

Sion led me away from the others, walking down stream. I was looking around curiously. Everything seemed... familiar... but I couldn't quite place it.

Sion stopped walking and I looked up at him curiously. He let his hand drop from me and looked out in the distance.

"I can't believe you did that..." His voice whispered out and I felt my body tense. Was he upset with me for agreeing to following him to the spirit realm? It was hypocritical. He would have done the same for me. But when he turned to face me... my heart stopped. His face was full of so many raw emotions. Wet streams were falling from his eyes and my chest hurt for him. "I never told you..." His voice was strained and croaked as he tried to talk. "I don't like..." He tapped on his chest and swallowed hard. "I-I-I don't like this darkness inside of me. It has always been there waiting to take over. When I lost my parents, I was afraid it was only a matter of time before I lost to it. I feared I would end up in the dark... alone." His hazel eyes met with mine and a gentle smile reached his lips.

"But then I found you. You shared your light with me. You are the sun keeping away the dark." He took in a shaky breath and shook his head. "You are following me into darkness. How can I be so selfish to take you with me?"

"Sion—"

"Clover, I am so sorry. I can't refuse the offer. I am

selfish. I want you with me. I need my sun. I know I should adamantly refuse your offer." His eyes were fixated on mine. "But I can't tell you how relieved I felt knowing you would be by my side. I'm horrible, Clover. I'm selfish and greedy. You deserve better—"

I couldn't hear it anymore. He was breaking my heart with how shattered he looked. I grabbed his face and pulled his lips down to mine. It was soft, gentle, and poured with my love.

"I.diot." I whispered against his lips. I smiled and looked into his eyes. "You are an id.iot if you think you could have talked me out of it. You don't have mind controlling powers. If you would have refused me, I would have forced you to agree. Remember that in the future. When we get in arguments, when we disagree on our children's names, when we are trying to decide what we want for dinner..." I smiled, "You can never win against me unless I allow it." There it is... the sweet smile of my mate. He leaned his cheek into my hands as he kissed my palms.

"Thank you for loving this id.iot. I'll do everything in my power so that you never regret it." He kissed my palm again as his eyes lifted to me.

"Just keep me with you, Sion. That is all you ever have to do." I listened to his sweet chuckle.

"Gods, you see... even that... you are perfect for me. The greatest gift I will never deserve." He looked at my neck and frowned. His thumb brushed over the faint mark. "I wish I could reestablish this now..."

I laughed, smiling up at him widely. "I have bound myself to your soul. I don't think you have to worry about me going anywhere." His eyes were serious and there was a growing tension in the air. "I feel very possessive over you, Clover. I can't promise I won't do something crazy in the future..."

"Good thing I can control you then." I grinned. This is what Reapus meant about someone able to put him on a leash. If Sion got out of control, I would be able to command him as a sheya. I needed to practice my powers, so I felt confident in using them.

I slowly trailed my finger down his chest with a seductive smile on my face. "I'm the one who should be concerned. You are the one that isn't bound to me..." I felt his chest rumbling beneath my fingers.

"If you could only read my mind." His voice was sensually threatening. "I am completely captivated by you. Right now..." His breath was now tickling my lips as my heart began to race. "I can't stop thinking about feeling you writhe in pleasure underneath me. I want to please you until you are exhausted. Da.mn..." His husky voice growled as he nipped my bottom lip. "If you ever wanted to slap a man for what he was thinking... for what I want to do to you."

A shiver ran over my body. My breath was ragged, and my body was tingling with anticipation of his touch. "Will you do what you are thinking?"

"Not here..." He said and I breathed in his sweet breath. I curled my fingers into his chest. His lips were teasing mine. Testing them with his teeth and tongue. Enough to drive me crazy. He was torturing me by not fully giving me what I wanted.

His tongue then plunged into my mouth, greedily attacking me. Our tongues twisted together, dancing possessively with the other. My arms moved up around his neck as I tangled my fingers in his hair.

"Mine." He growled into my lips as he continued his assault. His hand reached the bottom hem of my shirt and began to trail upwards. His hot hand seared me as he trailed under my bra, cupping my breast. His fingers rolled around my hardened nip.ple as he pressed his hardness against me. Gods, I wanted him so much. Being in the wide open suddenly meant nothing as desire consumed me.

He removed his hot mouth from mine and began to tease me again. This time he began to suck and nip at my neck as he played with my hardened bud. He was sending jolts of sparkling tingles and pleasure through me. It felt amazing, but I wanted more. I was demanding more. I thought a moan was going to escape my throat, but instead it was a growl. My wolf was finally connecting back with me in response to Sion's touch.

The sound of my wolf made Sion crash his lips against mine urgently. His frantic kissing was showing me he no longer planned to hold back. Thank the gods because I needed him.

"Clover?!" Fvck... someone was here but... it was

someone different. We both stopped abruptly and turned our heads to look across the river.

"It is CLOVER! Denny! It's Clover."

Now I knew why this place seemed familiar. It was on the other side of the river of the Sulfur pack territory. How did we even come this far? I was so disoriented by being dragged underwater and traveling through the mines that I never realized how far we had come.

Joey, Jude, and Denny were standing on the other side of the river. I felt my cheeks grow hot as Sion's possessive hand lowered from under my shirt. He looked over at the three men and a low growl escaped his throat.

"Clover, are you alright? What are you doing here?" Denny asked, looking suspiciously at Sion. I can understand how weird this situation is. There just wasn't a simple explanation.

"Yes, we are fine..." I glanced up at Sion, whose body felt tense as he stared across the river.

"I've been trying to call you..." Denny said, and I nodded my head.

"Yeah, I don't have my phone. A lot has happened..." I trailed off, not sure how much I should say. Though honestly, they needed to know what was going on. There was a good chance there was something foul in the Sulfur pack too. The demon that killed Taylor didn't just waltz in there and kill her. There was more to that story.

"But you are okay?" Joey asked, his eyes searching over me from across the river. I nodded my head and smiled. "You guys are in heavy Seeker territory. It isn't safe." I could see Denny scowling as he looked at Sion. "There have been strange scents coming from over there..." Denny was still being protective of me, and I could see Sion didn't like it. I felt his strong arm curl around my waist as he grunted an acknowledgement.

"We are coming over to talk." Joey finally said, without another word, he shifted into his wolf, jumping into the river to cross. I watched as Denny and Jude instantly joined him.

I looked up to see Sion's tense face and I patted his arm. "My love, it's okay. You know they are like family to me. Think of them as my brothers."

"Brothers shouldn't look at their sister that way." His voice was trembling with anger. It was only then that I realized how much he was trying to restrain himself. This new form seemed to make it harder to control. "Then just think about how I look at you." I smiled up at him as he turned to look at me. "And how badly I want you right now..." His lips curled upwards, and he leaned his head into mine.

"A promise for later."

"You better deliver." I grinned as he buried his nose in my hair to inhale my scent to help calm him.

"Do you want me to drown them?"

We both looked in shock to see Odell and the others standing there. When did they arrive?

"We could hear the other voices and came to investigate." Conner seemed to be reading our minds.

"No, Odell. They are from my old pack." I watched as

she shrugged, still not convinced they should live. Conner and Logan then moved to Sion's side, while Kai and Odell stayed at mine. Demetri stood slightly back in his centaur form where he could watch and observe everyone.

Three wolves made it to our side of the river and shifted. I stared at them quietly. It felt strange seeing them in front of me. It hadn't been that long and yet it felt like it had been ages. When my eyes met with Denny's I knew something was wrong. He looked tired and worried.

"What happened?" I asked as my eyes darted over the three of them. I could see he was reluctant to speak. His eyes darted to Sion and then back to me. Whatever it was, he didn't want to say it in front of him.

Denny, what is wrong? His eyes focused on mine as

he pursed his lips together.

How are you here?

It's a long story, but I was in danger, and we ended up here.

So, you haven't been with the Chance pack the last couple of days?

My eyes widened as my lips parted in shock. "Denny, what has happened?"

Denny stared at me for a moment before he looked at Sion. "Wolves are defecting from their packs... and they are being found near the Chance pack." I felt Sion's entire body tense and I squeezed his hand gently.

"Da.mn, she works fast." I looked up at Sion and gave

him a reassuring smile, "It's going to be okay. We will reclaim the Chance pack."

"Did you get kicked out?" Jude asked with wide eyes.

"I chose Clover over the pack," Sion answered firmly. This sentence had a loaded meaning. Since this was something Denny was not willing to do. It spoke volumes on Sion's devotion to me.

"His pack is being manipulated and they don't know what they are doing. But we will reclaim them." I quickly added. I didn't want them to think Sion didn't have control over his pack because he did. His pack loved him. I watched as Denny smiled and then looked at me.

"So, you have found the one who was meant for you."

"I have. Sion is my everything." I smiled as I squeezed

his hand. I wanted them to know I was happy. Although I didn't want to hurt Joey. I looked up at him and could see a softness in his eyes. He was smiling at me and looked relieved to see that I was happy.

"Clover, you will always be someone special to me. Because of that, I will always be here for you." Denny said and his eyes met with Sion's. "Well, what can we do to help?"

Note:

Next Update 25th.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

OH FOR MATES SAKE

Chapter 42 Truths & Confessions

We stood there talking for a long time. There was a lot to be said. I found out more about Sion being called Anubis and what that meant. I also now understood his new monstrous form I had seen. Sion explained everything calmly. I was surprised he decided to tell them about all of it, but I think at this point he was trying to lay his whole hand out.

At the end of the conversation, it was quiet for a couple of long minutes.

"Okay, hold up." Joey said, shaking his head with his lips pursed. "You are telling me his mom was a wolf and his dad was a centaur. Dude... so how did they— "

Oh. My. Gods. THIS?! This is what he came full circle to? Not the Anubis or lupine? He was more concerned about how Demetri's parents procreated? "Well actually, it is quite simple—" Demetri started to say as I started coughing.

"No. No. No. We don't want to hear it!" I shook my head adamantly.

"Speak for yourself! I'm dying of curiosity. So, if I want to put it to a centaur lady do I need to just mount her from behind?" Logan asked and I just about died.

"Right?! Exactly? Like as a female would she just put her rump up in the air or would she hook herself around his stomach?" Jude asked animatedly.

"We aren't discussing this. We aren't discussing this." I turned to look at Odell, a woman to a woman, pleading with her to interject. I watched her nod her head, picking up on my distress. I was thankful she wasn't dense. "You boys are so childish. Obviously, the female can take whatever her mate is serving. That isn't the issue. The issue is if what he is serving is a big enough portion. I mean not all centaurs are well endowed. I want to know when I am full and not have to guess." Odell said triumphantly as I mentally slapped my head. She didn't get it at all. The subtle message of female camaraderie was lost on her.

"That sounds like a challenge..." Conner said, looking at Odell with a slight smirk resting on his face.

"Unfortunately, most fail." Odell said simply looking at her nails. She lifted her gaze to look at Conner. "And when they don't fail at one, they fail at having the stamina to keep going. Dobhars have a very strong libido and we need a male who can perform on demand." Did this woman have no modesty? I was sure my face was turning a dark shade of red, embarrassed on her behalf. I could barely look at anyone.

"Okay, Demetri, I'm going to need confirmation. Would a male centaur have taken a female wolf from behind or wrapped her around his stomach?" Jude asked and I rubbed my hands over my face.

"It depends on the couple and how rough they like it." Oh gods... "There is also the gift pond in the centaur village. It allows a centaur to shift to a human on nights when the moon touches the pond. You have to be standing in the pond to receive the gift. Which is probably how a lot of the couples actually prefer it." All that build up and they were able to have a normal romantic encounter. I was about to regain my composure when Demetri continued. "However, my parents didn't live in the centaur village." He chuckled and this was just too much. "I think this is a topic you men can discuss on your own time and not in front of my mate." Sion squeezed me into his body, covering my face in his chest.

"Wait... what is going on there?" I heard Joey's voice and turned to look at him. He was looking at me intently. "I can barely see your mark."

A deadly snarl rippled from Sion's throat. "Why are you looking at her neck so closely?!" I felt his body quivering with anger. A trembling force that was waiting to attack.

I patted Sion's chest, making him look at me. Our eyes met and I could see the darkness begin to vanish. "It's okay, Sion." I then turned and looked at Joey. "It is fading since the connection was cra.cked. He just has to reclaim me, but he has to wait a couple days before he can." "That is your mark though, right? It isn't fading." Jude asked, pointing at the star shape on Sion's face. I looked at Sion and realized Jude was right. The mark was visibly there and didn't look faded at all.

"Gosh, your conversations are so boring," Stilts grumbled, making me jump. He hadn't been here a moment ago. I was certain of that. I thought he had left but suddenly here he was. "Her sheya form claims her mate even in death. She's a dangerous creature that will sink her talons into your soul, claiming it as her own."

"What the hell is that?!" Jude asked with wide eyes.

"Funny that is what I thought when I saw you. I thought to myself, either werewolves are getting weaker or that one there is only an officer because of his father." Stilts grinned and I could feel the anger protruding from Jude's body.

"Are you calling ME weak?"

"Oh?! Not just weak, but apparently dumb too." Stilts' eyes flashed at him mischievously as a growl rippled from Jude's throat.

"Stilts!" I reprimanded and a wooden cane appeared in his hands as he swung it around in the air.

"Not a chance, sheya. Keep those pink silky ribbons to yourself. You won't be bewitching me with that voo doo." I watched as Stilts swung the wooden cane and could see a light spark from the end of it.

