Chapter 32: Planning

-Clara-

While whirling me around, Josh lost his balance and somehow, we fell on his bed. I ended up on top of him. We laughed together.

Josh's cabin was cozy and warm, in an instant both our scents mixed in the small place. He is tall and neither the small couch nor the chair here would be comfortable for this kind embrace. I know why he did it. I cannot deny I liked it, being like this with him.

There was this indescribable emotion in his eyes while looking at me, an emotion that was probably a reection of my own.

I felt safe in his arms, I tted there like a piece of a puzzle despite our differences.

We both felt the connection throbbing between us. And I wanted more of that feeling from our rst kiss. The butteries were now in my chest instead of my stomach and were looking for a place to call home inside of him, so I kissed Josh with all the feelings that exploded in my heart.

I was not sure of what I was doing, but my instinct was strong. So, I just let it guide me, overtaking any other of my senses at every of his touches on my body.

I nipped his lower lip softly and he granted me access into his mouth. I heard Alastair purr delighted by my boldness. My tongue searched for his and we battled for dominance. I abandoned his mouth and his lips to plant kisses over his jaw and his neck. I just needed more of him. Josh moaned my name, which aroused me even more. I was out my mind. His scent and his hands were doing things to me.

I licked his neck there where my mark is supposed to be... I did not like Blanche telling those things about him, lanthe growled but it was my exact feeling as well. I feel so possessive of Josh. He is mine. My mate, my Alpha... I kissed his lips again. This time, he broke our kiss to breathe.

"Clara..." He said panting. "You are killing me."

I was breathless too. I love his beard; it might hurt a little because it is harsh, but I do not care right now. I am sure my lips are swollen, but I want more kisses. He stopped me which automatically made me wary. Instinctively, I tried to push him away and stand up, hurt, and ready to run away from him.

It might seem like an exaggeration from my part, but I have become quite defensive at the slightest sign of rejection. He realized my intention looking into my eyes.

"No!" He said changing our position, where he was on top of me holding my two hands with one over my head. I got pissed and tried to get him off. Alastair took control of Josh's body, then.

"Don't go! Don't leave us!" The tone of his voice told me more than just his words. I calmed down. He did not want me to leave, that appeased lanthe and my poor heart.

He tried not to crush me with his weight, but he was still heavy on top of me. However, I cannot complain about it. It felt great to feel him like this too.

"You pulled away from my last kiss... I thought you were rejecting me." lanthe and my voice were combined saying it. We both felt the same, hurt.

"No, never...you are mine, and I am yours." He said releasing my hands to cup my face, since I was no longer struggling. I placed them on each of his shoulders still cautious. He caressed my nose with his softly, closing his eyes. Josh breath hit my face, rousing me once more. How can he do that with a simple action?

"Then, why?"

"Clara, I am having a hard time controlling myself.... I want you." He said opening his eyes for me to see his lust. To prove his point even further, he buried his nose on my neck and licked that sweet spot the same way I did it to him. His action sent an electrical shock to me that run thru my body hitting something very specic downstairs... Oh, Goddess!

"I get it. We better stop..." I said. This is going too fast, too soon. We need to talk.

He rolled off me, but pulled me close to him, placing one of my hands over his chest, where his heart was. While my head rested on his shoulder with his arm wrapping me protectively. It felt so right this moment with him.

"Best reunion ever." He said and kissed my forehead.

"Leon said, you were looking for me... for over a year?" He kissed my hand and then each nger. I giggled; his beard tickled.

"You must know how I felt about you from the start... Clara, I fell for you when we were eighteen... well, I was... you were not and your wolf was not awake then..." he paused. He does this when he is nervous with me. I guess there are things that do not change despite the time. I remembered him.

"Nice meeting you too Clara, but you can call me Josh. Everyone does, so you can do it too. You know, call me Josh. Just Josh."

He was adorable, still is. Despite looking more mature and so handsome with that grown hair and beard.

I have to come forward and be honest with him about everything too.

"A lot happened after you left Blood Moon... And I am not the same you knew. Besides, there is something about me, you need to know before..." I am ready to tell him about me, so he can take a decision about us, knowing it all.

"I know. Clara... I know you are Moonlight's Luna. I know about FDL existence and that they are looking for you and other descendants, like the Simmons. I know Sunlight's Alpha and Luna were hiding Angel here and kept in secret your location. I know Blanche is a witch that has being protecting you... and I understand now that Leon was covering your traces, even from me."

"How do you...?" He caressed my cheek with the back of his hand and kissed my lips softly. He has more things to say.

"I do not want any secret between us Clara... Our king recruited me after my rst year at the Alpha's Academy to work for him under cover. I was not able to tell anyone for a while, but now I am a Royal Inquisitor hunting down FDL members." He rolled his sleeve and showed me a weird tattoo. I caressed it, the black ink and the patterns were art on his arm. He shivered and his eyes ickered black again.

