

(Sky's POV)

Fear. Pure fear, the sort of fear that makes your skin crawl, as the itch spreads agonizingly slow. When you can feel the hair on your skin rise, the ache runs through every inch of your body. I promised myself to never be weak again, to never show weakness to anyone. Fear that makes your body freeze, paralyzing every sense, that is the sort of fear I felt being away from him.

As though I have lost a piece of myself, the very soul inside of me missing. All of my positive emotions feel as though they have been sucked up and given away, gone to a place I can't reach. I have been trying to think, trying to decide if I can risk going through that pain again. The longer I take to make a decision, the more I feel fatigued, sluggish. As if my mind can't comprehend what I am trying to process. Angel says she would rather know and get hurt than to wonder for the rest of her life. Ty says he will help me through the pain. What they don't get is that the physical and emotional extortion I will need to use to survive this kind of heart break again will kill me, There will be nothing left of me. Is that what they want? An empty shell that I once was. I have already changed so much, my life is so different. I try to act fearless, indifferent to anything and everything that happens around me. I placed a shield around my heart and blocked out all emotion. How did I allow my second chance mate to break that barrier down already? Without even knowing his name.

It's been a week since I ran away from my new mate. One week. Seven days. One hundred and sixty - eight hours. Angel stopped talking to me about four days ago. I feel a deep emptiness and completely lost without her. I know she is still there because I can feel her presence and hear her whimpering. Why is this decision so hard?

Angel. Please talk to me. I beg my wolf, just praying for a response. Even if it is just her yelling at me. Anything at all would satisfy me. She is the only one I can fully trust, the only family I have left, the one who has been there since my parents' death. I can't lose her. She is everything to me.

"Can we talk, Sky?" Ty says softly, as if I would snap at any little noise, as if I had the energy to do something like that. He softly knocks on the door, slowly pushing the door open as he peeks his head in. He watches me, as if he is assessing when I am nally going to break down. I would feel so much stronger right now if Angel was with me.

"What exactly would you like to talk about?" I weakly asked, not even trying to make a move to get out of bed. I feel weak and all I want to do right now is sleep.

Ty sighs, as he takes a seat at the end of my bed. "We can't keep going like this. You can't keep going like this. You have rings and rings of black circles around your eyes. Your skin is as pale as snow, you are not a dead person walking Sky, but you sure seem to be going for that look. You have lost weight from refusing to eat and don't tell me how your not hungry. I don't want to hear anymore sorry excuses from you. You don't get out of bed, you won't get up or even to train. Does this seem like the best way to live? Look at yourself, Sky, you are slowly dying because you refuse to go to your mate. Are you going to sacrifice your life just to not be hurt again? I can't watch you do this to yourself. I won't allow you to just die on me."

I stared at Ty in bewilderment, no way that this grizzly of a man decided to nally show his emotions. He has hid them so well and for so long. As I take in his appearance, I realize his eyes are rimmed in red, as if he has been crying. His clothes are wrinkled and I can smell his stench from here, as if he hasn't showered in a week. What have I done? Instead of just hurting myself, I have also hurt Ty and Angel.

"You don't have to speak, just listen. Alright?" Ty pauses, looking at me to make sure I am listening. I nodded in acknowledgment so he could continue. "The council has asked us to help a pack out with the rogues near by them. I haven't given them my answer yet because of you being in this state. They could send the ghost, but you know you are ten times better than them. So I need to know what you want to do so I can let the council know. I know you feel weak and helpless, but you are strong Sky, and these wolves need our help. If you choose you don't want to go, I will respect that and we will stay here, allowing the ghost to handle it this time. So are we going to go help the pack in need or stay here and keep mopping around?"

Ty just stares at me waiting for an answer. What do I do? How can I help with no wolf? I am pathetic. How do I tell Ty that I would be useless, that he should go without me? I feel so conicted. Think, Sky. Ty just keeps staring, expecting an answer.

'Tell him we will go help, we can't not be there for others. That's what we are meant to do, to protect all the species, just like mother and father. Stop underestimating yourself.' Angel says in a whisper.

Your here, you nally talked to me. I couldn't do this without you. Your my other half. I feel completely empty without you. I felt weak.

'You are not weak, Sky. Never think or feel that. You are erce, competitive, a ghter, a protector, just like our father. You are loving, passionate and strong, just like our mother.

"I will go with you to help the pack in need." I answered him, as I saw his face light up, as if he was a kid on Christmas day.

"Good, get packed, we leave in an hour." Ty states as he walks out of my room, shutting the door behind him.

I quickly got up, ran over to my dresser, yanked out a matching neon blue sports bra and boy shorts underwear, a type - dye crop top sweater with tight black work - out pants and neon blue ankle socks. I rush over to the shower, throwing off my night clothes and soaking in the burning hot water.

