

CHAPTER 6 - MOTHERS PICTURE

MADELYN'S POV

The Queen led me out passed the guests and over to the edge of the large balcony where several chairs and a table were vacant, but I chose to lean on the railing and look out over the massive and stunning city sparkling in lights.

I took a long deep breath. What a day!

"Are you okay, dear?" The Queen softly patted my back, "Just breathe."

"I can't do this," I admitted, "I can't be a Queen. I'm not good enough for your sons. They're so perfect."

The Queen surprised me by laughing, and I looked up at her in confusion.

"My dear, I promise you that my sons are far from perfect," She told me "And as for being good enough, the goddess herself picked you to be Queen, you will do just ne."

"Do you really think so?"

"I do." She smiled at me, and I felt a little lighter. "And besides, I am looking forward to my retirement, so I can spend all my time with Theo and our Lycan's so even if you're terrible, the jobs all yours, no take backs."

I laughed in shock, this was not the Queen that Luna Morgan had described to me over the years. She'd told me the Queen was stern and cold, but maybe she was just that way to Luna Morgan...

"There now." She said softly and brushed my hair back over my shoulder. "Things aren't so bad now are they, my dear when I met Theo, I was a warrior from a small pack, I knew nothing about ruling or taking care of a mate, but I learned and so will you and I know my boys will help you."

"But what about Scott and Alpha Troy?" I asked nervously as I looked back towards the party.

I noticed a few pack members sneaking peaks at us, and I blushed before turning away again.

"Don't worry about those dam dogs." Queen Kara said dismissively, "They will be dealt with. How dare they keep you as a maid and lie to you about being a Lycan? That alone should give Theo justification to destroy them, but now that he knows your Iyas little girl, I promise you, he'll be out for blood."

"Did you know my mother?"

The Queen looked uncomfortable, which confused me.

"I only met her once during the war, but I never really knew her." She answered and my heart sank. "You will have to speak with Theo about her."

"Does King Theo know who my father is?" I asked, "Do you?"

She shook her head and patted my back again. "I don't, I'm sorry." She told me.

"And seeing as you didn't know she was dead, you probably don't know who killed her either."

"I am afraid not," She answered, "We all thought she was alive but missing."

"I see," I pouted sadly, "Do you have any pictures of her?"

"that I can help you with." She smiled and took my hand, "Come with me."

Together we weaved through the party again and then into a private elevator which took us to a library where a few librarians were working and chatting quietly. They greeted the Queen and looked at me with confusion as she led me towards a large section lled with books on the royal family.

"Here we are," She said happily as she pulled out a large book and opened it.

I watched eagerly as she ipped through the books before stopping at an image of a royal family picture.

"Madelyn dear, this is your mother." She told me and pushed the book towards my trembling hands. "Well, that is, if she was your mother, but the chances of someone else having that ring and giving it to you are pretty slim, so if I was betting on it, I'd say she was your mother."

I looked down at the image before me while I reminded myself to breathe. I'd dreamed about this moment my entire life, wondering what my parents looked like, but then I'd scream at myself and remind myself that they abandoned me, but it was different now, she'd wanted me, she'd loved me.

The image was of three men, one I assumed was the King and my mate's grandfather and two younger boys around my age, one I recognized as King Theo but the other man I had never seen before, and two women, a very beautiful brunette Queen with eyes that matched my mates and a young blonde woman who I couldn't take me off of.

She resembled me, we were the same height and had the same long blonde hair and pale complexion, only I had a few light freckles from working outside. The only real difference between us was our eyes. Hers were dark brown while mine were a soft grayish blue which, I assumed now, came from my father.

I ran my ngers along the page and frowned in confusion when a drop of water fell on it, splashing softly. It wasn't until the Queen held up a tissue did I realize I was crying, and the water drop had come from me.

"Thank you," I sniffed and wiped my face, "She was very pretty."

"Just like her daughter." The Queen touched my arm in comfort.

"How come the twins didn't know about her?"

"We thought it was best not to bring her up." The Queen commented, "She was missing and we didn't want them to worry as they grew up."

"Worry about what?"

"My dear, it's best to discuss this with Theo in private."

I was very confused. What was she hiding about my mother?

"Ok." I nodded and added that question to the list of questions I'd compiled over the years about my family. "Would it be alright if I kept this book?"

"I'm sorry dear, but it has to remain here," She told me, crushing my hopes. "But I will have someone make a copy of this picture and frame it for you. It will be my welcome to family gift."

"Thank you." I smiled and looked back at the young women.

What had happened to her, why was she attacked, who was my father, where was he now?

After a few minutes, the Queen cleared her throat, "It getting late, and I'm sure the boys are eager to... umm... see you."

"Oh, right." I began to panic now. They'd want mate. "Um... do you think the twins will mind if we slept separately tonight? I know Lycan's mate straight away, but I..."

"You what?"

I blushed. This was not a conversation I wanted to have with my future mother-in-law.

"I've never been with a man before."

"Never?" The Queen said in disbelief, "Well, that's a rst, um..." She cleared her throat, "That is something best discussed with the boys."

"What?" I gasped "I can't tell them that, we just met, and-"

"Madelyn dear take a breathe." The Queen ordered gently as she held my shoulders, "You have no choice but to speak with them, Alphas can be quite... um... overexcited when mating. They will need to know before hand that it's your rst time, and especially with having two mates, I do not envy that, I have my work cut out with just Theo, I can not imagine what you have in store."

"You're not exactly helping to ease my mind, your majesty."

Queen Kara laughed and linked her hand in mine.

"You will be alright," She told me as she led me from the library. "The boys will take care of you and soon enough I will have my grand-babies'."

"Grand-babies'?" I gasped and looked over at her, and she had to be kidding me.

"The boys will need an heir one day, dear." She reminded me, "But just put it out of your mind for now and just focus on this evening, the marking is most important now."

"Right." I gulped, I was so not ready for any of this.

"Let's get your things from that disgusting Alpha of yours, and we will return to the boys." She told me, "It will give you time to think things over a little more."

"Thank you." I smiled at her as we climbed back into the car. "Your majesty."

"Yes?"

"Why are you being so nice to me, you don't even know me?"

"You're my daughter now," She said and gently touched my cheek, "It's my duty to take care of you, and speaking of duties, I will need to introduce you to the Queens mother sometime this week. I will send her a letter formally inviting her to tea, so you can meet."

"The Queen mother?" I said nervously. I'd heard terrifying rumors about her my whole life.

"Yes." Queen Kara nodded, "And she is very old and very strict, so you will need to learn proper education before speaking with her, but I will teach you, one false move, and she'll have you punished. I got a few good slaps from her before I became Queen and out ranked her, but you, I'm afraid, won't out rank her until you and the boys are crowned, so be very careful with how you speak to her."

"Great, because I wasn't nervous enough just getting to know the twins."

Queen Kara laughed again and patted my arm. "You will do well my dear. She loved your mother dearly. Hopefully, that will spare you any real punishments."

"Fingers crossed then."