

## Six

(Xeraphina's POV)

My brother and I were walking silently next to each other. He always worried too much about the impact of my actions. I never understood why he cared so much when I never did. If I wasn't worried about how our parents would react then why would he?

Within a few minutes, Xavier stopped me by grabbing my arm. I could have easily evaded him, but I always tried to take my brother's feelings into consideration. Well, I tried too. After he stared at me a little too long, he nally spoke.

"I understand. Are you alright if I go to see our parents as you go to the library?" Xavier asked, his sincerity leaking in his words. I stared at him for at least ve minutes, assessing his expressions, studying his emotions and thoughts, before I nally nodded my head. I was ne with going alone. I just wanted to see why he wanted to speak to our parents so urgently and I got my answer. He thinks if he beats Ariana to them, then he would lessen my scolding. He could try, what was the point of stopping him? His mind was already made up, he always thought he had to get me out of the trouble I apparently caused. I felt him watching me as I took off towards the library. As soon as I was out of his sight, I sighed at his constant hopeful thinking. He thinks my emotions will suddenly change. He thinks I will start acting like him and stop causing chaos, well that's how my parents and him view it.

Another thing bothering me is that stupid ball my mother decided she is going to throw for us. Did I ask her to help nd our mates? Nope. Though she still insists on doing this ridiculous ball. No matter how much I despise the idea. I won't nd him and maybe this ball will show her that she can't push fate where it is unwanted. That is only wishful thinking though because I know my mother and if we don't nd our mates it only gives her another excuse to through more events.

"Why do you hate the idea of our mate so much? I think a mate would be fun and maybe it will help your sour mood." Artemis, my wolf counterpart chimed in. Her cherry mood driving me crazy already. She was a complete one eighty compared to me. She was cheerful, positive and always looking on the bright side of everything. She was the moon goddess' trusted second hand. I wasn't sure why the moon goddess deemed me t to have her as my wolf, but I knew she was powerful, almost equivalent to the goddess' powers. She was also the sister to my brother's wolf.

"Don't judge her like that. We don't need a mate and how do you think we will feel if he decides not to accept us? I mean, we most likely will be stronger than him and men are all egotistical. What if he tries to change us?" Carmilla, my vampire counterpart said in annoyance. She hated the idea of a mate as much as I did. We are powerful together, why do we need a man to make us stronger or complete us? My vampire was independent, only relying on each other. It took her a long time to be alright with my other counterparts. She used to block them all out so only she and I could speak. It was amusing to watch the others freak out because she would hog me, as they would put it.

"We are trying to change her view on our mate, not encourage her with negativity. We are all strong, if he does not accept us then we will just kill him. Easy solution." Succubus, my witch counterpart said with a glint of humor in her voice. We all knew she wasn't joking though. She loved to kill and if that meant our mate, nothing would stop her. She was the bad ass of my counter parts. We were alike in so many ways.

I am done thinking about this and discussing it. I walked into the library, strutting over to the dragon section. Dragons fascinated me. To think they were all extinct surprised me. In all the history books they were considerably stronger than other species. Their mates were the majority of other dragons to preserve their blood line and they liked to keep to themselves. There is one story about a vampire who was mated to a dragon, when they nally accepted each other and mated, the vampire developed their own dragon counterpart. No other species has this ability.

As I was reading through the book about dragon cultures, I felt a wave of danger. Where is that coming from?

"Did you guys feel that?" Artemis asked in a worried tone. She always overreacted to every situation. Her emotions were everywhere. It almost gave me whiplash to keep up with her.

"Xeraphina, it is in the library. We need to get everyone out now." Carmilla stated urgently, she always pinpointed the source of the danger for us. It helped because we could detect things that weren't even close to the kingdom.

"What about the books?" I asked in a monotone. See, I didn't have an ounce of fear to show. I could be facing my death and I wouldn't care. As I said, my emotions are different than others and I am not honestly sure why that is. That is one of the reasons I don't want a mate. He wouldn't get the love another could provide him.

"I will make sure we have the books you so direly need; it almost makes us think you care about something. You focus on the people." Succubus said in amusement. Her chuckles didn't go unnoticed by me. I would deal with her later.

