

## Chapter 41: Just for her

-Mason-

I had to leave Moon House... I do not know what to say or do. Joshua... F\*\*\*\*g Joshua Duncan, my own cousin is Clara's second chance mate.

I am so angry, so frustrated...? I cannot even yell to anyone because.... whose fault is this but mine?

Damn! I want her madly, now!

What can I do to make things right? What can I do to put things back to where they belong?!

That is when I remembered... I left the chocolate pudding with her... over her desk, Clara might eat it... maybe I should get back and make sure she does eat it... No, I cannot do that... She closed Moon House for the day. But would the potion work now? I only used ve drops, maybe some more might help me...

There is a bottle of potion at my room in the hotel... what if I use more, in a coffee... or something with chocolate on it. Monique told me Clara loves chocolate like her. Right after it, I need to kiss Clara... I remember Sky said that was required to close the deal. And the spell, is the spell real or fake? ... I do not remember where I left it...

I am losing my freaking mind, my chest hurts! F\*\*k!

Another idea... what if I mark Clara? After they called her Luna. I paid attention to her neck, she was hiding a pair of nicks with her hair but there was no mark. She is not marked. It might still be possible... And, if I challenge Josh for Clara? I know I am stronger than him... but I need advice, a guide... some light on what to do next.

I have no idea what would work because she will end up hating me if I make a mistake. I will not be able to stand hate in her eyes anymore, not after today. Just a moment ago, she showered me in her kindness.

Clara's gaze was soft, her voice sweet when talking to me... Her aura was comforting and warm. She has the most beautiful soul, and Clara was even worried about me... she asked Jax to heal it. That should mean something, right?

Then, it comes to my mind... what if Josh dies? He would not even have to kill him... I mean he has a dangerous job. He sent his beta to protect her instead of taking her with him; therefore, there must be something happening related to his work for the King or he would never leave her side... at least not without marking her. He might get killed sooner or later... She is not marked, so she will survive him and be free...

I might have some time until their mating ceremony... He must not know that I am close, he would never allow me anywhere near her... I would not allow him either if I were in his shoes. He probably has sent a small army to surround her leaded by his second in command. After today, things will be complicated to approach her. Damn! F\*\*\*\*g lazy Josh!

Jax is silent. Why he is not helping me to think?!

After walking out of Moon House, I kept walking... thinking, trying to find a solution for this... A way to get her back. Without an aim or destination, I found myself at the beach.

This place is beautiful, looking around I understand why she came here to hide... to heal... from everything I did to her. I do not want to think about that. I need to think in a solution! Crap! Jax help me!

Now, the lazy Alpha... my F\*\*\*\*g cousin from all males in the world has her as his mate. I cannot even say that he took her from me. I am the one who gladly gave up what was rightfully mine! If I could just go back in time and kick my own ass until I got myself understand!

I came late, too late... I failed us both Jax.

If I had just started looking for her the instant when she left... but instead I stayed with Marissa. I did not even love Marissa... it was out of convenience to achieve my goal, my dream. What the F\*\*k was I even thinking?

I traded my happiness with my mate, for nothing... my pack is still in the second place of the ranking, I was made a fool on my mating ceremony by Marissa, and now I am the Sole Alpha of Blood Moon Pack... my only accomplishment was to push away and hurt my omega mate to the point to reject me, risking her own life just to get away from me with some dignity.

Alphas are powerful, strong, respected. Everyone envies, fears, and admires us at the same time; everybody gives us everything we want... it gets to our heads so bad. I thought that being an Alpha meant to be always right.

I was so foolishly proud thinking that I would never have to apologize to anyone, that my actions would not bear me any harmful consequence to myself... Here I am, in a hell I created for myself... without my mate, my rightful Luna... an amazing female that I disregarded and mistreated just because she was omega. My lifetime dream means s\*\*t to me now... it was s\*\*t from the start; I can acknowledge that now.

