

### Chapter 33: A decent werewolf

-Clara-

My mate's scent was all over me, the same as mine was over him, for which I was glad considering Paige is unmatred. It eased my heart and lanthe's to make clear to everyone that Josh was mine. Probably, Josh felt the same. He grinned at me and I smiled widely back at him.

Josh and I entering the house holding hands was not a surprise for most of those present and they congratulated us then. Just Paige and Renata were left speechless and kind of shocked about us together.

Probably before Renata's eyes, this is a very unusual mating; one between a werewolf and a human. However, for a FDL member like Paige, this is close to be a monstrosity that cannot be Moon Goddess' wish in any extend. Her eyes and frown said it for her.

Luna Aerin and Alpha Dean congratulated us joyfully, enjoying the news about us this morning. I was told that Louise was sent to his aunt at the Beta's house today. The poor pup was facing a challenge with so many emotions around her, as she was worried about Angel since they got so close over the last two years.

Blanche raised an eye brown looking at us. My face was burning. After last night conversation with her and Leon, I know Blanche is going to throw at me a lot of questions about the cookie once we are alone.

"If you gave the cookie, we would have a nice story to tell her!" If you do not stay put, I will send you to sleep lanthe! She stayed quiet... for now, at least. She does not behave this way ever we always agree on things together..

Josh and I were proud of being together in front of everyone, disregarding what others might think. Others such as Paige and Renata right now.

"A werewolf and a human!" Said Paige with an annoying tone of voice. "A human will be Luna of Silver Rain pack!" She just could not keep it inside. Everyone frowned at her in that moment. Renata went deeply red from embarrassment and lowered her head, hiding her face behind her red hair.

Josh growled at Paige, although it was probably Alastair. Our wolves are more aggressive than our human part and are very protective of our mates. Lanthe felt smug, my wolf was happy to show off our relationship with Josh as well as his reaction to Paige's comment... I know I was.

I wonder how would have been my life if I took his mother's invitation and left with them to Silver Rain pack that day. I would have never found out that Mason was my mate. I would have not been pushed around, but I would have never met Blanche, Leon, Luca, the Blue-Ribbon twins, my pack members... Maybe, Josh would have come back home to nd me there, and our story as mates would have started from there. Or not... But who knows what would have being? The world of "if" does not exist. We only have the present.

In the present, I am holding hands with someone who accepts me for me. He is the kind of mate I wanted from the start. And I knew he was into me even before our mate bond, back then in Blood Moon when we met and become friends. I liked him but I was too afraid to admit it even to myself. It was just not the right time for us. I was not ready for him.

Nowadays, after what I have lived, I would accept him even as a chosen mate. But Moon Goddess granted me Josh as second chance mate to ease our path, and I will be forever grateful.

"I do not like your tone Paige; I would prefer you keep that kind of comments to yourself." Said Josh still angry by her last comment. Does it sound impolite from him? Yes. Do I care? No. It is still fresh in my mind, that Paige is a FDL member.

"Paige, a mate is sacred. Human or not... I accept my bond with him the same way as he accepts me." I said to her, and Josh kissed my hand at that moment. I giggled and blushed at the same time.

"Certainly, the mate bond is a powerful and sacred thing for us, werewolves." Said Josh. "A gift from Moon Goddess herself, and this female here is my mate. I do not care about anything else but the fact that she is mine, the same way I am irrevocably hers." He added leaning to kiss my lips again, softly since we are in front of everyone.

lanthe was so restless that I will have to drink something to soothe her, if she displays her aura Paige would get alerted. I can imagine Alastair will not be pleased by her mate sleeping on daylight, but it seems necessary. "I will behave! I swear!" She said, and she better do it.

Paige's reaction will be a normal one since everywhere in our werewolf kingdom consider humans even weaker and lower than omegas. Mating humans is very rare, I think there was a case around ve hundred years ago or something like that.

Considering the gossips and challenges we will have to face I wonder if we are doing the right thing. Maybe we should have kept our relationship a secret for a while.

"Do not over think about this." Said Josh to my hear. "Paige is biased. You are my mate, I will never want anyone else but you." Josh kissing my forehead this time.

My mate must have sensed my sudden anxiety. Even without marking, he is very aware of my emotions. It would be a good idea to ask Blanche how is that he even felt when I was stabbed, or his dreams about me.

"Awwwww..." was heard from Blanche and Leon at the same time, which took me out of my own thoughts. Despite Josh's low tone of voice in my ear, other might have heard him. He did not look ashamed, just happy to be next to me.