Sion snarled and narrowed his eyes at Stilts. "I don't know who you are, but be careful with how you speak to her, or you'll end up shorter than what you are."

"A short joke? Didn't see that one coming. Must have been above my head, right?" Stilts let out a snarky laugh and then sighed in agitation. "I'm the one who will be teaching your mate how to control her powers. And if you don't want to end up dumber than you already are, I suggest you watch how you speak to me."

"Careful Stilts. You try to touch Sion and you will invoke the beast within. And she can't control her powers right now." Demetri chuckled and I noticed Stilts looking at me nervously nodding his head.

"True... she is the only one I have to fear here." Stilts said with a small shrug.

"So, what are you exactly?" Denny asked, and I looked at Stilts curiously since I wanted to know as well. I knew he was part gnome but what else? "So what are you exactly? Surely, you aren't an alpha of a pack, right? Say it isn't so." Stilts had a cheeky mouth that the wolves didn't appreciate. Though I could see the smirk from Odell. She was enjoying this.

"Careful pixie." Jude growled, stepping forward.

Stilts clicked his tongue and smirked at Jude. "I've known kittens with a scarier bark than that."

"You may be a friend, but that doesn't mean a lesson can't be taught." Jude growled and I saw the gnomes' eyes flash green.

"Awe the wee pup is barely paper trained and he thinks he can teach me something. Please, I eagerly await your lesson."

"Don't," Demetri said in a commanding tone. I watched as he looked down at Stilts with a frown. "Why do you have to provoke them like that? You've been around Shiva for too long. Look, you can't win in a battle against him." He was now looking up at Jude, who snorted, looking offended. "No regular werewolf could ever win against him. The truth is he is a powerful mixture. Two ancient powers joining as a hybrid bomb. He is part gnome... and part leprechaun. That little cane he holds has enough magic in it to knock us all unconscious. Except for Clover." Oh part leprechaun! Okay, that made a lot of sense.

"Clover... you are that powerful?" Denny asked and I shrugged.

"That is what they tell me," I admitted uncomfortably. After all, it was me being a sheya that was an issue for the Sulfur pack before. I guess a part of me still felt like I had the Sulfur pack's judgement on my shoulders. There was this uncomfortable part inside of me that hated thinking about the Sulfur pack because I remember the night I was attacked. Denny was staring at me and then a small smile reached his lips.

"We have really missed you." He said softly and Sion scoffed, noticeably curling his fingers into my side.

"What? You don't think we missed her?" Denny looked up at Sion with a puzzled look. He stared at Sion for a moment before he sighed and rubbed the back of his neck. "Is there some sort of problem?"

A dark chuckle came from Sion as his eyes snapped to Denny's. "Yeah, there is."

"Let's hear it." Jude glared at Sion, moving closer to Denny.

"I can't respect an alpha who has no control over his pack." A powerful aura flowed from Sion, and I could feel his muscles bulging next to me.

"And what does that mean?" Jude asked angrily, as Denny remained quiet with a more solemn face.

"How do members of your own pack attack another member?" Sion growled.

"The pack viewed her as an outsider—" Jude tried to defend Denny, but Sion scoffed loudly.

"The alpha brought her into the pack. She is no longer an outsider at that point. Do your pack members know more about protecting a pack than their alpha? I doubt that is the case, so that means they don't have enough faith in their alpha to respect his decisions." "But—" Jude objected again, and Sion snarled at him angrily.

"My mate was attacked! Your pack tried to kill her." He looked at Denny with a dark icy glare. "Where is the discipline? What happened to the pack members who attacked her?"

"I didn't tell them the names." I looked up at Sion as I chewed on my inner bottom lip. His eyes met with mine and he smiled. I thought he was losing control, but he seemed very aware of his actions. He reached down and cupped my cheek with his hand, caressing my face with his thumb.

"My love, do you think that matters? If members of my pack attacked you and you refused to give me the names I would find out on my own."

"And how would you go about that?" Jude was getting

angry and defensive on his alpha's behalf, but Denny stood there quietly taking it all in.

"Because I am an alpha!" Sion jerked his head to glare at Jude before his calm eyes met with mine again. Not once showing any of his aggression towards me. "Because..." His fingers trailed down softly brushing my neck, sending tingling waves over me. "As an alpha I would have questioned every pack member until they gave me names. And if not willingly, I would have ordered the truth."

"Says the alpha who doesn't have a pack—" Jude began, but it was Denny who growled this time.

"Enough Jude!" Denny barked. "Sion's pack is being controlled, it isn't the same at all. On top of that, he chose Clover over his pack. He left his pack." His eyes came to find mine and they softened. "I'm so sorry Clover..." "Denny no its—"

"It isn't okay. Your mate is right. As an alpha, I have to do better. I should have done better. It kills me... it haunts me what was done to you and what makes it worse is it was my fault. I should have been the type of leader my pack wouldn't have betrayed." I watched as his hands began to tremble; it was so hard to watch this. I hated it. I never blamed Denny and I didn't want to. "You should have been safe."

I stepped away from Sion's side and walked up to Denny. I took his hands and looked up at him with eyes filling with water that threatened to spill. "You will be a great alpha Denny because you care. You will be a better alpha than your father."

"I have to do better. Clover, the truth is, as an alpha, what I say should go. If I said you were my mate... that should have been good enough. We know it wouldn't have been. And that is a problem— one that I am going to work on. I'm happy for you, you found the one who was meant for you."

I can't imagine how hard that was on him to admit, out loud, in front of everyone. Those qualities are exactly why I know he will be a great alpha one day. He might need to do an overhaul of the pack, but he can do it.

Denny squeezed my hands and then released them. I stepped back into the eager embrace of my mate, who now looked at Denny differently. I think he also appreciated his confession, and it was a step in the right direction.

"Look, it is getting late and the Seekers have been very active... well I guess we know why now..." Denny looked at me and then glanced behind him. "Stay at the Sulfur pack tonight. We can at the very least offer our hospitality while we figure out the next move."

Sion nodded his head in agreement. Honestly, what options did we have? It was either take our chances out here with the Seekers or take our chances over there. We were all tired and hungry. And it would be good to be able to sleep on a bed tonight. Sion looked down at me and I nodded my head at him.

I felt Sion's fingers squeeze my side lightly and then he looked up at Denny. "Thank you, tonight we will accept your hospitality."

Note:

Next update is the 28th.


We walked past the gawking eyes of the Sulfur pack as Denny led us to the main house. Demetri had shifted to his human self since it was more convenient. Funny that this was my home, but I was used to being looked at as an outsider. However... there was a part of me that had wished to see that glowing green light. Deep down I was hoping that the pack members were being controlled.

They weren't being controlled. Which meant that when they tried to kill me it was their own choice. I felt stupid. Why was I hoping for something like that? Now I felt disappointed. I guess... I guess a part of me wanted to believe it was all a misunderstanding. Silly, isn't it? And now I feel this strange sadness that I can't explain. The pain of that night surfaces like it just happened, and I had to swallow it all down. It happened. It's over. This isn't my home anymore. So why does it still hurt?

I had to tell myself to just breathe. It felt like I couldn't get enough air. I tried to hide it, but it felt like my heart was about to burst. I was almost certain my heart was going to explode any minute. Blood was pounding in my ears as my feet started to tingle. I licked my lips trying to wet them, but my mouth was so dry. My chest was growing tight, and I had to swallow down the bile rising in my throat.

Damn. I didn't realize how much of what happened still bothered me. I glanced up at Sion, surprised he didn't already notice the changes in me. Maybe I was doing that good of a job at hiding them? Yet, Sion's expression seemed very tense and focused. His brows were furrowed, and I noticed him testing out the scents in the air. I suppose he was on edge too being in the Sulfur pack after everything that happened. I didn't want to bother him with my nonsense.

Then I felt the hairs on the back of my neck stand up as my nose smelled a scent I didn't want to smell. It was one of the wolves that attacked me by the river. I glanced around but couldn't see him anywhere. And this made it more eerie. He was close enough that I could smell him, but I couldn't see him. Was he purposely watching me but keeping himself hidden?

My body was tense and now looking for a fight. I wasn't afraid of him. What happened to me was traumatic and it bothered me. However, I am not afraid of the wolves who attacked me. It is just that memory of pack members trying to kill me... it had a hold on me. I never imagined they would try to kill me. It was something that had a deeper hold on me than I thought. I needed to calm down. I didn't want to alert Sion that something was bothering me.

Suddenly Sion's arm swooped around my body, pulling me against his side. His arm supporting me as we walked. I glanced up at him and could see his concerned eyes washing over me. So, he did notice.

I gave him a weak smile, but he saw past it. He suddenly hoisted me into his arms bridal style and nuzzled the side of my head.

"I just need to make sure everyone knows you are taken." Sion said trying to mask him holding me as his own need. When really, he was doing this for me. He must have noticed I wasn't walking as strongly anymore since my feet felt like lead weights. His lips brushed over my cheek and then I felt his hot breath over my ear. "Mine," he whispered sending sweet tingles over my body. The electric sparks were attacking the crushing anxiety and filling me with thoughts of him.

The scent of the wolf drifted away as we approached the house and I tried to push it from my mind. It probably didn't mean anything. It was his pack so of course there would be traces of his scent around. It didn't mean he was watching me and even if he was, it didn't mean anything.

The doors to the pack house opened wide and Andrea was standing there to greet us.

"I'd like to officially introduce you all to my Luna, Andrea."

"Congratulations, Denny," I said, feeling a bit

embarrassed at still being in Sion's arms.

"Awe, now aren't you two adorable?!" Andrea leaned into Denny's side looking at me as Denny wrapped his arm around her. I could see how proud he was to be able to publicly show his affection for her.

"Where is dad?" Denny asked and I watched as Andrea scrunched up her nose.

"He is with my mom... your dad took my mom out for the evening, but I don't think they plan on coming back tonight. He said to call if you need anything... but to not need anything."

"Wait... so your parents are together? Doesn't that make you two—" Conner asked with a smirk.

"I claimed Andrea as my mate first, but in either case, it doesn't matter. We aren't related and weren't raised as siblings." Denny shrugged. I could tell he didn't like the idea, but he also knew there was nothing he could do about it.

"Let's get you guys situated. I'll set you up in the guest wing. There is plenty of room for all of you there." Denny looked at me and I nodded my head. The guest wing was located on an isolated second floor. The whole secluded area was reserved for special guests.

Sion seemed a bit tense, and I felt him burying his nose in my hair several times to breathe in my scent. Was it hard for him to be here? Or maybe it was hard because Denny was my mate and on some level, that bothered him? Though I guess it was probably the fact that some members had tried to kill me. Now I am wondering if holding me was really more for his sake than mine.

"Alpha, we have picked up the trail again close to our borders." A young man said coming up from behind us.

"Is it from another pack, or is it one of the Seekers?" Denny asked looking more tense.

"We are trying to determine that. Some have suggested it is a member from the Chance pack."

Sion finally slid me down to the ground and his eyes met with Denny's. "I'd like to investigate this."

"Of course." Denny nodded his head as Sion turned to look at me.

"I'll be back. I just need to determine if it is a member of the Chance pack. I'll leave Conner and—"

"No take them with you. I have my own officers. But I'm coming with you." I didn't like the idea of being away from him.

"My love, I will be right back. As soon as I find the scent I will know. Go ahead and get situated."

I felt someone grab my hand and turned to see Andrea holding my hand. "Come on Clover, I'll show you to the rooms. Let's catch up some?" I sighed and looked back at Sion. "You have twenty minutes before I come to find you."

I listened as Jude snickered and elbowed Joey. "Clover still doesn't play around."

"I'll be back before that." Sion grinned and leaned down to kiss my forehead. He inhaled my scent once more before he lifted his gaze up to Denny's. "Let's go."

Andrea led me into the house as I turned my head to watch Sion leave. I should have gone with him, but I didn't want it to look like I didn't have faith in Sion. Not in front of another pack, regardless if I am close with them or not. Andrea glanced back and noticed the three strangers following us.

"So, who are they?" Andrea asked and I smiled.

"My beta, gamma, and personal protector."

"Oh, you have your own officers?" Andrea asked, seeming to like the idea.

"Yes, Sion and I have an equal partnership. The alpha is not higher than the luna and we both get our own officers." I watched as Andrea nodded her head intently.

"Smart. I like it. Do you mind if I bring this up to Den?"

She was asking me for permission? I smiled and shook my head, "No, I don't mind at all."

"How have you been, Clover?" Andrea asked as she led me up the stairs.

"That is actually a loaded question, but as far as

things with Sion, it is great." There was so much that happened to me that was too much to get into.

"That is great, Clover. I'm happy you found your someone." Andrea nodded her head to the side. "You are all welcome to choose any room you like. I think you will find each of them accommodating." This was, at one point, my home, so I was very familiar with the setup. She stopped and looked back at the three people who stood there unmoving.

"We will be staying with our Luna until the Alpha returns," Kai said, moving a bit closer to me.

"Very well then. I'll have Hazel bring up some refreshments while we wait?" Andrea looked at me and I nodded my head in appreciation.

"Yes, that would be great," I answered, suddenly feeling the hunger burns.

"Luna, pink or salmon for the tablecloths?"

"I'd have to see them..." Andrea looked up at me. "Its for the luna ceremony. You want to come help me pick things out?" She laughed seeing my face. "I'll have the refreshments brought up."

