

### Chapter 13: Rejection

-Clara-

This uncomfortable cold is surrounding me again, and this pain in the base of my stomach returned. I guess seeing my mate once more, accusing me of something I would never do in front of a room full of werewolves- speeds up the breaking of our bond.

"So? Are we doing this?" Ianthe said in a pained voice.

"He has already hurt us enough..." A lot of what happened between us over the years was painful, but we did not know we were mates. All of that could have been forgiven. However, he crossed the line after knowing and feeling our bond.

How can either of us recover from what he did? How can we start again? Especially when he is still trying to hurt us even further and humiliate me publicly.

I cannot forgive Mason.

"Even if he asks for forgiveness?" Ianthe...

I would hesitate, but how much can someone change after a recess of twenty minutes?

I understand Ianthe's pain and hesitation. She was accepted by Jax without a doubt.

Poor Jax is a hostage of a stubborn, cruel Mason, but they are one.

I am sorry for Jax because he will be hurt... I cannot do this anymore. I cannot wait for Mason to change his mind at the last minute. That is not fair to me.

More importantly... I cannot let him hurt me again. I saw a dark side of Mason I would never want to be near again.

"Would it happen today? In less than twenty minutes?" I ask Ianthe acdily.

I might be harsh, but he has driven me to this.

There are no arguments against my decision. Reality claims our attention now.

Summer Simmons approached Angel and me. She gave me another bottle.

I was already in need of another dose.

After drinking it, I can feel the pain go away almost immediately. Ianthe falls asleep pleasantly again. But I can tell it is losing effect while staying in the same room or in the proximity of Mason.

"How is Ianthe doing? Is she holding on?" Angel asked me, concerned.

My wolf wants her mate. Mason's scent lures her to him.

Ianthe is a pure soul who has barely been awake a week. Regardless of which, she has experienced so much pain and abuse from her mate.

Since she is me, and I am her, I must save us both.

Thanks to the Goddess, I am better at holding her inside. It costs me a lot of effort, but the potion weakened her.

I am more content now that I can take us both out of this messy situation.

"Yes, she is ne. I can go on. But the potion is wearing off fast now. It used to last longer."

"I imagine it is because he is close, and he is... well, you know... trying to trash your reputation." Mrs. Simmons explained, "His scent might be calling to Ianthe. Do not forget to hide yours once everyone is back."

I over everything should go according to our plan. We cannot lose time. If Jax can overpower Mason's will, even temporarily- Ianthe will wake up, and things will get out of hand.

Jax might want me, but Mason blocks him and manipulate his emotions to use his strength.

Summer Simmons did her part, and Mark Simmons is almost done with his. Angel and I will get ours done, as well.

Rose took a stance without telling Luna Michelle. She helped us, too.

Everything is in motion now.

"All in place rolling and on time. Once this part is over, we will have to move even faster." I nod my head in understanding to Mrs. Simmons's words.

I am getting courage and comfort in my hold on Angel's hand.

Angel is indeed a brave wolf and a true friend. We are doing this part to gain some time, but she did an incredible job turning tables on the big, bad Young Alpha.

"I am proud of you, Angel! You outsmarted a Young Alpha." Her mother hugged excitedly. We all are so proud of our Angel.

Mrs. Simmons listened to my explanation of her performance during the interrogation of Warren. She was not in the rst part of the trial. However, she heard it from werewolves talking on the streets.

We all can mind-link since we are six years old, gossips run like wildfire in a pack.

"It is so obvious that it was the best way to get the truth from witnesses!" Angel was amazed at herself. "However, I must admit, it was not all my idea. Luna Michelle told me by mind-link that boy is a lying b\*\*\*\*h... Sorry, her words, not mine."

"That is why she coughed! She actually wanted to laugh!" Angel laughed, remembering that part.

Why not use the skill of the Alpha to command and get the submission from their pack members? His orders cannot be disobeyed.

Oh! Angel!

My shy friend has proved that nobody should be judged by its cover. She was not just brilliant in understanding the situation but also was erce in defending me.

And her questions! Angel even proved to me Mason's true colors. I know he gave me that horrible nickname to mock me, "Rejected Luna". Jerk!

"I did not do much. It is easy because I know you are innocent." Angel smiled brightly. Her cheeks are blushing, and she shies away again.

"Gosh, Angel! You were amazing! Own it today!" Her mother told her.

"I am just embarrassed about how the Warren incident was discussed. That was not the point, Angel. I did not tell anyone about it. Luna Michelle found out like this, and now I feel like a bad goddaughter."

Warren has made my life dicult at school since I was fourteen! He and his gang, of which the worst was his girlfriend.

"I know, and I am sorry... But I do not regret it... He is a beast and should be punished! He is obsessed with you now, and just out of pure luck, you were able to defend yourself... That kick in the nuts showed him better than to mess with you! But what if he tries to harm someone else? Someone, weaker? You would feel horrible, and we will not be here to help that poor soul." Warren does not even have his wolf yet. If he were stronger... if I were not fast enough or trained by Luna Michelle... I prefer to avoid thinking about it.