Renata looked down and asked permission to leave the table. Paige looked at us annoyed and left after her.

Josh words remind her that Shawn is Angel's fated mate, not hers. No magic or potion can change that fact. In general, our mating as unusual as it might seem to others, it is real, and Moon Goddess wish as well.

I can sense that Renata has suffered a lot and I might be judging her too quickly as the bad one here. I remember the look in her eyes yesterday. However, the pain of my friend does not let me to consider it or ponder more into that. I want Angel to be happy, and Renata is the reason for this crisis between her and her mate... well... not exactly, Shawn is 75 percent guilty as well. Maybe there is more of Renata's story to know and understand.

We nished breakfast in a light mood, I imagine due to Luna Aerin's gift. She can make others to feel her emotions while in the same room with her.

Leon looked at Blanche as always with hope for her to accept his bond, she looked different tough. I think she is wavering, but something is bothering her. Yet, I hope they can solve it together and hear good news from them too. When you are this happy, you want more people to be happy as well. Specially those close to you.

I wanted to leave them to look for Angel and confirm if she had the breakfast as Luna Aerin told me it was delivered to her room.

Josh stopped me before I took the stairs for the second oor. He kissed me then roughly, but since I was already craving for him, I did not ask him to stop. I think I will have to stop wearing lipstick, I had to clean his lips and mine with my sleeve while laughing. He smirked at me and gave me a last kiss on my cheek before letting me go upstairs.

I found Paige knocking at Angel's door loudly. Fortunately, Angel did not open it for her despite Paige's screams.

"I have something to tell you! You must let me in to explain!" She kept saying.

I can imagine what she wants to tell Angel. Shawn getting the possibility of a happy ending with Renata and her pup using the love potion. She wants my friend to know and force her to remove herself from the situation rejecting him herself, as if Angel was the intruder and not otherwise! The nerve of this female!

"Not on my watch!" I yelled. Paige looked at me more than annoyed.

That love potion should be forbidden from the entire kingdom as for the problems it creates. I pushed her away from the door, and Paige growled at me, displaying a strong aura... as if I would care for such display.

"You should be trembling in fear, human!" I think it was Paige's wolf as her eyes were black. I assume her wolf felt disrespected by Claire Bond, the human who is learning to be a witch.

"I am Luna! Show some respect!" I yelled at her. I was ready to ght as human as well. I must do it and still be in control of lanthe. She promised to behave, but in exchange I must take care of both of us. This werewolf will not lay a nger on us.

"Paige, stop! Please, stop this!" Renata appeared behind Paige. I think Renata does not even have to ght with Paige doing her dirty work. Why is that she does not have an evil aura?

"If you are not ghting for your pup and your happiness, I am!" Again, Paige's wolf was talking. She is very protective over Renata. At least, she is trying to be a good friend for Renata despite being a FDL member. I can respect that, but it does not mean I will let her do as she pleases to harm MY friend.

"Paige, I do not think it is fair to do this. It is all my fault..."

"No! You are the victim here! Shawn took advantage of you with fake promises of love! Now, you do not have a pack. You family wants to kill you! Your pup might not have a father if you do not ght for it with all you have." Paige looked desperate while grabbing Renata's shoulders.

"Not his fault..." Said Renata. Tears were forming on her eyes. There was remorse and sadness there.

"You did this on purpose, don't you?" I asked crossing my arms over my chest and with a severe expression on my face.

"How dare you? Renata has a pure soul, she would never..." Paige was interrupted by Renata.

"It is true Paige. He never lied to me. Shawn always said those things... a mate is a mate, and that he would even accept a human as mate... and here Josh has done it with Claire now. I am so ashamed!"

"Reni, what are you saying?" Paige approached Renata to hug her, but Renata rejected her.

"I planned it. I wanted to have his pup; it is just... I... I... I just cannot go back home. It is hell there."

"You planned? How is that you...?" Paige was dumfounded.

"Shawn was drunk in our graduation party; it is not like he seduced me... I wanted to get pregnant to get away from my parents, from my pack. They planned my mating to a fly-year old Alpha! Shawn is nice and caring, he was perfect for me... but he is not my mate... he never lied to me..." So, that is how it happened, and why. I guess Shawn and Angel need to know this part of Renata's story as well.

It does not change the fact that she is expecting Shawn's pup, but I guess Angel might see that Shawn always wanted his fated mate. Unfortunately, he fell on Renata's trap.