I'm not going to lie this new weird comradery with Andrea felt strange. However, I had to remember we were both Luna's now. In the future, we would need to get along and have a relationship. Andrea was doing her part as the Alpha's partner. I needed to make sure I did the same. I couldn't let myself be outshined by Andrea after all.

I walked to the end of the hall opening up the door. The bedroom suites had couches set off to the side with several flat screen televisions in the room. The rooms were made to accommodate visiting alphas and their officers. So naturally they had private meeting areas set up.

"Not bad," Odell said as she plopped on the couch.

"Meh, it's average." Kai shrugged his shoulders unimpressed as him and Demetri sat on another couch.

"Well, this beats the mine floors," I smirked and they all laughed in agreement. A quiet knock on the door was heard a moment before it opened.

"I've brought your refreshments."

This was Hazel, the omega that worked in the packhouse. I knew her very well. She was always very quiet. She had dark brown hair with big brown doe eyes.

"Thank you, Hazel, please bring them in." I noticed how she instantly looked at the ground to avoid eye contact with me.

"Yes, mam." She carried the tray over to the table, gently setting it down. She straightened up and stood there quietly. It looked like she wanted to say something.

"You can speak freely," I said and she instantly tensed up.

"I was just thinking, that was all."

"What about?"

"Just... how much I can't wait to find my mate." Her brown eyes met with mine for a second before she looked away again. "I sometimes wonder if I'll ever find the one meant for me. Wouldn't it be a Cinderella story if he ended up being an officer or even an alpha?! It's just... you seem happy. You found happiness after... everything."

"I'm sure there is someone out there for you. I used to have the same thoughts." I said trying to reassure her.

"It is what I dream about every night. Finding someone who will change my world. Someone who will change my life from what it is now."

Okay, that part was weird. She might be an omega, but they were not treated bad in the Sulfur pack. Yes, they usually took on serving roles, but they were never beaten like some cruel packs do.

"There is nothing wrong with your life now. Finding a mate is to help complete your soul not to change your status." Her brown eyes flashed at me in a way that I didn't like. I could read that look. She didn't want to hear those words from someone who became a luna.

"Are you going to eat?" Odell asked as she shoved a tiny sandwich in her mouth. The whole thing... in one bite. I smiled at my friend and then watched as Stilts suddenly appeared standing in the middle of the table. So, he did disappear and reappeared randomly. He began to stuff his face and honestly watching him eat made me nauseous.

"How long has it been? Almost fifteen minutes?" I asked. I planned on keeping my word about going out after Sion. However, I suddenly heard the steps of his rushed footsteps coming closer. A minute later, the door swung open.

Sion's eyes met with mine instantly. The sound of a pitcher crashing on the floor brought my attention to Hazel. She was staring at Sion with her mouth slightly parted. And then what she said next made the whole

world stop.

"Mate." She whispered out looking at Sion. My Sion. I looked back at him. His eyes were now looking at Hazel. At first, I felt like everything inside of me was collapsing. Then the sound of Sheena's growl brought back solid ground. She was back and with me. And ready to fight for what was ours.

Note-

Next update will be by the 1st.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

OH FOR MATES SAKE

Chapter 44 Hiccup

Hazel took a couple of steps towards Sion. She gripped her fingers into her shirt as her eyes traveled over him. "I have been waiting for this moment forever. I—"

"What is your name?" Sion asked and I felt my stomach turn. My chest was feeling tighter as I looked at the two people. I couldn't believe this was happening. I didn't know what to do, but I couldn't be here. I couldn't see her touch him... I couldn't bear to see him touch her. The very idea of his hands on another woman had the wolf inside of me clawing to get out.

"Hazel... Hazel Rhyse." The woman smiled up at him. I braced myself for the pain that was about to come.

"I, Sion Faust, Alpha of the Chance pack reject-"

"NOOO! STOP!" Hazel screamed, holding her hands over her ears. I finally was able to sigh with relief. Sion was going to reject her. I watched as her bottom lip began to tremble as her eyes watered. A large wet crystal dropped down her cheek as she looked at Sion desperately.

"Please don't do this. I'll be whoever you want. I'll do anything. Please don't... I am your mate—"

"Your scent repulses me," Sion said coldly. His eyes were looking at her with contempt. My lips parted in shock... I was surprised. I never imagined Sion would have acted like this, but I was also glad. Not for her pain... but that I wasn't going to lose him.

"How can the scent of your mate repulse you?!" She began to cry loudly, and I did feel a bit sorry for her.

"Because you are not my true mate. You are a

hiccup... a mate glitch. You aren't mine... she is." Sion said, looking at me. His warmth finally showing when his eyes met with mine. " It's only her. She is the only one in the world that will ever matter."

"HER?!" The woman spat out. Okay, I was feeling less sorry for her now. "Well, I guess that makes sense. She is probably controlling you... making you think you are mates. Someone like her—" The sound of the table moving abruptly cut her off. Everyone turned to look at Odell, who was now casually standing.

"What are you doing?" Demetri asked.

"Oh... I'm going to snap her neck." Odell said casually as she turned to look at Hazel.

"Its okay Odell, stand down." I nodded my head at her and turned to look back at the omega. "You'll see if you just get away from her—" Hazel pleaded, taking a step closer to Sion. This time he snarled at her, stopping her in her tracks.

"Stay away from me."

"YOU ARE MY MATE!" The woman screamed angrily as bitter tears streamed down her face.

I watched as Sion closed his eyes in annoyance and sighed. "This isn't your fault. You have a real mate out there somewhere. This is why annoying deities need to leave well enough alone. Or so help me, I will destroy your spirit world!" Sion shouted, looking up at the ceiling with a threatening growl.

"No, you are being tricked!" Hazel sniffled, rubbing the snot flowing from her nose. "That woman can only bring chaos!"

"This might not be your fault... but you keep talking like that about my mate and you'll be seeing the spirit realm soon." The icy tone chilled the room. The darkness in his eyes was almost cruel. "I, Sion Faust, Alpha of the Chance pack, reject you, Hazel Rhyse, as my mate." He didn't even flinch. The girl writhed on the ground, her high pitched sobs echoing off the walls.

"You let her deceive you!" She wailed as she brought her knees to her chest.

"What is going on?" Denny asked, stepping into the room.

"Just rectifying a mistake," Sion said calmly. He then looked at the girl on the ground with no remorse in his eyes. "Accept the rejection." "No-o-o-o." Her voice trembled out. "There is still a chance... we can fix this. I can save you from her."

"You'll accept it, or I'll force it to be over." The deadly threat in Sion's voice promised he was not joking.

"Hazel, accept the rejection." Denny ordered. His eyes met with mine for a moment as he spoke, "This man already has a mate, and they are perfect for one another."

"But... she is-"

"She is what?!" Denny growled, his canines poking through in anger.

"She doesn't belong in our pack! She never did. And now she has an alpha as her mate?! She is a pack's LUNA!" Hazel spat out bitterly.

"I order you as your alpha to accept the rejection." Denny pushed his alpha aura out, pushing her down, forcing her to obey. She struggled against him at first, but an omega had no chance at fighting off an alpha order.

"I-I-I-I," Her voice quivered, "Hazel Rhyse of the Sulfur pack, accept your rejection." She began to whimper as she stood back on her feet.

"Clover was our delta, and she is a welcome guest in

the Sulfur pack."

"She stole my mate!" Hazel snapped angrily as the streams poured from her nose and eyes.

"You are part of the problem. I won't allow this any longer. I, Dennis Hart, Alpha of the Sulfur pack, banish you, Hazel Rhyse. Collect your things and leave!"

I watched as the girl's lips parted in shock. She then turned and looked at me with such hate and resentment before she sprinted out of the room. I couldn't feel bad for her. I would have had she not reacted the way she did. But someone like her didn't deserve to even share the same room as my Sion, let alone be his mate.

I looked from the door where Hazel had departed to find Sion's eyes already resting on me. I took a small step towards him and then ran into his arms. I wrapped my arms around him and felt the small trembles ripple from my body.

I was so terrified I was going to lose him, but he didn't even hesitate... he chose me. What if some of what Hazel said was true? I know I was Sion's mate, but what if it was because I was a sheya that I was now stopping him from accepting a new mate bond? I didn't have complete control of my powers. I even attached myself to Sion's soul, so it could be a possibility.

I felt his arms come around me. His hand held my head to his chest and I felt the rise and fall of his breath underneath me. I gripped my fingers into him needing to feel as close to him as possible. I thought for the second time in mere days I was going to lose him again. My emotions were all over the place and I felt like I was just barely holding it together right now. "Leave us." His voice radiated with power and authority. He wasn't asking. He was demanding for everyone to leave. I kept my head buried in his chest but could hear the sound of footsteps as they exited the room. A moment later, Sion stepped back, pulling me with him. I heard the sound of the door shutting and the familiar click of the lock. His arms engulfed me tightly as he breathed in my scent.

"Clover." He buried his nose in my hair and I felt his lips gently press against my head. "Its okay, my love. Its okay." He whispered as he stroked my hair.

"I thought... I thought I was going to lose you again." He continued to stroke my hair and make quiet shushing sounds trying to comfort me. "I didn't know what I was going to do... if I lost you again I—"

"Never, Clover. Never." His lips brushed over my

forehead, and he rested his cheek on my head. "My poor love... I'm gutted at how you must have felt. I was rushing back to you Clover. I knew you would be worrying about me being gone. I had picked up the scent earlier when we were walking. I wasn't quite sure what it was since I wasn't drawn to it. But it was you that my eyes landed on first when I opened the door. Not her... I only even looked her way because of the sound of glass breaking."

"Was she really your mate?" I whispered, not even sure why I asked.

"She was, but she wasn't. It wasn't a strong bond connection, it was a makeshift one done in haste. Reapus seems to think that all I needed was the mate pull and I would claim another."

"Why doesn't he want you with me?"

"It's not that. He wants me to take many mates. He wants me to create more of my species. I told him I will only ever be with you. I will only ever have children with you. And I had some words for him if he pulled another stunt like this again..."

"Oh... that's why you looked so mad. You were mentally communicating with Reapus." I thought his deathly aura seemed intense. Really though, the audacity of Reapus! Sion wasn't his stud horse to throw around to create a new power species. Did he even have any idea of how a real relationship even worked?

"I was so angry over the whole idea. It was absurd. And I made it clear I didn't want her... and then for her to speak about MY mate that way..."

"Sion..." I whispered and looked up at him. "What if she was right though? What if you didn't want her as a mate because I was doing something to you? What if I was claiming you or blocking the pull from you?"

He stared at me and blinked his eyes. He looked at me as if I mentioned I would grow wings and fly. Then slowly his lips twitched upwards. He leaned in close, letting his hot breath sizzle my lips.

"Claim me more, Clover. Mark every inch of me. Stake your claim on me and consume me with your light because it is the only one I want. Declare me to be your mate in every way." He grabbed my hand and placed it on his chest. "It beats only for you... only you can make me feel like this. You are my true mate. I want to be consumed by you." My fingertips could feel his thudding heart beating against his chest as I gazed into his eyes. "If I ever didn't choose you... then that isn't me. If I ever disowned you... you are to kill that person because he would be lost." "Sion!"

"Clover..." I felt his hand trembling over mine. I could see he was struggling about something, but I didn't know what it was. "There is a chance you could have another mate out there. He could be better for you. He wouldn't have this darkness inside of him—"

"Sion, there is no-"

"But even if I knew he was better for you... even if I knew he was a better man... I can't let you go because it isn't better for me." I watched as his shoulders rose and fell as his eyes stayed fixated on me. "I won't give anyone the opportunity to claim you because I am going to claim you again... now. And if we get swallowed up in the darkness... at least we will be together..." I could see he was waiting for my reaction. Even though he said all of that he was still waiting for me to say it was okay. He was looking at me with eyes that reflected my own vulnerability. He was afraid of losing me... just like I was afraid of losing him. I felt the same way as Sion. I didn't care where we would end up, as long as we were together. To be honest with myself, I don't think I could exist without Sion. Maybe that was why I connected myself to his soul... I knew I needed to be completely bound to him.

I had Sheena with me again and I could feel her hunger for her mate. My sheya mark on him never disappeared, but I wasn't able to mark him with my wolf before. This time... I could. I was ready for him to bear my mark on his neck. I was ready to feel his fangs sink into my skin again.

I reached my hand up to his face, he kissed the palm of my hand as his cheek rested on my fingers.
"Claim me Sion. Make it that I can belong to no one else but you." He growled as his eyes flickered in different shades of color. Golden flecks shined brightly in his hazel eyes with the color of his lupine. "And I will bind you to me in every way that I can."

"Good." His voice was low and husky. "Let's get started then." He grabbed the back of my neck and slammed his mouth into mine, growling possessively, "Mine!"

Note:

Released this chapter early. Next is planned for the 4th. I'll do the 3rd if I can.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

OH FOR MATES SAKE

Chapter 45 My Love

The way his mouth was devouring mine was practically feral. His fingers gripped into my neck tightly as his tongue assaulted my mouth. My poor Sion. His raw emotions were desperate. As if I was a life preserver, and the only thing keeping him from sinking. It never really hit me before... until this moment. When he said he needed me... he wasn't just saying that. His hand holding me was trembling... he was still holding back. This half-feral nature was still him holding back.