I even blamed Clara, Sky, then my mother's condition, Marissa's fake pregnancy, the pack... just anyone else. It was everybody's fault but mine. I see now that without acknowledging my mistakes, without taking ownership of them, I handed over my place for someone else to step in to x it instead of me... leaving me outside.

Moon Goddess has intervened. She is punishing me. My biggest crime was to think that I was choosing better than her... I guess that is why Josh has Clara now. Moon Goddess hates me now.

"That can be truth..." Said Jax, nally talking to me since I left Moon House.

"What can we do? I do not want to accept her rejection." I told him. There must be a way out of this. I need to x it.

"I am not ready to let go, either..." Jax replied.

I do not understand Jax, if we both want the same. I am trying to come with a new plan to get Clara back, while Jax is depressed.

"So, we must come up with a plan... something. We need our mate!" I told him trying to get some sense into him... I mean me.

"I promised her that we would not hurt her ever again... We have done enough..." What is that supposed to mean? We are not giving up, but we have done enough... I do not understand him "What do you mean Jax?"

Instead of talking to me, Jax plays back in my head the horrible things I did to her as in a movie. Me calling her "rejected Luna" at her back with my friends... As if that was her curse when it was mine... I was the reason she was bullied in school. Then, the times I cheated on my mate as much I wanted with random females which name, I do not even remember. Sky was just the rst... but not the last. Then Marissa... and everything I indulged her to do to purposely hurt Clara.

At the pond, Clara asked me to choose her. She tried to make me understand that we were meant to be. Her sad face is so vivid before my eyes. The moment between us plays over and over in my head thanks to Jax. Even my senses lure me to believe I am sensing her soft skin in my ngertips... I felt our connection but pushed it away... I broke it.

I remember the feeling and all I think about now is that I should have kept kissing her, mate and mark her just like Jax asked me to do then and there, just following what I felt for her. I should have acknowledged my feelings for her! I should have got back to her instead of going to the gym to ght with Liam.

There was another chance that I missed... I could have listened to my mother... I should have gone to Clara's room to kiss her in her room. She looked like an angel in pink. My heart told me... But again, I did not listen.

As if my pain and regrets were not enough... Jax sent me another set of images, so vivid ones now... so cruel that made me fall on my knees on the sand. Clara's face in tears, pale, hurt...her lower lip bleeding...trembling after I kissed her violently.

The moment I grabbed her like a rag doll and pulled her out of her room throughout the pack house, She did not scream, she never yelled at me... she did not ght me. She was shocked... How not to be? What kind can of scumlate does that to you?

Clara fell more than once on the way to the dungeon building, but I kept dragging her in front of everyone in the pack house, and then before all of those on the street at that time of the day... I smelled the blood, her blood...she hurt her knees... No, I hurt her by pulling and dragging her. I did that to her.

In my worst moment, I threw her into a dungeon's cell. It was a dry hit; I am sure I made her hit her skull. Still, she did not scream...lanthe only whimpered. Her expression was blank with tears running on her pale cheeks when I forbidden her to contact anyone outside the cell. I promised her to put a silver leash on her neck... Jax made me hear my own voice... I am so ashamed.

Why did I act so...? I look back and I barely recognize myself. I was going to kill her... her friends saved her... I was made for her, and it was me the one they had to protect her from.

Jax torments me even further remembering me my own words of hate, my aggression against my mate in the trial, my cold stares... I did all those horrible things to the gift granted to me by Moon Goddess herself. No wonder, even she hates me now. I do not deserve Clara... what have I done to deserve a chance?

"Moon Goddess made her decision. It is too late..." Jax voice breaks at some parts, he cries... my wolf is crying... Jax also blames himself, he also despises himself and me. I could not have convinced; he could not take over to stop me. He helped me to be that strong, and I betrayed him... us.

It is clear what he wants, what he meant. I see now, and he is right.

"We deserve this pain..." After what we did to her, an apology is not enough to earn her forgiveness. But I just do not want her to hate me anymore.

"She needs our help. We owe that to her." Clara is still in danger, Jax as always is right. FDL is looking for her, until their leader is captured, she will be their target.