"Clara, you know that Angel is right. In fact, you should have reported him when it happened. Since I was not here, I had to hear it from other wolves. Everything makes sense now... We need to talk more about trust, sweetie. We are here for you, for both of you girls."

I know Mrs. Simmons and Angel are right. I have kept silent about those things for too long.

"It is a mix of shame and fear, also guilt... like I provoked all those bad things to myself somehow, that I deserved it. It is hard to explain. Please, try to understand." Angel and Summer hugged me, then releasing me when a warm and kind aura entered the room.

"I have heard. No, darling. It was not your fault. It would never be your fault." Luna Michelle approached us and grabbed my hand in hers.

I understand now. I should have told her about Warren's obsession, the bullying, the rumors, and what happened with Mason a while ago.

I just did not want to get her involved in that; those were complicated emotions that I was not ready to face, neither share with anyone.

Angel found out and started to protect me on her own way from Warren.

"That kind of beast needs a leash," Luna Michelle stated. "My mate will make sure those bullies never do that again! Oh... but that Warren boy. Something else coming at him!" I smiled, knowing my Luna's wrath will catch him now.

I can breathe in some relief regarding the Warren matter. He will not harm anyone, even if I am not here.

Luna Michelle mind-linked me that she wanted to try one last time with Mason. It useless, but she left to do that. She knows how the Simmons feel; they do not even want to hear Mason's name.

I do not have the heart to tell Luna Michelle what I am about to do. She does not know about all of our plans. I feel bad for hiding things from her, but the Simmons asked me to trust them this time, and only them.

Since I did not listen before and got myself into this mess... this public mess, I will do as I am told.

I might be eighteen, but they are the adults who can help me go on this path I have chosen.

We got back together to the trial room.

Marissa was hanging from Mason's arm. She was shining, looking gorgeous as always. Indeed, she is an elegant showoff. Her high heels make her look so stylish and tall. She kissed Mason on his lips. And to aggravate me even more, he kissed her back as if life depended on her.

I am too tired of this situation to even get angry... Yet, it hurts. Who am I lying to? It hurts because I am jealous, very jealous, and mad.

"She can keep him," I thought to myself.

I know I sound bitter, but who would not be if in my place, especially after what has happened between Mason and me. This action of his meant a lot more. He chose her... he will always choose her instead of me. And I am ne with his decision, now.

In the rst part of the trial, Mason provided a long list of my bullies from high school. They basically signed in to bully me even further in this trial to banished me from the pack.

Mason wanted all of them to trash my name in front of everyone. He wanted to prove my cunning, malicious character.

... He does not deserve any more tears from me.

The Simmons warned me about Mason, and it was not a surprise. My real surprise was the number of werewolves that offered to be my witnesses without asking them to.

The spontaneous demonstration of friendship and solidarity with me warmed my heart and made me sad at the same time.

Dr. Sprout, Mrs. Constanza, Karima, Dorothy, Jenna, Melissa, even Gloria, besides a nurse who usually is mean to me at the pack's hospital, Betty. They volunteered to be witnesses in my favor.

My resolution to leave wavered for a moment. I feel bad for leaving so much behind me. What if I stay with my friends? But it is not possible... I must do this for myself.

Karima's words were so kind to me. I did not notice that she appreciated me that way.

It breaks my heart to leave my friends. I understand I was meant to be their Luna, not just Mason's mate.

Whatever the plan of Moon Goddess made for Mason and me, it will have to change for both of us and this pack. Despite my pain and anger against Mason, I wish them all the best.

Mason can have his merge, the rst place in the ranking, an Alpha's daughter as mate, everyone will respect him, and he will make this pack the greatest ever. They will be ne... Mason can have it all. I do not want to care anymore.

The trial restarted under the order of Alpha James; he was as serious as always and looked in Mason's direction with a deep frown. Mason lowered his gaze before his father and then looked back to where Marissa was sat. She smiled at him sweetly.

They are the perfect couple.

"Here is the evidence I found myself in the room of Miss Clara Black, who is here standing in this room without any shame claiming to be innocent..." At least, I am not claiming to be Mason's mate. Because I will soon no longer be.

"As you all can see, this wooden box contains one empty glass bottle and four full ones of a brownish liquid. I also have the written confirmation from the pack's hospital that it is indeed a potion. Besides, there is a note with an incantation spell, and my name is there."

Mason showed what he had to his Alpha father, who examined the evidence. And then to the audience as if this were a cheap tv show for their entertainment.

When it was Angel's turn to stand up to contest the evidence, she looked at me and smiled. We are running out of time. Probably, we better move to my part to get this over with. But Angel had another idea.

"I want to clear Clara's name. I have known her since I was six when I moved into this pack with my parents. We became best friends, but she is like a sister to me. That is why I want to say that she would never harm or deceive anyone ever..." Angel made a pause. She looked directly to Mason with determination.