"Sion..." I mumbled through our frantic kisses. "You don't have to hold back." I listened as he growled, biting my lower lip. He took it into his mouth, sucking on it, keeping it captured. My back was against the wall when he finally released my swollen lip. His hot breath beat against my mouth, as his hand moved from my neck. "Not yet…" He whispered. I looked up to see his lustful hazel eyes gleaming at me. His fingers reached the hem of my shirt and slowly he made the journey upwards. He discarded my shirt and bra then took a step back. His eyes wandered over me as he stared at my chest. My heart was pounding in anticipation of what he would do next.

I watched as he discarded his own shirt. Then he discarded his bottoms, letting them fall on the floor. All that was left on him was his boxer briefs. I looked at his eager bulge, demanding to be released. I looked back up, seeing the desire in his eyes as he stepped back toward me. He wrapped his hands around me, squeezing my butt as he lifted me up. He held me higher and inhaled one of my nip.ples, pushing me back into the wall. My breath caught as his teeth and tongue teased my hardened bud. I wrapped my legs around his torso and entangled his hair with my fingers. He was now holding me by one arm as his other hand moved to cup my other breast. He began pinching and teasing the other bud, making me gasp and tighten below him. I could feel the wetness as the scent of my arousal wafted in the room.

Then we were moving again and a moment later, he released me from his mouth. He laid me on the bed and pulled my bottoms off, leaving only my panties on. He pulled me to the edge of the bed and pressed his bulge against my wet panties. My breath was ragged as I arched into him, pleading him to continue. There was a glint in his eyes as his lips twitched up. With one finger, he slowly pulled the thin fabric off me, letting it drop to the floor. Then he knelt to the floor, hooking my legs over his shoulders. "Sion..." I whimpered as I felt his lips kiss my inner thigh.

"Mmmm... I'm making sure I fully claim this." He growled. His tongue slowly traced around my entrance, making me shudder with pleasure. I gripped my hands in his hair as his tongue plunged inside of me. He lapped up my juices and pumped his hot tongue inside of me.

"Sion." I moaned, arching into his tongue. His hand gripped into my bottom holding me in place as he continued to devour and taste me. It was maddening. I squirmed under his tight hold as he continued to enjoy himself tasting me. Then he abruptly stopped, making me whimper as he pulled his tongue out of me. In slow tantalizing movements, he lapped over my moist center. His hot breath hit my sensitive bundle of nerves. "Sion." I panted as I pleaded for

him.

He stood up in front of me and I watched as he slid his boxer briefs off releasing his erection. It bounced up hard and eager. I went to move, but Sion slid his hand under me, cupping my bottom. He reached down with his other hand holding both bottom cheeks as he stepped forward. With a low growl, he stared down at me. I watched how his muscles flexed as he held his position right in front of me. I felt his tip brush over my moist core. I tried to arch into him, but he gripped my bottom firmly, holding me in place. His eyes were devouring every inch of my body before returning to meet with my eyes.

I tried to move into him again and this time, he let a low growl come from his throat.

"No, my love. You just lay there and receive what I'm going to give you. I am staking my claim on you. Every inch of you... is MINE." The low sensual growl of his voice had my heart racing. I knew how to provoke him to get what I wanted, though...

"Well... claim me then... if you can," I said coquettishly as he growled again, positioning himself standing in front of me. I felt him brush against me before, very slowly he slid inside of me. He pulled me towards him as his hands gripped into me.

In deliberate, torturously slow movements, he pulled out and pushed in. Making sure I felt every movement. It was sweet sensual torture. Pleasing me but never bringing me to my release. Every time he felt like I was close, he would back off and hold his position. My eyes were closed as the insanity of it made me delirious.

"Look at me." He commanded softly. I opened my eyes as I licked my lips. "Watch me. Watch me as I please you." He began to move against me, the pleasure made me roll my eyes back into my head and he stopped again. "Keep your eyes on me. I want my face engrained in your mind." It was sensual madness.

He began to thrust into me again making me delirious with pleasure. Bringing me to the brink and stopping only to do it again.

"Sion...please." I was overwhelmed with the pressure of wanting to be released, yet it felt so insanely good. "That's what I'm doing, my love. I'm pleasing you." His voice was hoarse as he panted with his own resolve. What he was doing was torturing himself too... but it was a sweet, maddening torture. He pulled away from me, lifting me up to turn me over. This time his body come over my back. His tongue lapped at my neck, letting his teeth rake over my sensitive skin. "This time... it will never fade." He growled as he nipped at my neck, sending electric sparks through my body.

His hand cupped my breast, his fingers finding my n****e as he thrust inside of me hard. At the same time, his fangs plunged into my neck. The tingling pleasure rushed through me, and I couldn't take it anymore. He pounded in me again as an earth-shattering o****m ripped through me. It was like nothing I had ever experienced. Strong pleasurable waves rippled through my body as I clenched around him, bringing him his release as well.

He pulled out of me, rolling me into his front as he lay beside me. I closed my eyes as I felt his fingers trace over his mark on my neck. The bond between us was roaring back to life instead of the trickling stream that it was. Soon the floodgates would be completely open... once I marked him.

"Clover." He squeezed his arms around me and buried his nose in my damp hair. I felt his chest rise and fall. The sound of his heart gently drummed against my ear. Our moment together was perfect, but something was wrong. I felt his arms tremble slightly as if he was still holding back.

"Sion... what is it?"

"Thank you for being by my side." His voice sounded so vulnerable it caught me off guard. I pulled back to look into his eyes. "Sion?" I asked, reaching my hand up to sift through his hair. "What are you fighting against?"

"I'm selfish to keep you. I might be a monster now..." He whispered, staring into my eyes. I smiled and shook my head.

"You are no monster, Sion."

"I'm struggling to keep control. Struggling to fight against the outbursts that rise to the surface—"

"You mean like what every Alpha I know goes through? Sion, you hold yourself together better than any Alpha I have ever met. I've never seen someone with your control before."

"It's worse now. What if... I think something dark has taken hold inside of me since I became Anubis. I feel it is trying to creep out. Even with the omega earlier... I wanted to handle that more tastefully. I couldn't. Then when she started talking about you... I wanted to kill her. My hand was trembling for her blood." I watched as he closed his eyes and shook his head. "I keep clinging to you while it tries to pull me down. What if I drown you with me?"

"Sion... if someone talked about you like that, I'd want to choke them out too. That's normal." I traced my fingers over his trembling arm. He was fighting for control right now. "Sion, talk to me. What is this about?"

"Something else inside of me wants you... but I won't let it out. I—I am afraid to let it out."

I remembered how I noticed his shuddering, struggling arms while we were having se.x. Now it made sense... he was afraid to let go. He was trying to control himself. I leaned up on my arm and shook my head.

I sighed and smiled. "There is nothing wrong with you. And you would never hurt me. You don't have to hold back with me. Honestly, especially with me. I can stop you in a second." I could see he didn't believe that fully.

"I think you need to see for yourself." I smiled, moving to sit on his stomach. His hands came to rest on my sides as he watched me. "Sion... it is time to let go."

I watched him swallow and shake his head no. "I don't want to hurt you... its okay I can control this."

"Sion... this is you too. I'm going to prove to you that you can trust this other side of yourself..." I wet my lips and reached for a part of myself I was still learning about. "Sion, let go," I commanded, using my sheya power. I knew it worked because his eyes instantly changed color to a golden hue.

He growled as his predatory eyes looked me over. I stayed there still as I sat on top of him, waiting to see what he would do. His hands began to move up my sides as he sat up, shifting me to his lap. I gasped in shock as I felt him enter me as his lips came to inhale my nip.ple.

"Mmmm...mine." His raspy voice growled as I wrapped my hands around his head.

"Yes... I'm yours." I listened as he chuckled and stopped what he was doing. He pulled his head back as his golden eyes pinned against mine.

"Not entirely yet, my queen... but you are about to be... for all eternity."

I smiled and brushed my fingers through his hair.

"That's all I want is to be with you forever."

"Sion... you see. You are the same man I love." I looked into his eyes and moved my hand down to his cheek. "The man I am going to claim as mine," I said, pushing my wolf forward. He obediently moved his head to the side and moved his hips against mine.

"Mine." I whispered as I licked his neck, letting my canines scrape over his sensitive skin. His body shuddered under me, and I felt his breathing becoming rapid with anticipation. He let out a low purring growl of approval as I sank my fangs into him. I made sure I gave him a deep mark that would never vanish, pouring my essence into it. His purring sound soon sounded feral as his fingers gripped into me. I barely pulled my fangs out of him, and he began to move, pulling himself out of me.

He lifted me off him, setting my feet on the floor. I

watched him curiously as he scooted off the bed. He stepped into my front as I stared up at him.

"What are you doing?" I asked with a tilted smile, watching how his golden eyes started to shade darker.

"Giving you what you need." He growled as he grabbed my two hands, spinning me around, and placing them on the wall. "Brace yourself..." He ordered as he moved behind me. His one hand grabbed my breast as he teased my nip.ple. Then his other hand traveled lower, rubbing over my sensitive mound. "I'm going to claim you now..." He warned in a seductive tone.

"Then do it." I shuddered with anticipation as I felt his probing maleness brush over my core. I felt my liquid desire begin to move down my thigh, filling the air with my arousal. He gently moved his mouth to my neck tenderly kissing my frantic pulse that was increasing with his touch. I was trembling with a need I shouldn't have had already.

He slammed inside of me, taking away my breath as the surging pleasure rippled through me. His hands played with me as he began to thrust into me wildly. My moans filled the air as he echoed them with his own. It was madness. Pure ecstasy.

He possessively and greedily, rammed into me with an intensity that lifted me to a forceful peak. He didn't stop the pleasurable insanity. He continued to thrust into me, making me delirious with pleasure. I felt him lick my shoulder on the same side where he had marked my neck. An inarticulate groan of hunger escaped from his throat as I felt fangs pierce into me. It was a hot, burning pleasure sinking into me. It pooled from my shoulder through my body, and I found myself reaching my peak again. I let out a strangled cry as a wildfire leaped through my nerves.

I was still stunned by the fierceness of his passion and need. The force of ecstasy had my mind foggy. I couldn't think about anything, but the muscular driving need that continued to satisfy me.

"Mine..." he muttered, his dark raspy voice flowing through me. His powerful legs continued his demanding thrusts until he brought me to yet another powerful org.asm. As I clenched around him, he spilled his seed in me, grunting with satisfaction.

My arms trembled from exhaustion, and I wasn't sure I had the strength to keep standing. He slowly pulled out of me and lifted me against his chest. He cradled me against him and kissed my closed eyelids.

The sensual storm had been powerful and exhausting. Yet, it had a homecoming feel to it that

was needed. I felt a connection stirring inside of me, but I was too depleted to explore it. Sion had really been holding back before, but there was no need for it.

"Clover... my love." I felt his hot breath over my cheek as he curled around me on the bed. I smiled and rolled into his chest burying my nose into him.

"See Sion? You are exactly what I need. All of you." I whispered out as his hand rubbed over my back. I felt him pull a blanket up to cover us as he pulled me closer. His lips brushed over my temple as he laid his head on top of mine.

"Rest my love ... my Luna ... my Queen ... "

Note: Next update will be the 8th or maybe the 7th

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard
content, etc), Please let us know < report chapter >
so we can fix it as soon as possible.
OH FOR MATES SAKE
Chapter 46 Famished

My stomach protested angrily, and I heard a sweet chuckle from behind me. His arms curled around me, and I felt his nose bury in my hair.

"Hungry?" Sion said with sly amusement.

Hungry wasn't even the word to describe it. We hadn't eaten and we never rejoined the others yesterday. Instead, Sion continued to make his loving demands on my body all night long. He was true to his word, making sure he claimed every inch of me. He even very sweetly washed my body in the tub after our last passionate encounter. I turned my head to gaze into his warm hazel eyes. "I'm famished," I admitted.

"Well then, we had better get you taken care of my queen."

He had referred to me as his queen several times throughout the night. At first, I thought it was just a pet name. However, I was beginning to think there was more to it.

"Your queen?" I smiled, arching one of my brows up at him.

"Yes, my one and only queen," He said with conviction as he kissed my forehead. He looked in my eyes and his fingers moved to tuck my hair behind my ear. "Did you wonder what this other mark meant?" He asked, moving his fingers to my shoulder. Honestly, I didn't really think much about it. I didn't have any time to think through the night. Sion made sure of that.

"This..." He moved his hand up to my neck. "Is the mark of my lupine... and this... is the mark of Anubis." He trailed back to my shoulder. "It is a bit strange. It is like..." I watched him shake his head as he tried to explain. "It is like I am being fed a constant stream of information now. Things that I just... know, but never did before. One of those things is that Anubis is the King of the Spirit Realm. With my mark, you are now Anput... my queen." I watched as he gave me a sad smile. "Bound to be by my side when your living life is over."

"I can see where that can be a sad thing for you." I teased, clicking my tongue. "Sorry, but I'm not sorry. You are stuck with me forever." I listened to his airy snort as his lips found my forehead.

"I feel like a demon that captured the fairy princess. You are everything to me... and I feel like I can only offer you darkness in return."

"Sion, you aren't darkness." I laughed at him but could see his serious face.

"You have more faith in me than I do." He sighed and rested his head back. "This darkness has a hold on me. I had to fight it every day before and will always have to fight it. It is worse now. What if I lose?" He stared up at the ceiling with his lips pursed. "Is this how demons are made? What if I become the very demons I fight against?"

