

Chapter 1 I

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I wake up feeling super excited because today is a special day. I can't believe today is my birthday and I finally turn 18. I quickly freshen up and walk downstairs to have breakfast. I walk downstairs to find mom making breakfast in the kitchen. I am sure she is making my favourite. Mom and I don't live in the pack house. We are from the Dark moon pack.

"Good morning dear" Mom says once I walk into the kitchen

"Good morning mom" I say taking a seat on the kitchen stool

Mom is actually not my birth mother. My parents died after I was born so I know nothing about them. I still love her like I would love my real mother because she is the only parent I have.

"Are you excited to be turning 18 today" She says placing a plate of chocolate pancakes in front of me, my favourite.

"Thank you" I say for the breakfast "And of course I am excited to be turning 18, if we were humans I can finally leave your house so that you can't control me anymore"

"Good thing we are not"

"Even if we were I could never leave you alone" I say pulling her in for a hug

"I love you too dear" She says hugging me. While releasing from our hug, a car horn is heard from outside and that would mean my ride is here. I quickly kiss mom goodbye and walk outside to meet my boyfriend.

"You didn't even touch your breakfast" Mom says, as I am walking out

"I will be late, bye" I say before I walk out the door.

"Hello, Beautiful" Matt says once I step outside. He is standing outside, beside his car

"Hey, handsome" I say walking up to him. He pulls me in for a kiss once I get close to him.

"Happy birthday" He says and hands me a box

"Thank you and what did you get for me" I say, excited to see what he got. I open it to reveal a pair of diamond hoop earrings.

"Do you like them?"

"I love them, thank you" I say, pulling him in for a hug

"You are welcome"

I know dating as a werewolf is wrong but I don't have a choice. Mom has forbidden be from accepting my mate when I meet him so I don't have a choice but to have a relationship with a human. It's the only chance I am allowed to get at happiness. I don't know why mom believes I should be with a human rather than my mate. I have tried asking her but she has never given me a reasonable reason other than it's the only way to keep me safe.

After a few minutes of driving matt drops me off at school. I go to a university here in our city. Mom would never allow me to school somewhere else. If she even had her way, she would prefer I wouldn't go to school. She does not believe there is a need for a werewolf to have a degree. I wish to be a reporter even though I am a werewolf and I don't believe any knowledge is useless even if I don't become a reporter one day. Matt does not go to college and does not plan too. He is from a wealthy family so his future is already covered for him as a human.

I walk inside the school building to start my day after I kiss matt goodbye.

"Are you sure you have thought this through" Chloe says while she lies down on my bed.

I got back from school a few hours ago. My best friend, Chloe and I are getting ready for my birthday party at Matt's house. Mom hates when kids dirty our house so we are having the party at matt's house. His house is also bigger so it's better.

“Yes, I have. We have been dating for two years and I feel it’s only right that I give myself to him” I plan to have my first time tonight with Matt. We have been dating since my junior year in high school. Matt has been so patient with me and never once tried to force me to give myself to him.

“What about your mate? How do you think he would feel that you have given yourself to a human” Chloe is also a werewolf like me.

“A mate I am forbidden to be with by my mom, and for all we know he might have already slept with someone too” I actually wish he has because when I meet him, it will give me a reason to be angry at him and maybe make it easier to reject him.

“I don’t know why your mom forbid you from been with the one destined for you. Even though she says it for your own safety I rather be with my mate than suffer in pain forever”

A lot of werewolves don’t survive well without their mate. Some die while others become rogue.

“She is my mom; she knows what’s best for me”

“I guess she does and I still think you should keep yourself for your mate.”

“I know you want that but I feel Matt deserves me”

“Okay, whatever you say” She says, giving up all hope of convincing me.

After putting on my outfit, a pink sequin bodycon dress and applying my make-up we leave for the party. We arrive after a few minutes of driving and the place is packed with teenagers. I feel like I am late to my own party. We step out of her car and walk inside. Once we are inside Chloe and I go separate ways. I try to find Matt. I see him drinking close to the DJ with a couple of his friends from high school.

“Hello baby girl” Matts says, putting his arms around me and pecks my cheeks “You look beautiful as always” He says whispering into my ears over the loud music

“Thank you” I say wrapping my arms around him.

“Come on, let dance” He says, walking us an area in the living room where people are practically having sex with clothes on and they call it dancing.

An hour or so has gone by and things are going great. The party is amazing and all my friends both human and werewolf are here. Matt left to do something and it’s been awhile since I saw him. I decide to look for him around the house. I check all the rooms upstairs in case he slept off while looking for the bathroom but I don’t find him. I almost give up but remember that I did not check his parent’s room. Matt usually locks his parent’s room during his parties to avoiding anyone going in to have sex on his parents bed or going in to spoil or steal something value.

I don’t knock on the door before entering because if it’s open only Matt would inside and I am not wrong. The only thing I did not think about was Matt having sex with someone else.

“Matt!” I shout, shocked he would do this to me. I can’t believe he is sleeping with another girl on my birthday. How could he do this to me?

“Ana, it’s not what you think” Matt says, coming off on top of the girl who I don’t know.

“It’s not what I think” I say, feeling my voice crack a little because I am about to start crying. I can’t believe I was foolish enough to want to give him my virginity tonight.

“It’s not what you think, I can explain” He says, walking towards me and tries to touch me with the same filthy hands he used on that girl.

“Don’t you dare touch me” I say as tears flow down my eyes.

I don’t waste another second in the room and run out before he sees me crying. He does not deserve my tears for him. I hear him calling my name but I act like my ears are not working and

continue walking. I don't stop walking even when I reach outside. I don't want to be anywhere close to him so I just continue walking till my legs can't go anymore.

I stop walking after what feels like about two hours. I think its two hours because before my phone died a minute ago it's been five hours since I arrived at the party. I probably sure Chloe is worried sick about me and mom too. I don't know how far away from the house I walked but I believe pretty far because I can't even mind link Chloe. I decide to start walking back to the house the way I remember but I am sure which way I came. I was crying the whole walk and only stopped a few minutes ago. Everywhere around me are just long trees and I think I am lost. I just continue walking hoping to find somewhere I can charge my phone or someone to lend me theirs. I suddenly feel tired so I decide to take a break beside a little pond, big mistake of my life. While I am trying to get comfortable beside the pond, I hear ruffling in the woods and once I take in their scent I don't need to be told to know they are rogue. They smell really horrible and always look almost dead and that's how the three in front of me look like right now. I quickly shift into my wolf and get ready for attack. My wolf is a beautiful white wolf called Eva. I can feel her getting ready to rip these rogue into shreds with her sharp teeth.

'It's been awhile since you let me out' Eva says

'That's because you refused to talk to me for two years'

'And whose fault is that'

'I can't believe you stopped talking to me because I started dating Matt'

'As much as I would love to argue with you my precious human, we have company that look like they will kill us any minute'

'Later' I say and try to focus our attention at the threat at hand

I am not the best wolf at combat but I will never back down from a fight and as feisty as Eva is she won't either. There are three rogues circling me, the one by my right attacks first. He tries to grab my shoulder with his teeth but I move away before he cans. I thought I was getting the upper hand until I realize I just severed myself to the rogue by the left. He catches my left shoulder in its mouth while I try to use my claws to pry it away. I don't even have enough time to claw the Rogue on my shoulder when the one in the centre attacks me. It captures my paw in his mouth and as its teeth pierces my flesh; a painful scream escapes my mouth. I use my teeth to sink into the neck of the rogue who has his teeth in my paw and fling him away. I am able to fling him into a tree close by and he loses consciousness, one down two to go or so I thought. Suddenly more rogues appear from the woods. I have not even gotten this rogue to leave my shoulder, how am I going to fight all of them. I can see my death already flashing before my eyes but I won't back down. I will fight till my breath. I use my paw and teeth to remove the rogue from my shoulder. He or she was there for a while and I can feel pain in my shoulder. I fight as many rogues as I can. I think if I survive this I deserve to give myself an award. I feel like they have torn every part of me but I don't back down. I can't because if I do they will eat me. I am about to attack another rogue when the most intoxicating scent drifts through my nose. I don't know exactly what it scents like but it's a mixture of the forest when it rains and sand when it rains. It scents divine to me. Eva suddenly starts becoming distracted from the threat in front of us and focuses on the scent.

'How can you be focusing on that right now?' I say but Eva but she just ignores me and tries to find where the scent is coming from.

I don't get to move anywhere when two rogues put me down. My little conversation with Eva left me distracted and it's going to get us killed. I try to pry them off but fail miserably because I am already badly injured. I can feel myself slowly slipping away but I hold on and when it seems

like all hope is gone. The scent suddenly becomes stronger. The largest wolf I have ever seen in my life appears before us. He is the most beautiful wolf I have ever seen. He is as dark as the night sky. He growls and the ground beneath us shakes with how power he is, he must be an Alpha. The rogues holding me quickly release me and run for their lives. All of them actually run away. I try to get up on my paws but fail, I am badly hurt. He takes careful step towards me and Eva starts dancing in my head. I wonder why she is happy, we were saved but I still feel like we are going to die but understand once the words leaves Eva's month.

'Mate'

Before I am able to process the words that Eva said, I start to feel dizzy. The last thing I see is our mate changing back to human form before the darkness takes me away.

