

Chapter 82

Please read till the end <3

"Mommy? Can I go play with Oliver?"

I yelped as a tiny hand pulled on my skirt, and I swerved around to see my five-year-old daughter rubbing the sleep from her eyes.

Sighing, I picked her up and brushed my fingers through her brown hair. "Her baby. I didn't know you were up from your nap."

"Can I play with Oliver?" she asked again, probably hoping I wouldn't send her back to bed.

I glanced around the backyard, trying to find Fiona's seven-year-old in the crowd.

"I can't seem to find him, baby. Why don't we find day instead?"

"I want Oliver." Her little lips started to quiver, and I searched frantically for Maxim or Leonardo, knowing little Oliver would be with either one of them.

I didn't dare try to keep Isabella from Oliver, knowing those two were inseparable. Fiona had the sweetest, most loving little baby boy seven years ago, and Maxim and I followed two years later when we had our first little bundle of joy: Izzy.

Since she was old enough to walk, Oliver had been in love with my little toddler. They did everything together-everything.

At night, I sometimes had to go to Ollie's room and take Izzy to bed because she snuck away to his room when she thought we were all sleeping. I dreaded their teenage years, fearing the habit would still be prevalent.

Maxim hated it, but Fiona is dead set on thinking they'll be mates when they grow up. I believe they are prone to be like this since they were the only kids in the house. And Maxim, well, wasn't ready to think about his little girl like that. I wasn't either, but Fiona sometimes had a point. Oliver wasn't only fond of my daughter; he was pretty territorial and protective of her too.

He growled at me once for taking away Isabella's candy. I remember it like yesterday. I couldn't believe that he had the gall to try and challenge me. But then I realised he was only trying to protect Izzy's feelings, so I sat with both of them and had a nice talk about boundaries.

Still, I'll enjoy their time as kids before I even consider that they MIGHT be mates. Maybe Fiona is just a little in over her head.

"Izzy, you're awake," a small voice said from behind me, and Isabella wriggled from my arms so fast that I stumbled a bit.

"Yes!" she cheered as she grabbed Oliver's hand. "Let's go play!"

"Whoa, slow down. Be careful; you might fall..." Oliver's voice trailed as he followed behind Isabelle through the backyard, and I couldn't help but smile. At least I always knew she would be safe with him.

"They're at it again, huh?" My mate asked as he wrapped his arms around my waist, resting his hands on my extended tummy.

I giggled, spinning to face him. "Yep. I barely see my daughter anymore. Maybe we'll have this one to ourselves," I said, gesturing to my stomach.

He smiled. "Yeah, but he'll be too busy training to be Alpha. So, cherish the baby years," he teased, leaning down to nibble on my lip. But I shoved him away with my eyes wide.

"Let's see if it's a boy this time," I said with a giggle. I found it fun to keep the gender a secret until

birth, much like Leonardo did all those years ago. When Izzy was born, we were a bit confused. Usually, firstborn wolves are males. But that only bred more 'what ifs' for Fiona's theory that Oliver and Isabella will be mates, saying the moon goddess "Purposely did it."

I wouldn't be surprised. That seemed like something Amaris would do indeed. Though I hadn't seen or spoken to her in seven years after I severed our link, she still managed to send me messages and signs. So, it's like we never really said goodbye.

"Oh, I'm pretty sure it's a boy." Maxim had a look on his face-that look that always told me I'd lose in an argument or he knew something I didn't know.

My eyes then focused on someone behind us, conversing in the crowd, and that's when it became clear.

"Toya told you, didn't she?" I asked a matter-of-factly.

He tried to avoid my gaze. "Maybe."

I rolled my eyes with a snort and pushed past him to greet the others. Our annual picnics were always a blast. Since Felicity and Lukas moved away, we have tried to find ways to stay connected.

But then Louie left too and married a human from the town Felicity had lived in when she ran away from home. And after my nephew was born, I barely saw Logan and Camille too. So, to keep us all together, at least once a year, I hosted a picnic here in the backyard of the Alpha house.

At first, it was just us, but the invitation became open to anyone who'd like to join. Most of the pack joined us, and almost everyone contributed somehow. So, food was never an issue. Last year, Toya and my uncle were out of the country, so they didn't get to come. And though Toya visited, it has been seven months since I saw her.

Of course, I missed her.

"Toya!" I practically screamed as I threw myself at her, and she wasted no time hugging me back.

"Ah, Melissa. Pregnancy suits you," she said as she pulled away.

"So, where's my hug?" My brother asked as he approached with Camille and Jessy, their son. Jessy's eyes didn't leave the crowd, and I knew he was searching for my daughter.

"Hey bro. How are you?" I hugged Logan, and he placed a kiss on my cheek as I swiftly hugged Camille too.

"I'm fine but starving."

Camille snorted. "You're always hungry." She rolled her eyes as she turned to me. "Mel, your brother eats like a pig. Even when I was pregnant, he ate more than I did."

The air suddenly grew tense as Logan stiffened, and my stomach churned at the memory. Two years ago, Camille got pregnant again, but she was out gardening when she fell on a pole. She almost didn't make it. The baby didn't.