"Everyone has some type of darkness and demons they fight. Some more prominent than others. You don't have to fight yours alone. I'm with you and I will help bring you to the light. And if you ever get swallowed up by the darkness, I'll follow you there and lead you back to the right path." I leaned up and cupped his cheeks in my hands. "I already showed you that you didn't need to fear yourself with me. And that turned out pretty alright." I smiled, biting my lip thinking about last night.

"You mean amazing." He said, curling his lips up.

"Right... it was amazing. It was much better once you quit holding back and worrying. It is your fear of yourself that will consume you. That is your real darkness." I moved in and kissed his lips as my stomach yelled angrily, reminding me that I was on the verge of starvation. Sion chuckled and moved to sit up.

"Let's get you fed." He moved off the bed and walked over to the door. "Sion!" I hissed, looking at his naked body.

"They left us clean clothes outside of our door. I told Conner to get some and leave them there."

"Oh." I smiled as he cra.cked the door open enough to retrieve the garments, bringing them over to me. Honestly, we needed fresh clothes... badly. I reached out for the clothes as I felt a burning pain in my back. I kept my expression controlled because I didn't want to alarm Sion.

The mark on my back had a strange energy creeping inside of me. It was dark, but strangely, I found it comforting. I wasn't intimidated by the dark like Sion was. I was embracing it. I guess it was different for me though because I associated it with Sion. Since he was the one who gave me this mark. Also, I think my body was already familiar with it since I attached myself to his soul. Which is still a bit creepy when I think about it. Especially when I never planned to do it.

Inwardly, I had to laugh. Sion thought he was the monster, but I was the one who laid claim to his soul. Maybe I was meant to be a soul collector? At least I was Sion's soul collector. I couldn't help the smirk that crept over my face as I finished getting dressed.

"What?" Sion asked, looking at me with a crooked grin.

"Nothing I was just thinking." I smiled, biting my bottom lip.

"About?" He asked, reaching out to place his hands on my hips.

I shrugged and looked into his eyes. "You don't think I am a monster, but I attached myself to your soul without even asking. I didn't even know what I was doing... I just did it. I was already a soul collector before you marked me." His eyes looked warmer as his hand moved up my back. "I collected yours... does that make me a monster?"

"How could you ever be a monster?" His fingers were now tracing over my neck.

"Want to go find Hazel and ask her? Or poll most of the Sulfur pack." I watched as he scowled, not finding what I said amusing. "My point is... there are more things that point to me having a darkness than you. If you are going to call yourself a monster, then you must call me one as well." His eyes smiled at me as he leaned his forehead against mine.

"I love you so much." He nuzzled his nose against mine.

"I wonder if Reapus was just saying you shouldn't mark me again because he wanted you to take multiple mates?" I looked at him and watched his eyes darken.

"Never going to happen, but I don't think that was it. I felt a weird spiraling sensation inside of me, but you stopped it immediately."

"I did?" This was news to me. I didn't feel anything weird in that sense.

He smiled at me as his nose traced over my cheek. "Yes, your energy inside of me stopped it as soon as it started." His lips brushed against my skin and his eyes trailed to my lips. "I'm getting hungry..." I could see where this was going. Not happening.

"Unless you want me to die of starvation and start our life in the spirit realm early, I need real food." His lips landed on the tip of my nose and then he swooped me into his arms.

"Sion!" I gasped, wrapping my hands around his neck.

"I can't have you expending unnecessary energy. I need to treat you like the queen you are." He said as he carried me out of the room.

"Sion! Put me down." I hissed, tapping his shoulders while he laughed. He raced down the stairs and I giggled as he paused at the bottom. "You don't know which way to go... so put me do—" He sprinted down the hall with a wide toothy grin. "You act like I don't have a sense of smell." He laughed as he charged us into the dining room where everyone was already seated for breakfast. "Hurry! She needs food immediately. She is in imminent danger of starvation." He voiced boisterously, making everyone in the room laugh.

"Here..." Kai said, moving a plate of stuffed french toast across the table. "I'll wait for the next batch."

"I'll remember your sacrifice." Sion continued to tease, as he lowered me into a seat. "Here, let me feed you." I laughed and swatted his hand away. He grinned and took the seat next to me as a fresh stack of pancakes and more french toast was set on the table.

"I trust you slept well?" Conner asked with a smirk. I looked down and concentrated on the food in front of me. I could feel my ears getting hot and knew my colorful embarrassment was all over my face.

"Did you find out which way that wolf went from last night?" Sion asked, changing the topic for my benefit.

"They went in the direction we already assumed," Denny said, and I looked up between the two men.

"Which direction? What pack were they from?" I asked.

"It was a member of the Diamond pack. We are fairly certain about this but not sure why." Jude said, staring at his hands.

"I think they are watching what is going on here. After all, their beta was here when the fire happened..." Joey said, glancing up at Jude. The fire that had killed Taylor... I looked up at Jude. His eyebrows were pursed together as he looked down at his plate quietly. I wonder how he had been handling everything. From finding out Taylor set me up to her being killed. It was no loss for me. However, I'm sure it was a lot on Jude.

"I think we can assume the Chance pack has also caught their attention with the odd movement." Denny said as he looked up at Sion. "Which is probably a good thing...."

"Right, but we need to reach out to them. I want them to be aware that the Chance pack is being manipulated." Sion said with a small frown. I knew he had mixed feelings about this because of the lycan princess.

"I would be more than happy to reach out to them on your behalf," Demetri said. "My family has a good relationship with them."

"Thank you, Demetri, I appreciate it, but this can't be done over the phone." Sion said, looking over at him. "There are too many things that could go wrong with a phone call. It is a risk that the call could get intercepted too."

"I understand..." Demetri was quiet for a moment before he spoke again. "We will head to the Nova pack it is closer to the Diamond pack. We will be able to meet up more easily that way."

"The Nova pack?" Denny asked, furrowing his brows. "I have not heard of them."

"That is because they are underground." Demetri looked up at me.

"Wouldn't it be best to stay with us?" Andrea asked,
and Denny nodded his head in agreement.

"No, I think given the mixed feelings in the Sulfur pack, it is safer for Clover not to stay here." Sion said as I watched his discerning eyes travel over the maids who were picking up plates from the table.

I noticed the cold glare of one of the omega's as she sat a fresh pitcher of juice on the table. They were clearly upset over what happened to Hazel. She couldn't have Sion, but maybe banishing her was a bit extreme?

"Was it necessary to banish Hazel?" I asked Denny. I didn't want to step on his toes as the alpha, but it did seem a bit harsh. I watched as he sighed and nodded his head.

"Yes, it was absolutely necessary. This isn't her first offense. She has been talking back to the officers

lately and showing a lack of respect to my Luna." He looked over at Andrea and frowned. "Also... she was already given a warning when she threw a going away party when you left..." I could see he looked ashamed to even say that last part. Honestly, it stung a little bit, though I shouldn't have been surprised. "I should have kicked her out then, but instead I gave her a warning. Her attitude has seemed very uncharacteristic lately. She had never acted like that before. In either case, she brought banishment upon herself." Denny was right. I can't remember a time when Hazel was out of line. She was always respectful and did her duty without complaint. I was curious why she had changed so much.

"Alpha." A man's voice came from the doorway. "Taylor's father, Drew, is demanding we allow them access to their daughter's remains for a proper burial."

Denny groaned and rubbed his forehead. "We are not

done with our investigation."

"I think you will need to talk to him. He is very agitated." The man said, and Denny nodded his head.

"We need to get going anyways." Sion said, looking over at me. I already know what he was thinking. He didn't want to stay any longer than he had to in a pack that was potentially dangerous to me.

"I'll have some necessities prepared to take with you. Do you need to borrow some vehicles?" Denny asked as he stood up from the table.

"No, we can't take vehicles." Demetri spoke up. "We will need to be as discreet as possible."

Denny nodded his head. "Come with me, I'll only be a moment, and then I will get you the things you need for traveling."

"That isn't necessary," Sion said politely. I watched as Denny's eyes came to rest on me.

"It is necessary." He smiled as he looked at me for a moment and then nodded his head. "Furthermore, I insist." He then looked up at Sion. "Let me do this."

"Very well." Sion wrapped his arm around me, gazing down at my eyes. "Did you get enough to eat?" I felt like that had more than one meaning to it. I smiled up at him and shrugged.

"The imminent danger of starvation is over for now."

"I'll try to take care of your needs better." He said, winking down at me.

I placed my hand over his as we all made our way out of the pack house. Near the site where Taylor had been killed was a storage facility. There were backpacks that were always ready for traveling and expeditions. I knew we had to head this way, but I really wasn't thrilled to see Drew again. Especially with how he was with me last time.

I could already hear his loud snarls as we approached the site. I felt Sion halt as his hand gripped into me. His eyes flashed gold as his gaze locked on something.

"Sion?" I whispered, looking up at him.

"I can see..." He muttered as his brows furrowed.

I turned to look in the direction he was. The world moved in and out of focus, turning from green to gray. This was when my lips parted in shock.

There was a body curled up with their head buried on

their knees. It was the soul of the person killed... Taylor.

Note:

Next update will be on the 11th

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

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OH FOR MATES SAKE
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"Clover? Sion?!" Conner said, making me look back at him. He was looking around as if Sion and I weren't there.

"Calm your wee self. They just took a stroll to the

other side." Stilts said from nowhere. Seriously, this guy needed to wear a collar with a bell on it, so we knew where he was at. I looked at my hand interlaced with Sion and wondered if it was because I was holding his hand that I was able to come here with him. That, or because he marked me, I was able to. It was like we were in an in-between state right now. Not in the spirit realm or in the living.

I felt Sion's hand tighten on mine and I looked up at his pinched eyebrows. It looked like he was fighting against something once again.

"Keep going." I heard Reapus' voice, though I didn't see him anywhere. "She isn't a vengeful spirit. You will need to come all the way, Sion." I could hear the annoyance in Reaper's voice. This guy was getting on my nerves but at the same time... I felt like he was trying to help. If she wasn't a vengeful spirit, he could have led her to the other side. Where she could decide to rejoin the life pool or be at peace. Yet, he had left her. Which had me wondering... did he know Sion and I would be together all along? What game was being played here?

"Sion?" I looked up at him and smiled. "I'm not leaving your side, besides, this is our destiny anyways."

"It isn't that..." Sion's tone seemed edgier than normal as his eyes flickered to golden. A dark cloud of dust danced around us. I noticed how his arms started to turn colors and it seemed to control Sion's mood. Was it necessary for him to shift into this Anubis form? It might be the form granted but he was Sion. He should have control over his forms.

I squeezed his hand, digging my nails into him slightly, forcing his golden eyes to look at me. "You

aren't going into battle. Don't shift." A black mist covered us as I stared into his glowing amber eyes that faded to a warm hazel color. The mist swarmed around us in a maddening circle. Then it suddenly fell to the ground with a hissing sound. I was holding onto Sion's hand, and we were both staring at one another.

"You officially creep me out," Reapus said, and I turned my head to see him standing right next to us. He was examining Sion and me with an odd expression. He was still wearing his hat; only his silver eyes were not hidden by the rim. "Only Endymion would collect such a creature."

"What?" I said with my brows furrowed.

"Interesting... you are cloaked with Anubis but keeping your form. Huh... well, I'll be damned." Reapus chuckled, leaning back on his heels looking very intrigued. His eyes then flashed to me and he stepped closer, "May I?" He asked looking at my shoulder. Sion growled and narrowed his eyes at Reapus. "Calm down, I just want to see the mark."

"I'll show it to you then," Sion growled and pulled my front against his chest. He then pulled down my shirt to reveal the mark he left on me. I glanced over my shoulder to see Reapus staring at the mark intently. His lips were pursed, and he looked perplexed.

"Is there a problem?" I asked as I turned back around to look at him.

"Never mind." Reapus cleared his throat and looked away.

"Never mind? Well, I am not done talking with you." I clicked my tongue as he looked at me, shocked. "What is the big idea of giving Sion another mate and wanting him to—" His eerie chuckle started off soft before it turned into a boisterous rolling laugh. He finally stopped and his eyes looked at me with amusement.

"You have some nerve to speak to death like that... but given what you are, I guess it makes sense." He then smiled as he stared at me. "You are a clever lady. Follow the breadcrumbs that are being left for you. I can't put a sword in your hand and swing it for you. However, I can point you to the sword and in the direction you should swing it. I can also delay collecting a soul or create a mate to help your mind connect the right dots..." His eyes were gleaming at me as if he was telling me to understand.

"So, the mate pull wasn't because you want me to have many mates?" Sion looked at him confused and Reapus laughed. "You believed that? That was a joke." Reapus snickered.

"Hilarious," Sion said tersely.

"So, you created a bond with Hazel for a reason... and you didn't collect Taylor's soul because you were giving us the opportunity to talk to her. That means you already knew Sion and I would be together. You already knew that he would—"

"Reject Hazel outright? Die and become Anubis? Yes, to all of the above." He nodded his head as he stared at me. "Just keep using that brain of yours. You'll figure it out. Starting with the soul that I haven't collected yet..." I watched as a smirk formed on his lips. "Taylor?" He shrugged and turned his head. "Is it though?"

My eyes widened as I looked behind Reapus. The girl was still sitting on the ground with her head on her knees. However, now I could see her better. This girl... was not Taylor. My mouth parted in shock as my mind began to race.