"I am sorry..." It is hard not to touch each other. The problem about it is that the temperature escalates fast between us. The sparks between mates ignite a re that only mating can satisfy. I want him too, but I want it to be special. "You are thinking too much!" lanthe also wants her mate. It is not the right time!

"lanthe is my wolf. She would like to greet Alastair... but I do not trust them to be left alone with our bodies." Josh smiled and agreed with me. He also wants something special for us, we are in the middle of our friend's crisis.

"Alastair wants to meet her too, in wolf form. But he does not trust himself." Fortunately, Alastair is cooperating unlike lanthe. She is complaining since she wants to show her him her fur.

Shawn was Josh's roommate and friend during his time at the Alpha's Academy. He was looking for me unocially, and even passed my photo to trusted contacts like Leon, since he thought I might be in lycan territory. He has apprehended a lot of FDL members around packs even in high ranks while others are under careful watch until the King's order arrives.

Josh came to Sunlight because Shawn send him a photo of him with Angel. He recognized her and came here looking for me. He says that has had these dreams about me... it is amazing. He even felt when I was stabbed, which I do not want to tell him unless is absolutely necessary.

"You know my story now... I came and found the situation of Shawn... I would like to tell you something else. I am not sure if Angel should know or not..." Turns out Paige, the rude blond I found at the Pert's house, is a FDL member.

I did not like her for a reason, fortunately my disguise was good enough to fool her. I do not trust her. There is something wrong with her.

"Paige is willing to give more information about FDL if Shawn rejects Angel, to secure Renata and Shawn's happiness... she even provided a love potion that FDL uses to secure places as mates in high ranks inside packs. She wants a deal for more information about FDL plans." I knew it!

"That is extorsion!" I am so mad now! That...

"Shawn has to decide by himself, without any other pressure or inuence. Even if catching more FDL members is at stake."

"Angel has to tell him what she wants too." He looked at me, surprised. "Yes, she has a saying in this too. If she accepts Shawn despite all as well. They have to talk and decide together." He smiled at me again.

"I want our relationship to be like this Clara... we should talk to each other, like this... openly about everything." I guess I should tell him that his cousin might be still in Saint Isabella.

"Josh... I am living at Saint Isabella town; I have my small pack there and a business named Moon House..." He was smiling and looking at me proud, I am melting... focus!

"The thing is that Mason found me there." I thought Josh was going to get mad, or yell. He did not.

"Really?" I looked straight at his eyes, he was quiet. No change in his mood.

"Yes...he wants me to forgive him." Again, not outburst of anger.

"I know." I think it is my turn to ask: really?

My face tells him I need more information because he continued.

"Over six months ago, I visited Blood Moon. I arrested Beatrice Johnson and Iris Williams as FDL members, we released Mr. Williams and Sky... the thing is... I agreed on a truce with Mason."

"A truce?"

"Clara, two alphas after the same female. It means war between our packs."

"I cannot believe this. How so a war? I do not want a war!" I cannot be the reason for a conict like this. I better speak with Mason to clear things with him once and for all.

"We are not ghting each other; we are actually helping each other to protect you nding FDL members... I must admit, he is trying hard to be a better Alpha. And I know he was looking for you, the same way he knows I was doing the same."

"That is good, I guess." But now Josh found me, and he is my true mate. Mason has no right to anything, not even to be angry. Besides, even without Josh in the picture, his chapter closed long ago for me.

"Yes, I can kill him now." There was venom in his voice.

"What?"

"He hurt you, I want to kill him. You are with me now; I do not need his help anymore." Alastair tainted his voice.

"Alastair... Josh, he is your cousin... I do not want you to kill him!" Alastair was not pleased.

"Why? He humiliated you in public, he exposed you to FDL members with his stupid trial. You almost die because of him!"

"It is in the past. I..."

"You have feelings for him?" He was hurt by jealousy. I need to make this clear for him. This is not about Mason; it is about him. Josh is the one I care about.

"No. Josh, I had no feelings for him when I found out he was my mate. He was the reason I was called names at high school, he ignored me for years... he broke my heart before even that bond was created... I do not want you to kill him because he is your family. Luna Margaret and Luna Michelle are sisters. I do not want to break your family. Please..." He kissed me again, this was a hard one. A desperate one, I submitted to him opening my mouth for his tongue to caress mine, to possess mine.

"I am dying to mark you Clara. We do not have to mate but accept me." His breathing was short and hard.

"I accept you as mate, you know that... you can feel it don't you?" He relaxed in my arms.

"I just do not want us to do something because of him. Love, please... it has to be in our terms." The smile got back to his face. I smiled back at him, not sure what happened that brighten his mood suddenly.

"You called me love" He said with tenderness in his voice, and I blushed. I guess, I did it. It was natural. He kissed my forehead and we fell sleep in each other's arms, without changing our clothes. Ianthe and Alastair snuggle with each other as well, nally together.

When I woke up, Josh was not by side. The bathroom door was closed, so he was taking a shower early. I got off bed to look for my towel and set of clean clothes for this day.

