Lycan Queen

Chapter 22: The Game

Conrad

The five of us are in my Tahoe on the way to the charity event. Blake is sitting beside me, she's a little quiet right now but I figure it's down to nerves. She has on her full old uniform of short running style Nike shorts and red cleats, except she was wearing the charity jersey not her school jersey. Soph braided her hair in two braids that I'm pretty sure she called them French braids. I'm not totally sure I just know once Soph was done with the braids is when Blake's attitude got serious.

"B, are you excited to play in the game today?" Luca asks from the back seat.

"Oh you have no idea, my whole team agreed to come play. Actually a lot of girls from college teams in the area are coming. FSU apparently is coming for a rematch." Blake says laughing.

I squeezed her hand hoping I don't end up taking her home with another black eye this afternoon. I pull into the parking lot grabbing a close parking spot and we all hop out.

"Holy goddess guys this looks amazing" I hear Anders say as we are walking through the main entrance gate

"Thanks sweet face" Soph says as she gives him a kiss.

I look at Luca and he has his nose slightly lifted sensing the air. I lift my nose but don't catch anything unusual.

"MICHAELSON!" We all hear someone yell.

"Kinz" Blake says as she jogs over to a girl and they do a really low five.

I'm assuming it's a teammate of hers. I hear Luca growl next to me. I look over and his eyes are honed in on Blake's friend. I look at the girl standing with Blake. She looks around Blake's age; she's taller than Blake but not as tall as Soph. She had light blue eyes and light brown hair braided like Blake's and slender build.

"Mate" Luca says in a whisper as he watches her and Blake walking over to us.

"Kinz this is my boyfriend Conrad, his older brother Anders and his girlfriend Soph and this his younger brother Luca. Guys this is Kinz, one of my college friends and old teammate." Blake says doing the normal routine introductions.

Soph steps forward and shakes her hand, Anders and I find it safer with Luca if we just wave. But Luca just stands there staring, Soph bumps him as she's stepping back from shaking Kinz's hand.

"Oh... um... hi" he says with his big signature smile and a small wave.

Her cheeks turned a slight shade of pink when she looked at him. We could hear her heart rate speed up, Blake looked at me with a confused expression. I shift my eyes from Luca and Kinz back to her and wink.

Blake's eyes got really wide as she giggled. "No freakin way" she mouthed at me. I just gave her a sharp nod.

"Alright guys let's go find where we need to be at right now." I say as I wrap my arm around Blake.

I lean down and whisper in her ear "you look hot in that uniform".

All six of us walked over to the game commentators stage that had a tent over it with a long table and four chairs.

"Wow y'all get a tent, microphones and fans dang y'all are living the high life over here." Blake teases us.

"What are you complaining about? You are the one who set this area up. You were all "I want Conrad to be comfortable during the games." Luca says using his fingers to do quotations as he did a horrible version of Blake's voice.

"Dang Michaelson, he got the voice perfectly." Kinz said, throwing a thumb at Luca who was standing beside her.

"Oh! I like her" says Anders, pointing at Kinz while laughing at Blake.

"Oh shut it Kinz you're just agreeing because y'all made googly eyes at each other five minutes ago." Blake says with a laugh.

Kinz shrugs with a knowing smile as we all laugh.

"Rosie, Kinz" we hear someone say as they walk up.

Blake turns around quickly "POPS" she says as she wraps her arms around him.

"Wow no hey mom, thanks Blakely" says a woman standing next to Blake's dad.

"Hey momma M." Kinz says, giving her a hug.

"Hi mom!" Blake says in a teasing voice.

"Pops, mom this is my boyfriend Conrad, his older Brother Anders, my best friend Soph and Kinz soon to be boyfriend she just doesn't know it yet Luca..." Blake says pointing at each of us as she says our names.

I shake their hands

"Oh great to meet you Conrad, I'm Freya but you can just call me Momma M or mom."

"Great to finally meet you."

"Levi, good to meet you Conrad."

"You too sir." I said, shaking his hand.

Anders was standing beside me. "I really appreciate you two helping Blake out with that lawsuit, thank you."