"Clover?" Sion asked as I shook my head.

"That isn't Taylor..." I whispered out still in shock. If that wasn't Taylor then did that mean... she was still alive? And if she was... then where was she?!

"What?!" Sion looked at the soul and then at Reapus. "Who is she?!"

Reapus sighed with annoyance and motioned over to her with his eyes. He was clearly saying that is why I left her here so go talk to her. Perhaps if the moment wasn't so serious, I would have laughed. But this was a crazy moment. I needed to know who this lady was and what she knew. Instead, Sion was the one to shake his head and click his tongue.

"Your dramatic theatrics are annoying. It is really dumb if you think about it. You can't tell us directly, but you can gift wrap us the answers." Sion said sarcastically, rolling his eyes.

"Just accept your gift and be happy there is someone out there helping you. Because without it, you would be swallowed up by the darkness that is coming." Reapus' tone was dark, and it didn't leave room for questioning. There was a depth in his eyes... a knowledge of something that made a chill creep up my back. You know what... I really didn't want to know what he knew. What was really at work here? It seemed like whatever was happening was bigger than what was happening to us. I guess that was the answer. We played a role in a much bigger picture.

All I could concern myself with was the now. That was what I needed to focus on. I would gather the clues and hints that are left. Reapus was right on that point, just accept the gift. Right now... I was confused and would gladly take whatever help that I could.

I looked at the girl and began to walk towards her without saying anything else to Reapus. Sion stayed by my side as we approached the soul.

She stayed there, still quiet, with her head buried in her legs.

"Excuse me." I whispered out. I watched as she lifted her head to look at me. She has wet stains streaking down her face and my heart instantly hurt for her. "Do you..." Da.mn, what should I say? I didn't want to sound insensitive. Hey, tell me who killed you... oh, by the way, sorry you are dead?!

"Do you know what happened? Why you are... here?" Sion asked as his hand rubbed my lower back. The young lady nodded her head.

"They killed me." She whispered, making my breath hitch. They?

"Who killed you? What happened? Who are you?" I asked and she settled her gaze on me. I didn't recognize her at all. At first, I had thought it was someone else from our pack... but I didn't recognize this face.

"I came to visit with a group of other ladies. We were visiting packs looking for our mates." This was a normal practice. Sometimes small groups would travel from pack to pack once they came of age hoping to find their mate. "I had been at the Sulfur pack for a few days and became friends with Taylor." I watched as she swallowed. "A man came to get me and told me that Taylor wanted to see me. I followed him... and he shoved me inside a building... and..." A man? Who? Someone Taylor was close to... I felt my heart thumping against my chest as I tried to keep my composure.

"Taylor looked inside the window and smiled, saying my body was identical to hers in size. She said no one would know. Then..." I watched the woman's hands begin to tremble. "She moved from the window and... all I remember is eyes that glowed... then it was so hot. I couldn't get out." She stared at her hands. "I died. I never found my mate. I never had children. There was so much I wanted to do. So much I wanted to pass on." Her voice was now high pitched in crying sobs.

I could see black smoke beginning to circle her body.

I felt like this was the beginning of her losing herself. "But you still can..." She looked up at me and I forced a smile. "You can rejoin the life pool. You can be reborn and start all over again." I glanced over my shoulder to Reapus. "He can lead you on to the next path in your life. Whatever it is that is planned. But could you tell me something... the man... did he have a name? Can you describe him?"

"I never heard his name. He had brown hair and was tall... that is all I know." Well, that narrows it down to almost anyone. That could be Joey, Jude, Denny or most of the men in the pack. Logic though would point to men Taylor was close to. "There was another person there as well. I couldn't see them, but I heard a woman's voice." Once again this could be anyone.

"I'm so sorry for what happened to you." I reached my hand out to her. "You deserved to find your happiness. I'm sure you will be rewarded with it if you are reborn again." She placed her hand in mine... it felt like ice... and sadness. There was so much grief pooling inside of me that it was hard to breathe. This was her pain. Her sorrow.

"Are you ready to walk with me?" Reapus was next to us, his hat covering his eyes once again. He watched as the soul nodded her head. "Then follow me and choose..." He took a few steps and turned to look at Sion. "I'll be back for you soon. We have work to do... without her by your side." A second later he vanished with the soul of the girl.

I turned to look at Sion, my mind was racing. It was Sion that said the words I wasn't allowing myself to think.

"Could Jude have been the man? He was Taylor's boyfriend, right?" As Sion said the words, I licked my lips and shook my head. If it was Jude... he betrayed us all. He lied. He... he hated me. Gods, please... I continued to shake my head and I felt Sion's arms come around me. He pulled my head to his chest and held me tightly against him.

"No matter what... I am here, Clover. We will figure it all out together." His gentle tones washed over me, calming me down. I just... I knew that it being Jude could be a possibility, but I didn't want to believe it. It hurt to believe it.

"Now what?" I whispered in his chest.

"We shouldn't show our hand. It is the only advantage we have right now. We can use this to our advantage. Not to mention... we don't know who we can even tell." I knew what he meant by this, but I couldn't stomach that either. He was saying we couldn't trust Denny or Joey. Was it wrong of me to have faith in them? Or was this just the pathetic part of me holding on to the fake family I believed I had with them?

"We follow the breadcrumbs..." I whispered, thinking about what Reapus had said. How did Hazel come to play in all of this? He put us on her trail for a reason too. Or was it more about the mate bond? Was this what was suspicious? Could Hazel have been the other woman the soul heard?

"Did Hazel live alone?" Sion seemed to be thinking the same thing I was.

"Yes, she lived by herself."

"Do you think Taylor would have stayed with her? Would she have hidden herself at her place?"

"Sion..." I pursed my lips and pushed back to look at him. "Taylor was working with demons. The same demon that caused—" I stopped and could see the darkness in his eyes. He already knew. The same demon that killed his parents. The same one Dr. Snyde was working with. It was all connected. I was still missing what exactly was tying it all together. Unless... it was me.

Dr. Snyde wanted a sheya. It was the reason she had the light to notify her of a sheya's presence. But how was Taylor involved in this? How did she get involved with Dr. Snyde? Where was the connection? This had to do with me... but how did those two work? Taylor would have told her about the possibility of me being a sheya.

Did she know from the day I arrived at the Chance pack? Was she already waiting for her opportunity? Then why try to kill me? Why would Taylor set me up to be killed... or was that not the real purpose?

I felt Sion's grip around me tighten and I looked up at

his gold flashing eyes. I could see he was deep in thought as a growl reverberated in his chest. Did he also put together that I was connected to it?

"Sion?"

"I can keep you here, Clover. They won't be able to touch you here."

"Sion..." I smiled and reached my hands up to cup his cheeks. "We have to save the Chance pack. We have a life to live. No matter what, I won't be afraid to continue to live my life. Especially now that I have a future, I'm excited to create... with you."

"I could lock you up here... where no one can ever harm you."

I giggled and smiled. "Now you sound like all the other alphas." I watched as a warm smile reached his lips

as his eyes returned to hazel.

"Besides... you couldn't even if you wanted to..." I watched his eyes dance in amusement. "I could just order you to do what I want."

"Silly woman..." He grabbed my hips, pressing himself against me. "You could always order me to do what you want even without your sheya powers." He then lowered his head and melted his lips against mine.

No matter how complicated things were or were about to get. I had Sion. I embraced the warm tingles and inhaled his heady scent. Together, we would overcome this challenge. We weren't in this alone.

Even if I did end up dying...I would end up with Sion. Here in the spirit realm. For all eternity. Note-

Update will be on the 15th

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

OH FOR MATES SAKE

Chapter 48 More Questions

Sion wasn't an expert in traveling between the realms. It seemed like he naturally gravitated to the dark spirit realm. It was harder for him to go back to the living realm. However, I was being pulled back to the other side. I could feel the connection and it was where my body wanted to go.

"Sion..." I whispered, interlacing my fingers with his.

"Think about who is on the other side. Your friends and family. Let that feeling guide you."

"You are right beside me. My mind naturally goes to you. It's where I want to be. Wherever you are. Who are you thinking of?" His voice was a bit edgier with an almost growling tone. Sion is touchier and more possessive as a lupine... or maybe it is Anubis? In either case, is it weird that I kind of like it? I guess it comes from no one ever wanting me. I didn't mind a bit of possessiveness for once.

I smiled and squeezed our fingers together, looking at them for a moment. I could feel the warmth creeping over my face as I lifted my gaze to him. "I think of our home. Our future. Our children..."

"We are going to have a wonderful family. We will have a home that you love. We are going to figure everything out and we are going to come out on top. Remember, we can't tell anyone in your old pack about Taylor. I know..." His eyes softened as he looked at me. "I know you are close with the officers and Denny, but right now, it is best to assume the worst and hope for the best."

"I just worry about the danger they are in. Without them knowing they are at a disadvantage." His eyes trailed over my face as a small smile reached his lips.

"My concern is for you. Until we have more information, we have to be cautious." His eyes flickered with a dark amber and hazel coloring. "And once we find out who our enemies are we will destroy them... including their souls."

"Destroy their souls?" I asked seeing the dark amber of his eyes holding color.

"Once we kill them, I will pop over to the spirit realm

and destroy their souls. For the crimes they commit against my mate and my pack... they won't get a second chance at life."

"You don't believe in second chances? And maybe them doing better in the next life..." I chewed on my bottom lip as I stared at him.

He leaned forward, pressing his forehead against mine. His amber eyes glowed though his expression was softer. "Anyone who has malicious plans against you... will not get another chance. For messing with my queen, the penalty is annihilation. I can't be benevolent when it comes to you."

I guess I could see where he was coming from. If someone was trying to cause Sion harm... I don't think I would be for them having a second chance either. I only felt that way because it was myself. I guess I have some scars that still affect me. I feel like because it is me, they can have a second chance. I never realized the mental number the Sulfur pack did on me. I still believe in second chances... but I understood. If someone hurt Sion... I could feel my blood beginning to boil just thinking about it.

"I understand... however, if any of them are being manipulated, it is different. Right?" I raised my eyebrows, pressing into his forehead. He chuckled and kissed the tip of my nose.

"As you wish, my queen. IF they are being manipulated and they end up dying, I will spare their soul. Then it will be up to Reapus what happens to it."

My lips parted in shock as I moved my head away from Sion's. The whole time, I had been thinking about just eliminating the 'bad guys'. I didn't think about those who were being manipulated. If we end up fighting against them, we might have to take their lives in order to survive.

It felt like my throat was constricting as I tried to breathe. We might have to kill innocent people. I just realized how vital it was for me to be able to use my powers. And even then, there could be casualties of the innocent. It was disgusting. How could they use people like that? How could they waste their lives so senselessly?!

Sion's hand moved and gripped around my back. He pulled me back into him as his other hand cupped my chin. His head came back to mine and his eyes pierced into me.

"We may have to kill innocent people. What if I can't get my powers under control? The casualties will be even worse." My voice trembled as his thumb tightened on my chin. "If we do nothing, the casualties will be astronomical. It will spread through the packs like a plague. They will become mindless zombies doing someone else's bidding." His eyes softened as he looked into mine. "We will do what we have to. Innocent lives may be lost, but that is with all wars. Innocent people are always casualties. Don't put so much pressure on yourself, Clover. It is going to be okay no matter what."

"I have to be able to help. There will be way more lives lost." I felt like I needed to become an expert in my powers, yesterday. How long would it take me to be able to cleanse a pack from mind control? Can I master this in just a couple of days? We didn't have much time. We couldn't hold off forever.

His soft lips were suddenly locked onto mine. His hot tongue plunged into my mouth as he held me captive. He caressed my back as his other hand cupped my cheek. "Don't do this to yourself. We are not the ones who caused this. The deaths are not our burden to bear. We will do everything we can, but we have to stop what is happening."

"What even is happening? What is the point of all of this?" I whispered against his lips.

"Right now, we don't have an answer to that... but does it matter? Whatever their reasoning is, they are hurting and manipulating others."

"Maybe if we know why we can stop it..." I looked up at Sion's golden eyes. He smiled at me and shook his head.

"We can only work with what we know Clover and the things we can do." Sion was right. There was only so much we could do on our own. This was why we needed help.

"We need to get back. We need to go to the Nova pack and get in touch with the Diamond pack. We
need to prepare to fight." I could see the sadness in his eyes as his lips curled down some.

"I wish you didn't have to fight."

I snorted and gave him a crooked smile. "Do you think I want you fighting?"

"I can't wait until this is all over so we can concentrate on us."

I nodded my head up at him. It was sad that we were new mates, and we hadn't gotten to enjoy the honeymoon phase. It has been nonstop chaos and danger. I looked forward to living my life with Sion quietly... learning to be parents together. It was like the dream was being dangled in front of me but just out of reach.

"Soon, my love ... soon." Sion cooed to me as if

reading my mind. He pressed his lips against my forehead, holding me close. I felt the shift in the atmosphere as the colors began to swirl around us. The heavy, stagnant air was lifting, and color was beginning to flicker in. Sion was doing it... he was transporting us between realms.

"Sion, Clover!" I heard Conner's relieved voice, and I glanced around, seeing we were back in the living realm. Taylor's father was gone, so that must have been handled while we were gone. I wonder if he knew his daughter was alive and he was just playing the part.

"What happened?" Denny asked, looking between the two of us.