'You better enjoy that. Last time we helped a pack, we had to go ve very long and stinky days without a shower.' Angel says in disgust. I love her, she always makes me laugh and I am so happy she is nally talking to me again.

(Unknown's POV)

'MATE. Go to her now.' Demon growled inside my head.

We can't go to her right now buddy. We have to look for the rest of the rogues and get back to the pack. I'm sorry. We will nd her after we deal with this, okay? I replied back to him, trying to make him understand.

'Why did she run? Did you see her ght? I want mate.' Demon whines. I have never heard my wolf whine before. He always barks orders and is angry all the time. He snaps at everyone, even our closest family and friends. She is changing him already.

"Are you alright?" Gamma Mark, asks as he looks at me expectantly. I must have spaced out on them.

"I'm ne. Now do we know where the rest of the rogues are?" I asked everyone present. I don't want to be away from the pack long, knowing we are the top ve of the pack.

"No we don't." Royal Beta Dean says, as he looks disappointed that we don't know where they are yet.

"That's ne, don't worry about it. We will head to the pack and gure out what to do from there." I told them all, giving them a nod to head back. I waited for a while just thinking about the beauty of the wolf that is my mate. Those enchanting glowing violet eyes that stared at me with such passion but also a hint of sorrow and fear. What does she fear from me? How have I hurt her already?

'I want our mate and I WANT OUR MATE NOW.' Demon yells at me demandingly, seeming to be in agony. My wolf has the perfect name to go with his personality. He's erce, forceful and skillful, just like a Demon, though our mate is making him act like a depressed little pup that just lost his mother.

It hasn't even been twenty - four hours and your already demanding we go run after her. The pack is being threatened by this rogue pack and that needs to be our focus rst. Do you want us to bring her here and then she ends up being killed or kidnapped by one of the rogues? I responded back to Demon hoping he got it. Within seconds, he starts grumbling but at least stops complaining about going after her, even though I wish we could too. We have waited a very long time for our mate, so I completely understand the urge to be there right with her.

I started heading back to the pack, reaching the northern border. I froze. Royal Gamma Mark seems to have frozen there too.

"Do you sense that?" Mark asked me in concern. I do sense it, I wish I didn't though.

"Where is Beta Dean?" I asked, realizing I am going to have to send him out now that the pack can sense me back.

"Probably already in his bed sleeping. He had to have smelt this or sensed it." Mark says with his arms crossed. I am starting to think Dean likes to annoy him.

'Dean, to the northern boarder NOW.' I mind linked to the beta. Within a few minutes, I watched as a gray and white wolf approached us as he leaped over a fallen tree.

"He couldn't go around the tree, instead he had to make an entrance and jump over it." My Gamma Mark says as he rolls his eyes in annoyance. Mark is the calm one out of us three and he hates how much of a cocky, show - off player Beta Dean always presents himself as.

If it wasn't important, I would never have woken him from his sleep and called him here. Usually Mark and I deal with the boarders and any threat presented there unless it is serious, so he knows how important it was to get here as quickly as possible. The royal pack house is about a twenty - ve minute drive from the northern border. Though, he got here within ve minutes. It shows how impressive our wolf's speed is.

"Shift." I ordered as he stopped in front of me. It will just be easier to talk to everyone in the same way instead of having to mind link everything to Dean while I also speak it out loud to everyone else. Dean and Mark becoming the royal beta and gamma, made it so they were able to start shifting without ripping their clothes. Making it easier for them to go to wherever they are needed and not worry about stripping or bringing extra clothes.

"What's wrong?" Royal Beta Dean asks as he looks around for a threat near him. One hundred and ten percent in his full Beta mode.

"Rogues. I think the same ones associated with that rogue pack we smelt on the ones we assisted in killing. I can't be completely sure, but I think it is them. I need you to get a few trackers, go with them and track the smel down. I see what you come up with and if it is the rest of the rogue pack," I said with condence. I have full condence and faith in all of my men and pack.

"Yes, Alpha King. If I may recommend, I think you should contact the council for assistance. No one has ever dealt with a rogue pack before and I think we should have all hands on deck when we nd them or when they nally decide to attack." Dean says with professionalism lacing every word, as he stands with his hands behind his back. I see he is mind linking to the trackers I ordered and I have no doubt that he will call for the best.

Once he nishes linking them, I inform him of my plans, " I will be calling the council and I am sure they will send their best. Do not worry Dean, we are strong, we have this." I clasp my hand on his back in a brotherly way before walking back towards the pack house with Mark.

"Get some rest Mark," I said as I headed to my oce. He nods in understanding and takes off. He knows I want to be alone even if he doesn't understand the reason why. I sit at my desk, leaning back in my chair as I sigh in exhaustion.