## Chapter 36: Pulling over

## -Clara-

It was an eventful morning. After our fun time during our shower, we almost arrive late to receive a new group of guests from Silver Rain pack.

My scent was mixed with Josh's, but his on me is stronger. I reek of him. Any werewolf could sense him on me from far.

Josh made sure that everything on me had his scent, and the shower together had that purpose too. I did the same to him, silly wolf... I would never allow anyone but him to mark me. Besides, now I have a couple of his t-shirts in my bag, while he took my ... something... with my scent on it that would help us both to sleep until we can get back together. Our bags were ready.

The second and third in command -to be- of Josh came to Sunlight along with a "small" group of ten werewolves. That was not even the original number Josh wanted to send as my guards. It was impossible to negotiate anything about it with Josh after I told him about the rouge attack, and then the ght I got into with a couple of trackers from Dark River pack.

Since my safety was his main concern, I had to agree. The best I could get from him was that they would be undercover pretending to be on vacations, without reveling our mating wide publicly yet, we were not going to deny it just try to keep low prole until our mating ceremony. We must be cautious since my identity is a concern and being his "human" Luna calls a lot of attention as well as enemies.

Marcus arrived with his mate Sophie and they both gave me a very good impression, they seemed to be nice and very calmed, complementing each other somehow, which remind me of Luna Michelle's kind nature. Allen, the third in command to be, was a fun and straightforward werewolf. I liked him from the start. Well, I liked them all.

I am glad that Josh grew up with nice werewolves like them, they will be part of our inner trusted circle and if he trusts them, then so do I.

The anecdotic part about my rst meeting with his friends happened when Allen tried to hold my hand to greet me. Since Josh was ne when Marcus did it, Allen thought it would be alright to do the same while complimenting how "beautifully" the blond color suited me with green eyes.

It could be considered as a "irty" remark, but I assumed Allen's comment as a joke indirectly telling me he knew who I really was, my original hair color is black, and my eyes are hazel. Yet, the way he said it might have given the wrong impression to Josh. Well, Alastair.

Alastair took control of Josh and almost threw himself at Allen. Since Josh is blond with pale skin, he got very red in an instant. Fortunately, I noticed on time and helped to control the jealous possessive wolf inside of him.

The mate bond is something very powerful to tame our wolves, I grabbed his face with both of my hands to make him look at me and that action placated his anger almost immediately. He focused his black gaze on me. Then, he buried his nose on my hair sning my scent. Before given back full control to Josh, Alastair placed several wet kisses all over my face without caring his friends where there.

"Josh, my boy was about to rip my head off!" Allen has a weird way to joke about it. At least he was not suicidal and kept some distance from us. Alastair's intention was murderous for an instant, he should have felt his aura, but laughed at it. Does Allen practices extreme sports or does not care for his life?

"Sorry dude... I... I saw all red when you tried to touch her." He apologized to the Allen. Josh had an arm around my waist while holding my hand over his heart. It was still running wild.

Despite looking in control, Josh contains his raw emotions, therefore his wolf. He tamed his wolf to the point where he feels ashamed when Alastair gets out of his control. Josh always does this, to contain and look calm in front of others. My sweet Josh.

He would never harm his own pack member, specially his gamma and friend; it is just that without marking me, his wolf feels very insecure about any unmated male around me. I understand that because I feel the same regarding Paige been anywhere near him. The fresh hickey on his neck yells my insecurity.

"It is ne. No harm no foul." Said Allen. He had no idea how intense one feels towards a mate. One day he will, and I hope he has the kind of control that Josh has. They had a brother's hug and things went smoothly between all of us after that.

Josh introduced me to the all his guards as his mate and future Luna of Silver Rain. They truly thought that I was Josh's human mate. I guess Blanche's magic skills are superb to create this disguise.

The guards bowed before me which made me feel uncomfortable, I wanted to stop them, but Josh asked me to accept their greeting since it is part of their tradition of acceptance and loyalty. It felt great that demonstration of affection and recognition as their Luna.

Luna Aerin got extra tables and support from other members of the pack to provide them a warm breakfast. I might be unhappy about so many guards, but they should be fed and be able to have some rest before we start our journey.

The house of Luna Aerin and Alpha Dean was crowded again. Blanche and Leon joined us as well. Sweet Louise was shining since her family was nally happy, and enjoyed everyone's company and the chaos around her.

I noticed Leon was frustrated missing Blanche's attention during breakfast. She just kept joking with Allen. Those two clicked immediately as their characters and dark humor were similar. The werewolf seemed to be very interested on everything my friend said. I think Leon might have felt a bit jealous of that interaction since Allen is not mated. Poor Allen.

