

Chapter 13

CLAIR

It has been two days since I last saw Jake. I missed him, and I knew that I could just as easily go to the pack house and pretend I needed something there to catch a glimpse of him, but I restrained myself. I didn't want to go that way.

So I went with another strategy that I thought would not be too obvious. I went to the afternoon training sessions for two consecutive days, despite attending the sessions in the morning just so I could see him if he was there. But luck wasn't on my side.

I sighed and closed my eyes as I leaned against the walls of the pavilion where I was sitting. Jenny was beside me, lying down on her stomach while reading a book. We decided to chill in one of the pavillions surrounding the territory after the afternoon training session just to pass the time.

"That was deep. Something bothering you?" She dropped the book in her hand and pulled herself up to sit beside me.

I shook my head and forced a smile. "Nothing. Just bored."

"You missed him?" She asked, her brow raised, but she offered a warm smile.

"Him?" I returned the question to her. My nose scrunched up, trying to calm my heartbeat.

Did she know? Was I that obvious?

"Yeah, I saw how your eyes swept the whole training ground each time you came and saw the disappointment in them when you didn't see what you were looking for." She shrugged her shoulders and continued. "I'm a girl too. I know what 'I miss him' looks like."

She then lifted her gaze to me, trying to catch mine. Warm and understanding eyes were looking deep into mine. "It's the Alpha, right? I was also wondering why he didn't show up for any of the training we had. He always came either in the morning or the afternoon. He never misses a day unless he's away, which was not the case for the last two days."

I swallowed hard. I wanted to deny her claim, but nothing came out of my throat.

"You don't need to hide it. I was there at the packhouse after you shifted. I was with Beta Gavin when we heard your brother shouting at the Alpha about you. It was the first time I heard Aaron lose his temper. And the first time the Alpha did not answer back to the disrespect. He was surely holding his ground, which I think was not easy for him. He has a quick temper, you know, but he just let your brother go all out on him."

My shoulders slumped. I had no idea that there was tension between the two because of me. I turned to look at Jenny. Concern and disappointment were all over my face. "I don't know why Aaron doesn't like him."

She chuckled and shook her head. "Come on, girl! Isn't it obvious? Aaron knows him too well, I guess. The three of them - they're attached to the hips like triplets. You see,

Clair, they go around together flirting with any females because they can. They have the looks, the position, and the power! And now that Aaron sees that the Alpha is paying you more attention than he should, he can't just let that go. You're his sister. Maybe he's thinking that Alpha was just trying to charm you too. They do that all the time with females."

Silence.

She smiled at me. "But despite that truth, you still can't stop yourself from falling for the Alpha, right?"

I rolled my eyes and smiled at her, "Same way you can't stop falling for my brother, right?"

We giggled at the realization that we did and how bad our situation was.

"The border has been breached! We have intruders! All warriors, get ready and wait for instructions from your commanders! All others - follow protocols for safety! Make certain that no females, pups, or the elderly are left behind! Now move!!!"

A mindlink from Jake startled me, and I believed Jenny as well. I had never received a pack mindlink before, and it took a while before the message sank in.

I snapped out of my thoughts and looked at Jenny, who was already on her feet. She looked back at me and frowned to find me still sitting on the floor. She went back and pulled me up on my feet.

"Clair, listen to me! We are under attack! We need to go!"

She shook my shoulders slightly, taking me out of shock.

"Okay!" I answered hoarsely.

"Do you know where you need to go? The bunker?" She asked while pulling me out of the pavilion. I looked around as I saw several warriors shifting in midair and running in their wolf forms towards the forest ground.

I shook my head. I remembered Aaron telling me about a secret bunker, but I paid no attention to it. I wish I did.

Jenny began directing my route, reminding me to pick up pups or elderly people along the way. I kept nodding my head, but nothing registered. All I saw were werewolves going in different directions.

"Run now and don't bother to take anything! We have supplies in the bunker, just take cover!" Jenny shouted before speeding away, taking off her clothes, and leaving just her underwear.

I ran after her and called out, "Where are you going?"

"To the border! My Gamma needs me! Don't forget I'm a warrior!" She yelled before shifting and speeding off into the forest in her wolf form.

Left in utter shock, I contemplated going to the bunker before realizing I didn't listen to her instructions. Instead of looking for it, I took off my clothes and jumped, shifting midair, heading in the same direction where Jenny ran off.

I'd been running for a while when I heard scuffling and commotions that pointed me in the direction of the fight.

'Aaron!' I mindlinked my brother.

'Are you in the bunker?' He asked, and I heard him gasping for air.

'No, I'm heading your way!' I declared bravely.

'What the fuck! Go back! Turn around, and off to the bunker now!' He growled at me in the mindlink.

'I trained! I can help!' I tried to sound confident. 2

'Are you out of your fucking mind? You trained for a few days and you think you can fight? Go back or I swear to the Moon Goddess that I will kill you more if you end up dead today!'

'Thanks, Aaron! Sounds like a plan.' I joked, but I felt a shiver of fear when my paws led me to the clearing where our warriors and several rogues were fighting.

Oh, Goddess! What have I done? Did I really go here knowing I was not equipped like these warriors here? 1

But I am here now. I might do something helpful. Rain puffed her chest as our eyes scanned the clearing, and my heart dropped when I saw Jenny's wolf, Sapphire, being attacked by a big brown wolf. Without thinking more, I ran my way across to reach her.

I didn't know how I got there without any other rogues intercepting me along the way. But I didn't dwell on it. Once I reached the area, I didn't waste any time and slammed my body against the wolf holding Sapphire by her neck. 1