

Ch 17

Jack

Jack watched Luci walk into the dining room that morning, behind her mother and father with Thatcher next to her. She didn't look too happy, wasn't it appeared even allowed to walk over and get her own breakfast. Had stopped at the table while her mother had told her she would get her breakfast for her.

When he and Rafe had both smiled right at her, as her eyes had landed on them, Orien made a point of snapping at the girl. Her eyes had dropped away from them instantly, as she was told to sit right next to her father, the place where his Luna would normally sit, in fact.

Jack understood right away, she was directly next to Orien so that he could keep an eye on her. It was the man's way of showing not only her, but both he and Rafe that he was displeased by the events that had gone on last night. It was also Orien's way of trying to control her, Jack supposed.

Orien was very unhappy with her, with what had happened on her rst shift, and their attention towards the girl. Though they had only smiled at her, and how could they not?

Orien was taking his anger out on his daughter; he likely didn't think he could direct it at Rafe or himself. The man knew they ran this pack together, insulting one would insult the other, and risk their alliance or the things he needed from them right this minute.

Jack sat watching the interactions between Luci and her father. Orien stood there uncaring that his anger with Luci was on show for all to see. This was not his or Rafe's style, they did not yell or berate any pack member in front of others, they would keep that behind closed doors where it was possible. They certainly wouldn't act this way with a family member in front of another pack. Was actually very disrespectful.

Also, once they'd had words, that was usually the end of it. They and whoever was in their line of sight for doing something wrong, were sorted out. There was no need for further animosity to be continued. No others needed to see that the wolf in question; be it male or female, ranked or not, was in trouble. Unless full pack punishment was to be adhered to.

Only those who needed to know were in the know. It kept things from escalating or getting out of hand, kept others from talking about it and causing more trouble or feelings of shame or guilt, or anger even.

Today he was seeing a side of Orien that wasn't to his liking. Orien clearly didn't care who saw his displeasure or anger with his daughter or how she reacted to it even. He wondered if that man would care if he made his daughter cry in front of another pack, doubted it very much.

Though it was clear, there had been words go between Luci and her father this morning, before they all came down to breakfast. Whatever it had been, made Luci snap her mouth shut. He watched as her jaw was tightly clenched, not a single word was going to be uttered by her after her father's own grated out words.

Jack knew in that instant that it had been something along the lines of, Orien didn't want to hear her speak another word or to shut up. He'd been told that when he was younger, by his own father once when he was just 17, and he had reacted pretty much the same way as what Luci was doing right this very minute. He hadn't actually spoken for four days at all before his father had stopped and asked him why he was so quiet? What was wrong? His own father had seemingly forgotten what he'd told his own son.

To which Jack recalled he'd still said nothing. Confused his father to no end, when Jack had turned his eyes away from him and gone back to his meal. It had been his mother who had told his father, right there at the table in front of everyone.

Stated point blankly to her own mate, "You told him you didn't want to hear him speak." She'd been exasperated by then because the only person he was talking to had been Rafe, and only via the mind-link. He'd not uttered a verbal word to anyone, not even his mother or their Alpha, Rafe's father at the time, because his own father might have picked it up with his wolfen hearing. He'd taken to just nodding or shaking his head when it was required for him to answer.

His own father had stared at him, seemingly completely shocked by the fact that he'd taken it literally. Then had sighed heavily and stated, "I was angry with you, Jacki boy. I'm not anymore. I also didn't mean it literally, please feel free to speak from now on."

Jack had just nodded, but then had made a point of still not speaking in front of him for the next two days. Though he had talked to anyone else unless his father was in sight or walked into a room, and he'd closed his mouth. He, too, had taken it personally, which is what he could see Luci was doing right this minute. Reacting to her father's words much the same way he had.

He could see the Alpha-blooded deant steak in the girl. The decision was made, and she was going to stick to it. Her brother Thatcher thought it was funny that she was getting into trouble. Though Jack doubted the boy even knew why she was being roused on by their father. He hoped he didn't, he was way too young to be in the know for that.

But she did what all siblings do, kick each other under the table to show their annoyance with each other. He only knew because the boy cried out in pain and then started to cry. Jack nearly sighed out loud, he even knew why, Luci was not yet used to her wolfen strength and had accidentally hurt him.

