Chapter 69

I looked around between Claire, Josh, and Miranda. I frowned when I looked in Miranda's direction, who had a big smile upon her face. "Why are you all looking at me like that?" To say that I was confused was an understatement. Did I have something on my face? Did I sprout horns and now I belong in the deepest pits of hell? What was it?

"Well, Ava, it is your eyes." Josh stuttered out.

"My eyes? What about them? I can't see them!" I felt myself panic. I thought I had been blind for a moment, but I could see them so I knew that was not the case, i***t. I felt Charlotte laugh at me.

"Here, come over to the water's edge and have a look for yourself," Miranda offered.

"You don't even..." Josh was cut off by a warning slap that I could only assume was Claire to hush him up. "Ow, babe."

"Oh please, it wasn't even that hard. Sometimes you just need to shut your big mouth and let people find out for themselves what is going on." I read how annoyed she was with him, as if you couldn't hear it in her voice.

I stepped up to where the earth and water met and looked down at my own reflection. My eyes were glowing and gold, not just a few flecks of gold. They were actually gold. My skin was also shimmering with glints of gold. What in the hell? What is this? How do I turn it off? What does this mean? I look like a gold oompa loompa! I felt like crying, and I wondered if my tears would be gold too.

"I control it. Calm down. You are okay, everything is okay. Do not panic." Charlotte spoke to me.

"You do?" I questioned her.

"Yes. I do. Your magic is a part of us. This shows your strength. There are books on it that you could read. Where it was documented in our history. It is very rare to be blessed with the kind of magic you possess and be a Royal Lycan at the same time. You, Avalynn, are the strongest being on this planet. It is a gift and a curse. When word gets out, the witches council will want you dead along with whoever else is in their pockets." Charlotte told me.

"How do you know this?" I asked her.

"You think our Moon Goddess would pair a magical being with a Royal Lycan on purpose? Two cousins from a magical background with history that runs deeper than anyone from the last few hundred years could remember?" I could feel her smiling.

"So, Miranda will also keep her magic?" I asked.

"Yes, but she must not know this. She must choose Brent on her own accord. She can not be swayed." She told me.

"Avalynn! Hello?" I heard the faint sounds of my name being called. I realized I had gone off into talking with my beast. I was completely ignoring them all.

I shook my head and took a step away from the water. I turned and looked at the three of them. They looked confused.

"Are you okay?" Claire asked as she took a step towards me.

"Yes. I am fine. Sorry, Charlotte was telling me some things. There are history books from a few hundred years ago with information about what I am." I looked between the three of them.

"I know the history book she is talking about. It is in your office," Miranda said and told us with a smile. "I have read it and the gift you have is extremely rare. When a Royal Lycan is gifted with this, it generally means that danger to the Lycan and Wolf

world is imminent." Miranda sighed.

"What? So what does this mean?" Josh spoke then and I crossed my arms in front of me, glancing over at Claire. I could tell they were both panicked and worried for my safety. I wasn't only worried about my safety but everyone else's that would be involved. I looked down at my arms and hands. I rotated them, watching the gold shimmer off of my skin. Absolutely fascinating to look at.

"It means that both territories are in danger," Miranda sighed.

"Both?" Josh asked before looking at me, then Miranda. "We need to talk to Brent and we need to talk to Everest."

"I agree." I nodded my head slightly and looked at everyone. "I just need to figure out how to turn this off and in my human form."

"Well. Okay yeah. For sure. I don't think you would want anyone to know what you are. Us and whoever is in your trusted circle should know, of course," Claire said.

"You're right. Okay Miranda, any ideas?" I looked back at my hands.

"Well, I think you should try a few things first. The basics, maybe? We just won't use Josh and Claire now." She softly laughed.

"You can use that tree!" Josh pointed to a dead tree and I shrugged my shoulders.

"Okay." I said.

"Now," Miranda started to tell me. "Picture the tree as your enemy. Someone that is out to hurt the ones you love. A dangerous murderer that is lingering in the darkness, waiting for a prime opportunity to make their move against your loved ones."

I closed my eyes as thoughts turned into images, flashing through my mind. I let out a deadly snarl and my hands balled into fists by my side. My breathing even picked up as my heart began to beat faster.

"Woah, look at her." Josh whispered, but I never heard him.

"Shhh. Let her concentrate." Claire whispered back.

Miranda stood there with a smile upon her face as she watched me closely.

I could feel the golden tethers linking together, one by one. I felt the heat of magic pulse through my veins. I opened my eyes, everything appeared clearer, more sharp, more detailed. I took my arm and wound it around as if I was throwing a ball and extended it in front of me. A bright light shot from my fingertips, going into the tree. The dead tree exploded into dust and I raised both of my brows, shocked at what I had just done.

"HOLY s**t AVA!" I heard my brother scream from excitement.

I looked back at him and smiled. "Did you see that? Wow!"

"We all watched you! How awesome! Look, it's raining tree dust!" Josh exclaimed excitedly as he walked over to where the dead tree was once standing.

"Okay. So, I can blow things up. That is pretty cool. I wonder if I could do that to people?" I pondered and watched Claire's eyes go wide.

"Avalynn, you know that isn't who you are." Claire frowned at me.

"I know, but I was just wondering. You know, if it came down to it, I would turn people into pink mist before I let anything happen to anyone I care about." I told her and shrugged my shoulders. "I will not apologize for that."

