

17

"You better call Mom and Dad, like tonight."

"I know, I know, its on the agenda. I can't tell the pack until I tell them," I answered.

She nodded, happy with my answer. I watched as Cooper slept on Raine and she and Yesenia chatter for a few minutes about her due date, where Raine was from, Raine gave her a brief rundown of her past two days, Matthew and promised to tell her the full story over breakfast one day soon. We walked away and I couldn't help the joy I felt as the three of us walked to the pack house together.

"How many siblings do you have?" She asked me as we reached Cooper's room and placed him in his bed.

"Three. I also have a little brother who is between Yesenia and Anna in age. Antoine is 18 and with my parents on the trip. We are all only about a year apart and have been close my whole life," I told her.

We walked away from Cooper's room and I showed her the two available guest rooms on my floor. She looked at both and eventually chose the one closest to my room. I kissed her goodnight and much to my dismay, dragged myself to my room to sleep alone.

I woke up to the sound of Cooper through the baby monitor. I sighed and glanced at the clock. It was 3am and I hadn't slept much, haunted by dreams of Raine and missing her. I

threw my blanket off and slipped on my pajama pants to head to find him. I realized once I made it to my door that the crying had stopped. I paused, confused. Then I continued on to his room that was next to mine. I gently pushed open the door and my heart melted. I saw my sweet mate curled up next to Cooper on his twin mattress on the floor. They were both sound asleep and looked so content. 1

I thought back to the conversation I had had with my parents earlier that night. I called to tell them about Raine. Both expressed worries and concerns but also admitted that they had already heard about her from both my sisters who couldn't keep a secret worth their lives. I was irritated at first, but apparently both of my sisters had spoke highly of Raine. They told our parents how Cooper had fallen asleep on her, how she seemed genuine and kind, and apparently how they had never seen me look at anyone the way I look at her and vice versa.

"Your sisters both used the word 'Enamoured' when describing the way you are together" my mom had said.

"Well, thats actually pretty accurate. Im kinda scared mom." I had admitted, I wouldn't tell anyone else that, as the Alpha I could not been seen as weak at all, I ruled fair but tough. But to my mom, I allowed my fear to be seen.

"I bet you are baby, but trust your instincts. Caroline, never felt right, from the first day I remember you asked me why it didn't feel like you thought it should. And the answer was, it wasn't right. It was a means that got you Cooper, but not your happily ever after. Maybe this is that."

I knew she would calm me. They said they couldn't wait to meet her and to keep them updated. They would be home in a week.

I watched my mate and my son sleep soundly. Raine was barely on the mattress as Cooper had snuggled in at the middle and pushed her to the edge. I didn't want her to be uncomfortable so I went over and I lifted her off the tiny mattress. She stayed asleep and snuggled into my chest, making my wolf howl in happiness. I took her to her room and put her in her bed. Then, to make sure she didn't worry, I put Cooper in there with her and I kissed them both and went back to my bed. 1

{ Raine }

I woke up to a knock on the door and I opened my eyes to see two tiny crystal blue ones staring back at me. Cooper.

The moment he saw I was awake he jumped on top of me and started talking non stop. The knock sounded again so I called for them to come in. It was then that I realized I was in my room. How had I gotten back in here? With Cooper?

The door opened and Nel poked his head in. When he saw Cooper the biggest smile crossed his face.

"That boy, has not woken up less than 3 times a night since he was born. It was such a rare and peaceful night last night, for all of us!" He told me as he walked in.

Cooper bounced on the bed and went towards Nel who held out his arms. Cooper bent his knees and jumped his little jump and Nel caught him. Alex had told me that through

everything, Nel had stayed by him. He was like a brother to Alex and an uncle to Cooper, even if it wasn't by blood.

"We, cuz, have a breakfast date, remember?" he asked me.

Oh shit, I was supposed to be meeting my entire family today.

I nodded and hopped out of bed, going to my duffle bag.

"Oh," Nel started before disappearing and reappearing with a bunch of shopping bags which he dropped on my floor. He scooped Cooper back up and headed to the door.

"Those, are from your mate," he said with a smile before disappearing out my door.

I walked over and looked through them. I saw clothes of every variety and style. They were all my size and I realized he had someone check my clothes and go shopping for me. I had a suspicion right away based on style it was Anna. I sorted through and picked out a blue floral dress that matched my eyes. I slipped on my ankle boots and headed out.

I felt my wolf push forward and reminded myself to ask Alex if we could shift today. I desperately needed it.

Breakfast was exhausting but so full of love. I met Nel's siblings, his parents, his grandparents aka my grandfather's brother. I met their mates and families as well and I swear I didn't remember any names but I felt so welcomed by all of them. We chatted, they wanted to hear my entire story so I obliged. They asked if Abuela and Abuelo were coming and I told them soon which made all of them happy. I could feel

the universal sadness over my mom. They had all known her when she was a baby and the loss of her to a rogue life was felt by all of them. She was long gone and that was the accepted fact. <sup>1</sup>

After breakfast I ran into my father in the hallway. I hadn't seen him since we talked about elementals. He had apparently been busy with his mate, which I was so happy about. He apologized none the less for disappearing for 12 hours. The doc, who's name was actually Carmen, seemed to actually be the less infatuated of the pair. I'd never seen my dad like this and as he spoke about her I understood what others must see when Alex and I are together. He even mentioned that he finally understood what everyone he knew had been talking about. The sparks, the pull, the love. He had embraced it fully, I even saw a small wolf tattoo on my dad's shoulder which he embarrassingly explained was his mark from her. They had apparently mated already and I just shook my head. They were like teenagers and I needed to get away before he gave me more details.

I walked through the garden and the backyard wondering where my mate had gotten off to. I caught a wiff of his Caramel scent and followed it to the training field on the far end of the pack lands.

I walked over and as I got closer I heard his voice boom across the field. He couldn't see me or smell me apparently, I was off to the side of the field and I paused so I could see what was going on.