Chapter 2 II

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I wake up to the most excruciating pain all over my body. The first things my eyes see are white cells. A strong smell of disinfectant passes through my nose. I look around me and I think I am in a hospital. It would explain the horrible smell and why I am wearing a hospital gown. I can't believe I survived. I really thought I died out there that night. I wonder how I arrived to the hospital. I hear voices just outside my door but it's none I recognize even the hospital does not look like our pack hospital. Where in God's name am I? The muttering stop and two people walk in. One is a doctor and the other is my mate. I was not able to get a good look at him that night because of everything that was happening. Now that I can, oh my, is he handsome. His has piecing blue eyes that are the most beautiful I have ever seen in my life. His nose is straight and his lips are just the right size looking all red and ready for me to kiss them. His jaw is straight and sharp making him look no different than a Greek god. He has raven black hair and it looks like his hands have pass through them a lot of today.

"Hello dear, how are you feeling?" The doctor says

"I am...." I try to speak but find my throat a little sore

"Have some water, you have been asleep for a while so your throat must be a bit sore" She says, handing me a glass of water.

"Thank you" I say once am done drowning the cup of water

"Can you tell me your name?"

"Anastasia Smith" I say a little lower than I was going for but I think my body is still exhausted from the danger it faced.

"Alright, which pack are you from?"

"Dark moon pack. Why are you asking me these questions? Where am I?" I say, getting confused with what is going on

"Honey, you are in the Alpha's King territory. We need to inform your Alpha about your whereabouts"

Once she finishes talking I feel like my eyes are about to fall out of their sockets, how in God's name did I get here?

"What did you just say? Who brought me here?"

"I brought you here" My mate says, finally speaking since he entered inside. He barely even looked at me. He has just been staring straight ahead the whole time the doctor has been speaking to me.

“Why, my mom must be worried sick about me. I need to go back to my pack” My mom, Matt and Chloe must be worried sick about me. Why did I mention Matt he cheated on me? He would be happy I am gone. I feel myself about to cry but stop once someone speaks.

“You are not going anywhere,”

“Why”

“Because you are badly injured and you need all the rest you can get” The doctor says

“At least let me call my mom and let her know I am fine”

“I will inform your pack Alpha, he will inform your mother” My mate says

“Thank you”

“Since I have gotten the information I need, I will leave” He says, and walks out of the room. I did not even get to know his name and the way he talks to me is so cold. I wonder why.

“You rest now and if you need anything don’t hesitant to press that button” She says, pointing at the button close to the bed

“Thank you”

“You are welcome and good bye for now” She says and walks out.

After that day, I did not see my mate again. I think it’s been two weeks since I have been here. I have only seen the doctor from earlier and a few nurses that took care of me. I was badly injured so it’s taking time for my wolf to heal my wounds. I am leaving the hospital today and I can’t wait to finally see some colour around me and get rid of these hospitals white walls. I just finished changing into a pair of jeans and white t-shirt the nurse brought for me to change into. I walk out of the room to find a man already waiting for me. He looks handsome but not as handsome as my mate. He has the aura of authority but I don’t think he is an Alpha.

“Hello, my name is Dante, but you can call me Dan. I am his Majestic’s Beta” He says with a soft smile

“Hi, I am Anastasia but you can call me Ana” I say, smiling back

I know I am in the Alpha king’s territory but why did he send his Beta to take me home. Maybe he has good relationship with my packs Alpha and wants to make sure I get home safe.

“Do you have everything you need to go?”

“I actually came with nothing”

“Yeah, that’s true. Alright then let me take you home” He says and starts walking towards the door. I follow behind him. I am so happy I am going home. I can’t wait to see mom and Chloe. I missed them these past two weeks.

We walk for a few minutes and stop at a large mansion. The whole walk here I had people staring at me and I wonder why. I know I was badly injured but I don’t think my scars look that bad and beside they will heal with time. The Alpha king’s territory is beautiful, there are beautiful flowers everywhere and the houses are far bigger and beautiful compare to the ones back home. I thought he was taking me home. Why did he bring me to someone’s house?

“Excuse me, what are we doing here” I say to him as he about to open the front door of the mansion.

“I brought you home, like I said” He says, looking at me like I have two heads

“This is not my home; I thought you were going to drive me back to my pack” I say, looking at him now like he is the one with two heads

“Why would I do that?”

“So I could go home”

“This is your new home”

“I don’t want a new home, I want to go back to my old home” Why are they trying to keep me here. I know my mate is here but I think it’s left for me to decide if I want to stay or not.

“I don’t think you have a choice”

“Why would you say that?”

“I think you know that the moment you found out you were mated to the Alpha king”

“Excuse me, mated to who now?” I say, in shock not able to believe the words out of his mouth

“You are the Alpha king’s mate”

“That is not possible”

I know that night I was attacked I guessed he was an Alpha but not the Alpha king. How can my mate be the Alpha king? He is most feared and ruthless person I know in the world. How can he be my mate? Is this come can of sick joke because I wanted to reject my mate when I meet him. I can’t be mated to the Alpha king.

“I think you know it is possible but you just don’t want to accept it”

“Of course I don’t want to accept it. He is the Alpha king for God sake. Don’t you know who he is?” I ask then remember he is his beta “What am I saying, of course you know who he is. You are his Beta”

“I know you have heard stories about how ruthless our Alpha king is, but I want you to know he would never hurt you.”

“I have heard stories of him hurting women”

The stories we have heard about his cruelty are very terrifying.

“All lies, our Alpha king might be cruel, but would never lay a finger on a woman”

“You are sure”

“I can guarantee you that”

“Alright,” I say, feeling some of my anxiety of what he might do to me reduce a little

“Now, come let’s get you inside so that you can rest. I don’t want the Alpha to have my head if you catch a cold”

“You are joking right?” I ask worried

“Of course I am” He says, smiling

Dan left a few hours ago after showing me around the house. The house is beautiful like everything on this territory, It a lovely two story building. It’s a little late at night and I am waiting for my mate to come back. You won’t believe it but I actually don’t even know my mate’s name. I went to a human school so there was no special history werewolf class growing up and beside he looks a few years older than me. I doubt they would have spoken about him in history class if we had one.

I am sitting down in the living room waiting for him and after what feels like an eternity when he finally comes back. I don’t see him at first but I smell his scent and it is lovely. I walk over to the front door to meet him.

“Hello” I say smiling once I see him

“What are you doing awake?” He says in a cold voice.

“I was waiting for you” my smile changes and I find myself confused

“Why would you wait for me? Do you need anything?”

“No, I don’t need anything. I just felt it would be nice to wait for my mate before I go to bed”

“Your mate” He says with a dark chuckle

“Yes, you are my mate”

“Yes I am but it does not mean I see you as my mate”

“What do you mean?”

“Let me tell you something, just because I am your mate does not mean anything. I don’t believe in mates, never will, never have.” He says while taking steps closer to me as he says every word into my face. His beautiful blue eyes are dark and filled with anger. I don’t understand why he is talking to me like this? Does he want to reject me; please he should not reject me. I know I planned to reject him but after meeting him, I can’t imagine my life without him already.

“Are you rejecting me?” I say, feeling my eyes pool with tears

“No, I’m not but you would wish I rejected you”

Chapter 3 II

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The next day, I wake up with a million thoughts in my head but one stick out the most. I can’t stop thinking about what my mate said yesterday. Why would he say such a thing to me? I can’t think of what he meant in his words. I walk downstairs after freshen up. I was a little sad I slept alone. I actually thought we were going to sleep in the same room. I know mates complete the mating process hours after finding each other. I walk downstairs to find a beautiful brunette standing in hallway.

“Good morning Luna” She says with a soft smile

“Hello and I am not your Luna yet” I say, returning the smile.

“But you are our Alpha king’s mate”

“Yes I am but I have not been marked by him” I say, showing her my neck

“Even though, I should still call you Luna”

“Not really and we could argue all day if you should call me Luna or not. Can you please tell me who you are and why you are here?” I say, cutting to the chase

“My name is Charlotte. I am the beta’s mate. I am here to take you to breakfast”

“Oh, why can’t I have breakfast here? I remember seeing a kitchen when Dan showed me around. I could easily cook something for myself”

“We have breakfast in the pack house so that they can do a head count”

“Breakfast must be compulsory around here”

“Not, really but it’s necessary to attend. And why won’t anyone want to eat breakfast? It’s the first meal of the day”

“Sometimes you might not be hungry”

“That’s true and we should get going so we won’t be late”

“Alright, let’s go” I say following behind Charlotte as she leads us outside

We stop walking once we arrive at a huge mansion. I think this is the pack house. We walk inside and stop once we arrive at a huge dining area. The table looks like it can hold up to 20 people.

“Does everyone eat together?” I ask Charlotte

“Not really”

“Explain please”

“The Alpha eats with his officials while the lower rank members eat with each other”

“Oh, and where are we going to seat?” I looked around earlier and almost all the seats are taken

“You are going seat there while I seat beside my mate” She says pointing to the right side of my mate. He is seated at the head of the table. I smelled him when I walked into the pack house but I didn’t see him until now.

“Oh,” I say and start walking towards where she pointed. I reach my mate and I can hear growling in delight at been so close to him. This is the first time she done anything since we arrived

‘How are you feeling’ I ask Eva

Eva was badly injured during the fight. I was in wolf form the whole time

‘I am good, thanks to your human doctors’

‘That’s good’

‘Why has our mate refused to mark us?’

‘Why are you asking me like I would know the answer to that?’

