

## Chapter 9

I blinked my eyes twice before my tears spilled. My mate had marked someone else. He was supposed to be the person who loved me more than anything in the world. He was supposed to be the person who'd do anything for me. He was the person who I'd have our babies with and spend the rest of my life with...

But he wasn't.

I dried my eyes the back of my hand and stood up. Right now, I felt completely numb. I walked outside to my balcony and sat there underneath the colorful sky. It was truly a beautiful sight, though I couldn't bring myself to appreciate the scenery or anything anymore for that matter.

Alpha and Claire must've understood that I wanted to be left alone because they didn't follow me. I brought my knees to my chest and wrapped my arms around it. The gentle wind blew my hair softly as I closed my eyes.

If I thought my life was hard before, then I must be really weak. My wolf was crushed after she'd learnt what had really happened, but I think she knew from before. I knew that I had never been good enough for any of my family, but I didn't think I was so bad that life itself hated me and treated me like this.

But right now, all I had to concentrate on doing was looking after my babies and giving them the best possible lifestyle I possibly could...

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Few days had already passed since I found out that my mate had marked someone else. For the pack's sake I wished that it wasn't Nicole. She would've been a terrible Luna and most people knew that but they were too scared to ever say it to her face. Since then, I had gotten better. Sure, there was that horrible pain every time he mated with her but it wasn't as bad now as our bond was nearly broken. It was relatively faint and didn't pain me as much as it used to.

That morning after I found out about him, I woke up in an empty bed and later found out that Alpha came to check on me and found me sleeping on the cool ground of my balcony, so he picked me up and settled me onto the bed, as it was bad for the babies and me.

Somehow, the pack found out what Chase had done to me and were giving me sympathetic glances every time they saw me, and that was except Emma.

She never showed me any pity at all, but instead tried to take my mind off things- which I was extremely glad for. I hate it when people sent me looks of pity; it made me feel weak and helpless. But Emma, she cheered up me up throughout the day and helped me forget about everything. We went shopping for me and the babies, had manicures and pedicures, and even went to the cinema. Of course, she paid. She was the best friend anyone could ever have.

The next couple of days went pretty well. We both managed to do some more shopping for the babies, so now they have almost everything they'll need for the first few months. I've been taking online classes since I can't go to school, or I didn't want to. I guess I'm too scared that I'll just get bullied again. And that would put stress on me, hence affecting the babies. Well, that was just one of my excuses anyways when Alpha told me I had to go to school for the first two months, but after a lot of persuading, he finally gave in.

Today was finally the day of the barbeque and when I would be officially be introduced to the rest of the pack. Honestly, I was both excited and a little nervous. I had met some of them- who lived in the pack house- but not all as they lived in their own, separate homes.

I was scared that I wasn't going to be accepted, and rejected like I had been for most of my life. But then again, I was close to Alpha and Claire and Emma, as well as Conor and Amy. I knew they were all my real family. Claire was like the motherly figure I never really had and the rest of them were like the siblings I wished for in my dreams.

I sighed and opened my eyes. My bump had gotten a few centimeters bigger in the last few days- Emma has been forcing me to measure my waist every single day to make sure that I was the right size. It was slightly over the top, but I couldn't blame her for trying to make sure that my babies and I were in the perfect condition.

Using my hands, I pushed myself up from my laying position and sat up on the bed. I rubbed my eyes and made my way to my bathroom. I took a quick shower: scrubbing myself with strawberry shower gel and massaging my scalp with mango and coconut shampoo, I relaxed and calmed down a bit.

I quickly got dressed in a simple white and pink striped tank dress, which was stretchy enough to cover my stomach. I put my hair in a simple bun and tied a pink bandana into a headband with a bow on the side. I rubbed on sun cream on my legs, arms, face and anywhere else where skin was visible. Lastly, I slipped on my white converses with ankle socks.

It was already afternoon right now as I woke up quite late and took about an hour to get ready so I could hear most people coming in already. Alpha decided to have a barbeque early in the afternoon then a bonfire later on since they hardly had a day where the whole pack met

up and had fun and now that they did, he wanted to make sure they spent a lot of time together enjoying themselves.