"I'm still getting used to this new power I have. I just got sucked into the other realm and it took me a while to figure out how to come back." Sion said, looking down at me. His eyes were his usual warm hazel coloring.

We need to investigate Hazel's home and see if Taylor's scent is there. Sion mind linked to me. I hated this part. I hated lying to them. I was an officer of the Sulfur pack, and it feels so wrong to not trust Denny. Luckily, we would pass up Hazel's home on the way out. However, if someone sees us snooping around, it will get back to Denny. And I don't know what to say if he questions me.

I trust Denny and I want to believe in that trust. Maybe it was because we were mates, but I felt like I could believe in him. He came for me when I was being attacked. Jude told him I needed help and Joey always had my back. They wouldn't have... right? If one of them was involved... I think something will break inside of me. "Clover, are you alright?" Joey asked, looking at me intently. I swallowed and nodded my head. He tilted his head down and one side of his mouth twitched as he pursed his lips together. He raised his eyebrows at me as if to say I know you better than that.

"She is fine," Sion growled, pulling me into his side. "It is a mental drain traveling between realms is all."

"If you need to stay another day—" Denny began to say, but Sion instantly cut him off.

"We appreciate that, but we need to get going. We don't know what type of damage is being done each day. This has to end as soon as possible. So, if you have those travel supplies..."

"Yes, of course. This way." Denny nodded his head towards the storage building. I could feel Joey's eyes on me, but I wouldn't make eye contact with him. "What is it like over there, in the spirit realm?" Odell asked. I looked up at her and decided I would use it as a means to explain any weirdness Joey might be sensing.

"It's dark. It is as if the color has been drained from the world. The air is thick. It isn't at all what I expected. It is like a world of death."

"Are you worried about living there?" Odell asked and I wondered if she was just asking questions or if she was trying to help me out.

I opened my mouth and paused as my brows furrowed. "It will take some getting used to, but I'll be with Sion. We will manage." I smiled up at him as he smiled down at me.

"Here are the bags. Take several of them," Denny

said.

"Okay, Demetri, this is where you come into play. Shift and be our pack horse." Logan grinned widely, looking back at him.

"What a clever puppy we have here." Demetri rolled his eyes grabbing a bag. "I'll carry Clover's." He winked at me with a smile. From the corner of my eye, I could see that Joey still looked concerned.

"Thank you for the provisions," Sion said politely.

"You are more than welcome. Let us know what the plan is. We are here to help with whatever lies ahead." Denny's eyes met with mine. "And be careful out there."

"You be careful too." I smiled at him wishing I could say more. There was something going on in the Sulfur pack. I don't know what or who all was involved. I felt like I was doing him a disservice by not saying more. He could be in danger here.

I felt Sion's hand squeeze my waist gently. I looked up at him and was met with his warm eyes.

"Ready?" He asked and I nodded my head.

"Ready." I made eye contact with Joey as we walked away. It looked like he had more he wanted to say. I watched as his lips parted and then he closed them.

This is necessary until we know who is involved. Sion's voice echoed in my mind. Maybe it was necessary, but it still didn't sit right with me. Where is Hazel's house?

It will be the last house next to the tree line. I looked ahead and focused on the task at hand. I needed to see if I could pick up traces of Taylor. If she had stayed with Hazel, would she have left with her? Or would she try to hide in the house?

"So, what is going on?" Odell finally whispered when we were far enough away. So, she did pick up on something. By the looks of everyone else... they all did.

"We will talk about it later," Sion said, quickly shutting the conversation down. Odell nodded her head and trailed back slightly behind me.

I saw the tree line and my eyes focused on Hazel's house. The closer we got, I started to pick up traces of Hazel's scent. We walked right next to the building and stopped. I didn't smell anyone other than Hazel. I shook my head as I looked up at Sion. His lips pursed as we quietly walked away. We were both reeling in confusion. I think both of us were certain Taylor's scent would be there.

We were at the edge of the Sulfur pack territory when the wind swirled past us. I froze and looked up at Sion. On the breeze were two familiar scents. Hazels... and... it was Taylor's. The scent wasn't fresh, but it was there.

Sion didn't know Taylor's scent, but he recognized Hazel's right away. We both started walking in the direction of the scent. We crossed the border and headed into a thick forest heavy with pine trees.

The scent was getting stronger and then my eyes focused on some pine limbs bent strangely.

"Sion..." I muttered and he nodded his head, his eyes focused on the same thing. We walked up to it to see a shelter had been made. The heavy scent of Taylor and Hazel were both present. They were working together... but why? Why were they even involved to begin with? What was the connection? And the loaded question... who else from the Sulfur pack was involved?

"One answer... and a lot more questions." Sion sighed, looking back at the others.

"When we went to the spirit realm, we found out that Taylor wasn't killed in the fire. It looks like this is getting more complex. We need to be vigilant and trust no one in the Sulfur pack."

"Now that hardly seems fair." A voice called out from behind us, making me snap my head in shock. I squeezed my hands together and bit my inner lip, feeling guilty as hell. His green eyes met directly with mine as I took in a shaky breath...Joey.

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OH FOR MATES SAKE
Chapter 49 Chase

Sion took a protective stance in front of me. I watched as Joey immediately scowled and glared at Sion.

"Who are you protecting her from?!" Joey growled.

"Anything and everyone I have to." Sion challenged back. I watched as Joey's eyes drifted to mine. A small smile reached his lips, and he tilted his head to the side.

"Do you need to be protected from me, Clover?" Joey said, making my chest ache at the pain in his voice. I stepped forward, out from behind Sion and shook my head.

"Clover..." Sion's eyes shifted to the side while he still faced forward towards Joey.

"I know Sion... but I..." I pursed my lips together as I looked up at Joey. I trusted him. I know there was a lot at stake, but I hated this.

"I know she is your mate...and you are just protecting her. But I would never hurt her. I—I loved her first." My lips parted at the loud declaration he made. He looked at me, as if saying I told you I really loved you. A rough chuckle left Sion's throat and Joey straightened up to stare at him.

"You loved her first?" Sion snorted. "No, you didn't."

"Yes I—"

"How long?! One year? Two years?" Sion growled.

"Two!" Joey's arms trembled slightly, but he got control over them. I could see just how emotional he was right now. No doubt he felt hurt that he was being treated like a threat.

"Four," Sion said quietly as he gave Joey a small smile. I was afraid he was going to get angry but instead it looked like he was calm. I knew he must be struggling but he was staying calm for me.

"For four years, I have loved her. For four years, I have searched for the girl who disappeared from my side... because of what your pack had done to her... she didn't think that I—" Sion sighed and continued to stare at Joey.

"This isn't personal. I told Clover she couldn't tell any of you from the Sulfur pack. We need answers and—" Sion was in the middle of talking when a growl reverberated in Joey's throat. I watched as he lifted his nose and his eyes darkened.

"Taylor... that b***h is alive?! Is that what this is about? Where is she? What the hell is going on?!" Joey stepped closer, eyeing the shelter behind us. His eyes flipped to mine, and I could see all the questions swarming. "What is going on...?" He said softer.

I listened as Sion groaned and rubbed his forehead. "There are more people from the Sulfur pack involved in all of this. It seems like this is all connected... somehow."

"Where is she at?" Joey asked, looking around.

"The trail is old, and she wasn't alone. It leads away from the Sulfur pack... I don't think there is a point in tracking them down right now. We have other pressing matters that need dealt with first." His eyes moved to mine as he seemed to be contemplating something. "If you want to know what we know you have to come with us. I'll tell you when we are out of mind link range."

I watched Joey's brows pinch together and he nodded his head. "I'm coming." He didn't hesitate. "I'll let Denny know I decided to go with Clover for extra protection. He will understand this."

I could see something flicker in Sion's eyes. They flickered golden briefly before they returned to hazel. I imagine it was hard for him knowing Joey's affections for me.

"Is this a good idea?" Conner asked, stepping closer to Sion.

"At this point, this is the best idea. Clover trusts him. If

he breaks her trust... I will break him." Sion said, glaring at Joey.

"That won't be a problem," Joey said, walking up to us. His eyes moved back to the site. "Any chance of her coming back?" I watched as he smelled the air again, testing the scent.

"No, I don't believe so." Sion reached out, pulling me into his side. I glanced up at him, but he didn't look at me. I imagine he needed to calm his beast.

"Did Denny have any objections?" I asked and Joey smiled at me.

"No, he didn't have any problems with it. Why would he, since I am some secret spy, right?" Joey chuckled but quickly wiped the smile off his face, seeing Sion's less than amused look. "It is a joke. Honestly... I don't understand. You just stayed the night at the Sulfur pack. You were given our hospitality... where is this coming from? We didn't know about Taylor. You think we did?" Joey looked at Sion. I was glad he looked at Sion and not me. It meant he understood I already felt conflicted.

"You'll understand soon," Sion said tersely. "Once we are farther away from here."

"Is that... Hazel's scent I am picking up?" Joey watched as Sion stared at him blankly and he let out a sigh. "Well, lead the way." He nodded his head to the side and Sion snorted. We walked past Joey, our eyes met as I walked past him. I couldn't tell what he was thinking but it looked like he was happy to be coming along.

"So, you are Clover's gamma?" I heard Joey ask as he walked beside Kai. "Is she a tough boss?" The groups began to break off into their own quiet conversations, except for Odell. I wasn't sure where Stilts was, but I imagine he was around somewhere. I needed to find out if he was invisible or if he could teleport. I wasn't exactly sure how he kept popping up. I also didn't know what a gnome and leprechaun mix could do magic wise. He seemed powerful for such a tiny creature.

Clover. I glanced up at Sion as I heard his voice in my

mind. His eyes met with mine and then he just smiled. He didn't say anything else but squeezed my side into his lovingly. I leaned into his warm embrace as he walked through the woods quietly.

Once we were well out of range of mind linking the Sulfur pack Sion quietly began to explain everything. He talked about what really happened when we went to the spirit realm and how we knew Taylor was alive. Then he explained what the innocent victim there had said. All the while, Joey was quiet. I glanced back at him a couple of times to see his lips pursed and his brows pinched together. Finally, when Sion had finished talking, Joey spoke up.

"No wonder you didn't say anything..." Joey's voice was a wounded whisper. I stopped walking to turn to look at him. He looked at me and then at Sion. "I didn't know. You have my word. Gosh you must be so confused, Clover... I—I am so sorry." I could see the pain in Joey's eyes as he looked at me. It looked like he was in more pain over this than I was.

"I'm okay, Joey. Yeah, it is all confusing..." I stopped and just shrugged, pursing my lips together.

"Look, I know there are others involved, but... you have to know..." Joey looked up at Sion. "Denny and Jude would never..."

"What about the man that was there when the fire started?" Demetri asked and Joey shook his head.

"Impossible. Jude was with us—" Joey motioned to Conner, Logan and me, "the fire started sometime when we were packing Clover's clothes."

Joey was right. I don't know why that escaped me before, but they were both with me during that time.

"What about Denny?" Odell said, clicking her tongue and raising her brows.

"He would have been with Sion..." Joey looked up at Sion, who looked down at the ground. His forehead was wrinkled, and his jaw was tense.

"Not the whole time." Sion's eyes met with mine. "He got a mental link and stepped out momentarily right before it concluded. He wasn't gone for long. Maybe a few minutes... I don't know. The timing would have been close. We can't rule it out."

"Denny wouldn't—" Joey began, but Sion cut him off, turning to talk to me.

"Denny acted ignorant of how Taylor treated you before, didn't he?"

I nodded my head, but there was just no way. Denny

wasn't like that. "That isn't the type of person Denny is—" I said, trying to defend Denny, but Sion seemed to be ignoring my words.

"Maybe Denny and his chosen mate..." Conner said, and I pursed my lips together. I thought back to the night I was attacked when I overheard his conversation with Andrea. He... wouldn't have.

"I don't see Denny, he wouldn't have. However, Taylor was Andrea's close friend. I could see Andrea being involved. I wonder who the guy was. Geez..." Joey ran his hand through his hair as he shook his head. "What is going on..."

"Clover, did everyone look normal there? Did you see anything indicating anyone was being manipulated?" Demetri asked.

"I didn't notice anything," I said quietly. I wish I had. At

least then I had an explanation for everything that happened.

"There are wolves tailing you," Stilts said, appearing above us on a limb.

"How close are they?" Sion asked lifting his nose in the air trying to test for their scent. I did the same but couldn't smell them. "I can't smell them. Do you know if they are Seekers or..." I watched as his eyes moved to look at Joey.

"They aren't from the Sulfur pack if that is what you are asking." Stilts sat on the limb swinging his legs casually.

"What do you want to do?" Conner asked.

"Demetri, how long until we reach the Nova pack?" Sion asked. Demetri shook his head and looked ahead.

"We still have a good bit left to travel," Demetri said as we all looked at Sion for his decision.

"Let's keep moving. We don't know if they are Seekers or not. Maybe they are just curious about the scent and checking us out. If we keep moving, we won't seem confrontational. If it is Seekers, we will know soon enough, their scent will eventually reach us." Sion grabbed my hand and began to walk again briskly. "It is best to avoid a fight if we can." He muttered under his breath, glancing down at me.

"Sion, I can fight if we have to." I watched as a sexy half smile curled over his lips as he looked at me from the sides of his eyes.

"I know that, my love, but why take unnecessary risks?"

"Because you would if I wasn't with you," I said pointedly; his grin widened, but before he could say anything, a scent carried on the wind reached us. Seekers. There was no doubt about it.