‘I am sure, he is angry at us because you dated that stupid human boy’

‘He is not stupid but oh what am I saying. Yes you are right Matt is stupid but I don’t think he knows we dated anyone’

‘Don’t say we human, you because I told you I hated that boy around us’

‘Don’t worry you won’t be seeing him for a long time’

‘You can’t imagine how happy I am to hear you say that’

I come back earth from my conversation with my wolf once I hear someone speaking to me

“Are you going to stand there all day or sit down” My mate says, in a harsh tone. I actually don’t know his name. He did not even care to introduce himself to me, so much about us been mates.

And why does he talk to me so rudely all the time.

“Sit down” I say and take myself seat

“Just because you are sitting here does not mean what I said yesterday has changed”

“I never assumed that”

“Goo

d because I am never going to make you Queen. I don’t need a Luna”

“Why?” I am shocked with what he just said to me. I know I am might not be the best at fighting but I feel I am strong wolf and worthy to be a Luna.

“Because I don’t need a woman making things difficult for me”

“How would I make things difficult?”

“The only thing you woman contribute is making us men weak”

“How?”

“I don’t need to explain everything to you. My decision is final; I am never making you Luna Queen. Just stick that in your head”

“If you don’t plan to make me Luna Queen, why am I here?”

“To make sure you don’t become a liability to me”

“Excuse me”

“You heard me,” He says staring at me with his dark eyes at me.

To say I am baffled would be an understatement. What kind of mate says these words to you? Women are not weak, why would he have such a shallow mind set.

After that awkward breakfast which I did not eat anything because I was pissed off the whole time. I am in the gardens helping Charlotte with her flowers. Charlotte saw how down I was after breakfast and asked me if I wanted to help her in her gardens which I agreed to. While we are attending to her roses I notice that the men are outside training and my mate is leading them. I can’t help but admire him as trains. He is shirtless and sweeting and to me to looks like his body is glittering in the sun, as his 6 abs shine brightly in my face. I can’t imagine what it would feel like underneath my fingers. Every time he flexes his muscles I feel myself falling for him more even though the mate bond is playing well to my reactions.

Once we are done with the flowers, we walk back to the Alpha's house to eat find something to eat but only me though. We find nothing in the fridge already made so I decide to cook something. While cooking I mistakenly cut myself because I was in engrossed in my conversation with Charlotte

"Oh, my sorry" Charlotte says

"Its fine, it's just a small wound and it would heal before you know it" I say and place my cut finger under running water to wash the blood away.

"I know but it would still hurt a little before it heals"

"Don't worry, I'm" I don't get to finish my statement when my mate strolls in demanding what happened

"Where are you hurt" He says, walking over to me and checks my body from head to toe

"I am not hurt"

"I felt your pain, through the bond"

"It was a small knife wound"

"If you don't know how to use a knife, then don't use one" He says, a little louder than normal. He sounds pretty angry with the fact that I used a knife. Wow, and I thought I had seen it all with his words this morning. Now he is angry because I used a knife. I am starting to think he hates me.

"I would be careful next time and I didn't know the bond was that strong though we have not completed the mating process."

"Just because I have not pounded you till you couldn't walk the next day." He says, taking dangerous steps close to me. "Made you scream my name like you have never screamed in your life and left my mark on you, does not mean I can't feel you" He says and finally stops walking once my back hits the wall. All I can do is stare into those beautiful blue eyes of his that are filled with darkness. I can feel my lady parts react with every word he said. I can't believe he can make me angry one moment and the next hot for him. This man is going to the death of me.

"I will be extra careful next time" I say as I feel my breath bounce back to me because of how close we are

"Good" He says and walks away.

Chapter 4 IV

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A few days have gone by, and things are still the same between Theodore and I. I found out his name is Theodore from Charlotte. You can guess how great our relationship is, given that I found out his name from someone else. I am currently on my way to ask him if I can get a phone to call mom and Chloe. I miss them, and it's been a while since I last heard or spoke to any of them. He is working from home today. I walk to his study and knock on his door. I walk inside once he says, come in.

"What do you want?" He says in a harsh tone like always. His eyes are glued to the papers in front of him. I am sure he did not need to look up to know it's me. He must have smelled me once I walked in.

"I wanted to ask if I could get a phone to call my mom," I say once I am in front of him.

"Why would you need to do that," He asks, stunning me with his question

"I miss her, and I want to know how she is doing."

"She is doing fine, and I will tell your Alpha to tell her you miss her."

“How do you know she is doing fine, and why can’t I speak to her” Why is he trying to keep me away from my mom. He acts in a very strange way.

“I know because if she was dead, your Alpha would have informed me, and I don’t want you to speak to anyone outside this pack?”

“Excuse me, but why?” I ask, confused.

“Because I don’t want you to.”

“Because you don’t want me to, what kind of reason is that? I am not your prisoner, so why can’t I have a phone to call my mom.”

“I don’t need you interacting with anyone from your old pack. This is your new home, so you will only interact with people from this pack.”

“Why are you making these decisions like you have all the say in my life? You did not even accept me as your Queen, and you are telling me to forget my old pack and make here my new home. Even if I make here my new home, it does not mean I should forget everyone important to me from my old pack.”

“You don’t have to be Queen to accept here as your new home. You are my mate whether you like it or not, and that makes here your new home. You should do yourself a favour and forget about everything related to your old pack and move on with your life.”

“You can’t make decisions about my life like this. I have a right to speak to my mom.”

“I said you wouldn’t, and that’s final,” He says, staring at me with those dark eyes of his that are filled with anger. One look at his eyes, I know he is not going to change his mind. I feel so hurt that my mate won’t allow me to speak to my mother for no good reason.

“I don’t know why you are doing this, but you are being very cruel to me” I feel myself on the verge of tears. I quickly walk out of his office before I break down in front of him.

I run upstairs into my room. I can’t hold it in anymore and release the tears. When did my life become so complicated? Why was I given such a cruel mate? Why won’t he allow me to speak to my mom? It’s not like I said I am going back to my old pack, and what if I want to go back.

It’s not like he wants me, so why is he keeping me like I am a prisoner.

I don’t know when I fall asleep until I hear someone shouting, disturbing me in my sleep. I must have fallen asleep while crying. I walk downstairs to find out who dares to make noise in the Alpha king’s house. While I am descending the stairs, I see a young male standing at the front of the stairway. He looks a few years older than me but not as old as Theodore, and now that I have compared him to Theodore. He looks a little like him, just that he has blond hair. He has the same blue eyes and muscular build. He is handsome but not as attractive as my mate. Once I reach the last step, he speaks.

“You must be Anastasia. It’s a pleasure to meet you. I am Liam,” He says, taking my palm into his hand and leaves a little peck on it.

“Take your hands off her if you still want them attached to your body,” Theodore says once he steps out of his office.

I can’t believe he has been in his office all day; it’s almost midnight. He should get some rest, but why am I caring about him. He does not care about me, so I won’t care about him. He should work himself to death; I don’t care. I tell myself, but I know it would shatter me to pieces if he does.

“I like my hand thank you very much, and I only did it so you would leave that office of yours,” The unknown man says,

Did he kiss my hand to get Theodore out of his office? If he did, he must be really close to him to put his life on the line like that.

“Don’t try it next time, and why are you back?”

“I heard my brother has finally found his mate. I had to come and see for myself if it’s true, and I am speechless. You are more beautiful than the people describe. The stories didn’t do you any justice,” Liam says, smiling at me. I haven’t been here that long, and stories about me are already spreading. I wonder what stories precisely because nothing has happened between Theodore and me, so I wonder what Liam heard. And he is his brother. It explains why he speaks to him with no respect and why they look alike.

“Now that you have seen her, you can leave.”

“Why are you kicking me out when I just got here? I want to get to know our future Queen.”

“There is no future Queen here, so you can leave,” Theodore says, and it feels like a punch was thrown at my heart.

Every time he rejects me indirectly, it hurt as much as I am sure it would hurt if he actually rejects me. I don’t know if I should tell him to reject me so that I can feel the pain all at once, but at the same time, I don’t want to leave him. I actually wish he would love me and treat me well. I wonder if that would ever happen between us.

“You shouldn’t say things like that with your mate around. It hurts, don’t you know” Liam says, covering my ears like it would make them

un-hear his harsh words, but it won’t. The effects of his words are already done.

“I can see you don’t like your hands,” Theodore growls

“Sorry,” Liam says, taking his hands away from my ears. “Anyways, I think we should all go to bed. It’s late, and we are all tired. See you guys tomorrow,” He says and starts walking towards the front door.

“I told you to leave, not to go to bed,” Theodore says, following behind him.

They leave me standing alone by the stairs. I can tell for a fact Theodore does not want his brother around, and I wonder why. If I had a sibling, I would like them around. I brush the thought and walk back upstairs to get some sleep.

The next day I walk downstairs to the kitchen to make breakfast for myself. I have not gone to the pack house to eat breakfast after that day; Theodore embarrassed me. He might have only been talking to me. Still, we are all werewolves, so everyone around the table heard our conversation. I have been feeling too embarrassed to show my face in front of those people ever again. On my way to the kitchen, the aroma of something divine cooking passes through my nose. I wonder if Charlotte came to make breakfast for me. I walk into the kitchen, and the person I see by the stove is not someone I expected to see.

“Good morning, Luna,” Liam says.

“Good morning Liam and I don’t think you should call me Luna,” I say, taking a seat on one of the kitchen stools.

“Why?” He asks as he sets a plate with eggs, sausages and toasted bread in front of me. I show him my neck that his brother has not marked. “Even though he has not marked you, it does not change the fact that you are his mate.”