"Absolutely" we both responded.

"We take care of our own." Soph says extending her hand and shaking Levi's hand.

"I truly appreciate that."

I can see the physical resemblances between Blake and her mom but she has her dad's green eyes along with his kind spirit. He turns to Blake and Kinz folds his arms over his chest...

"GET YOUR LAZY ASSES ON THAT FIELD" he yells with a smile.

Blake laughs, gives me a quick kiss and takes off running to the field behind Kinz.

Levi turns around chuckling "Man I've missed that."

We all laugh, he gives Freya a kiss and heads to the field.

"We have this whole covered area if you would like to sit up there with us Momma M" Soph says with a smile.

"That would be great thank you."

We are standing under the tent and the stage, that's along the same sideline Blake's team is on. I'm watching Blake down on the field with her dad, he's doing a lot of stretches to her left shoulder.

"She injured her shoulder a couple seasons ago, took her a long time to heal. She wouldn't take time off to rest so it made the process longer, stubborn just like her father. He's been lost since Nationals, so when Blakely called and asked him to help out today he has been on cloud nine ever since grinning from ear to ear."

I look down to see her watching them too.

"I would get jealous of how close they were from time to time but I just had to learn to connect with her on a different level. Horror films were our thing and packing a ton of snacks in her cooler for her games. I always told her that was my way of being there when I couldn't physically be there, see the huge red cooler by that big black box?" Freya says pointing down to the field.

"Yeah"

"That's all Blakely game snacks and drink. Levi told me one time when Blakely was first starting out in sports that daddy's yelling and mommy's snacks is what helped her win games, so I always made sure she never ran out of snacks during her games." Freya says as she gets choked up I put my arm around her.

"You two have raised an amazing woman." I say looking down at her.

"Thank you Conrad, she is something amazing" Freya

said as she gave me a side hug.

"Momma M what are those big boxes Kinz and B carried out there?" Luca asked, coming to stand next to us.

She starts laughing. "Blakely is so short that when she coaches sideline they couldn't see her so she would stand on the bench, well then that made it hard for Blakely to see and she couldn't move down the field line because girls were sitting on the bench. So Levi made those wooden boxes for her and her co captain Sarah to stand on when they are coaching the field line. It's funny to watch you'll get a kick out of it I'm sure. They have a lot of crazy stuff they do on the field."

"I'm excited to watch, I love listening to her talk about it so it will be fun to see her in action."

"Fair warning, stay clear of the field. Charity event or not Blake is serious and out for blood. If she gets hurt it pisses her off more and she only listens to her dad and usually they are bickering back and forth the whole time." She says with a laugh.

"There's our Sweet Pea" I say seeing my mom and pops walking up with Everly.

"Hey baby" my mom says as she kisses my cheek as she hands me Everly.

"Mom, pops this is Blake's mom Freya and her dad Levi is down on the field with Blake" I say pointing at them.

"Oh it's so great to meet you, Blake is such a precious gem we are so happy she is in our son's life. I'm Julia." my mom says hugging Freya.

"Alaric, nice to meet you." My dad says as he extends his hand to shake Freya's.

I look back to the field watching Blake with her team. They circle around her watching her hanging onto every word.

She holds her hand up and they all walk in closer and hold their hands up to hers and yell "UGA UGA UGA" and jog out and spread out along a few field lines. Blake has her back to them and starts working like she was with us this morning. Holding the arm out of the direction they were going. After their counting they would make a barking sound. They were so in sync you could hear it all over the field.

"Who's that mean mugging our girl?" I hear my dad ask as he steps up beside me.

"Which one?" Freya asks.

My dad points to a girl on the other side of the field just watching Blake.

"Oh that's Becky, she's the one that got that cheap shot on Blakely in Nationals and gave her that black eye, it's okay though Blakely busted her lip and nose the next play." "I believe that I've been on the receiving end of her elbows before." Luca laughed as he sat down in one of the chairs at the table with the mics.

"Yeah her broken noses are no joke." I say, as Freya laughs.

"Yeah she got a good shot on you, Levi was so proud when she told him that."

