

Chapter 9

I was walking and staring at my feet as I did, so intently actually that I didn't realize there was someone walking up to me. They were so quiet as they strode up to me and grabbed me by the arm. I tried to scream but they held their hand over my mouth. I didn't know what to do. I have gone through some training with my dad, since he always said a Beta's daughter should know how to ght, but for some reason I couldn't remember any of the moves he taught me in order to help. My mind just went blank...maybe because of the lack of training I have had recently.

I struggled as whoever this person was dragged me backwards, towards the woods. I wasn't sure by the scent or anything who it was, so they must have had it masked somehow. Or it's someone I don't know. They continued to drag me backwards, until I was deep in the forest. If I were to start screaming, it would be unlikely for anyone to hear me...even if there were patrols around, so this person uncovered my mouth. I could nally breathe, but I couldn't gure out who this person was or what they wanted from me. Finally they stopped pulling me, practically throwing me on the ground by a stream. I almost fell into the water; however, thankfully I didn't. I looked up to see who my kidnaper was, shocked to the core at who the person was.

Shaun stood there in front of me, looking worried and irritated for some reason. I stood up and made sure that I looked even more irritated than he did. With so much anger in my body, I trekked over to the boy and shoved him hard on his chest. I may be small, but the shove forced him backwards a bit.

"What the H**l, Shaun?!" I exclaimed at him, letting anger overwhelm my confused emotions. "Why the H**l did you drag me back here alone like this?! Why did you kidnap me?!"

"I didnt!" he quickly retorted, trying to end any blame on his end.

I waved my hands around the area dramatically, "Well, obviously you did! Otherwise, I wouldn't be out here in the forest with you like this! You wouldn't have dragged me out here like you were nding a way to get away with m****r if I hadn't been kidnapped! What the f**k is going on?!"

"I didn't kidnap you, Alyssa...I mean, I kind of did...but I had to get you out here so I could talk to you without any eavesdroppers," Shaun responded, really seeming genuine in his reasoning.

I shook my head incredulously at the boy, "I would have just went somewhere with you willingly if you wanted to talk. You didn't have to bring me out here like you did! I thought you were going to k**l me! I thought these were my nal moments!"

"I know...I know...I just had to make sure that nobody would know where we were. If I had asked you to go somewhere with me after your day was over, they would have known and I wouldn't have been able to get you out here alone...I had to talk to you and I couldn't risk them nding out," he said to me.

He wasn't making sense to me, so I had to ask, "Who's they? Who are you scared of?"

Shaun turned around for a moment away from me and walked a little ways away. I was half wondering if he was going to just leave me out here. I was actually a little scared of how he was acting, so different from the boy I met today.

"Is it not obvious?!" he yelled towards me as he turned around and pointed to his face, the marks on it that showed how the Alpha twins and their friends had beaten him up the rst day I went to the packhouse...a place where there were currently more marks that seemed more recent. "They are the reasons for this! And the reason for so many other problems in my life! I just don't want you to get caught up with them; although, I'm guessing you already are. I am guessing that they are the reason you were in trouble anyway...aren't they?"

I looked away, embarrassed about all that I have been through when it comes to those boys. They have been my constant tormentors since I got here and didn't seem like they were giving any time soon, which is what surprised me since they haven't really done much to me recently.

"Exactly," Shaun said to me while cautiously walking towards me. "And they will always be like that. They have always been like that to me and it has been H**l. I just wanted to warn you to stay away from them. They are no good and will only cause more issues in your life than you need. They are terrible people and will only get worse they more power they get. Unfortunately it's always people like that who are allowed the most power in a pack."

I looked back at him, "Well, they haven't messed with me in a while. Maybe they are done ruining my life? Maybe they had their ll?"

Shaun shook his head at me while looking dissappointed in me a bit, "They will NEVER be done. They are just building it up...trust me. It's going to be worse than ever. I just wanted to warn you. You seem like a good person and I wanted to make sure you didn't plan to let them ruin your life for the rest of it..."

"Well, I didn't plan on letting them run over me like that forever. I planned on getting through it till I get out of school, then I was going to leave," I replied.