“I know it does not, but he has to accept me for me to become Luna.”

“You are right, and I am sorry for my brother’s behaviour.”

“You don’t have to apologize for him.”

“I know I don’t, but I feel I should. My brother has been through a lot so, it will take time for him to trust you enough to make you his Queen and accept you as his mate.”

“I don’t know what your brother has been through, but I don’t think it’s right for him to be cruel to me the way he is.”

“Yes, you are right again, but I am asking you to please be patient with him and try to make it work.”

“I will because the mate bond makes it impossible for me not to want him, but I also don’t want my heart to get broken by him.”

“Trust me, as far as you are patient with him. He will come around.”

“Okay, if you say so and thank you for breakfast.”

“You are welcome.”

After breakfast with Liam, I walk to the pack house to find Charlotte . I walk inside, and I am greeted with a lot of eyes on me. I try to act like it’s not disturbing me, but it is. I wonder why they are looking at me.

‘It’s because you are their King’s mate,’ Eva says

‘Even though, why are they looking at me with such pity in their eyes?’

Everyone staring at me looks at me like I am a lost child who can’t find their way back home.

There is a lot of pity in their eyes, and I wonder why.

‘I don’t know.’

‘Do you think they believe the stories they have heard about the king, and they think he is hurting us.’

‘I don’t think so because this pack is directly close to him; if anyone should know the truth, they would. Our mate would never hurt us.’

‘How sure are you?’

‘I am sure because his wolf wants us, but the human keeps fighting it.’

‘I wish he would allow himself to be with us.’

‘Me too’

Eva says and goes to the back of my head.

I continue looking around for Charlotte , and the moment I set my eyes on her, I am filled with joy. I can finally leave the packhouse and go away from so many eyes. I quickly walk towards her and pull her with me outside.

“Hello to you too,” Charlotte says while I drag her out of the packhouse

“I am sure you are wondering why I pulled you out like that. I just needed to get out of there.”

“Why? Did you see someone who wanted to harm you?” Charlotte says, panicking

“No, and why are you panicking?”

“Because you are the King’s mate, so your life can be in danger anywhere at any time.”

I never thought about the dangers of being the Alpha king’s mate. Now that Charlotte said it, it makes me a little worried for myself. I have to be extra careful now.

“I know, but I pulled you out quickly because everyone was looking at me weirdly inside.”

“Oh, you noticed.”

“Of course, I noticed. Why did they look at me like that?”

“I don’t think you want to know why,” Charlotte says, and this only makes me more curious to find out why

“Please tell me why.”

“Hmm...” Charlotte hesitates to speak but continues after taking in a deep breath. “They all believe the King is going to reject you or, worse, kill you.”

“What! kill me, why?” I ask, getting scared for my life.

“Because you have been here for three weeks and he hasn’t marked you or rejected you, the only option left is to kill you.”

“No, just because he has not done any of them does not mean killing me is the only option left,” I say, but a tiny part of me knows that may be where my fate lies, but would he really kill me?

“Yeah, you are right, even though he has not done any of them, killing you is not the last option,” Charlotte says, but I feel she just said it to me so that I stop being scared because I am sure I look scared for my life like I am.

“Yes, it’s not the last option, and why would everyone think like that.”

“Our king does not have a good reputation. I am sure you have heard the stories.”

“Yeah, I have, but you guys should know what he is capable of since you guys are the pack closest to him.”

“We do, and that’s why we are worried for you but don’t think too deep into it.”

“I think it’s already too late for that.”

They have already put fear in me, and I don’t know what else to think about. I even forgot why I came to look for Charlotte .

Chapter 5 V

Words Count: 1813 | Released on:14/02/2022

“Stop thinking about it Ana, you have nothing to worry about, and why did you come to look for me?” She says, and it takes me a minute to remember why

“I came to look for you so I could borrow your phone. I need to call my mom,” I say, recalling the reason I came to look for her.

“Oh, no problem, here,” She says, handing me her phone from her back pocket.

I am actually surprised she gave me her phone. I thought she was going to ask me why I came to her and not the Alpha. I even thought he might have told everyone not to give me their phone. I guess he is not as bright as I thought. If he wanted me to never speak to anyone from my old pack. He would have told everyone not to give me a phone.

“Thank you,” I say, taking it from her hand and quickly dial mom’s number. It rings for a few seconds before mom answers.

“Hi, mom, it’s me, Ana; how are you?” I say once she answers the phone

“My baby girl, are you really the one I am speaking to? How are you doing? I hope you are not harmed or injured in any way?”

“I am doing fine, mom and I am not harmed or injured in any way.”

“Thank God, and when are you coming back? Our Alpha said, you are in our Alpha king’s territory. How did you end up there, and I hope they are treating you well there?”

“They are treating me well, and rogues attacked me. The Alpha king saved me and brought me back to his territory. About when I am coming back, I don’t know for now. But I will try to beg the Alpha king to allow you to come and visit me if I can’t visit you.”

“Oh my God, you were attacked by rogues. I hope you are fine? And why won’t the Alpha king allow you to come back home? Why might I need to come and visit you?”

“As I said earlier, mom, I am doing fine. I have fully recovered. And about coming home and why the alpha king has a say in it is because.....” I hesitate because once I say what I am about to say. I know I am not going to like what she is going to say next. “He is my mate” Once I say the words out of my mouth, I hear mom’s breath catch in her throat. She does not say anything for a good minute before asking me the one question I know she will not like my answer to.

“Have you rejected him as I told you to?”

Now it’s my turn to take a minute before I answer.

“No, I haven’t,” I say, waiting for the storm to arrive

“Why, I told you how important it is for you to reject him.”

“Actually, mom, you didn’t. You just told me I need to reject him for my own safety. I have been here for a month, and nothing has happened to me, so I don’t see why I have to reject him.”

“You have to reject him; it’s better you don’t know why and just do it.”

“Mom, I can’t. I can’t reject him when you don’t even explain how he is dangerous to me” I don’t wish to fight with her, but I deserve a good explanation of why I should reject him.

“I can’t tell you.”

“Then I won’t do it.”

“Elizabeth, I am your mother and if I tell you to do something. You should do it, and I don’t have to explain why to you.”

“Mom, I can’t, and I have to go; the owner of the phone needs it back” I lie because I don’t want to continue fighting with her.

“We will continue this discussion another time. Goodbye, my dear and take care of yourself. I love you.”

“Bye, mom. I love you too,” I say and hang up the phone.

“Do you think your mom wants you to reject your mate because of the Alpha king’s reputation?” Charlotte asks

“No, I doubt, because she has told me to reject my mate no matter who he is.”

“Oh, I really wonder why she wants you to reject your mate.”

“Me too, and can I call someone else if you don’t mind.”

“Yes, you can.”

I called Chloe to find out how she is doing. Like my mom, she asked me a million questions. The only difference was that Chloe was actually happy I found my mate. She even thought we had completed the mating process but was sad to find out we have not. She misses me terribly as I miss her. I just wish Theodore would let me visit her and mom one day or let them come and see me.

Later in the day, Charlotte shows me how to work the TV in the living room and puts in a show to watch. We are currently watching gossip girl, the reboot, and it’s incredible. While we are watching, I feel a burst of anger in me, and I am confused. I am not angry; if anything, I am happy. The second Theodore’s scent drifts through my nose, and a very pissed-off Alpha is standing in the living room. I underst

and where the emotion is coming from. He must be really pissed off because for me to feel his emotion without competing the mating process must mean he is super angry.

“Charlotte, out,” Theodore says; Charlotte quickly bows her head down and does as he says.

“What’s wrong?” I feel the urge to touch him and help him cool down, but I hold myself back. I have heard of how your mate’s touch can help you cool down, but I know if I do that, he will push me away.

“You should know what is wrong. Didn’t I tell you not to call your mother, and who even gave you the phone you used” He says, in an angry tone. I wonder how he found out, and; he seems really pissed off about the fact that I spoke to my mom. I am so happy Charlotte is not here because she won’t have been able to lie with him using the Alpha tone right now. I can’t also lie to an Alpha, but this is not just any Alpha to my wolf. He is our equal, so his Alpha tone can’t work on me, so I blunt out lie.

“I don’t know what you are talking about?” I say, looking at the ground, making sure to avoid eye contact with him.

“You don’t know what I am talking about?” He says, sounding angrier by the second
“Yes, I don’t” I can’t tell him I used Charlotte’s phone to speak to my mom. That is going to put her in trouble, and she does not deserve that.

“Look me in the eyes, and tell me you don’t know what I am talking about?” He says, taking a step closer to me. I feel my heart rate increase with him closer to me, but it should not. That will give me out; I try to steady my heartbeat, but it’s hard with him this close to me. His scent is all around me, and my wolf is dancing with him this close to us.

‘Let me out,’ Eva says

‘Now is not the time.’

‘His wolf is on the surface; let me out. I want to meet my mate.’

‘That is not true.’

I tell Eva, but the second his hand lifts my chin and my eyes lock with his. I know Eva is not lying. His beautiful blue eyes are replaced with a pair of golden brown, but the colour of his eyes keeps changing. His wolf is fighting to take control, but Theodore won’t let it. I have heard of how the wolf of an Alpha is the hardest to control. He must be fighting hard to push his wolf back.

“Tell me,” He growls in my face.

I give up and tell him the truth. I also don’t want an alpha wolf on the loose. He might be our mate, but they can lose control when they are angry, like right now.

