

## CHAPTER 97

### Winter POV

Theres so much beeping. It's really frustrating the hell out of me. Why is it so loud? It's piercing my ear drums. I want to shut it off. It's making me so mad, so angry. My eyelids flutter open. I look around me, perplexed. Why am I hooked up to all these machines? Theres something in my arm and I pull it out, ignoring the blood that trickles from the wound. It stings a little but I'm more fascinated by the room. Or disgusted. Disgusted would be more accurate.

It's so sterile, so white. I glance down and see that I'm in a gown. I touch it, its' rough. Not soft at all. The blanket is coarse and thick. It's warm at least, I think to myself with a shrug. I'm barefoot and the window blinds are up, showing a large house in the distance and nice grounds. I wonder if I live there?

Where am I? I'm so confused. I can't remember how I got here, no matter how much I try. Did someone bring me here? I know I'm in a hospital of some kind but not were. Everything seems to be jumbled in my mind. The room is empty. Should I ring for a nurse? My head is pounding and it feels like it's going to split open. I grimace. Bathroom business first. I push the machines to the side and climb out of bed. A quick check of the room and I find the bathroom attached, going inside and doing my business.

I stare at the face in the mirror. A stranger stares back. I touch my hair and so does the reflection. I purse my lips and so does the mirror. But I don't recognize the face. I can't tell if that's really me. It's like I've never seen

this girl before in my life. Who is she? I slowly walk back out of the bathroom. I'm at a complete loss as to what to do. Should I go and find someone maybe?

A doctor and a man come into the room. I stare at the man, he's handsome in a rugged masculine way. He has scars across his face, that make him look a little ferocious but I'm not frightened of him. Instead, a small part of me wants to touch them. I frown. Am I familiar with this man? Because he looks much older than the girl in the mirror. I sit on the bed and stare, wanting to know who they are.

The doctor smiles at me. He looks nice. The other man is beaming and folding his arms. I stare at him. Why is he so happy?

"How are you feeling?" the doctor asks me.

I think for a moment. "My head is pounding and I have a bad headache" I tell him reluctantly.

He scribbles in his chart. What is it about doctors and charts?

"That's to be expected" murmurs the doctor "you hit your head pretty hard. Now from what I can tell there was no concussion but I want you to be on the lookout for any other side effects."

"Like what?" I ask frowning.

"Nausea, vomiting, blurred vision" he lists. I nod and grimace. Big mistake, the pain in my head flares up.

The other man speaks, "I'll keep a close eye on her doctor, don't you worry."

Why would he be keeping a close eye on me? Then it hits me, he must be a family member. It explains the age gap. Maybe he's, my brother.

"Winter, are you feeling alright? You're being very quiet" the doctor says concerned.

I blink at him confused. Is he talking to me?

"Who?" I ask "Who's Winter?"

There's nothing but silence in the room. The man with the scars is chewing his lip and staring at the doctor, who looks incredibly nervous and slightly upset.

"Your name is Winter" the doctor says worriedly "do you not know your name?"

I shake my head. I'm trying not to feel too panicky, but that's easier said than done. The doctor glances at the other man, who's gone pale.

"What about this man?" asks the doctor, pointing to the other one.

I shake my head again. "Is he a family member?" I ask, turning to the man with scars "are you, my brother?"

His mouth drops open in disbelief. "No, I'm not your brother" he growls and I stiffen.

What's his problem? It was a genuine mistake. He doesn't have to get so angry over it.

"What's wrong with her?" The man glowers at the doctor who gulps and looks at me with concern in his eyes.

"I'm going to have to do some tests" the doctor mutters to him "but I suspect that due to the injury she sustained on her head, she's suffering from amnesia."

"What" explodes the man with scars as I nervously jump "how on earth does that happen? How do we fix it" he snarls.

"You can't just fix it; her memories have to come back on their own" doc explains.

The man does not look happy.

"Who are you?" I ask and he looks at me, his eyes softening for a moment.

"I'm your mate" he says quietly, taking hold of my hand.

I shiver as tingles run up my hand and arm. It feels nice. The word mate is echoing in my mind, like I should instinctively know what it is.

"Can she still feel the mate bond?" the man asks rather desperately.

"She can, but she won't know what it is" the doctor says reluctantly 'all she'll know is that she's drawn to you for some reason."

Hello, I'm sitting right here, I think to myself sarcastically. Not that they seem to notice, having a discussion like I'm not sitting here listening.

"I like you" I tell the man with scars as he squeezes my hand "you seem nice" I say, yawning and feeling incredibly tired.

The man looks taken aback. "I like you too" he mutters. He seems a bit out of his depth. I guess we like each other but it surprises me considering the age gap. But then does age really matter when you're in love? I want to believe it doesn't.

"I'll come back in a little while" the doctor says "and get those tests started."