The main conversation over the table was the changes going on to accommodate the royal warriors that would come and go from the Royal pack periodically to preserve their security for years. A residency exclusively for them was in process to be built in Sunlight territory. They were staying as guests at the houses of many families of the pack until such residency was ready for them. They also supported patrols in the borders increasing their numbers and shifts.

Paige and Renata spent the night together and did not join us. Breakfast was delivered to them in Renata's room.

I am still unsure about what to think about Renata, is she a potential traitor? Or someone who can be an ally? Is she potentially a friend or foe?

Right after breakfast, Josh and I had a brief but exciting video call with his parents. Luna Margaret did not recognize me as Clara Black. Afterall, it has been more than two years that we saw each other, it is understandable. Josh did not tell them about his search of me as his parents were busy supporting Mason and his family.

Luna Margaret looked different too, her hair was long and blue this time, yet her character was the same as in the past, open and carefree. They thought I was human and accepted me in their family regardless. Josh's father looks a lot like him, well... Josh looks a lot like his father, but he has his mother's eyes which are like Luna Michelle's... that remind me Mason Van Ryan. He is probably still waiting to talk to me in Saint Isabella town. I keep forgetting about him.

Paige and Renata came downstairs with red and puffy eyes from crying. I almost felt sorry for Paige, she looked devastated to leave Renata. I understand she can be sad, because Renata is not going to be Luna, but she will keep privileges in this pack, it is not that bad. Besides Angel is a very nice shewolf, who would never hurt her or mistreat her.

Paige kissed Renata's cheeks several times and took her a while to let go of her. That made me think of Angel.

I mean my best friend, almost my sister did not come to say goodbye to me. It is not often that we can visit each other! Maybe Josh's comment about a week being locked in their cabin for their honeymoon might not be a joke...

"I can take the challenge! Two weeks minimum!" Ianthe got wild after mating with Josh. She only thinks about it. Her, not me... well, maybe me... but just a little. It is just that Josh is so...

As if he was summoned, Josh looked at me with interest, then he whispered to my ear: "I love you." And kissed my forehead. I bit my lower lip holding his heated gaze, but before I could reply to him the same, someone coughed to get our attention away from each other. Marcus.

Marcus was very organized and proposed to travel in small groups, we would keep phone communication between all of us. We were supposed to test our communication equipment after ten minutes of driving to support each other in case of an attack.

We would be followed by two SUV with four guards from the Royal pack in one, and four guards from Silver Rain in another one. The rest of the guards appointed by Josh to protect me would go straight to Saint Isabella town.

Josh, Allen, Paige, and I would travel together. Blanche and Leon would travel alone, and I would change cars to travel with them in the middle of the way. The change would take place in a gas station.

Marcus and Sophie would be in another vehicle. Everything was settled in case we are being followed by Dark River wolves. They also placed camaras on the back of the vehicles to monitor and capture images just in case we were followed by the enemy.

Teamwork and all minds together to be prepared got us in motion. I pray to Moon Goddess that everything goes smoothly with this trip and then with his job, so Josh can come to me, soon.

A nal hug to the Pert family before leaving as farewell. Louise was growing so fast, every time I see her, she is smarter and taller. I enjoyed my probably last hug of little Louise. I am not the tallest, I guess she would be taller than me in one year or two.

I would be Josh's copilot, while Allen and Paige would be in the back seat. Then I noticed that Paige would be free to move without restrain inside the car. I do not want Josh to have a car accident if Paige tries something suicidal. He is a strong werewolf, but we are not made of steel.

I asked Blanche's help in case she could do something, maybe a potion to make her sleep. I can taser her to knocked her off, but it does not seem right to do that if she has not attacked me rst.

Blanche gave me a pair of cuffs... adjustable ankle and bracelet cuffs made of black leather and silver with an inner cover of pink fur. It was very helpful because Paige will be physically restrained to do something dangerous. Silver can hurt us in contact with our skin and we cannot break it. It is the weakness of werewolves... and lycans.

In summary, Paige will not break the cuffs and her skin will not bruise either while wearing them. Interesting.

"Young one, make sure that I get those back. They are my favorite." Blanche told me when I got the cuffs from her, Leon was looking any other place but me before jumping into his car. I did not reply, just smiled, and winked at her. Blanche smiled back widely.

Renata did not know anything about Paige's membership to FDL nor that she was being arrested by Josh. We all kept the pretense for her sake, as per Paige's request in exchange for full her cooperation according to her agreement with Josh. She told her that she was going to be busy for a while but would visit as soon as possible.

Paige was cuffed once inside of the vehicle; she did not complain. No one commented neither asked where I got them from. Luckily, Blanche saved us again. I think they did not consider that detail. She cannot be trusted from my perspective. I gave the keys of the cuffs to Josh.

I placed my hand over Josh's while driving, he eyed me and smiled at me. That is all I needed to feel better, his kind smile.

