I'll manage somehow." Was his reply.

Lily crouched down and they started to play together. I retreated into the background and let him have his moment. It was a little awkward, given her size, but the way she yipped and jumped around, she looked like a pup. A ginormous pup, but one all the same. I could feel them

communicating, so I didn't intrude. Knowing Ajax, it was probably crude anyways. After a while, her body began to tremble and I knew she was going to shift back. Ajax gave me back control and I trotted over to a tree where we kept a stash of clothes in a large trunk. Useful for those who shifted and didn't have clothes with them. I opened it and grabbed a pair of sweat pants for me and a shirt and jeans for Lily. When I came out, she was already in her human form, sitting on the ground with her knees hugged to her chest. I avoided looking at her as I tossed her the clothes.

"Thanks." She muttered. A few seconds later, she tapped me on the shoulder. Sparks erupted where she touched, making my eyes widen.

"The bond is so much stronger now!" Ajax said.

"Yeah, I noticed." I replied.

Aside from the sparks, I also felt an urge to go to her, touch her, take in her scent. The overwhelming desire to be close to her took me by surprise. I wanted to claim her, hold her. Bury myself inside her.

"Uh oh... she looks pissed." Ajax said.

Only then did I really look at her. She did indeed look pissed. But that wasn't why my jaw dropped silently. Lily looked... totally different. Instead of the thin, frail girl, now stood before me was a healthy and curvy woman. My gaze traveled from her face to her toes and back again. She was... stunning.

"What are you staring at?"

My eyes snapped to hers.

"How..."

"I don't know how."

"You're a Mother Wolf." I said.

"Yeah, so I noticed." She looked away, across the water.

"You look..."

Her gaze met mine again, and the anger was back.

"I look? What?" She snapped.

"Uhm... different?"

"Yeah, I noticed that too. Apparently being a supernatural wolf has its perks. But don't think it changes anything."

"Excuse me?"

She took a step towards me, almost touching my chest with hers.

"You don't get to have me now just because of who I am. You didn't want me before, so this changes nothing. Nothing. You only wanted me around because it made you stronger to have your mate by your side, am I right?"

I flinched a little.

"That's what I thought. I'm not as stupid as you think I am. Why would someone like you-" She gestured up and down my body- "Be with someone like me when I was the way I was? You wouldn't, even if I was your mate. Now that I'm apparently some mythical wolf, you still don't get to have me, mate or not."

"You're... you're going to reject me?" I asked through gritted teeth.

"No. I could never do that Aya. I will stay here, and we will be mates, but in name only."

Was she serious? Of course she was. All I'd done since she got here was ignore her and insult her. I lowered my gaze, ashamed to meet her eyes.

"Don't!" She snapped. "Don't pretend to give a fuck when you don't!" She took a deep breath, "I only have one condition."

"What?" I asked.

"We let our wolves out with each other. Aya loves her mate, and he loves her. Just because we don't, doesn't mean we have to deprive them of each other. So, we have to let them be together, be happy."

Anger rose in me. "So, you're giving orders now? To me?"

Her eyes flashed. "You're damn right Alpha. Are you saying you'll deprive your wolf of his mate? Are you really that selfish?" She scoffed.

I clenched my jaw. Whatever happened to her turned her into a real piece of work. The really aggravating thing was even though she was pissing me off, all I could think about was shutting her up with my mouth. Or my dick.

"I'll think about it." I said.

She rolled her eyes heavily. "Typical." She muttered. "I'm going home. I'm exhausted."

I caught her elbow as she passed me. The sparks zipped through my fingertips and spread through my body. I made an immense effort to focus.

"You can't just walk away from me. After all, I had to come looking for you. Imagine what you would have gone through without me being here!"

"Oh, I almost forgot. Thank you for coming to find me, even though it was totally obvious that I ran away from you. I didn't ask you to come find me. And I can walk away from you. Just watch."

She ripped her arm from my grasp and walked away through the trees. My fists clenched and I let out a breath. I hated to admit it, but Lily was really sexy while telling me off. I always found her attractive, but now? Damn. This whole mate thing just got a lot more complicated.