Now, Dark River pack is trying to harm her just because she helped a couple of teens wolves who hurt their Young Alpha's ego. I know as a former bet; he will not let go his bitterness anytime soon.

Despite the danger. Even in her disguise as human. My... Clara... as Claire Bond is brave facing them. I will not let them hurt her. Those bitches will not get close. I will protect her.

"I want to see her happy; I want more of those bright smiles... even if none of them are for me... us." Last night, from the shadows I saw it and today too. She is shining.

I shifted into Jax and granted him control. We run in the sand over the shore. It was hot, the air was hot and humid... so jumped in the water. I was refreshing and helped me with my pain. She was the right; this is best place to heal a broken heart.

Maybe Clara would agree to talk to me, as Mason... not Jax. I do not know what I want to tell her or what I want to know, I just want to be close to her. Once she is safe, once we are sure about that. See by myself that she is alright before I let go... Jax whimpered.

"You better nd that freaking dessert." Told me Jax.

Perhaps, I should come clean and explain her that she better does not eat that pudding... but I do not have her phone. Monique can help me. Crap! I cannot, she misunderstood me. I will have to clean the new mess I made.

I will try to do what is right this time, not just for me but for Clara. I owe her that much.

Carter mind linked, called, texted me and even knocked my door at the hotel. I was not ready to talk to anyone. He gave up and left me alone. He must know it. Josh & Clara... instead of Mason & Clara...

Considering everything that happened, I was able to sleep pleasantly, after so long. Jax and I are working things out.

Moon House had guards at the entrance of the establishment, even at the alley. They were more monitoring the perimeter, and some were evidently seated inside the place, eating. Those had the better job. I counted twenty in total.

Josh and I think alike. I also considered twenty guards to keep her safe. Mine will have to nd a way to protect her from the shadows and must be more inconspicuous than Silver Rain wolves. They are already in the town as well.

I walked in Moon House looking for Clara, her scent was strong, she was in her ooe. Despite of having amazing hearing skills, I did not even try to hear her... Anyone could have heard her... Clara was yelling, and by the smell the betas were with her. Would she be yelling at them?

One more step and Monique came to my encounter blocking my way, I did not need this.

"Be patient and be honest with her." Told me Jax. This time, I will listen to him.

"Hi Mason! How are you?" She asked and blushed smiling at me.

"Hi there. I am ne thanks... do you think Clara would be free anytime soon?" I know, I should try harder to be nicer to her. But right now, she is keeping me from going to where I want to be.

"Clara told me yesterday that her mate is Joshua Duncan. Can you believe it?" Yeah, I can F\*\*\*\*g believe it, I made that happen!

"Yes, I know." I told her.

"Then... why do you keep asking for her?"

"I am sorry, you would not understand."

"Try me. I can be a good friend. Give me a chance." I think she is trying to lit with me. I did not notice her interest when talking with her. I was too focus on getting information about Clara.

"You are a nice female Monique, I just..." What words should I use to make it more evident. I have no interest in her, that it was a misunderstanding.

"Maybe we can talk a moment, Lorraine can cover me!" She said and called another young shewolf. One kind of smell rouge. Probably, this is one is Clara's new protegee from Dark River pack. One of those who offended their young Alpha.

However, more customers walked in and she had to excuse herself. "Later." She said and I nodded.

I walked outside, to access her ooe by the alley. Two werewolves asked me to stop... as if they could... but just to be ece by the alley. I asked them to require permission from Clara. One of them nodded and probably mind linked someone inside to tell her.

Five minutes later, Clara showed up at her frame door and asked me to come in. I grinned widely. To be honest, I thought she was going to reject my visit.

"Hi Mason, please come in." She said over sweetly and then looked at the guards standing there. "Please, report it to your boss." I wondering, Clara was angry. Mad at Josh. Is she using me to punish him for something? I am enjoying this more than I should. Maybe that can be my new life goal... vex Josh to death. Even Jax laughed at the idea.

