Haven

CHLOE POV

Chloe-I think I got the hang of this.

I proudly say as I run through the same stretch of trees I've been practicing in since falling on my face.

Wolf-I think so too...it's getting late, Chloe. Find a pond

Chloe- And how should I just find a pond? You forget I'm new to all this.

Wolf- getting cheeky, are we

I smile in my mind at our easy banter. I think I like my wolf. She is funny but at the same time mature. She isn't childish with her humor, which is something I can definitely appreciate.

Wolf- okay, well, close our eyes and try to close our ears. Focus your attention on our nose and breathe in. Learn the scents around us. Sniff the grass and the trees. Smell the soil. Log away the smells and keep moving until you smell water....then head in its direction. The water will smell like rain. You know what rain smells like, right?

Chloe-yes, I do. It's just, umm, this feels weird.

I whisper my link to her, and my wolf falls silent for a moment. Her emotions tell me nothing as I wait for her to respond.

Chloe-Wolf?

Wolf-how is using your senses weird? I don't understand.

Chloe- oh, um. I've never sniffed anything before. I mean, I've smelled

things, but I've never dropped my nose down to the ground and sniffed.

Wolf – that's probably why you can't do anything until you get us. You don't use your senses properly.

My wolf responds almost smugly as I begin to follow her previous instructions.

Chloe-Maybe. It's just not instinctual for us like it is you.

Wolf- well, that will change. Using your heightened senses will become second nature. Don't you worry.

I smile at her in our head before the faint scent of rain wafts up to our spout.

Chloe-I Smell It

I exclaim excitedly before dashing towards the smell. Our wolf legs move easily underneath me, and I smile as I use our tail as a balance to whip around trees.

This is it. I'm about to get to see my wolf for the first time. I wonder what color she is!

After a few minutes of running and searching, I find the tiny pool of water calling out to our nose. I eagerly approach and peek over the edge before gasping in my mind.

My wolf is exquisite. Her eyes are a gorgeous icy blue, and her fur is a deep black with a few specks of white fur in her chest area. Her build is muscular and thick, which makes sense considering she is a Luna.

Chloe- You're beautiful!

My wolf gloats at my praise in our head, and I laugh at her.

Wolf-Naturally! I am a Luna. I am built strong with good camouflage... Now, what do you think my name should be?

She asks, and I freeze. I watch as our black fur ruffles in the breeze, and I search my mind for ideas. I didn't know that she would leave her name up to me... I just thought she wanted me to see what she looked like. But I guess she was pushing me to see our reflection so I could choose her name properly.

A few minutes of solid thinking pass, and her impatience begins to pulse like a heartbeat within my mind.

Chloe- Hold on, okay. Giving you a name is kind of special you now!

She huffs at my remark, but her overwhelming emotion disappears, and my mind relaxes.

Chloe- I got it. Your name is Haven! Because you are my Haven. You are my happy place. You made me smile and laugh on what was the secondworst day of my life. 4

I exclaim within our mind before silence falls, and I wait for her opinion.

Haven -- Haven... Haven... I like it. And I love the meaning behind it. I will always be your Haven, Chloe..... No matter what.

I smile, and a sweet sadness fills me as Haven thinks over my words.

Haven- What was the worst day of your life?

She asks the question with a cautious tone, and I sigh.

Chloe- I will tell you that story tomorrow on the train. For now, let's go back to my stuff and rest.

I am too exhausted to relive that right now.

LOGAN POV

"The pain is temporary, Logan," Dad shouts past my screams as my entire pack watches me shift outside on the grass without my mate.

The members who weren't in attendance at my birthday party are probably confused since it is customary for all pairs to shift together after finding one another. But they will know soon enough. Dad said he would announce my stupid mistake after I shift.

Additional pain begins to rip my skull in half, and my scream takes on a whole new pinch. I sound as if I have never experienced pain before.

I wonder if Chloe can hear me from wherever she is. Probably not she left hours ago. The sad thought passes as another wave of pain shatters my spine.

"This is it," I think with utter exhaustion.

Everyone says the spine is the last step in the transformation. I did it. I shifted. A few pops sound out, and my screams die as my pain evaporates into thin air.

"Logan, son, can you hear? Answer me, baby," mom's shrill voice demands as soon as my body stills.

I growl for the first time as anger fills me. I told dad I didn't want her here. She must not have listened to him and came to my shift anyway. "Oh, don't be like that. This is a happy occasion," she says while trying to sound loving and motherly in front of the watching crowd.

Unknown - Why do we dislike this female? Where is our mate?

A deep voice asks within my mind as I go to growl at her again.

