

## Chapter 20

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Star

We join Alpha Andrew and Luna Amanda in the Alpha suite. They both look a little nervous. Throughout dinner, the conversation was strained. They kept shooting worried glances at each other.

Luna got up and cleared the table, when she came back, she offered us all coffee, but Lexi interrupted her, “mum, I think it’s time to just get it over with, this has been the weirdest dinner I have ever been too, so just spit it out.”

She sighs, her shoulders drooping, “ok, let’s go to the living room, everything we have is there,” there is a box and a file on the coffee table, we all take a seat on the couch, Luna sits beside me and takes my hands.

“Clementine only knew the story Gemma told her, a story we made up to protect you and your mother,” she opens the file in front of us, “Andrew and I had only been mated about a year, I was about 4 months pregnant with the boys, Andrew had just been made Alpha.”

She pulls out a photo of a young woman with wavy light brown hair and green eyes. It was like looking in a mirror. “We had been walking in the forest one evening, when we picked up a scent, we put our guard up and Andrew ran toward the scent, wanting to protect me, of course I followed him and we found a girl, no more than 18 years old, she was cowering behind a bush.”

Alpha Andrew sighed. “I was so worried about Amanda and our pups that I went full warrior on her, not my finest moment. The air seemed to

crackle with electricity, the sky darkened, and it poured with rain. Thunder boomed right above us and a bolt of lightning struck the ground right beside me.” he shuddered at the memory.

“Amanda walked towards her, calming her, telling her it will be ok, she looked at Amanda’s growing stomach and everything stopped, the skies cleared, it was like it never happened, apart from the big hole in the ground beside me.”

“She stood up and put her hand over her stomach. ‘Please help us’ she asked and collapsed.” I carried her back to the cottage in the woods, we decided that we should keep her hidden until we knew what was going on.”

Amanda looked at the photo, then touched my cheek. “I linked Gemma and Alvin. They brought supplies and spare clothes. I made dinner while we waited for her to wake up. When she came to, we got her cleaned up and fed her, then she told us her story.”

Amanda geared up and her voice caught in her throat. Ace went and made coffee, giving her time to compose herself. When he came back, she grabbed onto her mug like it was a lifeline.

“Her English was not great, but we pieced together enough to understand what had happened. Her name was Thalia. She was from a small pack on the Greek island of Paxos. The woman of her family had always had special wolves. Her bloodline was supposed to be the original elementals, but with every generation, their wolves became more powerful.”

I look at my mates, my eyes wide. Amanda takes my hand. “Her pack had always kept to themselves, but someone found out. They were attacked during the night. Her entire pack was wiped out, and she was taken.”

“She was seventeen when they took her. They held her for nine months, then the Alpha forcibly marked and mated her. They drugged her with

wolfsbane to keep her weak and when she turned eighteen, her wolf was too weak to shift.”

“When she became pregnant, they stopped giving her Wolfsbane and she became stronger, but was scared to shift in case she hurt the baby, but without shifting her powers would remain dominant, so she waited until late at night and let her wolf take over.”

“They got past the guards and escaped, they ran for days, only stopping to steal food and clothing, after a week, to protect her pup she decided to stay in human form, she arrived here 2 weeks later, she was 3 months pregnant.”

She stops, looking into her empty cup, she looks at Ace and he goes to get refills, while he is gone, she shows me other picture’s, some with Thalia and Gemma some with Amanda, every photo seems to show her with a bigger baby bump, she was here for months, why isn’t she still here, did she abandon me? I mean, she was raped, so I guess I could understand if she couldn’t bond with me, but I was still her pup. Didn’t she feel anything for me?

As if sensing my thoughts, Lexi knelt beside me. “You doing ok baby?” I look down at him and shrug. I have no clue how I feel right now. He pulls me onto his lap and I wrap my arms around his neck, snuggling into him, inhaling his scent. I calm myself and relax into him.

Ace comes back with more coffee, Lex lifts me up and sits in my seat, keeping me on his knees, keeping me close for support. Amanda looks at me, “are you ready to go on, sweetheart? It’s a lot to take in, but you need to hear it all.” I nod, playing with Lexi’s fingers absentmindedly. We settle in for the rest of the story.