“Yes, I spoke to my mom today, but I don’t know whose phone I used. I went into the packhouse, and I stole a phone to use it to call her.”

If he can be this angry with me about calling my mother, I don’t want to think about what he will do to Charlotte if he finds out she is the one who gave me the phone to call.

“Did I not tell you not to communicate with anyone from your old pack?”

“Yes, you did, but I needed to speak to my mom.”

“Why don’t you ever listen to me,” He says, taking more steps closer to me while saying every word in my face. I walk back and stop once my back hits a wall.

I don’t know what to reply, so I just look at the floor and avoid eye contact with him. He uses his hands to massage his temple before he grabs me by my arms. This causes me to lock eyes with him in surprise from him holding my arms.

“You drive me crazy; why can’t you just listen to me? Is it so hard to listen to me” He says in rage as he shakes my body with every word he says. I can feel fear slipping into my body from his behaviour. I only called my mom; I don’t understand why he is so angry. I can even feel myself on the verge of tears; why is my mate always mad at me. It makes me very sad that this is the only emotion I get from my mate.

“I am sorry,” I say, feeling tiny teardrops fall from my eyes. I feel like I am the reason for his anger, so I apologize. Once he sees the tears in my eyes, he quickly removes his hands from my arm and wipes away my tears. His hands linger a little longer than supposed to on my face, but he pulls it away before I can enjoy the feeling of his hand on my face. The second his hands drop from my face, he disappears from my line of vision. I can’t help it and fall to the ground and start crying. Why does every conversation with my mate end with me in tears? I don’t know why we can’t be like normal mates and make each other smile any time we see each other. I crawl myself on the ground and cry for my doomed fate with my mate.

Chapter 6 VI

Words Count: 1645 | Released on:19/02/2022

It's been a few days since my little breakdown, and ever since then, I have not seen Theodore . I am a little grateful because I always cry every time we see each other, but I also miss him a little. The mate bond is not helping because I am trying to avoid him, but the bond makes me want to be with him.

I am in the kitchen making breakfast for myself when Charlotte walks in.

"Good morning, Luna," She says, taking a seat on one of the kitchen stools

"I am not your Luna, but good morning to you too," I say with a soft smile. I am happy she is here after the way Theo kicked her out yesterday. I was worried she wouldn't want to spend time with me anymore.

"How are you feeling today?" Charlotte asks while I serve a plate of scrambled eggs to her. If she is here now during breakfast time, that would mean she has not eaten.

"I am doing okay; why do you ask?"

"Thank you, and the beta's house is not too far away from here. I could hear you crying last night," Charlotte says, with pity in her eyes while she eats her breakfast.

"Oh, I am fine, you don't have to look at me like that," I say and walk back to the stove to make eggs for myself.

"How am I looking at you? And I am happy you feel better today."

"With a lot of pity in your eyes for me."

"I am sorry, I can't help it."

"It's fine, and why don't we talk about something else."

"Do you have any plans for today?"

"No, I don't."

"Great, do you want to follow me to the mall? I want to buy an anniversary gift for Dan."

"I would love to follow you, and I didn't know you guys are married" A lot of werewolves don't get married, but some do. It's not a necessary thing for werewolves because once a werewolf bears a marking on their neck. It's like a human wearing a wedding ring; everyone knows you are taken.

"No, we are not. It's our mate anniversary."

"Mate anniversary? I have never heard of that before."

"It's something we made up ourselves. Our mate anniversary is the day we met and completed the bond. Since completing the bond is like getting married, we decided to celebrate it every year," She says, smiling while looking lost in her thoughts. I am sure she is remembering the day she met Dan, and from her smile, I can tell it was a happy day.

I wish I could have that, but the day I met my mate, I almost died, and when I woke up, he barely said anything to me.

"That's so lovely," I say, smiling

"Yeah," She says, still lost in her thoughts.

Later in the day, Charlotte and I head to the mall in the city. We are currently in a wristwatch shop, trying to find the best one for Dan. I don't know much about wristwatches, nor does Charlotte , so you can imagine how things are going.

"How about this one," I say, pointing to a silver wristwatch. It's a steel strap watch.

"I don't like it."

"What's his favorite color," I ask, so I can know which color of wristwatch to suggest to her.

"Blue"

"He will like this one then" I show her a three-hand blue silicone watch

“Nah,” Charlotte says, refusing my suggestion again.

“I give up,” I say, throwing my hands in the air. This is the fifth one I have showed her since we entered the Armani shop. They have one of the best wristwatches I have seen so far.

“Sorry, I am being picky. I just want to make sure the one I get for him is the best.”

“I understand,”

“Thank you, and what do you think about this one,” She says, pointing to a brown leather meccanico wristwatch.

“I like it; this one would look nice on Dan,” I tell her honestly.

“I thought as much also, I will get this one, and you should get one for our Alpha King. You could get it for him as his birthday present.”

“Birthday present, when is his birthday?” I ask, surprised I didn’t know my mate’s birthday was close. It’s not like I know anything about him, so I shouldn’t beat myself up about it. I got to know even his name from someone and not him. I feel like a woman who was forced to marry a man who hates her.

“It’s in two weeks, I am not surprised you don’t know, but you should get him something. Maybe it will make him see that you care about him”

“I won’t say I care about him; we are mates, so I kind of have to want to be with him,” I tell her honestly because I might want to be with Theo, but I won’t say I care about him.

I don’t even know if I like him without the mate bond being there. Our relationship is so messed up that I could not even get to know him and see if I like him. The mate bond makes you want to be with your mate, but it does not make you fall in love with your mate. The attraction is there, but you make the feelings.

“I know, but it won’t hurt, would it.”

“It won’t hurt, but I don’t have any money to buy him anything.”

“Don’t worry about that, we will buy something now and once the Alpha starts giving you money. You can pay me back.”

“Really,” I ask, a little surprised by her generosity. She does not know me that well but is willing to lend me money.

“Yes, now come on, let’s look for something the Alpha might like,” She says, linking my arm with hers to walk around the shop.

“Thank you,” I say, smiling

“Anything for my Luna,” She says, smiling back.

I can’t stop smiling in the evening as I admire the dress I bought while at the mall with Charlotte. It’s a black long fitted crepe dress featuring a structured bow and handmade crystal embroidery on the side. I got a dinner dress because there will be a big dinner ball for Theo’s birthday. I am not surprised since he is the king; I am sure he celebrates his birthday like this every year. He is going to be 25 years old.

He became king at a very young age. He took over the throne when he turned 18. His uncle helped him run the werewolf kingdom till he was old enough to take over. His parents died years ago. His father died while protecting his mother from a vampire, and his mom died after giving birth to Liam. This was a few months after Theo’s dad’s death. Charlotte believes she died during childbirth because the death of her mate was too much for her to handle. Theo practically grew up without his parents. His uncle, who helped him run the werewolf kingdom while growing up, moved away once he took over. Charlotte told me all of these while we shopped earlier today.

I stand up from my bed to walk to my closet to keep my dress when a knock comes at the door. I drop the dress back on the bed and walk over to the door to see who it is; maybe it's Charlotte. I open the door, and the person standing there is the last person I ever expect to see

"Where did you go to earlier today?" Theo asks once I open the door

"Hello to you too," I say and give him enough space to enter

"I asked you, where did you go to during the day?" He says, walking into my room like he owns the place; actually, he does, but still.

"I went to the mall with Charlotte."

"Why didn't you ask for my permission before you left?"

"Your permission; I didn't know I needed your permission to go out."

"You should always ask for my permission before you go out."

"I don't think I need to ask for your permission before I can go out. I am not your prisoner."

"Yes, you are not my prisoner, but my mate." He says and begins to walk closer to me. "The next time you leave this house without my permission, I will make sure you never see outside this house, so always ask me before you step your foot out of this place. Are we clear?" He says as his breath fans my face with his last words.

He is so close to me that I can see his beautiful long eyelashes as he stares at me; he is so handsome. I feel my hands itching to run through his hair; that looks like he must have run his hands through them a lot today. I am guessing work was a bit stressful today. It's expected; he is the werewolf king. I am sure the job is not easy. I wish I could do something to help him.

"Will you stop admiring me and answer" His voice booms loud in my ears.

"Yes, we are," I say, even though I know he is wrong to make such decisions about my life, but I also know it is pointless arguing with him.

I got so lost earlier admiring him that I forgot what we were talking about for a moment and just took in the beauty of my mate. I forgot how unreasonable he is about me asking for his permission before I can go out. Sometimes I wonder if he does these things because he cares about me or just wants to make my life a living hell.

Chapter 7 VII

Words Count: 2050 | Released on:19/02/2022

I am on my way to give Theo his birthday present. I am a little nervous about giving him. I am worried he might not like it or, worse, not accept it from me. I knock on his office door and enter once he says come in. I can't believe even on his birthday he is working.

"What do you want, Anastasia," He says, not lifting his eyes away from the papers in front of him.

"Happy birthday," I say and place the wristwatch in front of him. I got him a chronograph black leather wristwatch. I hope he likes it.

"Is that all?" He asks, stunning me with his words. No, thank you, nothing. Just 'is that all' really, you have got to be kidding me, Theo. This is what I wish I could say to him but don't; instead, I say.

"Yes, that's why I came."

"If that's all, you can leave," He says, with his eyes still glued to the paper in front of him.

"Alright," I say and walk out of his office.

