



Chapter 10

GABRIEL

"Are you even listening?" Mom asked me.

I took a drink of water and looked at her. It was not like I was intentionally blanking on the conversation. My mind was just filled with plenty of fucking thoughts that were demanding my attention.

"I am, but I don't know what to add. I know that this birthday is important for the pack. The big 1-8 for their future Alphas. I'm more worried about how it's going to make Angel feel. Can't we just do something small?"

She sighed and folded her hands on the table. Her eyes looked between my brother and I for a minute before she spoke.

"Talk to me. I can't help you if I don't know anything. Remember that it'll be kept in the best confidence."

My brother and I exchanged a look, trying to determine what to say. We did not want to ruin any of the confidence that Angel had given to us even if it was unintentional at times.

"She's a mess the closer it gets. She doesn't realize that we know, but she's terrified of what it could possibly bring. Damn near her entire life long, she has heard comments about people believing that we'll be mates. I think she's worried about the possibility of finding out that someone else is mated to us. It doesn't matter if she's fated because she'll be our mate and Luna if she'll agree to it," I told her.

She did not seem surprised about the last part of it. The gentle smile



on her face said that she approved of our choice.

"I'm assuming she's unaware of that. Knowing how you both are, you'd be wanting to wait until that day so that she's not wondering about the what-ifs any longer. As much as I'd like to make it smaller, it doesn't work that way with the traditions in this pack. Just leave the planning up to me. What I suggest is that you find something to show her your intention towards her when you do approach her that way."

I gave her a genuine smile with that suggestion because it was perfect. How had we not thought about that yet?

We finished dinner and helped Mom clean up before we took our leave.

Aunt Ziyah had linked us that she had made progress on the identity of Angel's mother, and Angel asked if we could go over tonight and see what was found.

She was already waiting outside her house, sitting down on the steps. Her elbows resting on her knees. In her hands was the little angel plushie that Mom had given to her shortly after she was saved. It was to represent her mother who was watching over her. That plushie was one of Angel's prize possessions and meant everything to her.

"Hey there, halo. You ready?" I asked her.

Angel looked up in surprise, clearly having been so deep in thought that she did not even notice us approach. She bit her lip and nodded, standing up and putting the plushie in her messenger bag.



I held my hand out to her and smiled as the warmth of her fingers twined together with mine.

One more week until our birthday. 'Goddess, please I beg you to give her to us.'

Aunty had told us to just pop into her office whenever we were ready. Luckily, she and our uncle were not in the middle of anything that would require mind bleach.

"Just who we were looking for. Two epic Alpha heirs and a gorgeous Angel," Aunt Ziyah said, winking at Angel.

The resulting giggle brought a smile to my face. She had been through so much emotional shit lately, so I was happy to hear that sound.

The three of us took a seat on the couch. Angel situated herself so that she was perfectly between us. I was not certain if she did it intentionally or if it was just second nature to her. It was perfect either way.

The large TV that was hooked up as a monitor was turned so that we could see it.

"Dahlia was able to do a deep dive with the image that I pulled from your vision."

Dahlia was the tech guru that was part of the Dark Moon pack but also worked with the Supernatural Council. She helped all of us with anything that we needed. If something needed to be found, she was our best bet.

"Your mother's name was Sophia Carson. Originally, she was from the Danes pack out in Iowa."

A couple of images were put onto the screen. Holy fuck. I saw where Angel got her looks from. She was damn near a replica of her mother except that Angel's skin tone was a little darker. The rest was spot on.

"Super intelligent. She was a science whiz who had a promising career in Bioengineering. She was looking into the potential of inserting centralized agents to promote gene mutations within the shifter community. It was seriously in-depth shit. Her work was meant to be a cure to fixing altered DNA sequences that led to damaged wolves permanently taking over their human counterparts."

Aunt Ziyah was actually fangirling. I took a peek at Angel, and her eyes were wide and filled with wonder as she learned about a mother that she never got to meet.

"Then things changed when she was twenty. She was supposed to show up for an award ceremony, but she just disappeared. Dahlia was able to track her through so hidden channels. She ended up going South. Her name was mentioned on a couple of Black-Market message boards because someone was searching for her. Then there were eight months of radio silence. Then there was a directive put out to find her. It was clear that she was not to be harmed because she was pregnant. The person offered a ridiculous amount of money to locate her. After another three months, it was radio silence again."

Angel was shaking with that news, stuck in her own head. I knew that she was putting the pieces together the same way that we were.



I wrapped my arm around her waist while my brother took her other hand in his, offering her what support that we could.

"So, the sick fuck that killed her wasn't after her at all. He was after me..."

ANGEL

I ripped my hands from the boys and pressed their heels against my temples. The pain... Goddess... It hurt.

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The same scene right before her death played out, but this time I could hear them.

"She doesn't belong to you," my mother spat.

"Yes, she does. Blood of my blood after all," he said smugly, flashing her a sadistic grin. "She was created to be my greatest weapon. All will fall at my feet when she takes her place beside me whether or not she likes it."

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I heard talking around me, but I could not focus on it. All my mind to comprehend was that the evil bastard was my...

Finally, I lifted my head and looked into the grey eyes of the twins, which were filled with worry. I tried to give them a reassuring smile, but I was not certain if I had managed it or not.

"I'm okay," I said, taking a drink of the water that was handed to me. "I saw the same scene right before she died, but I could hear what they said. The evil douchebag is my...biological father. He told her that I was created to be his greatest weapon. He said that all would fall at his feet when I took my place beside him."

The room was completely silent after I dropped that bomb.

Yeah, what could anyone really say to that. 'Hey, congratulations that your evil sperm donor is a Grade-A villain who wants to use you as a weapon of destruction.'

Athena snorted and shook her head at my thoughts.

It would be a safe bet that the person behind whatever was going to happen would happen to be him.

How would he find me?

Did he know where I was now?

Would I be able to survive the pit of Hell that he would want to throw me into? Fuck if I knew.

"He's going to be coming for me..." I swallowed past the lump in my throat.

"Then let him. His heart will be ripped from his chest before he gets near you," Grant vowed.

"We're a team, halo. Always have been, and always will be," Gabriel added.

I looked at them both and knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that they would always protect me. I just hoped I could protect myself because I had a gut feeling that I would be needing to.



Shana Allen

Author

*Only one for today, but up next will be the twins' birthday. Remember that your gems will be expiring by the end of the month, and the twins wanted to gift them to their *fingers crossed* new mate as a gift.*



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