"Very well then." She dropped it, knowing that there was no point in trying to fight it.

"Want to try anything else?" Miranda, who had been quiet up until now, asked me.

"Uhh. I don't know. Maybe try breaking or bending something, other than you know, blowing it up.

"Well, reign in your emotions. Feel the world around you. Bend the elements to your will. Work with them, not against them." She coached me.

"Okay, I can do this." I closed my eyes again, concentrating.

I felt the warmth flow through me, the golden magic tether connecting them back together. They were not throbbing like earlier. I guess this is what control over the magic looked like. They were linked one by one and when it was ready I opened my eyes. I felt the wind and worked with it. I looked at a slim tree in the distance. I moved my fingers along with my hand in a bending motion, willing the tree to bend. We all watched as the tree slowly began to bend from the top down. I smiled and looked at the branches and twisted one of my hands, making a twirling motion. This motion causes the limbs to wrap around itself tightly.

I worked then on the roots, moving my hand in an upward motion. Cracking was heard as the tree shook from the ground. Slowly and surely it was separated from the earth. Dirt fell all around the ground as the tree was lifted into the air. I twisted my wrist and it spun in the air. I smiled as I watched it. I took it and gently sat it back on the ground, laying it on it's side.

I closed my eyes and focused, calming the magic in me. I didn't know if I was doing it correctly, but the warmth slowly faded as I opened my eyes. I looked down at my arms and hands and the golden shimmer was now gone. I looked back up at everyone and gave a little grin. "I did it!"

"You did a fantastic job!" Miranda praised me as Claire and Josh clapped their hands.

"I think my beast was helping me," I confessed.

"Yeah, a little bit. But we are one and I will always be here to help you. Until our final breaths and final heart beat."

"It doesn't matter, you still had complete control over yourself that time. Okay, you ready to call a meeting?" Miranda asked me and I nodded my head.

I sent a link to Everest, Brent, Jameson, Amber, and Ted to meet in Everest's office in thirty minutes. I would rather we met in his office because it was completely sound proof, even for us lycans. You couldn't hear anything going on in there. Screaming, yelling, fighting, plotting for world domination, no one would ever know. Well, unless someone was a rat and ran to tell others what was going on.

We walked our way back inside. We walked up the stairs and made it to Everest's office. I knocked on the door and it opened for us. I allowed the others to walk in before me. When I walked in, I turned around and shut the door behind me, locking it.

"Miranda, do you mind drawing the curtains?" I glanced over at her and she nodded her head.

We needed the curtains closed in case curious and prying eyes were watching our movements. My eyes locked with Everest's and I gave him a little smile. He returned the smile and I saw that he was very curious as to what was going on. I could read the others who were confused about why I called this meeting.

Miranda walked into the center of the room and stood there looking around at everyone. When her eyes landed on Brent, I noticed how they softened as her eyes looked over him, causing me to smile at her happiness.

When she began talking, everyone was practically sitting on the edge of their seats. "Something dangerous is coming. We do not know when and we do not know who, though I have a pretty good idea who is behind this. It is so very important, now more than ever, that the two territories stand together as one solid unit, a solid force. Everyone, Wolf and Lycan, is in danger. It could be now, it could be months, years even. We just are not sure, but danger is imminent." She glanced back at me.

I took that as my cue and stepped forward. "I have something to show you all." I looked over at Claire who was holding the book she picked up in my office on the way here.

"Claire, would you mind opening it to the marked page and sit the book on the desk for everyone to read, please?" I asked her. She nodded her head and did as I had asked her.

I watched everyone gather around the desk, Miranda gave me a nod as this was my moment while they were busy.

"Avalynn, what does this...woah." I heard Amber say and I opened my eyes.

Everyone slowly, one by one, turned to look at me. Their mouths were held open and I smiled at them all.

"You, you look like the photo here. Your skin is just as they described," Jameson said.

"What does this mean?" Everest had a very serious look on his face.

Brent's eyes were darting between Miranda and myself.

"It means that I am rare. It is dangerous for anyone to find out. We need to prepare for war. We need to investigate who is plotting against us. Oh, and I need to work on what I am capable of." I flicked my wrist and the book slammed closed. I watched as they all jumped, startled at the book closing. "Sorry, I just wanted you guys to see a glimpse of what I can do."

I closed my eyes and the magical warmth left my body again.

Brent stood and looked at Miranda. "What does this mean for you?"

"What do you mean?" She looked at him confused.

Brent seemed agitated and he sighed. "It's the witches. Isn't it?" He seemed like he was all over the place with his thoughts.

"Yes, we believe it is the witches, like last time." She said softly and walked over to him.

"So does that mean for you?" He asked her again.

"I stand with you," she stated.

"Okay." He let out a breath of air with a sigh.

He was worried that she would choose her own kind over him. I could understand his worry. She was still not wearing his mark, but I knew what she was unsure of. She would keep her magic. I wish they would just get it done and over with. Waiting to be marked and being one, atleast for Everest and I, was such a terrible mistake.

"We need a plan." Everest looked at everyone.

We could all agree on that, but where would our plan start exactly? It was going to take a few sessions and we still had to deal with Dexter and his trial that was quickly approaching. Miranda and Brent would need to go back to the Southern Territory. What a mess this could all turn out to be. Whatever the plan is, we will have to stick to it and go by it and follow it religiously.