

Graduation Day 2

I ran my hairbrush through my hair to smooth it out before pulling my cap and gown from my bag. I quickly pulled them on and took a seat while I waited for Billie to get ready. She had some make up in her bag that she wanted to put on so she'd look good in pictures and since the pack leaders would all be present, she wanted to look her best. The future Alpha, Beta and Gamma would all be there with their parents and none of them have met their mates yet. Maverick, the future Alpha, is 19 already and will be taking over the pack when he turns 20 unless he finds his mate before then. He's a massive playboy, and doesn't really date anyone but he's sleeping with Kylie, the current Gamma's daughter. Elias Johnson is the future Beta. He's sleeping with Brianna Carter. Her parents are Mystic Moon's head warriors and her twin Brandon will be the Head Warrior when Alpha Markus steps down. Our future Gamma is Archer, Kylie's older brother. He and Molly, Elias' younger sister, have been seeing each other on and off for the last 2 years. People think he will make her his chosen mate and reject his fated.

Billie makes her way over to me and as I look up at her from the floor, she scrunches her face up and shakes her head. "No absolutely not. Autumn, you need make-up today, it's a big day!" She near screamed. "Nooooo, Billie please. I don't want to stand out, it's bad enough that we have to get on stage. I don't want to stand out or look different to what I normally do." I pleaded back. "I'm just gonna do some mascara on your lashes and some lip gloss. It really isn't that much, it'll just make your features pop in pictures. Come on." She said with naivety, holding me in my chair by my shoulders. She nished up and pulled out her compact mirror from the small bag full of products to show me, I was sort of stunned. I looked like me but more... me. I couldn't believe it. The mascara made my amber eyes pop, the pink tinted lip gloss made my lips look more plump and Billie also fixed up my hair. I could see the spark in my eye trying to come back.

"You look like mum, I can't believe how grown up you are Autumn. After today, we don't have anything holding us back anymore. We can find our mate and leave Mystic Moon behind and get ready to take our place at Silver Shadow." Iris piped in. "You're right Iris. I just hope that our mate isn't in this pack, we will be able to be happy again." I said back, a hint of sadness in my voice. She whimpered back to me and curled up in my mind.

We made our way to the hall where the ceremony is taking place and found the allocated area for the graduates. The hall was lined with rows and rows of chairs. The first three rows closest to the stage were for those graduating, followed by 2 rows for the leaders of the pack and their families. The other guests filled the remainder of the seats.

At every ceremony, the Alpha gives a speech wishing the future generations the best and his congratulations. Then he usually rambles on about how proud he is of the pack and how his son is going to be the best Alpha for us and it just becomes a drag. And he does this literally every year. This year is no different and we are left sitting there for around 45 minutes before the ceremony can properly commence. Finally, my name is called and I make my way to the stage to collect my graduation certificate, I shake hands with the Principal and make my way to the left of the stage because the right side is full. I cast my gaze upon the crowd and notice Maverick fully staring in my direction. I look over my shoulder and there is nobody behind me, there's only one person next to me as we're the only people on this side of the stage. I wonder what he's staring at so intently over here, I can't help myself and I look directly at him. He's looking me straight in the eyes! I see his lips start to curve up into a slight smile and his eyes soften when I return my own small grin.

Then, all too soon, the b****h squad's names are called one by one, starting with Kylie. She makes an effort to stand directly in front of me and the heel of her shoe is right on my foot. I wince and try to stop myself from screaming out by biting the inside of my cheek, so much so that I've drawn blood. She turns to me with a smirk on her face and an evil look in her eye then icks her hair over her shoulder and looks in front of her, directly at Maverick and smiles a big grin before waving at him as if she didn't just hurt me intentionally. By this point, Iris is snarling in my mind and I am starting to feel really hot and angry, my skin starting to get itchy too. I look down and notice my arms have patches of white hair. "Iris!! Calm down!! We're in front of too many people!!" I scream to Iris through the mindlink. Immediately the heat I could feel goes away and the anger fades. "I'm so sorry Autumn, I don't know what came over me." She whimpered back. "It's okay Iris, we're okay. Just please try keep calm. We are supposed to shift soon, maybe get some rest? I'll be here until you come back." With that, she relaxed again and curled into a ball to sleep.

We ended the ceremony with us all throwing our caps in the air, followed by cheering and claps from the crowd of guests. I found Billie with her parents and took some photos of them before they got some snaps of us. We all made our way to the banquet for graduates and enjoyed some light refreshments and chit chat. Everyone started making their way back to the pack house to party while Billie and I just wanted to go sit at our spot by the river.

"Life is going to be different now, huh? Have you thought about what you want to do about your parents' pack yet?" She asked.

"Sort of, I mean it's technically my pack now I guess. It's weird, you know, someone attacked the pack for the power and territory, yet the pack land is empty, and they killed everyone. I've been getting these dreams, well nightmares really, about the day it all happened. And I'm kinda seeing it from a different perspective. And I'm picking up random things too, like how there weren't many warriors at some parts of the border. I know my dad definitely wouldn't have changed the number of warriors either, because he always had the same amount on every side. Also, of all the days for it to happen, it was on my birthday which everyone knew was a pack-wide celebration." I voiced my thoughts. Iris and I have discussed this too and there's something off about it all. We were a strong, formidable pack. We should have been able to win.

"Yeah that does sound strange. Maybe if you go back to the territory you'll be able to find more information?" That's it, I'll need to go back at some point, I thought to myself. "You're right. I'm gonna have to go back but enough about that. We just graduated!! I turn 18 tomorrow and I may meet my mate!" I yelled out excitedly, jumping to my feet and started bumping the air. Once the heaviness of the conversation wore off, we went for a dip in the river and made our way to our rooms, tired from the day's events.