"The so-called evidence presented here was found hours after Clara's detention. Her door was broken, and she was dragged outside. Someone could have planted it there since none guarded the place. The pack hospital report here use to incriminate Clara does not corrim traces neither the scent of Clara in that box nor any of the bottles with the potion."

"I would like to remark before Alpha James, there were no charges against Clara during her detention. Those were formulated the following day!"

Everyone in the room stayed quiet. Alpha James cleared his throat and gazed at Mason, irritated.

Mason had no case against me, and he knew it.

"The defender is quite skilled to trick us into believing in the innocence of Clara Black, but the evidence speaks by itself. I am the one who found those things inside her wardrobe."

"If Clara is so wicked, why would she leave something like that at an obvious place? The accusation is falling apart because it is false, and Clara is innocent of the charges."

Angel then looked at me, asking for permission. My part comes in now.

"I am ready for this..." I mind-linked at her.

Ianthe, please hold on! We need to be strong. She stirred but stayed dormant.

"Clara would like to close my defense." Angel.

"She has to be commanded by our Alpha, to tell the truth. Although I have reasons to believe she has never felt compelled by any high-rank command. I can only hope she would submit and speak truthfully." Mason's words were lled with venom, yet his father looked at him in disbelief.

Luna Michelle gasped loudly and then covered her mouth. Others looked lost without understanding.

Omegas are supposed to obey almost anyone's command or whimper in fear and do as requested. Still, my will is not affected, and probably it never was.

Alpha James hesitated and was about to say something else when his gaze xed on Luna Michelle. A discussion between them was held because they were silent, looking at each other with weird expressions. Finally, Alpha James closed his eyes, took a deep breath, and released it with force. He focused on me.

"Clara, I do not know what to believe about that. I just want to hear the truth." He did not use his Alpha's voice; it sounds different.

I stood up and took the seat of witnesses for interrogation facing the crowd who came.

"Alpha, I swear I have never used dark magic or any magic. More than two years ago, Mason Van Ryan kissed me on the corridor of the packhouse. I have no idea what he drunk that night because I did not provide him with it. I was fifteen years old by then..." My voice broke at some parts.

"I did not tell Luna Michelle or any soul. That was my mistake..."

"You are saying you are his mate, then? Do you think you are worth being Luna? You...lthy omega!" Mrs. Johnson, the former beta female of the pack, and Liam's grandmother yelled from her seat.

Mrs. Johnson despises omegas as if we are some sort of evil in the world who should be treated as slaves. Any omega will prefer to work cleaning toilets for free than to work for her.

Fortunately, our current beta female is nothing like that; although, she has a son like Liam. Why kind and nice females have children like Liam and Mason? Jerks.

"Be quiet, Beatrice!" Alpha James ordered. "Nobody interrupts a trial I preceed! Clara, continue."

It gets harder as I speak; the interruption did not help me.

Ianthe stirred under the gaze of Mason. Jax is there... I guess the mate bond is ghting to survive and keep our destinies intertwined, as both wolves are trying to connect once more. My dormant wolf feels her mate calling her.

"I am not claiming anything. I also want to say thank you to those who came to speak for me in this court... I will be forever grateful." My grip is breaking at the memories we have together. I tried to gain back my stance, so I can do what I came to do, once and for all.

"But I don't think I can live here after what happened to me..." I closed my eyes, and I allow myself one last hit of Mason's scent. Coffee and caramel.

I am so sorry about Jax. I wish things were different for him, for me, for us. But I want to walk away from here with my head high.

Mason Van Ryan... you will not reject me, not after what you put me through, never again.

My eyes are lled with tears as I pronounce my own sentence to nish this trial.

"I am omega. And I am proud to be Clara, daughter of Silvia Gray. I resign to Blood Moon Pack, rejecting Mason Van Ryan as my mate, today and forever..."

The pain inside of my chest is unbearable as I pronounce the last word. I feel like someone punched me in the stomach and grabs my heart tightly inside a lot more, squeezing it. There is this buzzing sound in my ears blocking me from hearing what is happening around me.

I have been drinking the potion almost every four hours by now. Yet, the worst pain I have ever experienced knocked me down from the interrogation chair.

Angel rushed to me and held my head, preventing me hit the oor. I tried to keep my eyes open as she pushed down my throat the liquid from a black bottle.

I could hardly swallow the content. It spilled out from my mouth with blood.

"Drink it, Clara, please... keep drinking it!" Angel's voice, begging me to ght this.

I cannot feel Ianthe inside of me. I feel hollow now and cold. However, whatever amount of liquid was able to reach my system helped to ease the pain.

I was able to drink more, and Angel cleaned my mouth.

There were a lot of shocked faces in the audience.

Helped my Angel and Mrs. Simmons. I stood up and look at Alpha James. I did not see it, but I heard Luna Michelle sobbing. I probably in Rose's arms.

"You have one hour to leave the territory. It is the rule of our pack." I think I saw his eyes watering.

I pulled myself together and relied my weight on Angel until I could stand up for myself.

"Yes, Alpha," I said, after which I walked away without looking at Mason. He has Marissa. Mason is free now. But most importantly, me too.