

Chapter 13

Violet

"Why?" I asked.

"I am a wolf re-born. I was given to you, being given a second chance. The Goddess knows I will be treated right with you Violet. This is her way of saying thank you for accepting me."

"But I didn't. Not that I wouldn't have, but my mom made the decision."

"You don't think you're worthy of a gift from the Goddess?"

"I... Not really." I admitted sadly.

"You're worth so much more than you give yourself credit for Violet."

"What about Garrett? He's the future Alpha. It should be him."

"Our brothers have their own gift. Together, they will make a worthwhile Alpha."

I stared at my reflection, unable to grasp the truth staring back at me.

"What are we?" I asked.

"A Midnight Wolf. The first."

I blinked. "The first? You mean ever?"

"Yes."

"Holy shit!"

I was distracted from totally freaking out by a flash of sparks on my shoulder. I looked into my mate's eyes, trying to focus.

"Hello mate."

That wasn't Jasper.

"Hello. Jaspers wolf?"

"My name is Ehno."

"Nice to meet you Ehno. Your name... it means protector, right?"

"It does. Fitting, as I will always be here to protect you."

"Well, aren't you a charmer."

He gave me a lopsided grin, his tongue flopping out of his mouth. Hala was itching to run with her mate, practically bouncing on her feet. I still had questions for him, but I pushed them aside for now. Letting my parents know, Hala guided me on how to give her control, and then they were off. I sat back in my own mind, watching as they took off into the forest, jumping playfully at each other. I laughed, as they seemed like two pups, but I could feel how happy Hala was. That's what mattered the most to me. After a while, they found a spot to lie down, snuggling close and sharing wolfy kisses. I was going to count that as her first kiss, and not mine.

The sun was just starting to rise when we reached the training yard again. My dress was still in my spot, waiting for me. It seemed like we were the last ones back, and Jasper respectfully turned away as Hala helped me shift back. The morning air was cool as I donned the dress, turning my back now so Jasper could shift and get dressed. Once he was done, we stood on the grass, staring at each other.

"Why didn't you tell me?" I demanded. I was still exhausted, and hungry, but I wanted answers.

"Because I didn't want you to go through your first shift alone." He replied.

"But I wouldn't have!" I exclaimed. He shot me a look.

"If I had told you when I found out, would you have rejected me?"

I wanted to say no. But I couldn't. Because now I was in the same boat as Garrett. Jasper was the last person I expected to be my mate, and if I was being honest, I wasn't exactly jumping for joy.

"That's what I thought." He said. "Like you said, females have it harder than males when it comes to the first shift. I didn't want you to go through that alone. And you're so stubborn, I knew you wouldn't see it that way."

"I am not stubborn." I snapped. "So, you're saying you kept it from me, for me?"

"Yes."

I scoffed. "And did you consider the amount of anxiety I had to go through, believing I would have to do it alone?"

"I did. Still better than actually doing it."

I threw my hands up. "You're such an asshole!"

"Why?" He threw at me. "Because I was thinking about you? Your wellbeing? Geez, I'm sorry." His tone held heavy sarcasm.

I crossed my arms, thinking. The last thing I wanted to do was reject him, but seriously? First Sophia, now Jasper?

"I know what you're thinking." I met his eyes. They were suddenly cold, angry. "If you want to reject me, then just do it."

I raised an eyebrow. "You sound so sure that I will."

"I've kind of been expecting it."

"Wow, you think so much of me, don't you?"

He took two steps, planting himself in front of me. I craned my neck back to look into his eyes. I crossed my arms tighter, as the urge to be in his arms was almost overwhelming. How did he manage to stay away from me all this time? This was torture!

"You know what I think of you?" He asked lowly. He continued before I could reply. "I think you're the most beautiful girl I've ever met. I think you're smart, and funny and strong. You're the most opinionated person I've ever met, and also the kindest. But I also know what you think of me. So, I'm not holding onto much hope for our bond."

I hadn't expected any of that. It was the nicest thing anyone had ever said to me.

"The amount of women-" I began.

"Not as many as you think." He interrupted me roughly. "You know what you've heard. But not the truth."

I blinked. "What?"

"Three people Violet. Three. That's the amount of people I've slept with in my whole life." He glared at me. "Anything else said is just a rumor."

"Then why not put a stop to them?" I challenged. I was having a hard time accepting this. How I could trust he wasn't lying for my benefit?

"Because I don't care what people think about me. Except you."

I shook my head, closing my eyes. "How do I know you're not lying Jasper?"

"Do you want to me gather all the girls in the pack? Get them to tell you?"

"That's ridiculous."

"How else am I supposed to convince you? Can't you just trust that I'm telling the truth?"

I searched his eyes, only finding sincerity. I bit my lip.

"It still bugs me that you've slept with other people." I said quietly. He sighed.

"I can't change my past Vie. I'm sorry I didn't wait for you, but it's only you from now on. If your parents could move past it, why can't we?"

I raised my eyebrows at him, but I shouldn't have been surprised. Everyone knew my dad got around before he met my mom. It wasn't exactly a secret. But now, Mom was the only one he looked at. And they were happy. The role model couple I'd looked up to my entire life. Looking at it that way, and regretting not looking at it like this before, I realized he had a point. It was beyond stupid of me to think my mate would wait for me. It was unfair of me to have that expectation, when in fact, there was plenty about me that wasn't exactly perfect. I realized how childish I'd been acting on this point; So much, that my own mate feared I would reject him.

I uncrossed my arms. Slowly, I wrapped them around his waist, giving him a small smile. Sparks erupted from our contact, and I couldn't get enough of the feeling.

"I'm sorry." I said.

Jasper stared down at me, his expression a mix between surprise and hope.

"You're not rejecting me?" He asked.

I shook my head. "Not today anyways." I teased.

His face lit up, taking my breath away. He looked so happy that I thought he would burst. His hands cupped my cheeks, hips facing coming down to mine. He stopped an inch from my lips.

"May I?"

"Yes." I breathed.

My eyes fluttered shut. His lips barely touched mine before a loud growl sounded beside us. I jumped, startled by the sudden intrusion, and Jasper straightened, keeping me in his arms. We both looked at Garrett, who was standing a few feet away. His hands were fists at his sides, and they were shaking. His face... I'd never seen him so angry, especially not towards me. He glared at us furiously, his chest vibrating with low growls.

"You accepted him?!" He spat at me. My mouth fell open at his tone.

"What is wrong with you?" I asked.

"You can't accept him, Violet!"

"Garrett!"

"What's your problem man?" Jasper glared at my brother.

"You wouldn't even look at him if you knew what he did."

At this point, I was getting irritated. "What are you talking about?!"

He pointed at Jasper, looking half crazy. "He's the one! He's the one who slept with Sophia that night!"

For the second time in so many days, my heart dropped into my stomach.