"Why don't you just leave now?" Shaun asked me, making me feel so confused. "No need in staying through all of their bullying, right?"

I squinted at him irritatedly, "Well, I obviously can't leave right now. I am a kid. I have school that I need to get through. And I can't just get my family to move now. They are happy here. My father is the Beta and he hopes to stay here so my brother can be the next in line. I can't ruin it for them."

"But what about for you?" Shaun asked me simply, seeming like he was staring deep into my soul through my eyes.

I shrugged, "I can deal with them until I'm able to move. As soon as I turn eighteen and get my wolf, I will graduate and I can leave. It will be ne. Thank you for worrying about me though."

Shaun nodded and sighed at me, turning around and starting to walk away. He didn't tell me to follow him or anything, so I just stood there. I was confused on what to do.

"Well, if you change your mind about going ahead and leaving, I plan to. In the next few months or so. I am gathering everything I might need to be out in the wild now and will leave as soon as I can. If you decided you want to come with me, I'd be happy for the company," Shaun said before he got too far away for me to hear him.

I watched the retreating gure, feeling so confused. I felt lost...mentally and physically. I wasn't sure which way it was to head home, so I just started walking in the same direction Shaun had went in. My mind was in shambles. He wanted me to go with him, but we were both just kids without our wolves. How would we make it out in the wild with the rogues and other predators after us? How would we survive? I just don't understand what is going through his mind about it all. Sure, being tormented by those boys is terrible. It denitely makes me want to leave the pack...but I don't plan on doing that until I get my wolf and can defend myself.

I continued to walk through the forest, hoping I was going in the right direction to go home. It was getting darker and darker around me. At times like these, I wished we got our wolves sooner. If I had my wolf right now, I'd be able to shift and track my way back. I'd be able to see in the dark better. But no! We have to wait until we are eighteen. At least then, I will be able to leave this dreaded place without ruining my family's lives or prospects. I will be able to go out and nd my mate or at least just be able to survive on my own.

I had walked for a longer amount of time than I thought I had been dragged, so I must be lost. Once all I could see in the sky was the moon and no stars, I stopped walking. I looked up through the trees. They looked very ominous. My mind was at a blank for where we were. I was starting to get scared, so I just started back walking. Surely, I'd eventually end up somewhere in the pack if I followed to direction Shaun went in, right? I didn't. I just ended up surrounded by more trees, as if I somehow went deeper into them. I sat down on the ground after a while. I began to lose hope of nding my way home.

"I guess I won't even make it to my eighteenth birthday anyways," I spoke out loud to nobody while staring at the sky.

I closed my eyes and breathed, awaiting my demise. The sounds of pawprints on the leaves made me worried. I must have made it to rogue territory and they were about to tear me to shreds. I really wouldn't even make it to meet my mind and they were about to closer, I debated trying to get up to ght. That debate left my mind once I heard even more paws hitting the ground. There would be absolutely no way I could fend off multiple wolves. I likely wouldn't even be able to fend off one on my own, even with the training sessions my father has put me through.

The paws stopped pounding on the ground as they got closer to me, so I held my eyes closed even tighter just waiting for whoever it was to take me out. I was just a sitting duck there waiting to be feasted on; however, that didn't happen.

"Alyssa, is that you?" asked a familar voice, forcing me to open my eyes.

I looked then into the warm eyes of my father, staring down at me concerned. Behind him were three wolves. One looked massive, so it could only have been the Alpha. The other two were smaller, but still looked erce. They were likely the Delta and Gamma wolves. I looked up at my dad, my eyes tearing up as I did. He walked closer to me and leaned down immediately to grab me in his arms. I let him hold me like a baby, just grateful that he found me before someone or something else did. He then sat me on one of the smaller wolf's backs and shifted back to his own beast so we could head back to the pack. Once we got to our home, the wolf let me off of him, and my father and I went inside. I expected a lecture, but instead my father gave me a hug and a kiss, telling me to get to bed so I would be rested for school the next day. I shockingly nodded and went upstairs to go to sleep, dreaming about the weird conversation with Shaun and my getting lost afterwards. That ended up being a constant dream of every night for the next few months.