

Chapter 0485

I shouldn't care so much about what happens to them. They have been hot and cold with me my whole life. Mostly cold and dismissive. But when we were friends they got under my skin and made me care and I don't know how to turn that off. I can't knowingly let anything bad happen to them.

The three of us throw a couple of half-assed ideas around, but don't really get anywhere, so we decide to sleep on it and think fresh in the morning. Maybe talking to Oliver and Sam will help too. They might even have an idea of where this stupid anchor thing could be.

As expected I barely slept, but what I didn't expect was Jena sleeping like a rock. Even with the thought of Mike coming for her, she didn't move a muscle once she was out. I had to shake her awake for patrols.

Something is different today. The air is different, not thick and heavy like something bad is going to happen, but also not light and fluffy like something wonderful is happening. Just a change, a shift in the atmosphere.

We both get ready for patrol. I strap on all of my gear, my boots with blades, thigh holsters with all my emergency healing supplies, my back holster with two knives, wrist guards with small throwing knives and my jacket with four extra blades. No werewolf should be carrying as many

weapons as I do, but something about them makes me feel safe and confident. Elena said trust my instincts so I'm going with it.

"You're going to wear that to training and stick out like a sore thumb." Lil laughs at me.

"Nah, I'll look like a warrior who is incharge of the stupid trials. No one else wants to, because we all know it's stupid and a massive distraction we don't need." 1

We eat quickly and head out to do our shift. When we get to the patrol HQ to check in, that's when I notice it. The honey smell that has always brought me comfort is strong and demanding. Like someone turned on a burner and cranked up the dial on the fragrance.

I turn and see my friend. How could I have forgotten? It's his birthday, he's eighteen today.

"Oliver! Oh wow! Look at you!"

He's just standing there in all his man glory. His already rugged features are sharper somehow. His eyes brighter. Tattoos sharper and on full display in his cut off t-shirt. I think he might be bigger than even just yesterday. He has this glow around him. It's like an orange tint I have never noticed before.

"Hey, Bltty." He breathes out and then smiles that devastating smile.

“Happy Birthday, big guy.” I walk over and give him a big hug. He wraps me up and I melt into him. He buries his nose in my hair and we just stand there.

“Okay, okay, okay. Stop groping my sister. F*ck, Shorty. I don’t know if I’m going to be able to handle you finding your mate.” 2

I laugh and let go of Oliver, he doesn’t release me right away though. He reaches up and touches my cheek with the back of his knuckles. The gesture is very intimate and I am all of a sudden very uncomfortable being this close to him. So I take a full step back and breathe deep again.

“I had to try.” He says roughly, still smiling, not looking ashamed at all about touching me like that. 1

“Wait, what?”

“Don’t be dense, we all see how you two are together. It’s natural to think you might be mates.” Jena shoves me in the shoulder.

“But, I’m not eighteen, I won’t know anything until then.” Why do I sound panicky? I would be lucky to be mated to Oliver. 1

“Okay, I even think it’s a possibility.” Mateo huffs out. “And let’s be honest, there is nothing normal about you. Never has been, so you being able to sense your mate early is absolutely in the realm of possibilities. But, man, seriously, keep your hands to yourself in front of me.” They both laugh.

“That’s not funny.” I grumble and walk past all three of them who think this is a joke.

“Stop by later, we are going to grill out. Apparently there are traditions to try and live up to.” She says over her shoulder following me. When she catches up she asks. “What was that back there?”

“What do you mean?”

“You let him hug you, hold you like he’s your boyfriend, but the minute he touched your face, you froze up like something was wrong.” 1

“I don’t know. Next to Sierra he’s probably the person who knows me the best, he is my best guy friend, always has been. I don’t know how I feel about the idea of being his mate. Whenever I thought about mates, I never pictured any of the guys for me.” 2

“With the amount of man candy you have just floating in your orbit, you’ve never thought about any of them as more?! You are crazy, and Mateo’s right, there is nothing normal about you.”

“I’m going to take that as a compliment, jerk.” We head to where we need to be and shift to begin our patrol.

As we run Jena and I both feel for the magic that is surrounding us. Then I realized, with the birthday and mate talk I was so distracted that I forgot to tell them what Elena

said last night about the magic and the barriers. So I mindlink Mateo and Oliver and fill them in on everything she said and tell them to do the same. Mateo thinks I'm stupid and reminds me he is a wolf not a witch, but Oliver shuts him down quickly and tells him what to look for. That's our other connection though, we are connected by magic or with magic. I think he might be overestimating our connections into something they aren't. I just keep hearing Elena in my head 'trust your instincts.' My wolf and I agree, Oliver is ours, somehow, but I don't know if 'mate' is it. I've never even had a boyfriend, so this is blind territory for me. 1

We finish our run and meet up with Lil, where Jena proceeds to exaggerate the entire interaction between Oliver and I and then she laughs at me like everyone else, who seems to think this is the most natural and obvious thing in the world and I'm an idiot for not seeing it.

"I told them to come over tonight so we can grill and celebrate. We need some normal downtime. Tell Sam too." She points at both of us as she walks off. 1

We walk into the training grounds with smiles on our faces, but that lasts about two seconds when I look to the head of the training grounds and realize hell has frozen over. Alpha Lucas, Luna Ava, Cam, Kota, Kaley and Kevin are all standing there looking like a picture perfect family. My breath hitches and I feel like I am going to throw up just at the sight they present. And for a moment I think I am too late to save them. 1

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My heart actually hurts. There is pain everywhere. My ribs feel like they are contracting in on themselves.

"Midge, inhale, exhale. Good." Lil brings me back from my stomach dropping tunnel vision. "Look at them."