I felt Josh's anxiety throughout our bond. I wish I could mind-link with him. I begin to think that not marking each other last night was a mistake, ceremony or not we needed each other. There are more things that I would like to tell him, but not in front of others. Especially not in front of Paige.

The silence between my mate and I was not uncomfortable, but the back seat was a different story. Allen was informed about who was Paige and had no idea what to tell her to break the ice. I guess it is better to be cautious around her.

After ten minutes of driving, Marcus called all of us together to conrm that we were alright and without inconveniences.

"Alpha conrmed. Over." Said Josh.

"Guard one conrmed. Over."

"Beta conrmed. Over." Said Marcus.

"Guard two conrmed. Over."

"Lycan conrmed. Over." Said Leon.

"Guard three conrmed. Over."

"Why lycan? Why not witch?" I know that voice. They did not mute their microphone after over.

"Blanche, I am the one driving." He was irritated, hopefully he will notice and turn it off.

"I can drive too; you did not ask! You just decided to jump in the driver seat." She was complaining. I know the start of her complains. I hope he can notice before...

"You gave away our cuffs!" Oh no! I tried to do something about it but in my rush dropped the phone under my seat and kicked it with my feet. Damn!

"No! I just lend them to Clara!" Crap, my real name! This time, Josh pulled over to help me with the phone.

"Oh, really? You lend them! Sure! Just like you LEND all your attention to that pup... what is his name? Ally? All?" Josh and I tried to look under the seat the same time, but he crashed his head with mine with force. Ouch!

Meanwhile Leon kept talking without noticing that all of us were listening to their argument.

"I am sorry!" Yelled Josh. Dear Moon Goddess, it was painful. His head is so hard!

"You are jealous of a kid? Leon!" Stop with the names! Well, by now everybody knows it is them ghting.

"s\*\*t! I forgot to mute it!" Finally, he noticed, and I found the freaking phone then. Josh breathe out. I did not notice that he was holding his breath, they could have said something more. Still, my real name was released in front of Paige.

Allen was laughing in the back seat holding his stomach, and to my surprise even Paige was laughing. Knowing Blanche, she will be thrilled by the situation. I doubt Leon would be amused about sharing information about them to the caravan of SUVs.

Blanche called immediately to my phone and I gave back Josh's phone to its place, on the cell phone holder in the car's board.

"You heard?" She was laughing. I knew it.

"Mmm..." I did not want to talk, everyone here is a werewolf. Their hearing is amazing. I just looked at Josh; he was concerned too.

"Well, I really want my cuffs back, young one. Not now, just make sure that he brings them with him. They are very special for us, di la verità. By the way, everything is clean!" That is great, an incantation to tell the truth on an FDL member.

However, its effectiveness depends on how strong her will is to ght it; otherwise, she will sign like a canary and will even feel happy about it. Blanche is the best, no wonder why she wants her cuffs back.

"I promise to take it back Blanche." Said Josh and resume his driving.

Alright, this is a golden opportunity to ask things to an FDL member. Someone born and raised to be a FDL member.

"Blanche is amazing. No wonder the lycan is crazy about her." Said Allen.

"It is unnatural, a lycan and a witch? Just a frivolous relationship that would never work." Said Paige. I could not keep silent.

"What do you know about love?" I told her.

"A lot more than you think, human." She thinks I feel offended by being called human. I have met humans too; our ridiculous prejudice impedes us from see that we are just like them. We are fty percent humans and fty percent wolves; you cannot hate something that is part of you. It is crazy.

I used to belittle myself because I thought that my rank dened me as a living creature and placed me in a lower position than other werewolves of higher ranks, and that I deserved it as omega. I did not hate myself for being omega, but I pitied myself for being weak, powerless.

Overtime I realized how all of us come to believe it. To assume as only true that our rank denes us and molds who we are. Our education, our social structure, our culture tells us that. It is not only FDL hating omegas, but the system itself yelling at us... all of us constantly that higher rank wolves are better for being stronger.

The current systems place us in compartments where we are classied and labeled just based on our auras. We all are more than just our biology, we cannot change our biology, but that does not limit our will neither our hearts. And according to my believes, Moon Goddess has a purpose for her ways, that should be respected.

"Really? If you were mated to a human, what would have you do?" Asked Josh.

"I... I would have rejected him, obviously. Humans would not die in case of rejection; they do not have wolves." She has a point about it, regardless.

"What if your mate is a female?" Asked Allen with a smirk on his face. What?

"What...?" Paige asked.

"Have you not heard? Moon Goddess mated a male beta with a male omega. They are famous!"

"Really?" I had to ask.