"Omnes homines viventes, ad sarcinas archivum transvehunt." (Transport all the beings alive, to the safety of the pack archive.) I chanted all the words clearly, while my eyes were closed. As soon as I felt all living presence vanish from the library, I knew it worked. My witch tutor always told me that our natural tongue makes our powers stronger. As I opened my eyes, I saw all the shelves were empty.

"You're welcome." Succubus commented with a snarky tone. I would never thank her, and she knew it. I think all my counterparts just liked to get under my nerves.

"Don't worry about that right now Xeraphina. Can we just leave here before we are killed? I know you don't mind death, but I would prefer to live a little bit longer." Artemis said, her petried tone making me want to puke. A strong wolf can get scared over a sense of danger. Nothing has even happened yet.

I rolled my eyes before shimmering us out of there. As we were fading out of the library, I watched the whole building engulfed in ames. Who would do this and why were they targeting the library?

"Something tells me they knew you went there every day, and we were the intended target." Carmilla commented on my thoughts. Mm, she was probably right. So why were we the targets and did they really think a little bit of ames would have taken me down? They better hope I don't nd them, or they will be dying a slow agonizing death. Which I will enjoy. My sinister chuckle sent chills down my counterpart's spirits, successfully shutting them up. They knew how I was and came to accept it. Even if they try to change my mind every once in a while.

As I stood a good distance away from the burning building, I assessed the people gathering around it. Trying to nd a sign of who could have been up to this. I noticed my brother, followed by our family and the elders running to the scene. When they were about fty feet from the building Xavier dropped to his knees, begging the goddess for my safety. I felt his distress, fear and pain radiating through me. His emotions were so foreign to me, but I read enough books to be able to identify them, plus my counterparts helped me understand them over time.

"We should go comfort him." Carmilla said her tone was laced with concern for Xavier. She didn't like seeing him that way.

"Archer is worried, he needs reassurance. Please go make them calm down." Artemis begged for me to go to our brother. Do they not get I need to nd who is responsible for this. I am the only one allowed to wreak havoc in this kingdom.

"We all do know Xeraphina right?" Succubus scoffed at what the others said. 'She does not comfort people, though we could make our presence known so he is not worried anymore. Wait a second, do you see that?'

I glanced over to where Succubus was guiding me towards. A man, dressed in a black cloak stood there smiling at the burning building. He must have been responsible for this. Why was he trying to kill me? I pulled all my senses towards him, assessing him carefully. His thoughts were wicked, he enjoyed causing pain, kill others and watching them burn. Figuratively and literally. He seemed to be a god of some sort. Not on the moon goddess level, but very similar to Artemis. Artemis was still stronger than him but not by much. Who was he and why was he here? Before I could approach him, the gure disappeared, almost as if it was all made up within my mind.

I shimmered over to Xavier, shaking the mystery man out of my head for now. I guess I will be reading a few books about god's and goddess' before I read any more books about the dragons. I need to gure out who he could be.

Xavier's snies were driving me nuts, as he continued to stare at the ground. I tapped his shoulder trying to get his attention onto me. As soon as his head lifted, surprise and relief ashed through his features. He jumped up, ready to engulf me in his arms. I quickly side stepped him, avoiding his hug as I stared at him blankly. Xavier instantly wiped away his tears and cleared his throat.

"I am so glad you are alright. I thought you may have been caught in the re. Do you know if any others got out?" Xavier asked, trying to cover up his emotions. I stared blankly at him; he knew this answer so there was no need for me to respond.

"Right, of course you wouldn't have gotten yourself out of the library and not the rest of the people. I assume you saved all the books as well. Where are they?" Xavier asked. Father leaned forward waiting for my response as he watched our weird exchange. He was used to it by now. Xavier asked questions and just by looking at my face he seemed to know the answers already. No one else could do that, Grandfather Ty could every once in a while, but it was a rare occasion.

"Archive." I said blankly as I turned away from them and left. All the elders were gaping as that was the rst time, they heard me speak. Father was speaking in hush tones to mother and Xavier. I didn't need to have super hearing to hear every word. Even if they mind linking, I could hear them. There seemed to be no way to keep secrets from me. Sometimes I blocked them out but it seemed at that point one of my counterparts would always listen in so they could inform me later. Especially if they deemed it important.

So much for avoiding the council this time.