

Chapter 9

"He's our miracle baby." Shelly strokes Andy's white blonde wispy hair to the side after I explain how Kas's father died. "Dave's mother told us she had never heard of a werebear being able to have a hybrid baby. We just assumed we were on our own and we were okay with it. Half the time, Dave's out wandering the woods anyway, but he's gotten better about staying close to home these days."

"Yeah, things used to be quiet around here. Shelly woke up one morning with crazy morning sickness. I thought something was really wrong with her." Dave pulls her close and kisses her forehead. She smiles and scrunches her nose while she almost disappears into his arms. "We found a werebear shaman who confirmed she was pregnant. He was able to treat her throughout the pregnancy. Unfortunately, they don't stay in one place very long. The day Andy was born, he said our cub was healthy, gave him a blessing, and wandered off. Haven't seen him since. Last I heard, he was in Alberta. We've been lucky. Andy hasn't gotten sick, so we haven't needed a doctor."

"You know, we have staff at Blood River that can give him a checkup if you want. I mean, if it doesn't go against any of your beliefs. Just once a year to make sure everything is good." I offer. "If he's going to go to human school, he's going to need official medical records. No charge. You can pay me with burnt ends and cornbread pudding."

"That would be wonderful, Bronx." Shelly puts her hand over her heart with a grateful smile. "Thank you so much! It's such a generous offer."

I write my Gamma Ashley's number on a napkin. "This is the number for my female Gamma. Her name is Ashley. I'll let her know we spoke. She'll help you make arrangements with one of our specialists. If you can get someone to cover things here, she'll most likely want to treat you to

dinner with the pack. Maybe even stay in a guest suite. She's a little extra like that."

"Thank you, Alpha." Dave shakes my hand and looks at me with a sly grin. "Care to help me show Andy how to wrestle before you go?"

I tilt my head at him, not sure if he's serious or not.

"Come on, it will be fun and a good experience for my boy." He shrugs. "Nothing serious, just goofing around. Light scrimmage."

"You up for it, Saint?" I check with my wolf. "This isn't a battle."

"Sure. Whatever." He grumbles. "How are we going to let people know we found Endymion?"

"For now, we're not. We need to confirm it's him." I stand and follow Dave out to a small pavilion. "We'll have our doctors run blood tests to see if he is a werebear or a werewolf before we raise any alarms."

"Saint, there's just no way. Right? The toddler version of Kas's dad didn't just watch us wrestle a werebear?" I sit on a rock at the edge of a snow-lined creek, watching the moon high in the sky. I'm wrapped in a woolen blanket Shelly insisted I take with me. I rack my brain, trying to make sense of what happened this evening.

"Yes. Get used to it. When that wolf wakes up, your going to meet the most aggressive wolf I've ever encountered." Saint says wistfully. For Saint to say another wolf is aggressive is a big deal. Most days, it takes everything I have to keep him under control. I can't imagine if he was more aggressive.

The deep blue of the sky creates a beautiful canvas for the crisp edges of the waxing gibbous moon, but it doesn't provide any answers. "If everything Musu translated is correct, Andy isn't supposed to show until it's time for Kas to be born so he can take her somewhere safe."

"It's a good thing you wear slip-on shoes." Saint says sarcastically. "I don't think you could figure out how to tie them every morning, dummy." 2

"Don't be an asshole, Saint. At least I have thumbs to tie them if I wanted to." I snap back. "Just explain it."

"Alright, genius. Kas died two days ago. Maya was born two days ago. When Maya is old enough, she's supposed to give birth to Kas. Maybe Kas was not supposed to come back to life. Maya never raises Kas the way Kas raises Maya. Andy finds Maya and takes Kas off her hands to do... wherever the Hell it is he's supposed to do with her. Get her somewhere safe, I suppose? I don't know what that means exactly, because we've never met Kas before she comes of age. If that is what he's supposed to do, he did a really shitty job this lifetime."

"Saint, I'm not playing around here."

"Neither am I. If necessary, Kas gives birth to Maya. If not, she usually just dies a horrific death... well... she usually dies a horrific death anyway, but then the cycle starts over."

"You mean like being choked to death by her own mate or starving to death in a dungeon?" I sigh. Regret rubs at the back of my neck until I shake it off. "How did you know how to find him here?"

"I don't know exactly. I just knew that it felt like something important related to Kas and Elexis. I didn't know it was going to be Endymion. I

don't even know how often he is born or how long he lives. The last time we ran into him was over five hundred years ago in Russia. Hearing about him having a library card in his wallet when Kas's old pack killed him is the most I've heard since then."

"You think he's here now, so he'll be old enough to take Kas away when she is reborn?" I lean back and watch the stars twinkle, letting the silence sink in while I think.

"That's exactly what I think."

"Couple of problems with that rationale."

"You're getting on my last nerve, Bronx." Saint rolls his eyes. "Maybe we should get you home so you can get comfy with a bottle of booze and leave me alone again."

"I broke the mate bond. You said that makes this is our last lifetime. Kas died in the dungeon. It was supposed to be her last lifetime, too." I poke holes in his theory. "Have we ever met Andy when he was a child before?"

"No, we haven't, but we already know something went haywire because Kas came back to life in this lifetime. Like a zombie or something, not reincarnated. Maybe that means she gets to continue her spirit's journey with Lex and the Moon Goddess will pair her up with a new mate who deserves to be with a Goddess. Lucky her." 

I purse my lips when I think about Milo holding her in his arms earlier in the day. "No."

"What do you mean no?" Saint sounds annoyed. "I didn't ask a question."

"No, as in, she doesn't get to have a new mate." 

"Oh, for Goddess sake." Saint growls. "How the Hell are you going to stop her? If the Moon Goddess gives her a second chance mate, then it is what it is. You can't change it."

"I can if she goes back to the dungeon as soon as the doctors give her a clean bill of health."

"I'm done. You rejected our mate, let her die in a dungeon, she gave birth to her sister and your son, came back to life, and you literally just met her father. How many more signs do you need? The Moon Goddess is NOT on your side here." His temper flares while he barks at me. "We're shifting right now. When we get back to the packhouse, that's it. I'm done with you. You'll never hear from me again unless you come to your senses or the pack needs me."

"Whatever. I'm calling your bluff."

"Pshh. Bet."

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