

Chapter 8

ANGEL

I supposed that I had just been overwhelmed yesterday. That had to have been it because when she offhandedly mentioned overhearing senior girls having invited them to the party, I felt like there was a tiny crack in my heart that kept spreading outwards.

The thought of any other female getting their attention made me nauseous even though it should not. Part of me was terrified that our closeness would end up changing once they found their mate because nobody in their right mind would be okay with their mates being so close to another female.

There were many people who believed that the twins would turn out to be my mates. Many people assumed that the Luna title would be mine because of our connection to each other. Did I want that? More than anything. Not the title but the mate situation.

Grant and Gabriel were amazing people beyond the Alpha part of who they were. They loved their people – family, friends, and pack – deeply. As such, they would do anything that they could to protect them. Also, they were gentlemen through and through. They were more than eager to help those who needed it no matter if it was something simple or complex. It was all the same to them.

Was it possible that the Goddess would give them to me? It would be a dream come true, but I could not allow myself to hope for it because it would destroy me if that hope was ripped away from me.

We went over to see their Aunt before school so that she could view what I had seen for herself. That way she would be able to, hopefully, glean some clues from it.



There was something she had said that brought me a mixture of emotions – excitement, happiness, and anxiety. The reflection of my biological mother was clear enough that she would be able to extract it and see if anything popped up from facial recognition.

I had always wished that I could have met her, but that was not what fate had in the cards for us. However, part of my heart, a part that had kept hidden, healed by seeing her. Well, that was before I watched what that monster had done to her.

Their Aunt had also shared with me about the self-preservation thing. I was not certain what to think of that. Part of me wanted to scoff and say that there was no way, but I did not do that because the supernatural as a whole was kind of her forte. She and Alpha Dante were both alike when it came to this. They were walking and talking supernatural encyclopedias.

Rare and powerful...

Athena was preening with that pride. I just rolled my eyes and let her get the excitement out.

Speaking to Luna Ziyah today gave me an idea for my project that dealt with cultural assimilation. Not only would new species change, to a varying degree, but it sometimes led to interspecies relationships that could produce hybrids. Two different species, minimally, was combined when the child was conceived. It was important that a pack, clan, coven, etc. were educated on the species within it. It was not just the parent's responsibility to ensure that others were aware of what it meant.

There was a good example of this. When sphinxes were brought into Shadow Falls, nobody really knew anything about them. However, they were just as part of the pack that everyone else was. It was the

same thing that happened when they also brought the Nabello demons into their pack.

"Is that your 'aha, I figured it out' look that you've got going on?" Maxine asked me as I approached the group.

"Absolutely," I chirped, smiling widely. "Just figured out some great ideas for a project that I'm working on for my Group Prosperity track."

A perfectly shaped eyebrow quirked up with that. She got by at school but definitely did not find enjoyment in it like I did.

"I'm happy for you," she said genuinely.

"Thanks! So, did you have fun at the party?"

I finished off the rest of my morning coffee. It was very much needed after the night that I had. The only reprieve that I had was when we were mindlinking until I fell asleep. Then I woke up about two hours later and had been up ever since.

"Oh, hell yeah, I did. The party was awesome. There was even some drama." Her eyebrows waggled. "You know Kalen Anderson?" I nodded. "Well, she had an argument with Maddox Stark, one of the new junior guys that has that whole bad boy look going for him. She had turned away from him, but then he spun her back around and kissed her. Next thing you know, she kneed him in the balls, making him fall to his knees."

Yeah, that guy was definitely barking up the wrong tree if he was trying to fool around with Kalen. That girl was a beast who could easily kill him at least twenty-three different and extremely creative ways.

Kalen was the Alpha heir of the Dark Moon pack. She was an amazing fighter and could take down people much larger than her.

People did not mess with her for a reason. It made me wonder if he got the message.

"Damn. That's got to hurt like hell, but he clearly didn't ask for the kiss. Good for her."

Maxine nodded her head in agreement with what I had said.

"Hey, I'm going to be out of town next week. One of the trackers that I know was able to find out some information about my family. There's an Aunt who lives down in Atlanta, and she wanted to meet up with me. She has some of my mother's stuff that she had kept," Maxine told me.

I gave her a genuine smile because that was amazing. Her parents had died, and she was on her own for some time before she made her way here. I could not even begin to imagine how hard it had been for her, so I was happy that she found a connection.

"That's awesome! Keep me updated. I really hope that this goes good for you."

"Thanks, babe. Me too."

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The morning had passed quickly. I paid attention in class, but my focus was split because part of my brain was being utilized to developing and shaping the idea I had about the cultural immersion concept.

Chaz beckoned me forward when I got to that class. He held up a chocolate bar and waggled his eyebrows. I loved how easy-going he was. He could make anyone feel relaxed in his presence. I doubted that there was a single person who could dislike him. It might be his vampy superpower after all.



"Thanks, Chazy!" I winked at him and bit off a square of it.

I pulled out my things and opened the notebook that I had been jotting down ideas for the project in. I quickly added the newest thoughts so that I would not end up forgetting anything.

Chaz took a peek and looked at me dumbfounded, making me shrug. He knew that I was a workaholic. There was no shame in that.

During the class, the teacher asked if we had made any progress on how we wanted to go about it. Since this was a class about community, sharing our ideas could help strengthen the outcome. So, I shared mine with everyone.

"That's a very interesting idea. Have you thought about how to incorporate it into the way that your pack works for example?" Mrs. Simpton asked me.

I clasped my hands and leaned forward on the desk. This was something that I had put some thought into but did not get a full-fledged idea from yet.

"Mhm. Let's take sphinxes for example. They are only able to sense their mates on the first blood moon of each decade. That day is very important to them and their culture. Why not have a mating-ball to celebrate it in hopes of finding the one destined for them? We can incorporate important events like that. Unity is imperative for any group to thrive. Therefore, we should embrace each other's cultures and what makes them who they are."

Mrs. Simpton was tilting her head as she took in what I proposed. Then a warm smile stretched across her face.

"Fascinating. Do you think that you could get a basic draft together? It doesn't have to be right this moment, but I really want to see how



you will plan this out."

Excitement rushed through me with her question. I was very happy that she had a positive view of my idea. It was like my baby.

"Absolutely!" I told her immediately.

"Good. I look forward to it."

Something that felt hidden deep-down inside of me had me feeling like this project would have far-reaching implications that would end up changing many people's lives. One could only hope.



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