"When I was pregnant with Jessy," she clarified, clearing her throat. Logan excused himself, leaving to go talk to Maxim.

I sighed. Camille barely survived the incident, and they lost their baby. Yet, Logan took it the hardest. He never quite got over it. Any of it.

"He'll be okay." She sighed. "Eventually." Her gaze fell to the ground, and all I wanted to do was hug her. But Camille hated pity. She never condoned it after the accident, and she surely wouldn't now.

I noticed how sad Toya seemed, too, as she listened in. After kindly asking the moon goddess, Toya and Lance finally had their baby. But she was full of so much power--power that not even Toya could understand. So, they had to take her, the eldest oracle, all the way to Asia to be trained.

It was sad, really--being six and away from your parents like that. But Lance and Toya took multiple

trips to see little Genevieve every year. I sometimes bring Isabella to visit her too. I think they should know each other.

"Aunt Melissa. Where's Izzy?" Jessy asked, seeming bored with us already. I smiled at my nephew before pointing to where I last saw them.

Oliver never really liked Jessy. He was jealous when Jessy took Izzy's attention. Secretly, I believe they'll be best friends in the future.

"Thanks Aunt Mel!" I smiled as I watched him run off. But as I glanced around, I saw Maxim on the phone, looking very stressed.

I excused myself and went to him, worried that something was wrong.

"Hey, what's the matter?" I asked, holding onto his arm.

"...Yeah, okay. I guess I'll see you guys next year, then."

"What?" I asked, knowing that couldn't be good.

He sighed as he pushed his phone into his pocket. "That was Luke. They can't come, and neither can Louie and the human."

I resisted the urge to roll my eyes at how he said 'the human'. Neither he nor Lukas approved of Louie's husband knowing our secret.

"But why not?"

"Felicity is unwell, and Lukas doesn't want to leave her at home alone with the kids, and he's scared to carry them all here on his own. You know how he is."

I sighed as I nodded. Lukas loved his kids, but he was scared of having them all at once on his own-and that included the trip here.

Lukas and Felicity had the most kids out of the lot of us-five to be exact. One every year after they moved. When Felicity's parents died in a car crash six years ago, Felicity decided to go back to her home pack to be with her brother. Of course, Lukas followed. It was hard for her, considering they died thinking she was dead, especially their mom. But Felicity ensured the halls of the house would be filled with love and laughter, much like when she was growing up.

"But what's wrong with Felicity, though?"

"We don't know, hence why Louie has gone to see what's wrong. She might've married a human and wasted her gift, but she's still a healer."

This time I rolled my eyes for sure.

"My gosh, Maxim. Would you give it up already? She fell in love with a human. We're all human too, you know?"

"No, we're wolves."

I gave him a deadpanned look. "We're human with the ability to shift into wolves. Stop hating on Jack!"

"I don't hate him," he mumbled. "I just don't trust him with our secret. That's all."

I didn't attempt to argue with him. Jack was sweet, loving and perfect for Louie. They'd been together for five years, married for two. Louie had to tell him the truth before she accepted his proposal, and oddly, he adapted pretty well. Lukas and Maxim, being the Alpha dicks that they are, just don't trust easily.

It took a while for them to trust Louie and even Logan. So, I assumed they would warm up to Jack soon too.

"So, I guess it's just us, huh?" he asked as he snaked his arm around my waist. I leaned my head on his

shoulder, smiling nonetheless at the incredible turnout of this year's picnic.

"Yeah, and I won't worry about Felicity. Maybe she's just pregnant again."

Maxim snorted. "I thought the same thing." We shared a laugh as he led me to a table so I could sit. I closed my eyes as a quick dizzy spell almost knocked me over. I've gotten quite used to them during pregnancy. I even knew how to anticipate them.

The shrieking scream of my daughter's voice snapped me back to reality as I jolted from my seat, ready to fight or protect, but I frowned when I noticed that the backyard was darker.

"Mommy, look!" Isabella ran towards me and pointed at the sky, and it was then that I noticed it was an eclipse.

Maxim held me from behind as everyone gazed at it. "Do you think it's something bad? Like another fight?" Maxim asked, worry evident in his voice.

But I shook my head as I searched for Toya. This was different. This eclipse felt... happy.

As I found Toya's eyes, my thoughts were confirmed. I couldn't contain my smile as I refocused my eyes on the eclipse that was already passing by.

"No, this is something good. Something really good."

"What was it, mommy?" Izzy asked, tugging at my blouse. I lifted her on my hip with a happy sigh as the light returned.

"The sun and moon had a baby, sweetheart. Isn't it wonderful?"

"A baby?" Her eyes lit up. "Like your baby?"

"Even better." I grinned as I kissed her cheek and let her go to play again.

I leaned against Maxim as he hugged me from behind-something he's gotten quite fond of doing since I got pregnant again.

"So, what does this mean for us?" he asked, still staring at the passing moon.

I shrugged. "We'll be fine, if not better. But a new day has finally been born."

The END

I want to thank each and every one of you guys for reading my book. It means the world to me that you read my lil story, and I hope you check out the others, especially the spin off!

Cheers! <3



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