"I was too, It was a beauty to watch" Soph said from the other side of Freya.

"Hey Momma M why are they barking?" Anders asked, coming to stand behind Soph.

"Their school mascot is the Bulldogs so they bark like a dog." She says with a chuckle.

I just smile and shake my head.

"Who's this cutie?" Freya asked.

"This is Everly, she's the one who inspired the Michaelson house, she and Blake bonded right away but in the end she stole all our hearts."

"She's precious, I love the bow, oh and her jersey matches Blakey's- I love it! Can I hold her?"

"Absolutely! I have to sit down and get to work anyway." Freya takes Everly then her and my mom sit on some chairs just down from the table.

Luca gets us through the welcome ceremony and now it's time for the game to start. Blake's team starts on defense, she's keyed into the ball where it goes her head always follows. Pass is made and she knocks it down then slaps her hands together in frustration because she was really close to an interception. They get in their defensive line, she starts yelling, pointing and the line shifts at the last minute. She runs alongside the girl she's covering and watches the pass made to another player, she takes off running tracks that girl down like a cheetah and rips the flag off her waist band.

"Damn B's fast." I hear my dad say from behind me.

Few more plays and they switch sides. B looks at the girl on the black box, she runs back to the huddle then they separate. Blake sets up on the far side of the line, the quarterback yells hike and she takes off like she was thrown out of a slingshot. I'm glad Anders and Luca are remembering to commentate into the mics because I'm too focused on watching Blake to talk. She runs up the far sideline, cuts to the middle of the field, the quarterback fires the ball, Blake catches it out front, pulls it in and hauls ass across the goal line for a touchdown, we all start cheering. She drops the ball and starts posing as her other teammates start acting like they are snapping pictures. I can't hold it in, I bust out laughing even my pops behind me busted out laughing.

"She's a hot mess" Soph says laughing next to me.

This goes on throughout the whole first quarter. We've

figured out each player has a different thing they do if they make a touchdown. One girl they all run with their arms out like planes, Kinz flicks the ball at the group of girls and they all fall over like bowling pins, I lost track after that. Two minutes into the second quarter, that Becky chick got a shot on Blake as they tumbled out of bounds. All four of us stand up, I see Blake fling her arm like she's going to get up and pop that Becky bitch in the face.

"That's my girl" I say under my breath.

Blake stands up, puts her right hand up pointing to the sky, does two small circles with her hand then pumps her arm up and down twice. Another player bolts out onto the field and Blake stays out. My left shoulder is tingling so I know she's hurt.

"She's hurt" I say over my shoulder to my dad.

"Left shoulder isn't it, I heard it."

I watch as Blake takes her shirt off, so now she's in her shorts and sports bra. A light growl rumbles in my chest.

"Calm down let's see what she does." My pops says as he puts his hand on my shoulder.

She crumpled up the shirt, stuffs it in her armpit, sits down and puts her elbow tightly between her bent knees. I hear my pops chuckle.

"I really hope she is not about to do what I think she is."

"Pops I think she is."

Just then she flings herself backwards as hard as she can, and we hear the sickening crack as she pops her shoulder back into place. I'm speechless. Soph covers her mouth, Luca and Anders jaw hit the ground.

"God Damn" I hear my pops say behind me as he claps his hands together and turns to face the other way.

"Damn I think she got bigger coconuts than Luca." I say with a chuckle as he flips me off.

Levi runs up and quickly slides this sleeve thing up her arm onto her shoulder and it snaps under her other armpit. Well, Levi tried once Blake popped her shoulder back in she was up and running again. She finished getting the brace on and hops on a black box.

"Really wish she would put her jersey back on." I say as I sit down.

"Oh hush son and enjoy watching her play." Pops says flicking me in the back of the ear.

She will do different motions at different times. She will point and do her hand up and down behind her head or in front of her face depending on if they need to move forward or backwards. The halftime buzzer goes off, I look down to see Blake still standing on the box leaned back slapping one hand over top the other like she's making it rain money and every single one of her

teammates have stopped where they are on the field and are doing it too. We all laugh as we go down the stairs to the sideline of the field.