"Morning, love." He said approaching me to kiss me. I tightened my lips. I do not want morning breath to kill his mood.

"Good morning, Joshie..." I remembered that I called him that once when we were pups.

"Joshie?" He questioned raising an eye brown.

"Yes, I remembered one day you played with me and my dolls when were pups... and I called you Joshie." He tilted his head to his right, his eyes narrowed and ickered black. Probably, Alastair was looking into his memories for conrmation.

"I remember now...Little Clara was a nice pup. I liked her a lot even then." He said hugging my waist. The temperature was raising again between us, I had to run away from him.

"I better take a shower and you better change." I am sure I am blushing deeply red, he let go of me so I could grab my towel, toiletries, and clothes. He just smirked at him.

"Party killer! He is just wearing a towel!" Damn horny wolf inside of me, lanthe you... "Liar!" She said. I wonder if she is right, and I am just thinking too much about it.

Cold shower it is!

Josh was ready and sat on the bed waiting for me when I came out dressed. He stood up and hold my hand sning it, to later kiss it. His lips against my skin awoke the butteries.

"You smell werewolf now. It is better to keep the pretense of you being Claire Bond in front of Paige and Renata."

"I agree. I do not trust Paige..." I pulled away from him. I still have to apply make-up on my face, and the perfume Blanche tailor made for me. Besides, of wearing the contacts.

Almost everything I wear has a protection spell and has being scented to seem human. Blanche improved my disguise over time since the Blue-Ribbon twins got attached to me.

"Renata is not so bad, I guess she has suffered a lot to come with this plan. I supposed she did not expect Shawn to have a fated mate waiting for him at home." Josh looked at me trying to understand what I was saying. It is obvious, right?

"Josh, I am almost a hundred percent sure that Renata wanted to get pregnant. That was not just bad luck. I think she was looking for a way out of her pack, and that pup was her ticket. What is the name of her pack?"

"Dark River... Paige says they are FDL territory, and almost killed Renata." I understand better now. It makes sense, I recalled everything Lorraine and Amelie told me about that place.

"It is hell for omegas there. It makes sense that FDL infected them. Even the Alpha and Luna are evil."

"According to Paige, they are not FDL members... probably they are just biased against omegas... like most werewolves. But high rank wolves in strategic positions are members."

"The young alpha there is a bastard Josh, he tried to r**e someone I know. She is just sixteen! Her sister broke a bottle on his head and gain some time for them to run away from him, they are members of my pack now... well, once they heal." Josh looked at me concerned. I know he is worried about my safety. I do not want to tell him yet about their attack, yet.

"Sunlight might be in danger if they come for Renata...they do not have great numbers or enough warriors for protection. They have lived peacefully and under FDL radar for so long... I feel so bad for them. We have to help them!" I am convinced now, they will come for revenge, not even for Renata.

"I have already placed warriors from the Royal pack here. My father is also sending a group as well, they will arrive later today. It will be alright. We will be able to protect Sunlight." That was a good move, if I had numbers or power to do so, I would have done the same.

I just hope they all arrive on time, to disua Dark River pack play dirty. The stab wound mark I have in my back will remind me that fact forever.

"We better go to check on Angel and Shawn. I hope Shawn is back already." Besides, I am ready for breakfast. I did not have dinner last night.

Josh hold my hand and pulled me to his chest, there was this cute blush on his cheeks.

"How should we tell the others about us? When do you want our mating ceremony to be Clara?" Oh!

"Josh, are you sure about telling others that your mate is a human? Well, it is a lie since Claire Bond does not exist... but still, the word will spread like re."

"I do not care. You can be Clara Black, Claire Bond or have any other name or rank, even specie. Still, you are my mate." He kissed my neck again. Dear Moon Goddess give me strength to resist him. "No! I want to give in already!" Ianthe, you are not helping, as always.

"Even in front of Paige? She still can talk about us; she might even tell someone else of FDL; I do not want to be your weakness in front of her. Your position is complicated as Inquisitor."

"I have her weakness as well, it is alright. Besides, I will have to arrest her and take her to the King soon." Since there are Royal warriors here under his command, I feel better. Yet, I am worried something wrong could happen. He is going to leave!?

"Soon? How soon? When are you leaving?" I hugged him tightly. I do not want to be apart from him.

"Not yet. I want to be sure how things evolve here before I leave with Paige, you can come with me if you like."

"I would love to go with you, but I cannot. I must get back to my pack, solve things there."

"I want you with me all the time, Clara." He kissed my cheek. Josh is very affectionate, I like it.

"We can have our mating ceremony in Saint Isabella town. It is a pretty place. I will prepare it there; it will be something small... then we can think what to do after it?" He agreed with me.

We still have more plans to do and compromises to make. Like where are we going to live. He always respected my wishes and now I must consider my pack members as well in any decision. I think they will be protected in his territory, blend in until we can take down FDL leader, with his help.

Heading to the Alpha and Luna's house, holding hands as a couple, I think we have a good plan.