I exited my bedroom and noticed that there were quite a lot of people present already. As I made my way down the stairs, careful to stick to the banister as instructed- no, more like demanded- by Claire, I noticed a couple of banners which read 'Welcome to The Family Sophia'. My heart swelled up from all the love I received from these people whom I barely knew for a couple of months but they were still more loving than my family had ever been in my entire life.

I blinked back the tears of joy and as I step foot on the ground, someone pulled me into a very tight hug.

"You look beautiful!" Emma screamed excitedly, receiving a few amusing looks from the people around.

"People! People!" she said loud enough to gain their attention. She stood on the stairs so everyone could see her and started, "This right here is my bestie Sophia, but everyone calls her Sophie. Loads of you probably know her but those who don't, here she is an amazing person. She's pregnant so don't hurt her or make her do any jobs at all. And if any of you hurt her or her babies, then I'll chop your balls off and feed them to seagulls outside. And if you're a girl, which then means that you obviously don't have balls then I'll make sure you'll need a plastic surgery to re-arrange what's left of her face. Understood?"

I blushed bright red and looked at the ground at my shoes as if they were the most fascinating thing on Earth right now. I wasn't really used to 'good' attention, so I didn't exactly know how to act, while Emma stood there, looking as amazing and powerful as ever. There were a couple of agreements or nods and a few mumbles. Finally getting the reaction she wanted, she grinned, "Cushty!"

I chuckled along with few of the other pack members. "I see you've already introduced Sophie to the pack, huh?" smirked Alpha.

"She sure has, Alpha," I muttered, glancing around to see the curious stares of many.

"Sophia, for the hundredth time, call me DANIEL!" he said.

"I'm sorry, we were never allowed to call my old Alpha by his name," I muttered.

"Don't worry about it, just call me Daniel, ok? I'm not that old!" he laughed.

I chuckled then nodded. After talking for about a few minutes, he left to go find Claire while Emma continued speaking at hundred miles per hour.

Soon, few other new mothers came up to me and gave me advice on which were the best nappies to use or the best milk to use after they stop breast-feeding. Emma soon left, saying that all these things were and I quote, 'boring her death'. It was nice to see they were truly a nice bunch of people and very accepting.

Soon enough, it was the bonfire and we were all sat outside in front of the fire eating. I had a really bad craving for chocolate cake so I was having that while the rest of the pack members were eating grilled chicken or salad.

The kids were running around, chasing each other. The teenagers, who were a bit younger than me, giggling and gossiping. The teens my age was chatting on their phones or even making out. Ew. But all in all, it was a truly happy sight and atmosphere. "Guys, can I have your attention please?" Al- Daniel said from the stage.

We all turned to look at him with questioning looks while he just smiled.

"Few days ago, I heard this angel with the most beautiful voice sing," he began. We all looked around to see who this person was. Nope, no clue.

"And I really want this person to sing for all of us," he continued. "So please come on stage and sing for us Soph."

What?! Me?

Everyone turned to look at me with pleading eyes. "But, I-I can't sing!" I protested.

"Please?" he said softly. I couldn't say no to those puppy eyes. Damn him!

I smiled shyly at him and nodded slightly before walking up to the stage. I felt everybody's eyes on me but paid no attention. He handed me a guitar, which I took and sat on the stool right in the middle of the small stage. So, he'd obviously planned this from before. I closed my eyes and started playing one of my favorite songs- Skyscraper by Demi Lovato. The words flowed out of my mouth as I continued singing. I poured my heart out in the song.

When I finished the song, I was met by silence. I opened my eyes and looked at my lap biting my lip. Suddenly applause poured through the crowd and hesitantly, I looked up to see the pack cheering. I smiled and looked up completely now at their smiling faces.

I stepped off the stage and instantly, an older-looking woman came up to me but she was beautiful, with her long golden hair and baby blue eyes.

"Honey, I know you're pregnant, but I want you to work for me at my little cafe. We desperately need someone to attract in more customers and you are perfect. You're an amazing singer," she said all in one breath.