"Pops I said I'm good, I'm going back out there next quarter"

"Rosie you can go back out in the fourth"

"Seriously?"

"Blakely I just watched you pop that bitch back in place. You better be glad I'm letting you back out there at all."

"Fine, bottom of the third into the fourth." Blake says pointing to her dad as she storms off to her cooler.

"Damn the girl is stubborn" Levi says as we walk up.

"No idea where she gets it from." Freya says with a teasing smile.

I introduce Levi to my parents and Everly. Then jog over to where Blake is laying on the ground next to her cooler with her right arm flung over her eyes. My shoulder is still slightly stinging so I know hers is still hurting her a good bit. I squat down next to her.

"You look good out there baby girl."

She gets a big smile on her face as she moves her arm and sits up.

"Thanks handsome"

"How's the shoulder?"

She shrugs "It's fine."

"Don't lie to me baby girl, my shoulder still stings so I know yours hurts."

"Yeah it's tender..."

I raise my eyebrow at her.

"Okay fine it hurts like a bitch, but I'm not staying out of this game. That's why I'm icing it now and not playing the third."

I look at her with a stern expression.

"Fuck" she says as she lays back down closing her eyes.
"Guess that means I'm out the rest of the game."

I sit down putting her head in my lap, I start lightly rubbing her shoulder every now and then she will flinch or press her lips tight together.

"I'll make you deal, you can play the fourth quarter but you have to be checked out by the pack doctor when we get home."

"Ugh fine deal." I lean down and kiss her.

"You want some yummy snacks, mom has got me loaded

down today." Blake says as she slaps her hand on the red cooler.

"What you got in there?" I ask with a laugh.

"I can't remember, and I'm not moving because I don't want you to stop rubbing my shoulder."

"I'll sit here all night if you need me too baby girl."

"Lover why are you letting people beat you up?" Soph asks.

"Ugh she got a cheap shot on me."

"Well you look good out there and that was totally badass what you did popping your shoulder back in."

"Yeah, don't try this at home kids." Blake says laughing as she sits up.

I lean down and kiss her shoulder.

"WAIT! WHAT? Michaelson, so you finally found a guy that could catch your attention."

"Well how could he not? Look at this handsome face." Blake says shrugging her good shoulder smiling wide at her teammates as they walked back over onto the field.

"Here let's see what I got in this bad boy." Blake says as she opens her cooler.

She wasn't joking, she could feed the whole team at least twice.

The rest of the gang joins us along with the newest sibling Kinz. She was very quiet, there was a quick wit side but not as big as Blake and Soph.

Anders opened a mind link with, "I think Kinz is going to be a good balance for Luca and our girls. He's got a big personality like Soph and Blake and she has a mild personality like you and I." Anders said, giving a laugh.

"It's his counter balance for sure."

"Ah damn" Blake gets up jogging towards the field with Kinz right on her heels.

That girl that looked like Becky and two other girls had made their way across the field. We all stand up, Soph takes a step in Blake's direction Anders catches her arm.

"This is a human situation we have to trust Blake can handle. If it gets to be too much we will step in."

I step up behind Luca grabbing onto his elbow as he watches Kinz' every move and the three girls that are standing in front her, Sarah just came jogging up joining Blake's left flank.

"Becky" Blake says as she crosses her arms across her chest, squares her feet as her jersey swings as it hangs from the back waistband of her shorts.

Damn she looks so hot when she goes into badass Blake mode. I see Kinz's hands twitching slightly like she's anticipating something at any moment. Sarah is in the calm and collected state as of right now.

"Michaelson"

"You're on the wrong side of the field." Blake says motioning with her hand towards the other side of the field

"Just coming to check on that shoulder." Becky says as she goes to poke Blake's hurt left shoulder.

She didn't make it halfway to Blake's shoulder before you heard the smack of Sarah's hand slapping away Becky's hand. In the same motion of Sarah hitting Backy's hand Kinz steps forward looking straight at Becky.

"We still have a few cheap shots to settle."

The girl on Becky's left flank goes to step forward towards Kinz, Kinz' head snapped in her direction as she points at the girl's face.