"Yes, Liam and Fernando Johnson. The beta couple, second in command of the Sole Alpha, Mason Van Ryan, of Blood Moon pack." Josh was bitter to share that information. I was not aware of that fact. The gossip about Mason being rejected by Marissa reached my ears at Saint Isabella town, but not that. Interesting.

"Really? I did not know." Said Paige and she was telling the truth. Cuffs, right!

"Moon Goddess has her ways, love is love." I said.

There are gay couples in Saint Isabella town. It is a place for commerce where different species from everywhere comes and goes, they meet each other, and some couples are formed. It is free there. It is not werewolf's but neutral territory, so everyone feels safe to be themselves. Yet, I have never met a werewolf gay couple there. I come to realize now.

"Yeah, it helped my sister to come out." Allen told us then.

"Your sister is a lesbian? Like she into girls?" Asked Paige.

"Yes, she used to think that Josh could be her mate... we did too." I could not hold a growl. Josh looked at me smiling happily showing all his teeth. I got jealous, of course, he is mine!

"Sorry Luna! But she thought that her lack of interest on males was because she was meant to love someone like Josh... our good Josh." Alright, I can understand that. Maybe...

"I am not saying anything." I argued and blushed.

lanthe, however wanted to meet Allen's sister and check she is not interested in him for real. "He loves us and only us, regardless." lanthe can be cocky. I looked at his neck, Alastair did not heal the hickey on his neck. Good wolf. "lanthe, remember to reward him for that." She agreed.

"Anyways, she comes to age and nothing. However, she was still infatuated on a friend of hers. A female. That attraction towards females did not change over time. The news about Liam and Fernando mating by Moon Goddess helped her to talk to us."

In our world it is not usual that kind of mating, as far I knew. Moon Goddess mates only male and female. Perhaps, that is another lie we have believed for so long and there are more homosexuals that are not living their true selves. More werewolves suffering for not accepting their fated mates because of those stupid believes established in our werewolf society.

"I think I knew... I just turned a blind eye on it. At rst our parents were worried that she might not nd a mate, but Fernando and Liam's example, made us realize that it was all on our heads. She is happy and just waits to meet her fated mate. A good female somewhere in the world could be her mate. We just have to trust Moon Goddess and travel a little."

Paige looked at the window confused and frowned deeply after Allen's conversation. I wonder why he is telling us this, I mean. He was not trying to make jealous. What am I not seeing here?

"I am glad your sister is happy now. And you should travel some more... Maybe someone from my... staff could be your mate." I said. Who knows and one of my pack members is his mate! Veronica and Tank are not mated... I forgot to mention to Josh about it.

"By the way, Brady is mated to Carter Williams and..." Josh pulled over again.

"What?" Josh screamed s\*\*\*h yelled. Come on, it is not a big deal.

"Can you stop doing that? Or at least secure my seatbelt, I do not like being slammed constantly while I am cuffed." His eyes were black, it was Alastair. Paige felt his aura and decided to be quiet after that look. Allen helped her checking her seatbelt.

"Alastair. Please, give me Josh back. I need to talk to him... You are not being rational." He did not listened. Instead he opened his door and got out of the car almost slamming the car's door. Why is he mad? I got out as well.

As soon as I got closed to him, he kissed me desperately holding my face with both hands. I did not understand him but kissed him back. I caressed his face appreciating his beard with my ngertips. I will miss his raspy kisses. We are still together, but I am missing him already.

"Damn! I hate this! He is going to be close to you, he will nd a way to be close... f\*\*k! I hate not being there with you..." he kissed me again. Jealousy hurts badly. I know.

"What is he forces you? What if he takes you with him?" he continued. Mason would never do that... I guess. Alright, I do not know Mason despite of growing up together. Regardless, I know how to defend myself. I can electrocute him if he gets close.

"I can take care of myself, Josh. Really, I am not a fool neither a weakling. I am yours. It is you; you are my mate. I love you." He nally smiled at me. To sooth himself, he buried his nose on my neck to then proceed to kiss and suck with urgency, almost biting me. It felt so good... He left a fresh hickey there, I knew it. It matched the one I felt on him.

"It is the rst time you tell me... that you love me." He pressed his forehead with mine smiling. My arms around his neck, on my toes, I softly kissed his lips.

"Silly... I love you, Joshua Duncan." I hugged him tightly, I am the one now taking in his scent to calm my wild heart. It is impossible not to fall in love with him. This feeling is deeper and even stronger than the mate bond. Angel is right, the mate bond is a part of it, but not everything. I love him and chose to love him, forever.

The gas station is still far from where we are, and probably the others wonder why we are delayed.

We got back inside the car, in a better mood than before.

I used the chance outside the car to tell Josh about the incantation of Blanche on the cuffs to make Paige to tell the truth. We will see if they work on not. There are some questions for Paige, and hopefully she will be more cooperative and will feel better telling us.