

## Chapter 54

Emily's pov

There was biting guilt in my gut when I turned around to look back at the school one last time before disappearing into the foliage.

I give it ten minutes before Shawn realises something is up, perhaps even less. Which is why I need to be quick on my feet.

I was fast and one of the fastest on feet without needing my wolf. Something I was proud of.

I took off into a sprint, hoping Bryson and Shawn would not be mad at me for escaping even though I knew they would be.

It only took me about five minutes or six to get to the willow tree. Surprisingly Maya was already there.

My brows furrowed as I eyed her appearance. Her hair was a mess and looked dirty and matted.

Her white dress was dirty too and I noted the dark circles under her eyes.

She didn't look good.

I hauled in air to catch my breath as I slowed down to a stop just before her. The muscles in my legs burned as I had done nothing but strained them to get here quicker. And now I was paying the price.

When Maya caught sight of me, she moved off the bark of the willow tree.

"You came. I didn't think you would." She muttered, crossing her arms over her chest.

"Of course I would," I respond while scanning over her.

I took a step forward. "What's going on Maya? I had to escape Shawn to even get here."

She smiled. "I guess security is a bit tight now huh?"

I looked away awkwardly. "Since that night-

"At the pool," She nod.

The silence is deafening until I break it.

"Your parents said you were out of town visiting your cousin..." I trailed off, unsure if to ask her about her appearance once more seeing as she ignored my first question.

She winced. "I told them to tell you I was away because I couldn't face you yet Emily."

Growing confused, my brows creased into a frown. "What do you mean Maya?"

She sighed. "I was ashamed to face you after I pushed you in the pool."

I nod, understanding her. "It's fine. You shouldn't blame yourself for something that was not your fault. My skin is healed and I'm okay." I showed her my skin, smiling reassuringly.

Her eyes drop to my arm and something shifted in her gaze. Something dark, something chilling.

"Oh, bummer. I thought you'd burn to death." She grumble in displeasure and disappointment.

I recoiled back by the anger, the disdain in her voice, my eyes widening.

She looked up and our eyes connected. I shivered.

"Maya?" I whispered, unsure.

Her upper lip curled up as she sneered and rolled her eyes. "Come on Luna," She mocked the word luna in disdain. "Are you really that dumb?"

I took a step back, my heart skipping. I had never seen this side of Maya before. Never heard the acid in her tone for me before.

"What's going on with you Maya?" I uttered lowly. "You don't-

"Act the same? Don't look the same?" She cut in mockingly, taking a step forward.

I took one back, on the verge of sprinting back to the school.

Her eyes turned livid. "That's because I'm not the same anymore Emily!" She screamed.

I flinched and then composed myself. I was a luna and I should act like one.

"You're acting insane right now! I think you should go home Maya."

If I thought that would get her to calm down, I was dead wrong. She looked livid.

"Insane?!" She shrieked, her hands going in her hair and pulling at her red strands. "You haven't fucking seen insane yet! Do you know how long I prepared myself Emily!? Do you know how many nights I dreamt of this? Only for my dreams to be swept up by a fucking wolf-less omega bitch. It should have been me! It should have been me!"

Then it clicked.

The stares.

The lingering looks.

The flirting.

The touches.

The jealousy.

Maya was in love with Bryson and wanted to be luna.

"The moon goddess chose me Maya! She chose me to be Bryson's mate!" I yelled in frustration. "You can't be mad at me for something that is fated and out of my control!"

She stopped, made a thinking face and tilted her head. "You want to know what I think Emily?" She spits, her eyes flickering with a few flecks of blue.

She took a step forward, fury emanating off of her. "I think the moon goddess obviously made a mistake,"

She snorted. "Just look at you, dull and boring, you are really nothing to look at. The pack don't even want you to lead them. We detest you Emily. No one wants you. And I'm so sure Bryson doesn't want you too. It's that stupid mate bond."

I shook my head, my bottom lip wobbling as her words sting. "You're wrong-

"Oh but I am right. No one wants you wolf-less bitch. And it's my duty to get rid of someone no one wants." Maya snarled, her canines popping out of her gums.

'Em where the fuck are you! Bryson just informed me that Rico is dead! Em! Do you hear me!? Rico is dead!' Shawn yelled through the mind link, just as a tear rolled down my eye.