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Dakota goes to move but I stop him again. "Wait, we don't know what happened. We can't just blindly walk around. There could be traps or guards that aren't friendly if things didn't go our way."

"What are you thinking, Tiny?"

"It's obviously been long enough that there isn't someone standing watch. I'm actually hoping that's a good thing."

"You're thinking that if our side somehow lost they would have put a guard here." Cam's following my train of thought.

"Yes, but there are plenty of places around here to hide out too, so we can't be too comfortable either."

"You'd think one of your team would be here too. They are more protective of you than we are." Oliver smiles at me.

"I know my team and they wouldn't leave us without some kind of protection or overwatch. Nathaniel knows we're out, but the question is, do we sit here and wait or head towards the packhouse? We don't know what's happened or what could still be going on. If we leave this spot will we be putting others in danger?"

"Can you still link them now that your warrior link is gone and you are marked?" Dakota asks.

"I don't know, I didn't even think to try." I take a deep breath and feel for that link in my head. I can feel Jena, but that might be because she's mated to my brother and a part of my pack now. I search deeper for Lil, Nathaniel and Wyatt. I'm nervous as I search for them and almost give up, but then I get it. A spark, that little light that lets

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me know Lil is there trying to push through. I reach for it in my mind and tug.

- *****Oh sh*t, Midge!!! Where the f*ck have you four been?"*
- **** We didn't go anywhere. We got locked in that tornado thing and it took us a little bit to get out."***
- ****"Uh, no. Your windstorm took off with you like Dorothy. You've been gone for weeks."***
- "Lil, says we've been gone for weeks." A chorus of expletives come from all my guys.
- ***"Where are you guys? Is it safe for us to head to you?"*
- ***"Yeah, we're good. Lots to tell you. We're all at the packhouse, everyone's gonna be so excited to see you."***
- ***"We're on our way."***

I take off, not even looking back at the guys, knowing they will follow without question. I shift and we run fast through the woods. Everything seems brighter, all the colors are enhanced now, the smells are sharper.

- ***"Wow! I can smell each rabbit and squirrel differently."*
- ** Dakota laughs in my head.
- ***"Don't get distracted, you can make friends with the tiny fluff balls later."*** Oliver laughs at him.
- ***"I was actually thinking tracking is going to be so much more precise. I'll have to test it with the pups when they get back. They will never win at hide and seek again. Even with all of the tricks Smalls teaches them."***

We all laugh.

"Of course you're thinking about how to beat children at a game." Cam digs at him too.

*** Hey, don't knock it, they are ruthless." ***

"I can see the packhouse!" I don't know why that makes me emotional, but even in my wolf form I can feel the moisture build behind my eyes.

We are finally running down our street and up to the front lawn of the packhouse. I shift without thinking twice. I have never been so excited to see a building before. I turn to look at my guys and notice they are all still in wolf form. They are all exactly the same size, but now they all have a black triangular patch on their chest that is the same color as my wolf.

"What's up guys? Shift. Let's go inside and figure out what's happening."

"Bitty, we haven't learned the 'shift with clothes on' thing and none of us is in a position to be in our human form naked in front of you."

"Wha....Ohhhhh."

"I mean unless you want us to drag you upstairs and finish this." Dakota adds in a sultry voice I don't think I've ever heard him use before. "I just want the options out there."

***"You're an idiot. Love, will you go get us shorts please."

I laugh, they are going to keep me on my toes, that's for sure. "I'll be right back." I don't have to go far, we keep extra clothes all over the place for quick changes like this. Once they have shifted and are properly covered we walk to the back yard where all of our friends are sitting around the fire. Once Sierra catches sight of us it's pandemonium. Everyone jumps up giving us hugs and back slaps. Lots of conversations that I can't quite follow are going on. We finally walk over to join them at the fire