"You did what?" Asked Angel. her now black hair was still messy and all around. Besides, she did not change her pajamas yet. She was standing at the doorway of her room shocked hearing Renata's confession.

"I am sorry. I created this mess... I... I am sorry." Renata at least had the decency to apologize to Angel.

"Get back inside!" I told Angel. I do not want Paige to poison Angel's heart. I pushed myself inside her room with her, disregarding the other two females. Paige was comforting Renata, who kept crying.

"Seel! Shawn always said that he was going to accept his mate, no matter what. You are that mate! You! Nobody else. She used a trap to get him. Do not let her win! You have to ght for your destiny with your mate too!" Following my words, I saw determination forming on Angel's eyes.

I would like to say I feel sorry for Renata, but I do not. There are other ways than use this dirty trick on someone.

Renata had friends and resources at hand. Besides, using a pup as a ticket away from her family and to get the Luna tittle was disgusting. Small pack or not, she wanted to keep her status and lifestyle at Shawn's pack. How many broken hearts have caused her selfishness? Including her own.

Angel felt better and looked determined. Shawn wanted to wait for her mate, and he chose her from the start. She should have told him about her true feelings instead of hiding here and giving space for doubts between them. Angel also told him some truths about herself, as in general regarding Moonlight and our plans. I agreed to share more information with him if she felt she could trust him.

"I will mind-link...", was saying Angel after getting ready with her best clothes, when someone knocked her door. She recognized the person behind her door as Shawn.

"Please, can I come in?" Angel looked at me nervous, I asked if she was ready to talk with him.

"Before he speaks, tell him what you want and what you heard just now from Renata herself." Angel nodded at me.

I opened the door for Shawn, he had deep dark circles under his eyes and a pained expression. It looked like someone punched his face and his wolf was not healing him. He barely acknowledged me before I left them together.

I walked down the stairs crossing my fingers for them to find a solution that will keep them together.

"The potion is ready." Said Blanche when I got in her cabin. Josh was outside with Leon and Alpha Dean. Luna Aerin felt uncomfortable without her pup, so she went to the beta's house to check on Louise.

The reinforcements that Josh called arrived. Therefore, the Royal pack warriors and Silver Rain's mate was able to protect Sunlight of a sudden attack in his land.

I think it is not a permanent solution but at least, it will dissuade Dark River Pack from an attempt to harm this pack in the short term.

"I think it will not be needed." I am hoping I am right. I told Blanche everything I learned from Josh about Paige and the new information about Renata.

It still annoys me that Renata does not have an evil aura, neither is as annoying as Paige, yet she did something like this to Shawn, Angel, herself and even her new pup.

"I am not defending the b\*\*\*\*h. But I guess you do not sense evilness because she is not evil, neither a FDL member. If what you say is true and she has suffered abuse back at home... maybe she was not thinking properly... it is easy to judge from our positions. We were not in her shoes. Poor b\*\*\*\*h, she has sinned against herself and even her own child... what about her own fated mate?" That one could be somewhere else.

"Blanche, you are too good." Blanche looks all hard and dicitl sometimes, but she is kind and very understanding of everyone's situation.

She might be right, I am easy judging Renata's life as an Alpha's daughter since I have always imagined them to enjoy a pampered life with a lot of privileges, and resources at their disposal. Like Marissa Malone from Red Moon pack. However, Renata does not look like Marissa to me. Her eyes are more like Lorraine's than Marissa's. At least of that I am sure.

"No. I am not. I am just old, which allowed me to see a lot of things over the years... even from different perspectives... young one, I was not always the good one..." I nd that hard to believe.

"Yes... in your story I might the good one, but for someone else, I am the wicked witch... I am aware that at least once, I was the bad one... in another occasion, I was the good that made a mistake, and then there was this situation where I was the bad one who rectied my mistakes. I guess... I have lived a lot... you are just starting." Blanche and I keep talking while pouring the potion in small black bottles, and then store them in a bag.

We took the bag to the Luna and Alpha's house, ready for whatever situation might unfold now. I send a message to Josh about where I was going. Since we are not members of the same pack, and have not marked each other, we cannot mind-link yet. He replied that he was on his way back there.

At the house, we found Shawn kneeling in front of Renata, both were crying as well as Angel. Paige was fuming. Luna Aerin had a hand placed on Angel's shoulder comforting her. I feared the worst situation for my friend, and I was about to intervene when Blanche made me hold my horses and asked me silently to remain quiet and listen from where we were standing.