"I've already settled you once before I wont hesitate to do it again."

"DAMNNN" Luca and Soph say at the same time.

Anders and I just glance over to each other.

"Well I thought she was quiet." Anders said with a chuckle. The girl Kinz was pointing at took two steps backwards.

"That's my girl" I hear Luca say, sounding real proud.

"I have no problem settling shit with you too Becky." Kinz said now pointing at Becky.

Sarah is having a stare down with the girl in front of her not letting her move in the slightest. Blake touches Kinz's arm with her hand, letting her know to stand down a little.

"Again Becky, you're on the wrong side of the field." Blake repeats herself, I can hear the irritation growing in her voice.

Becky gets a mischievous smile on her face and opens her mouth as she leans forward to say something when out of nowhere Kinz shifts forward and punches Becky right in the eye. Beckys head snapes to the side.

"That was for you cheap shot on Michaelson at Nations, we'll settle the rest on the field today, now y'all get your asses back on your side of the field."

We all just stand there staring at the back of the three girls, I glance at my dad and he gives me a side look as a smile spreads across his face. Still no one has said a thing or moved a muscle. All of a sudden Blake and Sarah lick their pointer fingers, Blake puts hers on Kinz's left shoulder and Sarah puts hers on Blakes left shoulder and at the same time all three of them make a sizzling sound

like water on a hot surface.

Soph busts out laughing "That was epic! I wish i could rewind that and watch it again!"

The three girls turn around and start laughing. Luca walks over and takes Kinz' hand in his and makes sure she didn't hurt it when she threw that punch.

"I'm fine babyface"

Blake stops walking and turns to Kinz "I said the same thing when I first met him!"

Luca gives her a small smile as he brings her hand up to kiss her knuckles. He holds onto her hand and walks her over to meet our parents. Sarah and Blake just laugh as they walk over to us.

"You and B always getting into trouble like that?"

"Yeah we've been scrapping since we were in pull ups, only one she never lets me knock the shit out of is Beth." She says with a chuckle.

"Join the club." Soph says laughing.

"It was good meeting y'all, Con you better take good care of my girl, she's got a heart of gold she deserves the world." Sarah says as she points at me with a threatening look.

"I keep trying to buy it for her but she keeps telling me

"Yeah that's Michaelson, just buy it then she is stuck with it." Sarah says with a chuckle.

"Come on Michaelson time to box up." Sarah says as she heads towards one of the boxes taking off her Jersey and tucking it in the back of her shorts like Blake has her.

Blake walks up, gives me a kiss and I slap her butt as she's walking away.

The last half of the game went by without a hitch, well on our side anyway. Kinz wasn't lying when she said she was going to settle the score. Between Sarah, Kinz and Blake, there were a lot of photoshoots and bowling pins falling down. Blake held up her end of the bargain, she didn't play the third quarter but she definitely dominated the fourth quarter. Her dad switched out her shoulder wrap for one that didn't have ice packs inside of it, so it was easier for her to play. Throughout the fourth quarter I kept getting a sharp prick in my left shoulder when Blake was involved with a close contact play. She tumbled to the ground, rolled over and hopped up like nothing was going on. I started rubbing my shoulder hating that I knew she was hurting.

"Is her shoulder still hurting?" my pops asked as he put his hands on the back of my chair and leaned closer to me as we both still watch Blake play.

"I assume so, everytime she bumps it or has to reach to catch a pass I feel like I've been stabbed with an ice

pick."

"She's one tough girl."

"I know pops, I just hate that she's in pain and won't let me help her. It's taking everything in me not to pull her off that field, then I see how happy she is, how much fun she's having and I can't bring myself to take that away from her."

Pops looks at the clock. "She's got 2 minutes left, after we leave here take her straight to the pack doctor, if she fights it I'll give her an elders order then she won't be able to say no after that."

I look over my shoulder at my dad. "Thanks dad."

"Absolutely son, you know I would do anything for you, Luca, your mom, Everly and now my two daughter-in-laws. The health of the 6 of yall is my top priority." my pops says as his hand comes down to pat me on my shoulder.