I know I was expecting him not to accept my gift but to say is that all was not something I could have guessed him saying. He truly leaves me dumbfounded every time.

Later at night, when I am done with my makeup, hair, and dressing up. I wait in the living room so we can go for his birthday dinner together. I am not sure if we are going together, but I decided to wait for a little, and I will go by myself if he does not come.

I should have known better, Theo does not see me as his mate, and I can't believe I waited 30 minutes for him to pick me up for his birthday party.

I am about to walk into the ballroom when someone pulls me into a dark corner. I am about to scream, but once my mate's scent settles in my nose, I don't.

"Why are you just coming now" Theo whisper, yells at me. I wonder why we are talking in such a dark corner.

"I was waiting for you."

"Reduce your voice; I don't want anyone to hear us, and why would you wait for me," He says, and I can't see his face correctly, but I can imagine him arcing his brows at me. I wonder why he does not want anyone to hear us. It's not like we are talking about anything secretive.

"We are mates, so I assumed we might go together but came when I realized you had already left."

"You should know better than anyone that I would never come to my birthday dinner with you."

"And why is that," I ask, wondering why it's wrong for me to assume that since we are mates.

"You have forgotten that even though you are my mate, I will never accept you as one. And that is what I want to talk to you about. Make sure no one finds out tonight that you are my mate."

I am sure he refers to the Alphas from around the country who came for his birthday dinner because the pack already knows I am his mate.

"Why,"

"Because I said so, and I mean it, not even a single soul," He warns.

"Ok," I say, feeling sad that he wants no one to know about my existence. It also explains why he is talking to me in a dark corner and why he wants no one to hear us talking. I think he is ashamed of me.

I know he does not accept me as his mate, but I never guessed it's because he is ashamed of me.

"Good, now wait by the entrance. Liam will come and get you and walk inside with you.

Everyone knows he is a playboy, so it will make no one suspect you are my mate."

"Ok," I say, feeling sadder with how much trouble he is going through to make sure no one knows we are, mate.

"Walk out a few minutes after I do," He says and walks away from me.

I don't even feel like going to the party now, but since I am already here, I might as well enjoy the excellent food and wine. I shake my head to push the tears that are threatening to fall out and walk out of the dark corridor a few minutes after he leaves.

I don't wait long before Liam arrives.

"Would my Luna Queen do me the honors of walking inside with me?" Liam says once he arrives with a soft smile on his face. He puts out his arm for me to wrap mine around it. I want to correct him and tell him not to call me Luna Queen, but just let it go because I have told him before not to, but he still insists on calling me that.

"Hi, Liam" I return the smile and link my arms with his.

"How are you doing today, Luna," He says as he starts walking us inside the ballroom. As we walk inside, I suddenly start feeling nervous, and I don't know why.

"I am doing fine," I say, a little rushed. I don't want my voice to sound shaky in front of Liam. I am worried about what people will say when they see me. I know I am very young to be the

King's mate, so I won't be surprised if some people from the pack don't see me fit to be Queen like he does.

"Don't worry, it's not everyone that knows you are his mate, so a lot of people won't be looking at you," Liam says and uses his other hand to pat my arm that is linked with his while giving me an assuring smile.

"Is it that obvious that I am nervous about what people will say about me?"

"We are werewolves, so it's hard not to smell the fear of you."

"Yeah, you are right, and thank you for trying to cheer me up."

"Anything to help my Luna feel better, and would you like to dance?"

"Thank you, and I would love to."

We walk to the dance floor, and Liam re-

leases my arm. He wraps his hand around my back. He makes sure his hand is far away from my ass. I am sure if I was not mated to his brother, his hand would be very close to my ass. I place my hand on his shoulder, intertwine my other hands with his, and start moving to the classical music playing.

"So why are you late, Luna?"

"I was waiting for your brother?"

"Oh," He says, drawing out the 'oh.' I must look foolish in front of him that I waited for my mate who does not want anything to do with me.

"Yeah, and I know it was foolish of me to think we would go together given the state of our relationship."

"No, it was not. I understand why you did."

"You do," I ask, surprised he does

"Yes, I do, and it was not foolish of you. Also, did I tell you, you look beautiful because you do?"

"Thank you," I say, blushing at his compliment.

"You're always welcome, and my brother is a fool that he does not see that."

"How did you know he did not compliment me on how I look today?"

"I am his brother; I know him more than anyone else."

"Yeah, that's true."

The music suddenly stops, and an omega announces it's time for dinner. I thought I was very late, but apparently, I am not since they have not eaten yet. I am walking towards a table with Liam when someone roughly grabs my hands.

"Come with me," Theo says, pulling me with him. He looks angry, and I wonder what I did wrong now.

We arrive at his table; he sits down and gestures for me to sit by his right. I thought he didn't want anyone to know I am his mate. So why is he making me sit beside him? I take my seat, and once I am seated, he pulls me again closer to him, and this time he whispers into my ears.

"After dinner, don't dance with my brother again," He says through gritted teeth.

Is he angry I danced with his brother? Why would he be mad about such a thing? It's not like I did anything wrong by dancing with his brother, or is he jealous that I danced with him, but why would he. He is the one who asked me to behave like we are not mates, and he is the one who asked his brother to walk me in.

"Ok," I say and start eating the food that was placed in front of me while I was thinking.

I am not able to eat well because of what I see happening in front of me. A beautiful lady with blonde hair, who I am guessing is an Alpha because of her aura, can't seem to keep her hands to herself.

"So, my king, how are things going in court," She says, placing her hand on his free arm that he is not using to eat. I expect him to remove her hand since he has a mate, but he does not.

"Everything is going well, Scarlett, and how is your pack?" He asks, with his full attention on her.

"Everyone is fine; you should come sometime and see for yourself how I handle my pack," She says, smiling and seductively looking at him.

"Hopefully, one day," He says, returning the smile.

I can't believe he is openly flirting with her while I am sitting here. I can't believe he would do this to me. And things get worse when I listen in on a few people sitting at our table. We are about ten sitting at our table, and most of the people here are Alphas with their mates. The women whisper to each other, but they should know better. It's almost impossible for someone not to hear your conversations, given the fact that we are werewolves and our hearing is good.

"Oh, my, they look so cute together. I can't wait for when the King agrees to take her as his Queen. They make such a good couple," A lady about two seats away from me whispers to her friend.

"I know, right; they make such a lovely couple. They deserve each other given the fact that they both lost their mates" The woman beside the one who spoke first says,

What does she mean by lost their mates? Did Theo tell everyone I am dead, or did he have a mate before me? Regardless of which it is, I can't help but feel a lot of emotions right now. I am angry because my mate is flirting with Scarlett, making them look like the perfect couple. I am sad that no one knows he has a mate and wishes him to be with Scarlett. I am sure everyone thinks they're a perfect match because she is an Alpha. Maybe even if people knew I was his mate tonight, they might not have accepted me since I am still very young and inexperienced compared to Scarlett. I feel like the whole world is against me right now.

"Yeah, they both deserve to be happy," The first woman speaks as she looks at my mate, who is laughing at something Scarlett said. I have never seen him laugh before, and I can't believe he is smiling and laughing so much because of another woman. It would have been fine if she was not the woman people think is fit to be his Queen.

I come back from my thoughts when an omega speaks to me.

"Would you like more wine, Luna?" She asks. I look at my mate and Scarlett, and I can't help the plunge I feel in my heart. So I tell her the following words after I realize that's the only way I will survive this horrible night.

"Make sure my glass is never empty tonight," I say, with the plan to get drunk tonight, and I will try to forget what a horrible mate I have.

Chapter 8 VIII

Words Count: 1597 | Released on:19/02/2022

Werewolves can get drunk if your wolf allows you. Eva understands why I need to get drunk tonight, so she is not preventing me from getting drunk. I am not even supposed to be drinking because I am 18, but since I am a werewolf, it's different. If I were a human, I wouldn't be allowed to drink till I was 21.

“Thank you,” I say to the omega who just gave me another glass of wine. She has made sure my hand was not empty all night. I even know her name because of it. I think it’s Lily, if I am not wrong. I am starting to get drunk after having about five glasses of wine. My alcohol tolerance is terrible, so I think I am already drunk.

I feel like annoying my mate, so I walk around to find Liam so we can dance together.

“Liam, Liam, Liam,” I shout his name as I look for him in the ballroom. I don’t know why but I can’t seem to find him.

I am about to shout his name again when someone stops me.

“Why are you shouting my brother’s name?” Theo says, covering my mouth with his large hand. I lick his hand so he can remove it from my mouth. I don’t know why I did that, but I am happy with what it does to him. “Eww, why did you do that? Are you drunk?” He asks as he takes a sniff of his hand and my mouth.

“Yes, I am drunk, and where is Liam? I don’t want you,” I say, attempting to push him away from me, but my limbs fail me.

“Why are you looking for him?” He asks annoyed

“I want to dance with him,” I tell him smiling.

“Why are you smiling, and didn’t I tell you not to dance with my brother again,” He says, gritting his teeth while talking. I think he is not happy that I want to dance with Liam, but I could care less right now, and I think the alcohol has something to do with that.

“I want to dance with him because he is fun; you are no fun, so find me, Liam.”

“You are not dancing with Liam, and if anything, you are going home. You are drunk.” He says and grabs my hand to pull me with him, but I remove my hand from his grasp.

“I don’t want to leave; I want to dance,” I tell him and start dancing

“You are drunk, and you need to go home, so let’s go,” He says and tries to grab my hand again, but I don’t let him. I try to run away from him, but he grabs me by the waist.