"I am lowering Renata. I am so sorry. I will spend my life apologizing to you... and the pup." He said sorrowing the head.

"I promise to be responsible for you, both." Shawn looked at Renata's belly. "I promise to die and kill if needed, but I cannot choose you over my mate."

"Renata needs a mate! Her pup needs a father!" Paige was arguing Renata's part, while she just sobbed. I wonder how Paige is so determined in favor of Renata, her friend was in the wrong after all, and she knows it.

"I cannot be your mate because I have already a soulmate. But I can a father for the pup." He said to Renata, without acknowledging Paige.

"That is not good enough Shawn!" Paige growled.

"Renata is accepted as part of our pack... My mate is doing a big sacrifice already, she is accepting Renata to live here protected and safe, under the roof of my parents... We will build another house, nearby... we will live close enough for me see the pup while growing up. Besides, if your pup is a male, he will be the Alpha of the pack. But regardless of the gender, I promise to love the pup with all my heart, as if born from my mate." Angel nodded to Shawn's statements about the pup.

I noticed he never called the puppy as his in any statement. I am sure Renata has noticed it too.

"I disagree! How dare you? Chesep Alpha!" Angel was mad now. Paige was insulting her mate. She stood up and walked to Paige but was restricted by Luna Aerin.

"I understand. I agree to this... Can you promise that my pup will play and enjoy the company of your pups." Said Renata looking down.

"I promise." Said Shawn.

"Not you, Luna Angelica... Please." Renata and Paige knew Angel as Angelica.

"My pups with Shawn will treat yours with love and respect. I will teach them to respect you as well, as the mother of their oldest sibling." Shawn stood up and hold the hand Angel was giving to him. They looked like a united front facing Renata and Paige while holding hands.

"Renata! Do not agree to this! Your pack will not accept anything less than your position as Luna. Even if it is a small pack, they will be furious as they will not be able to use your mating to gain more land for their territory."

"I thought about it, and since your pup will be my heir if born male, we will have to ask an exception from the King. I have found a way for this to happen." Shawn was looking into an amicable solution. I guess I misjudged him too, I thought he was just running away from his problems and debating how to dump my friend.

I am not sure to understand what Shawn is implying but seems like Paige was left without more arguments, so she came to insults instead.

"I will not let this happen! You are not going to treat her like a discarded mistress! f\*\*\*\*g bastard!"

"You know, it is the best that we can offer! Stop hurting us already!" Said Angel placing a hand over Paige's shoulder looking straight at her eyes.

"Let go of me, you Delta! An Alpha choosing a Delta instead of an Alpha's daughter as mate! What kind of base is that to build a strong pack! No wonder this pack is not even ranked..." Angel slapped Paige's face.

"Do not disrespect my pack when you are a guest here!" She said without letting her shoulder go. Paige was trembling in fury and tried to get away from Angel's hold to slap her back.

Angel was faster and grabbed her hand in the air blocking her. Renata got out of her torpor and approached Paige hugging her.

"Thank you for everything Paige." She said and kissed her cheek. The cheek that Angel slapped and was still red.

"Renata! I just wanted you to be happy, so at least one of us could be happy, truly happy!" Sobbed Paige hugging her back.

"I will be... Paige, just not with Shawn... I made a mistake. I could no longer stand my family. Getting back home was unthinkable after my life at the Alpha's Academy. I was free... I felt loved, there was no more beatings, no more insults... no more punishments... everyone was kind. And you my friend, my shield... you were the best of everything."

Paige helped Renata to get back to her room, leaving us there. I guess nobody noticed Blanche and me at a corner.

"It would be advisable to keep an eye on Paige and Renata." I said, Luna Aerin nodded and left the room. "I do not trust Paige, and I am very unsure about Renata." What if she is planning something evil right now? We all should keep an eye on her.

"Thank you for coming, you must be Clara... Claire Bond, right?" Said Shawn, after whipping his face.

This is our formal introduction, and I can assume that Angel has told him the truth about me, her, and Moonlight pack. I looked at Angel, and she nodded as conmmation smiling. I guess we have another ally in Sunlight pack.

"I am Blanche, and I am happy you guys xed this s\*\*t... well, compromised on something acceptable for all parties, but I have worked so hard and on vain..."

"Oh no! I am sorry for that too..." Said Shawn and tightened his hold on Angel's hand. "But you have not come in vain. My Angel and I are happy that you both will attend to our mating ceremony tonight."