"There is a new territory line up ahead. They might be more hesitant to follow us past that point." Demetri said urgently.

"Should we shift?" Conner asked, and Sion shook his head no.

"No, we are heading into a new territory. We don't have to enter looking like threats. Just run!" Sion said looking down at me. I nodded my head and dropped his hand from mine. I could run better without him dragging me from behind him, which is what I know would happen. We raced through the woods. The trees blurred brown as we crashed through the branches and bushes making a path of our own. We all smelled the change in the scent as we entered a new territory, but we kept running. Blood curdling howls echoed in the air behind us, and we knew the Seekers had taken chase. They were on our trail.

What would they do when they reached the next territory? If they chose to pursue us, we would have no choice but to fight... but how many? The air sounded like high pitched screams as their howls echoed from all around. The numbers weren't on our side. We did have a lupine on our side.

If only I had a grip on my powers. I could order them to stop. I wasn't sure if I could rely on it. I didn't have the confidence in myself with it yet. It always just came to me. The brush was getting thicker, and we were having to squint as we ran. Small leaves fell in the air, twigs shattered all around and then... weightlessness. I was falling. Covered in darkness. Squeezed into something tight.

My arms were tucked at my sides, and I couldn't use them. It was too tight. I heard the snarls from above me as I slammed into a solid surface. I arched my back in pain as the wind left my lungs.

Coughing, I gasped for air as I tried to make sense of what had happened. I stared straight up from my back at the tiny hole I had fallen through. A hole too tiny for anyone else to fit through. I glanced around as the air began to return to my lungs. I was in a cave again... or was this a mine?

"Fell into an air shaft, did ya?" Stilts chuckled next to my head, looking over into my face. "Can you get

up?" An airshaft? Seriously? Of all things to fall into. I gingerly sat up as I rubbed the back of my head. Thank goodness Sheena was with me and healing me. Otherwise, I would be in serious trouble right now.

"Now what?" I muttered, looking up at the hole above me. It was about twenty feet straight above me.

Clover! Sion's panicked voice called out in my mind.

I'm okay, Sion. I'm in a mine again... My voice was dripping with annoyance. Stilts is with me. I'll see if he can help me find the way out.

There has to be an entrance around here. I'll find you. Sion sounded anxious and his words were rushed. Then echoing down the hole were the echoing sounds of growls. Sion!

Note:

Next update the 22nd

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OH FOR MATES SAKE

Chapter 50 Friends and Foe

I could hear the muffled sounds of fighting above me growing fainter as it moved away. I stared at the hole above me until I couldn't hear the sounds anymore. I didn't want to keep calling out to Sion and distracting him. I had to find a way out of here. "Stilts, do you know the way out?" I turned and listened as the little man chuckled at me.

"I am not a walking map."

I glanced around, assessing the area. It was all dirt and stone with three paths. I guess I would just have to choose one and hope for the best. I had just started walking towards the middle path when I could hear the soft sound of footsteps approaching. I froze as the sound got closer. I glanced over at Stilts only to find the little bastard was no where to be seen again. I was beginning to wonder what his purpose even was.

The sounds got closer, and I took up a fighting stance, ready to shift if I needed to. A moment later, a young woman appeared from the tunnel running her fingers through her blonde-colored hair. Her blue eyes lifted up and met with mine. For a moment, she stood there looking at me before a crooked grin reached her lips.

"Air shaft?" She said quickly and raised her brows. "Did you fall through the air shaft too?" I nodded my head slowly and she started to laugh. "Thank goodness I am not the only one that sort of thing happens to. I mean, one minute I was talking with my cousin and the next down I went." The girl bounded up to me and then leaned forward, bending her neck to look in my face.

"My name is Gia, what is your name?" Her blue eyes were piercing into mine with such a vibrant intensity, but she seemed very friendly.

"It is Clover," I said and she smiled brightly at me.

"Well, Clover, I know that path leads to nowhere," She pointed behind her as she looked at the other openings. "So, let's hope one of these two leads to the way out. Knowing my cousin, he is probably about to give himself a hernia destroying things trying to get to me. Men... as if us women aren't capable." She giggled and I smiled back at her. I liked this woman. She wasn't suspicious or cautious of me at all. Which told me she was confident in her fighting skills and that she didn't deem me as a threat.

"What pack are you from?" I noticed her trying to smell for my scent as I shrugged and furrowed my brows.

"It is a bit complicated. I am, I guess, in between packs right now. It is a long story. How about yourself?" I knew I recognized the scent but couldn't quite place it.

"The Diamond pack. My cousin went out on a mission, and I decided to tag along. Well... without telling him until he was far enough away." She gave me a sheepish grin. "I left my parents a note. The funny thing is I came to be of assistance to my cousin and I gave him more work now." She began to giggle as I stared at her. She was from the Diamond pack, that was who we needed to talk to.

"I was actually on my way to speak with someone from the Diamond pack..." She instantly stopped laughing and her eyes became serious. "I had spoken with the Beta of the Diamond pack Sam before and—"

"That is my uncle... I can take you back to the Diamond pack with me once we find our way out." I paused and glanced up at the hole above us.

"I am with others. We ran into Seekers... a band of rogue werewolves. I fell into the hole, and I could hear the fighting. I need to find them and—"

"Well, woman, what are you waiting for? We can talk

and run at the same time. Standing here talking isn't going to get to them faster." Gia said as she began to trot towards one of the tunnels. "It is a guess either way..." She said, pausing for a moment before choosing the one in the middle. "Well, keep up. You must prove the men wrong. We are capable badass women who can kickass and find our way out of a mine." She then turned to look at me. "You can fight, right? You aren't one of those I prefer not to fight type of woman, are you?"

I laughed as I raced along beside her. "I used to be the Delta of my pack before I left."

"Yes, atta girl!" Gia grinned over at me. "Aiden has yet to choose a future delta... that is, the future Alpha King of the Diamond pack. Maybe I should put my bid in on the position." She glanced over at me, and I could see her looking at the mark on my neck. "You have a mate? How is it?"
"He is perfect for me." I looked over at her and she smiled. I could feel my cheeks heat up slightly, but she was looking straight ahead again.

"I feel like I am related to most of the stronger wolves in my pack." She laughed and shrugged. "I haven't found my mate yet, but I hope when I do find him, he is strong and confident... and maybe someone who absolutely adores and swoons over me. That isn't a tall order, right?" This was how my Sion was. He was strong, confident, and doted on me completely. "And hopefully not too possessive or overly protective. Like my cousin..." She said in annoyance.

"I'm sure your perfect partner is out there somewhere." I watched as she grinned, looking at me.

"I'm sure he is out there. I am just curious if he will come already trained or not. Although, according to my mother, my father was completely different after they discovered they were mates. She said he suddenly became everything she ever wanted in an instant." Gia's eyes focused forward and she moved her hand out protectively in front of me as we both stopped. I watched as her expression changed and her eyes glazed over. Her arm dropped back to her side as she let out a sigh. "Well, show yourself already?"

I watched as a tall, muscular young man stepped into view. He had sandy colored hair as well as deep brown eyes that were focused on me. He stared at me for a moment longer before he looked back at Gia.

"We need to hurry; she has pack members fighting against rogues." Gia clicked her tongue as he shook his head.

"No, there is some weird beast up there fighting. I have never seen the likes of it before and we aren't going anywhere near it." "That is my Sion," I said, looking at him anxiously. He looked at me cautiously and then arched his brow.

"That weird monster wolf is with you?" He then shrugged. "Then you don't have anything to worry about. He is destroying everything up there."

"You aren't mated to a werewolf?" Gia asked, looking at me.

"It's a long story..." I paused, remembering that the prince and princess of the Diamond pack were lycans. "He was a lycan... but because of a deity he is another creature called a lupine." They both accepted this answer with ease. Which told me one of two things. One, they were very easy-going wolves, or two, they had experience with weird things like this before.

"In either case, whatever he is, he is fine." The man

said, extending me his hand. "My name is Jamie; I am the cousin of this idiot." He then began to snicker as he shook my hand. "Can you imagine? It takes a special type of i***t to fall into an air vent. I mean what type of werewolf falls into a hole." He began to cackle loudly as I stared at him blankly.

"She fell in the air shaft too." Gia said, looking at him blankly. I watched as his eyes widened and he pursed his lips together. His face began to change into different shades of red before he belted out a rolling roar of a laugh. Gia and I stared at him blankly while he wiped the tears from his eyes.

"You see, Gia..." Jamie straightened up and placed his hand on top of her head. "This is why I am protective over you. It has nothing to do with your gender but that you are accident-prone. I just can't believe another shewolf fell too." He smirked at me to which I rolled my eyes. "It's Clover," I sighed. "I was busy running from rogues and the hole was hidden in bushes. If I was bigger, I wouldn't have fallen all the way through."

"Yeah! It isn't our fault we have small, beautiful figures." Gia raised both her eyebrows and swatted his hand away from her head.

"Well, maybe if you didn't snack so much, Gia. You are getting soft in the belly." Jamie grinned mischievously.

"Gosh, you are so annoying. This is why you don't have a girlfriend." Gia clicked her tongue as he chuckled.

"And what is your excuse?"

"I'm just being picky," Gia replied, simply shrugging

her shoulders.

"Uh huh..." He chuckled and then looked over at me. "So are you accident prone too?"

"I wouldn't exactly say that..." He began to laugh as I stared at him quietly.

"Which means that you are. It is even better you have a lucky name—" He snorted and wiped his eyes. "The irony of it."

"No wonder you came along to help him out." I said, giving Gia a sympathetic smile.

"I know... he is tough to live with." Gia giggled.

"Hey! I am the future Gamma of the Diamond pack. I am more than capable little miss Gia." Jamie raised his finger and tapped Gia on the middle of her forehead. My eyes were wide as I realized he said he was the future gamma. This wasn't just any pack... this was the Diamond pack. The Diamond pack was the ultimate authority of all the other packs because of the Alpha King and Luna Queen. If you were one of their officers, you also had a power that was a cut above the rest. I couldn't underestimate this goofy young man. If he was their future gamma, he was a fierce warrior.

"Clover here, was the delta of her pack." Gia said proudly, making Jamie arch his brow as he looked me over.

"Tiny here?" He said with almost a laugh.

"Yeah, that's right." I was rather annoyed with his tone. He caught on to it rather quickly as he instantly raised his hands and shook his head. "No offense. Your wolf must be a fierce fighter. It is just appearances can be deceiving."

"Funny, I was thinking the same thing." My triumphant smirk rested on my face as Gia howled.

"OOOOOHHHHH BURNED! Take that, Jamie!" Gia smiled widely as Jamie chuckled.

"Okay okay. I deserved that. Truce?" He said, tilting his head to me.

"Truce."

"Are we going to stay in this mine all day or are we getting out of here?" Stilts appeared in front of us. I looked up at the others to see their less than shocked faces. Okay, they must experience a lot of weird things.

"Well, aren't you a pushy little man..." Jamie said, looking down at Stilts. "What are you doing out here in a mine?"

"Making sure the little lady here doesn't get into too much trouble." Stilts snorted, glaring up at me.

"Why would you be watching over her..." Gia began to study me again this time intensely. "I don't sense anything..."

"You wouldn't be able to." Stilts scoffed and shook his head. "She thinks because she has some wee fairy blood in her, she can recognize everything."

"You are part fairy?" I asked, watching Gia shrug.

"I have some fairy blood in me, but it isn't very strong. How about you? Why do you have Rumpelstiltskin with you?" Gia asked as Stilts scoffed loudly. I looked down at Stilts, not sure what I could say. He was remarkably able to understand what I was thinking. He sighed and nodded his head. "These folks here are okay. They are close with the fairy royals. Really you should have ended up in the Diamond pack, but understandably they wanted you hidden." I could see that Jamie and Gia were intrigued and I was going to have to briefly explain myself to them.

"I am part sheya—" I didn't even get to finish talking.

"Oh yeah, the one Sam was talking about," Jamie said thoughtfully. "He was wondering if we would be hearing from you."

"My group and I have something we wanted to discuss with the Diamond pack, but if you are one of the officers you could just relay the message." I glanced behind Jamie and chewed on my inner lip. "I need to wait and see if this is what the others want to do too." I continued to look behind him. I know he said that Sion was okay, but what about the others? Plus, I needed to see if Sion was okay for myself.

SKAAAAA

A loud sound hissed from deep in the mine. We all turned our heads to look down the path Gia and I had just come from.

"Shit..." Jamie said, moving to stand in front. "Sounds like a nauc has picked up your trail." He looked back at Gia and then to me. "Let's get moving. We can outrun it."

SKAAAAA

The noise hissed out louder as two yellow eyes

started to glow down the dark tunnel.

"Quick, RUN!" Stilts yelled as a roar followed from the eyes.

I don't know what this sound was, but it didn't sound like a nauc. Whatever it was... I could see real fear in Stilt's eyes. I took a hesitant step backwards before the three of us took off at a sprint. I could feel the malice in the air, and I didn't want to stick around to see what it was.

I glanced back once to see Stilts had stayed there, holding his cane in the air, waiting to hold off whatever was approaching. The ground began to tremble as the sound of thundering feet echoed behind us.

Then a bright light illuminated from behind us and there was an ear-piercing screech followed by a yell.

My heart raced as the sound of the thundering feet began to pick up again. Whatever it was... it was after us.

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