Clara allowed me to enter her ooe. The betas were still inside, both had red faces. Something happened here. No longer after that, her phone started to ring. She did not want to answer and crossed her arms over her chest.

She is so cute when she is mad at someone else. I was just enjoying the view.

Finally, she decided to take the call. It was Josh, I could hear his voice.

"Yes, I did authorize him to enter my ooe... Yes! I am not alone... What? No!" She huffed annoyed. There is a smirk on my face.

"Joshua Duncan! No! No more guards... we agreed only ten guards! And they were supposed to be discrete!" I understand her anger. My sweet Clara is not pleased by the number of guards. I mind linked Carter to keep the guards in the shadows, at strategic places.

"They are everywhere, and they do not listen!" Luna or not, Alpha's order to protect her comes rst. Even above the safety of the Alpha, in her case those are particularly worried since she is apparently human. So easy to break...kill. F\*\*k! I will not let anyone to hurt her.

"No! Josh, I am really mad right now... No... Yes... I mean..." He kept talking.

"Mason, did you promise to never hurt me again, right?" She told me and asked me to speak by the phone.

"Hi cousin!" I want to irritate him. "I am here with Clara... she is ne, and yes... I promised to never hurt her. You have my word as well." I told him on the phone. That is the only assurance I can give him.

"I do not care! Get the hell away from my mate!" He yelled; he was on speaker... it was Alastair, Josh lose control over him. He did not care if someone else was listening. Clara deactivated the speaker to talk to him again.

"Josh, stop if I can take care of myself. You are overreacting... No... No... Yes..." A long silence came, Clara was cute looking all myself.

For a moment I forgot I was not alone, the betas smiled at me politely. Yesterday, I did not greet them due to the ruckus those wolves created. So, I shook hands with them.

"Trust me, me! Alright? Okey... ne!" She said, she turned her back to us to whisper on the phone. "I miss you, that is too much time! I love you too... Bye."

When she turned to us her face was red. We all are werewolves here, of course we heard every word, even when she whispered to him. Those last words made Jax howled inside my head. Damn, it will sting every time.

"I am sorry for that." She said and avoided to look at me or the betas. There is nothing to apologize for... they are mates now... it is normal even if it hurts, but Clara is nice.

"Once again, thank you for your help yesterday. As you can see, I am well guarded now... Sophie here is a warrior." Clara sounded unpleasant by the number of guards, but proud of the female beta. Females are not warriors... unless Lunas.

"Interesting. Nice to formally meet you Sophie." I knew Marcus, but not Sophie. And yesterday, I run away.

"I am sorry, I did not introduce you both formally." Said Clara embarrassed. Her red cheeks looked lovely. Marcus cleared his voice, maybe I stared at her too much.

"Do not worry for that. I... it was my mistake." Clara looked at me surprised. I do apologies now.

"Well... what brings you here?" She asked. After our conversation... her conversation with Jax, there is not much left to discuss.

"I thought, you might want to examine this..." I need an excuse to approach her again and stay around for a while.

"It is a box..." Said Marcus arching an eyebrow.

"I think I recognize this box... is it...?" Nothing better came to my mind than to hand her the potion. So, her friend... the witch can examine it. I was right, Clara approached the box after I left it over her desk... I do not see the bag with the dessert I gave her. Did she eat it?

"Yes, it is the love potion Sky placed in your room, Carter was able to nd just this one... if you look closely to the box, you will see the symbol of FDL under the bottle. After the trial, the box got lost. Josh tried to get it for the King, but we could not nd it for him. Probably Sky took it." Carter found it before coming to this town and gave it to me to explain Clara what happened. Most likely, he went to her to nd out where it was.

"Thank you. I think Blanche would like to see it... Maybe we can nd who is helping the FDL leader from the coven of witches, or warlocks." Of course, there must be a powerful witch helping FDL. Who is providing them with potions? What else is this witch or warlock doing for them?

"I am gladly handing this over, but please... let me help." I asked her. The betas looked at each other. Clara looked at me still doubtful. She is does not know if I am honest.

I am only hoping she allows me to participate and help, so I can protect her.