Logan - That's my mother. She has betrayed us. She can not be trusted. Our mate is...our mate isn't here. I did something stupid, before you came tonight

I admit, and the first emotion I feel from my wolf is rage. His own growl erupts from our mouth, and he jumps up onto our paws without being told.

Unknown - WHERE IS OUR MATE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

His anger leaves a bitter taste on my tongue and cringe back from him even though I can not physically separate from myself.

Logan-Tumm. I-

"Some of you might be wondering why Logan is shifting here alone tonight and why his wolf seems to be so agitated," Dad says loudly, addressing our waiting pack members, and I forget linking.

I will let my father explain why our beautiful mate isn't here with us like the whipped puppy I am.

"Earlier this evening, my son followed some misguided advice. He rejected his mate in front of his birthday guests, and she left for Outcast. Now, do not be upset. I have counseled my son on the matter, and during the next hunt, he will repair his bond. Until then, we will support him and guide him into being the best future Alpha he can be," Father announces,

and half the crowd gasps.

My eyes fall to the ground, and my wolf goes completely silent.

"Misguided advice," my mother rage whispers, and my eyes shoot back open.

I look up to see her shooting my father daggers, and I brace myself.

"I told our son to reject that Omega, and he will not go back on it. Not if I have anything to say about it," my mother snaps loud enough for the pack members to hear.

Many gasp again, but others begin to look angry.

"Why did you have him reject an omega," one member yells, and my mother's flushed face turns towards her angry people.

"Because Omegas are too weak for the Luna role," Mom snaps, and many members start yelling.

My father raises his hand, and silence falls.

"One at a time," he orders, and an older male begins to stomp towards the front of the crowd.

The other members part for him respectfully, and even my father nods to show him respect.

"A female werewolf doesn't learn what role she will have within a pack until she meets her mate. That "omega" wasn't a true omega. She is and was our next Luna! And being an Omega isn't something to laugh at.

Many true omegas in my time have done amazing things. You, Luna, are wrong, "the elder yells and the crowd of members cheer out in

agreement with his speech.

My mother visibly pales and looks to my father for help, but he looks away from her, publically giving her the cold shoulder.

"I...I have never heard of an Omega doing anything more than clean," My mother lies, and Chloe's best friend steps forward.

She meets my mother's eyes head-on before speaking, and I know the truth about Chloe's mom is about to become pack knowledge.

"Don't you dare lie. Hannah Patterson stood her ground against three invaders while you ran for safety. You abandoned your pup, Hannah, and her pup to save your own hide. Hannah's daughter is the one you made your son reject, and the entire pack should know the real reason why! It's because you are ashamed. You want to disgrace omegas to make yourself feel better. But guess what you can't! Chloe never forgot what happened that day. She never forgot her mother, who was a true Omega! Her mother died in her arms bloody but victorious, and you, Luna Kandace, lived on in cowardly shame," Melanie shouts, and the crowd goes silent.

Varied looks of disbelief and rage come over just about everyone as my mother finally snaps. She shifts into her white and grey wolf instantly. She growls and darts towards a stunned-looking Melanie.

The crowd screams, and the elder who came forward to speak dives in front of Melanie's wolfless body

"NO," my father shouts, but it's too late.

My mother's teeth are buried in the elder's now broken neck.

"SHIFT," Dad shouts, and my mother's wolf whimpers.

She drops the deceased member before shifting back to human form slowly. She keep her eyes on my father's towering figure, openly pleading for mercy as he approaches her.

"Please...I don't know," mom manages to say before dad slaps her so hard she hits the ground.

"YOU JUST KILLED A MAN WHO FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH MY FATHER. YOU ATTACKED AN UNDERAGE OMEGA FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS. YOU, LUNA KANDACE ARE STRIPPED OF YOUR TITLE! YOU ARE NO LONGER MY MATE. I, ALPHA PATRICK THURMAN, REJECT YOU, KANDACE THURMAN, AS MY MATE AND LUNA. YOU ARE TO BE IMPRISONED FOR LIFE FOR MURDER," Dad shouts into my mother's bruised face.

The crowd begins to cheer as she begins to scream just like Chloe did.

"Accept my rejection! It is the only way to end your pain," Dad says without an ounce of sympathy, and my mother sobs.

She clutches her naked chest as if it might explode as she continues to scream.

"DO IT" Dad orders, and mom pants.

"I, Kan..dace Th...Thurman, a..accept your rej...rejection," mom sobs out around the obvious pain in her chest, and dad sighs.

"Warriors, show Kandace her new living quarters. Workers, please transfer Mr. Malone's body to the morgue," dad says, and members with those titles move to fulfill his orders.

When dad turns to look at me, still in wolf form, my heart stops.