My heart rate speeds up as his scent fills my nose, and the warmth of his body passes into my skin. My back is facing his front, and I can feel his breath fan my neck with every breath he takes. I don’t think I am the only one our proximity is making uncomfortable because his arm around my waist loses, and I take a step away from him.

I suddenly start feeling hot, so I decided to take off my clothes.

“Do you feel hot? I feel hot, I need to take off my clothes” Being close to him made me feel hot. I try to unzip my dress, but I find it challenging to reach my zip, so I turn my back and ask Theo to help me. “Please help me,” I say, with my back facing him.

“Are you mad? Why would you want to remove your dress here” He shouts and spins me around to face him.

“I am hot,” I whine

“You are drunk, not hot, and let’s go for the last time.”

“No,” I say, stomping my feet like a little girl.

“You leave me no choice then,” He says, and the next thing he does leaves me speechless even in my drunken state.

He lifts me off the ground and throws me across his shoulder like I weigh nothing. Everyone in the ballroom turns and faces us with shock written all over their face as Theo walks us out of the ballroom. Thank God I am drunk right now because I can’t imagine how I would feel tomorrow if I remember the look on everyone’s face.

“Put me down, Theo,” I say, hitting his back in an attempt to hurt him, but it’s like I am a child trying to punch a rock.

“No, and will you stop hitting me.”

“I won’t, and what are you going to do about it.”

“Hit me one more time, and I will spank you.”

“Spank me!” I exclaim, shocked by his words

“Yes, spank you, and if you think I am joking, try it.”

I think the alcohol in me is good because as he dares me, I do it.

I know I wouldn’t have done it if I was not drunk. I use all the strength I can muster and hit his back, but regret once, I feel a sting on my left butt cheek.

“You hit me,” I say, modified he did, but something else is more shocking to me. I feel a pleasurable wave pass through my body before his hands leave my ass. Oh my, what just happened? Why did my body react that way? Does that mean I liked that he spanked me or is it because we are mates, so I am naturally attracted to everything he does to my body?

“Yes, and if you hit me again, I will spank you again,” He says, and I don’t think about hitting him again.

I can’t help but wonder if Theo is into those BDSM things I read in human stories? It will explain why he likes controlling my life even if he does not want me. He must be a dominant, or I might just be overthinking like I always do. While slugged across his shoulder, I start to feel sleepy, even if my position is not comfortable. I decide to close my eyes and rest them a little before we reach the house.

The following morning, I wake up in the same clothes I wore last night. I walk to the bathroom to freshen up before going downstairs for breakfast. I am so happy I am a werewolf because with the amount of wine I drank yesterday. I am sure I would have woken up with a bad headache. Once I am done doing my business in the bathroom and putting my outfit for the day. I walk downstairs to find something to eat. I am starving. I barely ate anything during dinner last night. I walk into the kitchen, and the first thing I do is find all the ingredients for pancakes. While I am mixing the pancake batter, Charlotte walks in.

“Good morning Luna,” Charlotte says once she takes her seat on the kitchen stool

“Morning Charlotte , I am starting to think you make sure to come over when I am making breakfast.”

“This is just the second time, and don’t worry, I have already eaten breakfast.”

“I was just kidding; I don’t mind you coming over for breakfast.”

“I know, and how are you doing?”

“I am good, and you?”

“I am good too, and how bad was it?”

“How bad was what?” I ask, confused as to what she is talking about

“How bad did the Alpha scold you?”

“Why would he scold me?”

“You don’t remember,”

“Remember what”

“Your wolf must have blocked you from remembering, but don’t worry, I will tell you everything,” Charlotte says, smiling, and begins filling me in on what happened last night. Since humans tend to forget what happens when they are drunk, your wolf does not get drunk. They have full memory of what you did. Your wolf can choose to share that memory with you or not.

“I can’t believe I did all that. How am I going to face those people ever again” I facepalm myself.

“Don’t beat yourself about it. I am sure everyone in that ballroom last night found it funny how a little she-wolf was defining our Alpha King.”

“You really think so,” I say, praying her words are true

“Yeah, I do because almost everyone was holding in their laughter while watching you guys act like cat and dog.”

“Was it that bad?”

“You told the king to his face that he is not fun,” Charlotte says, giggling

“I am sure; he is going to kill me when he sees me today.”

“Yeah, he would, but at least you stood up for yourself yesterday.”

“Yeah, and almost got naked in front of a bunch of unmated wolves.”

“Don’t worry, the most he can do is shout; I know our King would never lay his hand on you.”

“Yeah,” I say, but I know that’s not true because while she was filling me in on my incredible act of bravery yesterday. Eva decided to fill me in on what happened after we left the ballroom. I remember how he spanked my ass because I hit his back. I am scared that if he is into BDSM and it’s like what I have read in books. He will want to punish me, and I have read how those punishments can be, and I never want that to happen to me. I just hope he spanked me yesterday to make me stop hitting his back and not for the other reason.

Chapter 9 IX

Words Count: 1462 | Released on:20/02/2022

“Did he like your gift?” Charlotte asks while I eat the pancakes I made for breakfast

“I don’t know if he liked it or not.”

“Why,” Charlotte asks, and I tell her what happened when I gave him the gift.

“I think he liked it but was too proud to tell you.”

“You really think so.”

Charlotte is about to reply but stops when we hear laughter coming from the living room. We don’t have to wait long before the people laughing walk into the kitchen.

Theo and Scarlett are dripping with sweat and laughing about something Scarlett said. They must have gone running in human form. I watch as my mate’s face brightens up while he is talking to Scarlett. This is not the first time he is smiling while talking to Scarlett, but it hurts like the first time he did. He takes two bottles of water out of the fridge and hands one to Scarlett.

“Thank you,” Scarlett says and takes her time to collect the water from Theo’s hand. She made sure all her fingers touched his. I can’t believe this woman.

“You’re welcome.”

“So, I will see you later after I shower,” She says, batting her eyelashes and makes sure to prolong the word shower. Is she trying to invite Theo to shower with her? The nerve this woman has. I can feel Eva getting angrier the more this woman stands here and throws herself at our mate.

“Yeah, I will be waiting for you in my office once you are done,” Theo says, and they walk out of the kitchen.

The whole time they were here, they acted like Charlotte, and I was not here. I can’t believe this. This is beyond embarrassing. This is humiliating, and the fact that I can’t do anything about it makes me angry. I didn’t even know I put my hand in a tight fist until I feel Charlotte’s hands trying to remove my hand from the tight grip. I can feel myself on the verge of tears, so I quickly run out of the kitchen and into my room so that no one would hear me. I don’t even know why I

am crying. I cry too much because of him. I am starting to hate my mate with all the pain he keeps causing me.

Later in the day, while walking around the territory. Scarlett walks up to me and pulls me into a hug. Why is she hugging me?

“I want to say goodbye; I know you did not like my presence here, and that’s fine. You will be gone soon, and I will take your place.” She says, whispering into my ears. I remove myself from her grasp. What is wrong with her?

“I don’t know why you are telling me this.”

“I am telling you this because I might be saying goodbye now but don’t worry, I will be back.”

“And how is that any of my business.”

“Oh, it’s your business because you might be his destined mate, but I will be his chosen mate, Goodbye again,” She says and walks away from me.

I can’t believe she knew I was his mate all along. Her words make me feel she knows the state of my relationship with Theo. It makes me wonder if things would ever change between Theo and me.

The next couple of days, I ignore Theo like he is the plague. I don’t want to speak to him or give him a chance to say something that would hurt my feelings. I also expected him to shout at me for my behavior during his birthday party, but unlike him, he did not. I think he was too busy spending the next day with Scarlett to remember how much I embarrassed him the night before. I am about to step out of the house to meet Charlotte when I bump into him walking in. I walk past him like I don’t see him, but I fail in my plan.

“Hey,” He says, grabbing my arm to stop me.

“Yes,” I say, hoping he won’t make me cry today with his words.

“Have you been avoiding me?”

“No, I haven’t” I lie through my teeth. I avoid eye contact with him and try to steady my heartbeat. I can’t have my heart giving me out like last time.

“Tha

t’s a lie; I can hear your heartbeat increase.”

Oh no, I really thought if I avoided eye contact with him, I would be able to steady my heartbeat from increasing while I lied.

“I don’t know why my heartbeat increased, but I am not lying.”

“Really, then look at me and tell me you are not avoiding me.”

“I don’t think I need to do that, and why would you even think I am avoiding you, to begin with,” I say, trying to change the topic.

“Because I barely saw you all week.”

“We hardly see each other”

“Yeah, but I feel this week was more than normal.”

“Really, I don’t think so.”

“Are you angry with me?” He asks out of the bloom. Yes, I am because you keep hurting my feelings, I wish to say, but I lie again like I have been doing throughout our conversation.

“No, why would I.”

“Because my beta seems to think so.”

“Really, and why would he think I am angry with you” I keep pretending like I don’t have a clue as to where he is getting all these ideas about how I feel towards him right now.

“I think Charlotte told him, and if Charlotte did, you must have told her, so why are you angry with me.”

He seems to care about the fact that I am angry at him and have been avoiding him. I didn't think he cared about me at all; maybe I was wrong after all.

"Oh," I say because I don't know if I should tell him why or not.

"So what is it," I am about to speak, but someone cuts me off.

