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Ryker POV – Pulling up at Avery's Apothecary Shop, I look over the back seat. Both Tyson and Ace were fast asleep. I grab Ace's shoulder, shaking him. His eyes open to look back at me.

"What?" He asks before wiping his drool off his chin.

"I have to go see Aamon and Avery, wait in the car I won't be long. You step one foot from this car, you or Tyson you will be pulling my shoe from your a*s for the next week"

He swats my hand away. "Whatever" he growls going back to sleep. I growl at him but he rolls nestling back into his position and using the window as a pillow. Sitting up, I find my mate staring at them.

"You are no good at obeying orders," I tell her and she looks away.

"I was only looking"

"Well don't, now follow me"

I tell her hopping out of the car. I stood stretching when I realize she still hadn't gotten out of the car. I roll my eyes, seriously? This girl has issues. I walk around to her side, opening the door.

"See this, you pull it and the door will open. Magic," I tell her as she stares at the handle on the door trim. She nods, getting out.

I grab her arm pulling her toward the shop. Opening the glass door, my nose is hit with the smell of burning sage. The doorbell rang loudly and I could see lights out the back. Walking toward them Aamon walks out the beaded curtain.

"Ryker!" He says patting me on the back. His eyes go to my mate. He looks her up and down and she too is observing him. She sniffs the air.

"His scent was in your car," she says, and I raise an eyebrow. I was surprised she could pick his scent up. I had the windows down most of the way here.

Aamon c***s his head to the side, his eyes turning onyx and I growl at him. Though I am shocked once again when his little tricks don't work on my mate, she doesn't react at all to him, just steps closer to me and away from him.

"Try your little tricks of seduction again and I will smack you one"

"Settle. I am happily married though I think you are right she is like Lily, my tricks never worked on her either," he says.

My mate stares at me curiously. I don't have time to explain to her what he is nor do I care to.

We followed him out the back, Avery was sitting at her table, a cup of tea in her hand.

"Ryker I hear your sister had a little girl, such wonderful news though I knew she would," Avery says. I smile at her. I never should have doubted her abilities.

"And you have brought me your new mate," she says motioning with her hand to sit across from her. I push my mate towards the chair forcing her to sit.

Avery leans back her fiery Auburn hair flowing down her back and across her shoulders, her green eyes sparkling like emeralds as she watched my mate.

"Interesting indeed," she says.

"So I am right she is like Lily," Aamon asks her. Avery shakes her hand. "Kind of, I can't read her future either but I may be able to see her past a little"

My mate stares at her like Avery is some sort of experiment.

"Come here child," she says to my mate but she doesn't budge just stares at me and I could smell her fear seeping out of her pores.

"Go to her now," I tell her but she shakes her head.

"Now," I tell her and she trembles as my Alpha Aura washes over her before all but stumbling over her feet and going to Avery. Aamon grips her arm, steadying her before placing her on the ground in front of Avery who turns her seat.

"Please, I didn't do anything," my mate says to me. Her eyes filled with tears. She thought we were trying to hurt her.

"Hush child I mean you no harm," Avery says to her before gripping the sides of her head in her hands. Her hands glow gold then green as she uses her magic, seconds pass.

Avery makes a choked noise before I see her bottom lip tremble a single tear rolling down her cheek. Her eyes glow brighter and her lips part before blood dribbles down her nose.

"That's enough Avery," Aamon says, grabbing her arm.

"No I must see, I need to know"

"Avery enough," Aamon says gripping her face which had turned pale almost grey as she strained to see whatever it was in my mate's head.

Aamon rips her to her feet, "I said enough it's not worth your life" he snaps. Avery sways leaning into him before he places her back in her seat.

"Come here," I tell my mate who moves away from Avery sitting at my feet.

"You okay Ava?" I ask, her eyes still trained on my mate.

Avery presses her lips in a line, her bottom one she pulls between her teeth.

"No one should ever live like that, no one should only ever see darkness"

Aamon looks at her worriedly.

"Ava my love you should rest," Aamon tells her. I have to agree with him, she is making no sense.

"No, I don't need to rest, Aamon," Aamon throws his hands up walking over to lean on the doorframe. "Stubborn a*s woman"

"Mind your tongue or you will lose it" she warns him. Her eyes are not leaving my mate.

"You, my child know pain like no other I have witnessed, to endure that and survive I am surprised you're not insane, how did you do it?" She asks my mate, making me look down at her. She was watching Avery back curiously.

I nudge her, wanting her to answer whatever it is Avery has asked her.

"My wolf, she bared it so I didn't have to," she says.

"You must have been lonely, all them years trapped in her confines, only to listen to her screams"

"Okay, are you going to explain what you saw?" I ask, getting annoyed.

"I told you what I saw, darkness, that is all, the sound was horrendous," Avery says.

"How does darkness have a sound"

"Where she came from, it did. The agony behind the noise was deafening. Could hear their souls breaking"

"Okay then anything else like a name, I can't keep calling her

"46, yes that is her number. The number signifies the number of times she survived their experiments before she died before they awoke the hybrid gene before that she was called worse than a number," Avery says.

"Great, I have a number for a mate," I tell her.

"Watch your tone, don't forget who you are speaking in front of Ryker. As for your mate, what do you think of Reika," Avery asks her.

"Reika?" I ask, trying the weird name out.

"Yes, means the power of the wolf," Avery says, reaching over and touching my mate's face. I nod at least it's a name.

"Aamon take Reika out. I need a moment alone with Ryker," she says, and I nod to my mate.

"Come little one I won't hurt you," Aamon tells her. She reluctantly follows after him, stepping through the door and out the beaded curtain.

"So can I keep her or do I kill her?"

"I don't know Ryker, but she has suffered and you tying her like a dog when she spent half her life caged and tied to steel tables is no way to treat your mate," Avery says, her eyes sparkling dangerously.

'She can't be trusted until I can trust her I will deal with her how I please"

'You're right she can't be trusted, but all I know is she has a reason"

"Reasons? Care to tell me those f*****g reasons Avery"

"You may be our closest friend but you are in my city and you will show respect, Ryker. I did you a favor don't you forget that" she snaps pointing her finger at me.

"I'm sorry Ava."

"I know you are but I didn't get a chance to see, Aamon made sure of that. But until you figure it out she will do what they asked of her"

"What is that?"

"To kill your family"

I laugh. She truly thinks she could take on pure-blooded Lycan hybrids.

"I wouldn't be so amused if I were you, she is quite capable. Her wolf is savage but you know that. But she is different from Lily, Reika craves blood in both forms, she is the same her blood as pure as yours, but with a twist"

"Stop talking in riddle Ava I haven't got time for this," I tell her, pinching the bridge of my nose. I needed sleep and I still had five more hours of driving.

"She drinks hybrid blood Ryker she hunts hybrids, hunts her own kind, she needs them to survive"

"What do you mean, she needs them to survive?"

"Same as Brax, your wolf needs blood, the same as your sisters. She grows weaker without blood and she needs hybrid blood, not human a bit of a twist to what Lily is"

"Anything else," Avery shakes her head. "I couldn't see much and I can't see her future being a mutation. Her future is uncertain, her future depends on you"

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