He didn't believe she'd intentionally hurt her brother. He'd seen just yesterday, that it had been Luci who had told her brother to go and play and make friends. That it was her, their father was watching. She wanted him to go off and have fun, had seen her smile at him even. She liked her little brother.

Jack was not an only child, had done exactly what she had done, kick his little sister or brother under the table more than once when growing up, to show his displeasure with them. He understood her annoyance with her brother being amused by her father being angry with her. Had been there himself on more than one occasion.

Though she still wouldn't speak, her jaw was ticking with anger as her father demanded she apologise, and all she could do was bow her head apologetically. It was denitely, 'a not to speak' order from her father. Luci was now in a catch twenty-two situation, and either way she opted to react she was going to be in trouble, and he knew it.

He watched her leave the dining room, had wanted to intervene but it was not his place and he knew it. He did not like seeing that hand print on her arm as she walked away. She'd not gotten anything to eat; that couldn't be good for her.

Not having had her rst shift last night, she and her new wolf must be ravenously hungry, so he mind-linked the head chef, Nadia, 'Send up some breakfast to our guest, Luci, in her room. Her own father just denied her breakfast and she'd shifted for the rst time last night.'

Got back. 'Of course Jack, I'll make sure plenty of carbs and protein.'

His eyes had moved to Orien, and he knew he was frowning at the man, couldn't help it, that man had just opted to starve his daughter and he had bruised her as well. Didn't even seem to care about it. Not that Luci herself had said anything, she'd just turned and walked away, calmly he thought at what he could only think was her normal pace.

Jack thought it was a controlled walk, to make it look to her father as though she didn't care, when in all likelihood she did actually really care. He didn't even see her rub her arm, even though it had to hurt. She had bruised quickly; was her creamy skin prone to bruising, he wondered?

But it didn't surprise Jack, seeing that bruise, not with the way Orien had been holding on to Luci. He'd seen the white of the man's knuckles, and the deep impressions his ngers had made on the girl's arm as he'd held her. Orien had been using his wolfen strength on his own child. Not something that should be done as far as he was concerned.

Luci however, wasn't going to show her father that it hurt or that she cared. No, she just left as was told to. Jack was willing to bet she would stay up in the room all day long, not once come out. Thatcher stopped crying after he watched Luci walk away. The boys' eyes were on his sister. Jack could see the boy felt guilty for increasing his father's anger towards her.

Too late now, Jack thought to himself.

Orien asked Thatcher if he was okay, told him to let him know if he was bruised, and he'd further punish his sister for the stupidity of her actions. Then he stated she should have known better now that she had her wolf. That with her wolf came new strength.

Jack felt Rafe's hand on his thigh, 'Calm down, do not interfere, not our pack remember.' He heard the man's voice come down the mind-link. He was barely holding in a snarl at this point and Rafe knew it. Rafe could likely feel his annoyance growing by the minute with the Alpha across from him.

He turned his attention back to his breakfast, though now his own appetite was lacking, and he wanted to yell at the man himself for the disrespect he'd shown to his own daughter. He couldn't, he was just a Beta and Rafe was right, Luci was not a member of this pack. If she was, he'd likely have punched that man right in the face already.

Jack wondered just what Orien was going to do when Luci didn't turn up for their meetings today? She was supposed to be with him for all of them, as the future Heir to the pack; not that Orien thought she was deserving of it.

His eyes moved to the boy. Thatcher was who Orien wanted, and he was making Luci's life dicult, Jack thought. In order to nd a reason to demote her and instate his son. With any luck, the girl would nd her Mate and get out of her father's pack, nd someone that respected her and treated her right.

Orien, on the other hand, was being an ass and Jack wondered if this, what he was seeing now, was their normal family dynamics. Didn't much like it. Orien had already shown to them yesterday that he wasn't willing to let the girl out of his sight, which right this minute she was. But Jack had a feeling she'd gone right to her room, and was making a point of being strictly obedient to her father's exact words.

The s*x was technically their fault, they could have just stood by and watched Luci, or walked away from her. But it had been so freaking hot watching her just start touching herself, and both he and Rafe had wanted her, and when she'd given permission, well how could they not!

They had both wanted to take her back to the packhouse and put her back into her room without her father knowing, but no such luck. Now she was in trouble for simply having s*x.

Jack was willing to bet that if it had been Thatcher at 18 who'd been caught having s*x or coming home smelling of s*x. Orien would have clapped him on the back and smiled at the boy, bet he wouldn't have gotten in trouble at all.