"Alpha king, a man claiming to be a member of Alpha Scarlett pack, is at our northern border. A warrior says behind me. The mention of her name makes my blood boil. I hate that woman with every fiber in my body.

"Why didn't you mind link me?" Theo asks, annoyed that the warrior left his post.

"I tried my king, but you blocked off the connection."

"Oh, that's true" Theo must have blocked off his mind link connection to concentrate on our conversation. I am shocked he is so focused on me today. "You may go back to your post; I will be there shortly."

"Ok, my king," The warrior says and walks away.

"You were saying," Theo says, and it takes me a minute to come back from killing Scarlett in my head.

"I was saying....."

"You are jealous" He cuts me off before I can speak

"What," I ask, confused as to what gave that out.

"You are angry with me because you are jealous of Scarlett; I can't believe I didn't think of that."

"No, I am not" How does he know I am jealous of Scarlett. I didn't even say anything.

"Yes, you are, and don't you have any shame?"

"Shame?" I asked, confused with what shame has to do with being jealous

"Yes, shame. Don't you have any shame for yourself? You are jealous of a woman being with your mate that wants nothing to do with you. Isn't that pathetic" He says, shocking me with his words. I can't believe he is making me feel worse about being jealous of another woman because of him. What kind of mate says these types of words to you? He is supposed to tell me that there is nothing to worry about instead of calling me pathetic.

"Why would you say something like this to me," I ask, feeling my voice a little shaky. I can feel the tears building in my eyes, but I hold them in. it's bad enough Scarlett believes he will make her his Queen and now this.

"Because it seems you have forgotten your place. You are my destined mate, but you will never be my chosen mate," He says, with venom dripping with every word he says.

Scarlett was right, she is his chosen mate, but I am only his destined mate. Theo will never want to be with me, and it's just a matter of time before he finds a way to dispose of me. I can't hold the tears any longer, so I quickly run away from him. I don't think I can spend another second close to him. I wish right now that I didn't have a mate.

Chapter 10 X

Words Count: 1818 | Released on:20/02/2022

I hear the door open as Charlotte walks inside her guestroom. When I ran away from the house, I thought about crying outside, but I could not bear the shame I would feel if someone saw me crying so I ran to Charlotte's house. She sets the tray in her hand on the bedside table and takes a seat on the bed beside my lying figure. I don't think I have moved from this position since I lay down here, crying. I only stopped because my body did not have more tears to give out.

“How are you feeling?” She asks concerned.

“Better and thank you”

“That’s good and why are you thanking me?”

“It’s been hours since I arrived at your door with a tear stained face, and you have not asked me why. Thank you for not trying to push me to tell you what was wrong and for allowing me to cry my heart out in your guestroom” I arrived her house around noon and if my guess is right it should be dark outside now. I can’t really tell because the blinds are down

“Sometimes it’s better to let people come to you with their problems than you forcing them to tell you, even if you want to know what’s wrong so you can help”

“Yeah, and I hope you don’t mind, but I would like to spend the night. I don’t think I want to see or smell Theo for a while” The whole house has his scent and even if I don’t see him, I would still smell his scent as I move around the house.

“Yes of course, you are welcome to stay as long as you like”

“Thank you”

“You’re welcome and let me get you some clean clothes. I will be back shortly” Charlotte says, and walks out

I sit up to pick up the glass of water from the tray Charlotte brought and I hear voices outside the door.

“Has she stopped crying?” Dan whispers to Charlotte , but I can still hear.

“Yes she has” Charlotte replies

“That’s good and what time will she be leaving. Alpha would be leaving his office soon and I am sure it would be best she goes home before him”

“She is staying the night”

“She is what” Dan whisper yells

“She asked if she could stay the night and I said yes”

“Why would you say yes?”

“Because she needs sometime away from the Alpha”

“I know that, but you also know how possessive the Alpha is, if he goes home and does not see her. He would eat me and you alive”

“I know how possessive he is and that’s why she needs as much time away from him”

“Hmmm, I don’t know what to do”

“You don’t have to do anything, just support me against the Alpha when the time comes”

“Of course I will support you even though he can kill us both in a blink of an eye. I will always stand by your side”

“I know and that’s why I love you”

“I love you too” Dan says and I think kisses her. I hear both of them taking air after a few seconds. I wish I didn’t have to put them through such troubles but right now I don’t want to be anywhere near Theo.

Charlotte comes back a few minutes later with new clothes and a towel set.

“Sorry,” I say, to her as she places the things on her hand on the bed.

“For what”

“Sorry for putting you and Dan in a difficult situation with Theo because you guys are allowing me to stay the night”

“You heard us” Charlotte asks, surprised

“Yes I did”

“Don’t worry about it, you can stay with us as long as you like” Charlotte says, with a soft smile

“Thank you” I say, and return the smile.

An hour later or so, I am done taking a shower, eating and I am about to go to bed when I smell him. I can feel his emotions the closer he gets. I can feel his emotions if he is close by even though he has not marked me. I sit at the edge of the bed and wait for him to arrive. I know he is on his way to get me and I don't even have the energy to fight him to allow me spend a night away from the house.

I don't wait for long before he arrives and breaks the door of the guestroom while opening it. He is fuming with anger and with him in front of me, I can feel his anger and he is pissed off as hell. I ask myself why belittle me and then be so possessive over me. It's like he is confused about how to express his feelings to me.

I spread my hands wide and wait for him to carry me. Since he wants me to come with him he might as well carry me. I am in no mood to walk right now. He bends down and I wrap my arms around his neck. He stands straight and I wrap my legs around his waist. He walks out of the room with my head buried in his neck.

He takes the stairs downstairs and leaves Charlotte and Dan's house. As we walk to our house. I can't help and take in his amazing scent. How I wish things were different between us. I am sure if anyone saw us n

ow they would be awed about how romantic we look. If only they knew I felt like a prisoner to my mate and I had no say in anything related to my life anymore.

The following morning, I walk downstairs to have breakfast when someone's scent I have not smelled in a month passes through my nose. I quickly run down the stairs to confirm if my nose is working well. I walk into the living room, and my nose is working well. I can't believe she is here, but why is she here?

“Chloe!” I shout, surprised to see her here.

“Ana!” She shouts back and runs towards me, and pulls me into a hug. I hug my best friend and hold tight because I don't want to ever let her go. I feel like if I let her go, she will disappear.

“I am so happy you are here, but why are you here?”

“I am here because.....” Chloe says but suddenly stops.

I see the colour of her eyes flickering between green and golden. Her wolf is trying to take control but why. She suddenly starts sniffing the house and walks towards the guest room at the end of the hall. Oh my God, I can't believe this is happening to my best friend. I know how much Chloe has always wanted to meet her mate, but I wonder who is staying in the guest room. Once she reaches the door of the guest room, I can't help myself and hold my breath while I pray whoever is behind that door is someone who is going to treat my best friend well. The person inside beats Chloe to turn the doorknob, and I don't know if I should cry or smile for my best friend once I see who is behind the door.

“Mate,” Chloe and Liam say at the same time.

I don't know if I should be happy because Liam is Theodore's brother, and we all know what a great mate Theodore is, I tell myself with sarcasm. But on the other hand, Liam is nothing like his brother. The past few days that I have been around him, I can say at least he is a different person from his brother.

“Chloe, this is Liam, my mate's brother,” I say, introducing him

“Hello,” Chloe says, smiling

“Hi, beautiful,” Liam says, pulling her into his arms. I can already see these two completing the mating process in the next minute. For a little second, I feel sad that I didn't get such a reaction from my mate, but I push the thought away.

“As much as I would like to give you guys space to get to know each other. I have to steal Chloe away,” I say, pulling her out of his arms.

“Why,” Liam says, growling towards me.

“It’s ok; I will be back soon. I need to tell Ana something important,” Chloe says, placing her hand on Liam’s shoulder to calm him down. He looks like he wants to rip my head off for wanting to take Chloe away.

“Ok, be quick. There is so much we need to do and catch up on,” He says, smirking. He instantly cooled down the second Chloe touched him.

I don’t think I have ever touched Theodore . I can’t help the tiny tears that fill my eyes, seeing how amazing they are with each other. I quickly draw them back in before any of them see it.

Chloe and I walk back to the living room to talk.

“What brings you here?” I ask the minute we take our seats in the living room.

“Your mom, something has happened to her?”

“What’s wrong with my mom? Is she sick? I spoke to her a few days ago, and everything seemed fine,” I ask, panicking.

“She is not sick, but she has gone missing.”

“I don’t understand; I spoke to her a few days ago” I don’t want to believe what Chloe is telling me.

“I’m sure you did, but when I went over last night to see how she was doing without you around, she was not in. We have not been able to find her all night. I quickly came here to find out if she came here without informing our Alpha, but your mate said no. We believe she has been kidnapped.”

“I don’t under-stand what” I don’t know why, but I suddenly find it hard to speak. I feel my heart rate increase by ten folds. I feel like everything around is spinning and closing in on me. I close and open my eyes and focus my attention on one object to stop the spinning, but it does not work.

“It’s a lie!” I say repeatedly. I hear Chloe’s voice, but it feels like she is far away from me, and I don’t know why.

“Ana, what’s wrong? Are you ok” Chloe asks, with her face in front of me, but I don’t even know if she is real because, at this point, I can see two of her. I start feeling dizzy, and before the darkness hugs me, the most amazing scent drifts through my nose, and I know he is here.

“What the hell happened to her,” Theodore says, shouting while bursting into the house, wondering what happened to his mate.