The man looks displeased "you said I could take her home today."

"You still can, just want to confirm everything first" the doctor says, scurrying out of the room as fast as his little legs can carry him. I guess he's afraid of the man with scars. I don't blame him, the man is definitely intimidating, but oh so handsome. I feel like I'm drooling as I stare at him.

"What's your name?" I ask shyly.

"It's Kai" he says gruffly.

Kai. The name sounds familiar. Like I've heard it before. I like it. I like the person attached to the name, I'm certain of it. He squeezes my hand.

"Winter, we live together" Kai says, his eyes staring directly into mine as I suck in a breath "we share the same bedroom. We both love each other. Do you remember any of that?" he asks rather forlorn.

I strain but can't remember. I feel miserable as I shake my head again. "I'm sorry" I whisper "I don't remember" I add.

"It's not your fault" he tells me "Don't blame yourself. We'll get through this" he adds firmly.

I admire his optimism. There's another sound and voice at the doorway.

"You're awake little sis."

I look at the doorway. There's another man in the doorway, clutching a teddy bear and smiling. He looks slightly older than me. I frown. Did he just call me his little sister. He pulls me into a hug and I awkwardly pat him on the back, before he hands me the teddy bear. He sits on the other chair next to Kai and smiles.

"So how are you feeling?" he asks breezily.

Kai glares at him. "She has amnesia so she doesn't know who any of us are" he barks.

The man's face falls. "Really" he says in a whisper, pointing at himself "you don't know who I am?"

I feel bad. "No, I don't know you I'm sorry."

"I'm Damien, your older brother."

Damien. The word rolls off my tongue. It sparks something inside of me but I can't say what. I hug the teddy bear to my chest and breathe. I'm starting to feel overwhelmed.

"It's alright, we can get to know each other again later" Damien says hastily.

I give him a tentative smile.

The doctor reappears and I shrink back. Kai holds onto me, running his fingers down my arm. It's soothing and relaxes me. It helps me to calm down. "I just checked the x-ray and there was some damage to her skull. It's very minor and will heal itself, seeing as she's a shifter, but it means the amnesia is real. I can't say how long it will be until Winter gets her memories back."

Kai looks disappointed. I'm disappointed too. Now what am I meant to do? Just take everyone's word for it when they tell me who they are and how they are related to me?

"When can I take her home?" asks Kai and I stiffen.

"You can take her now if you want. But I need to check up on her in a few days" the doctor warns. Kai nods his head.

"Winter" Kai says softly as I look at him, fear in my eyes. "How about we get you some clothes and then I can take you back home to rest."

I'm not sure but the doctor seems to trust him, so I guess I will as well. I obediently let him help me out of the bed and the doctor hands me some clothes. They look new. I don't bother to ask, going into the bathroom and slowly getting myself changed.

When I come back Damien is gone and it's just Kai standing there.

"Where's Damien?"

"He went back already" Kai answers "we didn't want to overwhelm you."

He hands me the teddy bear and I clutch it to my chest.

Kai puts a hand on my back and begins to lead me out of the hospital. We go through the main doors and walk outside. The sun is bright, warm, my eyes water at the brightness of it. The sky is a beautiful clear blue with fluffy clouds in the sky. The grass looks soft and lush, a bright green against the pathways. It's a perfect day and I breathe in the smell of pine and dirt appreciatively. He holds my hand and I let him guide me towards the large house in the distance.

"Kai" I say quietly as we walk "I don't think I want to stay in the same bed as you, until I have my memories back." I flinch. Is he going to get mad and hurt me?

He looks hurt instead. "I can understand that" he admits and I let out a giant whoosh of relief "but I'm at least going to put you in an adjoining room instead. That's as far as I'm willing to compromise."

I think about that. It seems fair enough. He is compromising considering we apparently share a bed and bedroom.

"Thankyou" I tell him shyly.

We enter the large house and he leads me upstairs. We bypass a few bedrooms and then he stops showing me one. "This is our room" he explains as I look around, seeing nothing to spark a memory. He opens another door and motions me inside. It's a pretty basic room but it's nice and next to where he's apparently going to be sleeping. I sit on the bed.

"Lie down" Kai tells me and I spread out on the bed. He places the covers on me. I snuggle into the bed. It feels so damn comfortable compared to the hospital one.

He pulls back a loose strand of hair that's in my face and kisses my forehead. "Try and go to sleep" he murmurs "you need to rest and recover."

"How did I end up in the hospital?" I ask curiously.

He hesitates. "We can discuss that later."

I sigh but nod. My eyes begin to flutter closed. They feel heavy now and I feel exhausted. I hug my teddy bear to my chest and start to fall asleep. The last thing I hear before darkness surrounds me is Kai's voice "Damn that bastard for causing this."