After the game, Blake jogged off the field making her way to sit cross legged on one of the black boxes as Luca and I made our way over to them with some metals and a trophy I had made for the winning team. I didn't tell Blake hoping to surprise her with being able to pass them out to her team. Her whole team has surrounded the box she is sitting on and her dad has come to stand behind her and I notice my pops is standing a few steps to Blakes left.

I opened a mink link with him "Alright what's with you today?"

"I'm very intrigued with her natural leadership skills, surprisingly she has taught me a thing or two today."

I just smile and close the link. Luca and I come to stand off to Blake's right not far behind some of her players that are sitting on the ground. Blake takes a deep and just looks around at them. I can tell she is taking in this moment probably thinking this will be the last time she will get to give a post game speech. After a few moments her dad lets out a bark sound behind her. Blake lets out a laugh and lets one out too then Blake and all the girls around her are barking she laughs and stands up on the black box. When she is fully standing they all stop. She looks around smiling and clears her throat as she gets a serious expression on her face.

"Did you leave it all on the field?"

"bark" all her teammates do around her.

"Ladies you kicked ass today! I know it wasn't as serious as our last game, but it was seriously so much fun. I am so grateful to each and everyone of you for coming today. I will hold onto these memories and moments that I shared over the last 5 years with all of you. We have left a lot of blood, sweat and tears on some fields together. I hope I have poured as much of myself, my passion and drive into your lives as you have poured into mine. This team right here will forever hold a special place in my heart, I'm grateful and deeply humbled you chose my

scrawny freshman ass as your leader all those years ago."

All the girls laugh

"Each of you have taught me a daily lesson at every practice at every game on how to better myself. We may have fought among ourselves from time to time in the bus on the way to a game but as soon as we stepped off that bus yall would always show me so much respect, most times way more than I deserved, in those moments you taught me grace and compassion. Thank you for allowing me to lead this team, thank you for trusting me even when you thought I had lost my mind when I wanted to throw that trick plan in the last seconds of Nationals. Thank you for helping make and mold me into the person I am today, each and everyone one of you had a part in it and I will be forever grateful for it." Blake says as she puts her hand over her heart she looks around fighting back the tears threatening to escape.

"I will greatly miss my football sisters."

I stand there just staring at this amazing woman before me in complete awe. After a few moments of silence I hear my dad start clapping followed by everyone around her. I look over at my pops to see tears in his eyes, I see her dad quickly wipe his face.

"Damn I got some shit in my eye." I hear Luca beside me.

She hops down, her team huddles around her does a chant and they break a part. She turns to her dad, runs, jumps into his arms and they both just let the tears fall.

"Thank you for everything daddy."

"Oh Rosie I should be thanking you, those were the best years of my life and I'm going to miss them greatly."

"Me too daddy me too."

They stay in their embrace for a few moments and he sets her down on her feet. He grabs her face and gives her a kiss on the forehead.

"You make me so proud to be your father, It was such a joy and pleasure to watch you grow into the woman you are today."

"You have and are a big reason why I am who I am today

"I love you Blakely."

"I love you too pops."

Levi gives her one last hug, and they turn to look back at her team. Blake notices my dad has walked closer to her and Levi.

"Thank YOU" pops says as he points at Blake "For humbling me today you have shown me that I haven't been being the best leader I can be for the people around me. I admire your compassion, respect and praise you bestow on those who follow your leadership. Blakely, I can already tell you are going to make a huge difference

in the lives you will lead in the future."

"Thanks Alaric that means a lot."

Pops gave Blake a hug and walked to go stand with my mom and Everly. I gave her a smile as she walked towards me.

"I got you something"

"HELL YEAH! Ladies my man got us some hardware!"

All her teammates cheered and came over so Luca and I could pass them out, I gave her dad the big trophy.

"Thank you for today Conrad, it was really nice to be out here with her one last time."

"Well Levi, maybe we can make this a yearly event."

"Count me in." Levi said with a chuckle.

After Luca had made all the closing announcements, he gave out the rest of the awards and we made sure all cleaning processes had started and then we would be ready to go home.