"I am." I grit out, we are still walking forward, but stick to the outside edge of the group that approaches our pack leaders.

I notice Sam, Oliver and Mateo off to the side too. "They're never all here. What the hell is going on?" I whisper to Lil, momentarily forgetting that I should mindlink my asshole thoughts.

***"None of them want to be here. Look at your Alpha, if he balls his fists any tighter, his claws are going to go through his hand. And Kaley may be in between your twins, but every time she moves to touch them they shift so she misses.

This is not them, remember that. Whatever they say, whatever they do, it's not their choice."***

"How did you see all of that?"

***"Because I'm not in the middle of that love quadrangle. They know you're here. She knows you're here. Don't let her see you're affected. She will get what's coming to her and it will be as public as we can make it. You are here to do a job, that's what she needs to see. Keep everyone safe and just

go through the motions.*** Lil's menacing tone is dangerous. She's a little dark at the best of times, but for me and Jena, her protective streak is through the roof.

"The Alphas and future Alphas have been occupied with the protection and security of our pack and have been noticeably absent from training. They would like to see what we have been working on and the progress the Elite Warriors have made with you all. They may even join in as a treat." Delta Kyle finishes his explanation.

Lil and I look at each other and roll our eyes., but don't say anything as we move to a training circle to begin warm-ups, again staying as far away from the watchful eyes of my enemy as possible. What I do feel are two pairs of eyes drilling holes into the back of my head.

"Is it bad of me to wish that you would have seen Oliver right now and had that epic moment right here in front of them? The way Jena described it, everyone needed a cold shower after." 2

"Ugh! Stop." I roll my eyes again and then smile. ***"No, it doesn't make you bad, cause I had the same thought and funny enough, I don't feel guilty about the thought either."***

She smiles wide and wicked at me as she lunges toward me working on a leg sweep maneuver. I should not have said that, she's up to something now. We get through our warm-ups and attack reviews. We all broke off to get water before

separating to spar in one-on-one and two-on one groups.

Lil makes sure to move us as close to Sam, Oliver and Mateo as we can be. I breathe a little easier. I thought she was going to put us in front of the twins and try and start sh*t with Kaley and Kevin. Although we are close enough to be within earshot of them.

"Hey, f*ckers. It's been a while, who wants to throw down? Midge here has been bored with one on one since she was five."

None of the three of them hide their amusement. So, apparently, talking to Lil is okay, they were just banned from talking to me. Good to know. She should have thought that through, but I guess that's the point she hasn't really thought this all the way through, just reacting in the moment to things that make her mad or feel left out.

"I'll go." Sam chimes in. "I cannot wait for you to see how fast I am, Little Bit. It's been two years, baby." He steps up to me.

"Hey, watch that baby sh*t. She's not your baby. Stick to 'Little Bit' like a good boy." Oliver walks up and slaps him on the back. "Actually step back, I want first crack at her. It's been too long."

"Oliver! What are you doing?"

"You are not the only one that can have fun with this. It's my birthday Bitty, just go with it." Then he winks at me.

"That is not fair. You can't pull the birthday card."

I can and I will. I'm making a point baby."

"Oh so you can call me baby, but no one else can?"

"Yep!" He pops the 'p'. ***I am the ONLY one who is eighteen and has any right to even suggest you might be my mate and I am just as sick of all this fake bullsh*t as you."*** He lunges at me fast and I have to dodge his massive tattooed arms. I tuck and roll under him then jump up to be ready for the next thing he throws at me. ***"If what I say and do makes people think you might possibly be my mate, so be it. We can't live without you, we have proven that time and time again. Some of us just need reminding."*** 1

"Some of us are under a spell." I quip back.

"You were quick to pinpoint them."

"You were quick to sound jealous." I try to distract him. My mind did go directly to the twins when he was talking about all of them. It's just because they are going to be the hardest to break and they have been at the forefront of my mind since we have been able to break everyone else free.

Another swipe, this time he gets my leg and tosses me on my back. A loud whoosh of air leaves my lungs and I am dazed for a moment. Oliver leans over me, I let him get closer, then wrap my arms around his neck and my one leg

around his waist, which almost doesn't fit, and I use the other to propel us around so I am now sitting on him about halfway up his torso. I have one of his arms pinned above his head. He has my other arm pinned to my side. I am at a standstill. He could easily flip us with his leg power. I am just too short for that, my knees barely hit the ground on either side of him.

He extends the arm I am holding above his head, which brings me closer to his chest. Now I see he let me switch positions, because he still has control. I can't let go of his arm. He'll just grab me and pin me. He slides me so I am holding all of my upper body weight in the extended arm in front of me. I won't be able to sustain this for very long at all.

I am so close to him now, our noses are almost touching. I narrow my eyes at him and he just smiles that pearly white, smile that says he's all trouble but totally worth it.

" Tell me the truth. Was that day really your first kiss?"

"Why is that so important to you?" I deflect.

"Because the first time someone kisses you, it should not be to save your life. You deserve something like that to be special." 6



Miss L

Chapter 0487

So...There has been an issue with the formating that I use to differentiate between the chatracters talking out loud and when they are mindlinking.

The mindlink should be bold and in italics, and while it looks like that in the author center and all of my views, it does not seem to be that way for your view as the readers. It is something that is being worked on. In the mean time I will place '***' at the beginning and end of the mindlinked dialogue just so it makes sense for context.

There are many times when Sky is talking to someone and mindlinking others. Typically with Lil when they are badmouthing someone. As the story reaches the end this will be mor crucial.

Let me know if it is helpful or just distracting. 🙏

Thanks for reading and sticking with me this far into Sky's journey! I appreciate all of you.

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