

### Tangled Web Pt. 3

I said, "They didn't mention having family. What if we have family out there?" Heath said, "Then they have a hell of a lot to explain. They should've come forward to help us." I said, "Could they? If dad kicked them out?" Heath said, "If they were there that night, then they can come in. They could've taken us to wherever they are." I sighed. He was right. "Do you think they killed them?" Heath said, "No. Not based on what you remembered. They were warning them about someone. Our parents didn't listen, and they were killed." I voiced a terrifying thought, "Then it's someone they trusted. Dad took threats seriously." Heath was quiet, "That's possible. Maybe even probable. Dad could have discarded the information because of the source it came from. He could've felt so betrayed that he didn't believe anything." I said, "Heath.... What if we know the person who killed them?" Heath said, "Then they will die slowly and painfully." Chase squeezed my hand. I said, "I'm sorry I didn't remember until now." Heath said, "You have nothing to be sorry for. I'm sorry the dreams came back after what you saw today."

I said, "What about you?" Heath said, "Minor nightmare. I'm ne." I said, "Heath...I dreamed Noah killed Sally. He told her she should've accepted her wolf, and he could've saved her. I couldn't move to help her. He slit her throat and tossed her behind the couch like she was nothing." I choked out. Heath said, "Noah won't touch Sally, I swear that to you. She has suffered enough. I failed her. I won't do it again." I said, "Don't forget about yourself Heath. You'll be on Noah's hit list." Heath said, "I know. I look forward to him trying." I cried, "Please... be careful Heath." Heath said, "You too. Stay close to your string when you can Lexi. If he doesn't protect you, he will answer to me." I laughed, "You don't know who he is so that would be hard." Heath said, "Nothing is too hard for me Lexi." I looked at Chase. He shrugged. Heath said, "I will discreetly look into a possible family tree." I said, "Did anyone show up at the meet you set up?" Heath said, "No." I said, "So dad is dead?" Heath said, "Dad was never not dead Lexi. We both saw his body." I said, "Ok. Call me later ok?" Heath said, "You do the same."

I hung up and laughed a kind of hysterical laugh. "Scott is a common last name." Chase said, "It is." I laughed, "James Scott...I don't even know my mother's maiden name. She never talked about it." Chase said, "We can try to look into it. I can pull their marriage license or something." I smiled, "That's sweet but Heath would know you were looking then though." Chase said, "Yeah, your brother doesn't like me." I said, "He doesn't know you. He will love you once he meets you." Chase didn't look certain in any way shape or form. We both hopped in the shower. We made out for a little bit, but I think he could sense I was still raw from everything. I wasn't ready for anything else. I dressed in business casual clothes and walked outside with Chase. We kissed and he parted ways. I got in my car and drove to the oce. I bumped into a man outside my oce, "Oh, I'm sorry." He didn't even turn around. I frowned. I kept walking inside. I walked through the doorway and an alarm sounded. Ted looked up. "Did you just..." I held up my hand, stopping him from continuing his thought. I pointed to his desk. He got out a wand. It beeped at my pocket. A small bug. The guy I'd bumped into put a bug on me. I stomped on it. "Get me the camera's outside the oce." Ted nodded and pulled it up. "Oh shit..." Ted said. I said, "What?" Ted said, "That's... Frank Daniels." I said, "WHAT? Chase's dad just tried to bug me?!" Ted threw his hands in the air, "He is trying to gure out what's going on with Chase. Maybe he thinks I'll talk about it. Matt would see him if he bugged me."

I groaned, "What do I even do? I can't press charges against my one day to be father-in-law." Ted shrieked, "EXCUSE ME? Did you, Lexi Scott, just TALK about marriage indecently? I think you did. I do not think my ears deceived me." I said, "Shut up. What do we do about this?" Ted sighed, "I make a call." I said, "On speaker." Ted sighed, "On speaker." Ted dialed Matt, "Miss me already?" Ted said, "I really do, but ummm there was a moderate problem." Chase was growling, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU ARENT WITH HER?" Matt said, "Because I know you, I know a moderate problem isn't that Lexi is missing." Chase yelled, "HE DID WHAT?!" Ted said, "No, but when she came into the oce our bug alert was set off. She was bumped outside." Matt said, "Dear god no..." Ted said, "We pulled up the footage. It was Frank. I'm guessing he bugged my partner because...he thinks I'll gab about Chase to her." Matt said, "That's what we are running with." Chase said, "Did he hurt you Lexi?" I said, "No, he just bumped into me Chase. I'm ne." Chase growled, "I will handle this." I said, "Maybe let Matt. If you don't want him to know about me and who I am to you..." Matt said, "I love her Chase. I just do." Chase said, "Get me some damn ANSWERS Matt. Derrick Let's go. Because When we get back, we ARE discussing my father sending Lexi's guards to a NON-EXISTENT ROGUE ATTACK." Matt said, "We can work with that too. Perfectly acceptable for you to be pissed about that." With that Matt hung up.

Ted sighed, "Ohhh boy. The gossip is going to be juicy tonight." I sighed, "Poor Chase." Kincade and Kevin walked into the oce. They were stark raving mad. Ted said, "You boys need a coffee?" Kevin said, "Please." I said, "Guys, I'm ne." Kincade said, "You could've been hurt because he sent us to the opposite side of the territory for a false rogue attack. All so he could plant a bug on you. We found one on your car as well and removed it. We told the Alpha." I said, "Chase seemed very upset." Kevin said, "He should be. For many reasons." I frowned. I didn't want to cause a problem between Chase and his father. At that moment, Nadine Daniels walked in. "Hi Ted! I thought I'd swing by after dropping Susie off at school today. It's just nice to get out of the house sometimes. Susie was so excited her dad let me just drop her off alone today. Oh well, look at this a full oce full of people I don't know. Plus one beautiful woman I don't. You MUST be Lexi Scott. My daughter, Susie, talks about you. She's been pestering Reagan about you all going for dinner again. She just thinks you're awesome. I even saw Jenna and Mark across the hall. It's like being at a home away from home." Ted laughed, "Nadine, I'm glad you could stop by. This is in fact Lexi Scott." I smiled and shook her hand, "Your daughter is so sweet. I loved meeting her." Nadine ushered, "I'm so glad she got to go. Now, is someone going to tell me why Chase should be upset with my husband?"

I winced. Nadine smiled, "Werewolf hearing my dear. Blessing and a curse." She turned to Kincade, "Why are my step-son and husband going to be at odds? Is this about Susie? Frank's been trying so hard lately." Ted said, "I'll answer Kincade. Frank bumped into Lexi outside. He planted a bug in her pocket. A listening device, and one on her car as well. Kincade and Kevin are her guards given all that's happened to her; Matt knows how I worry. Frank sent them off in the direction of a false rogue attack." Nadine was now scarlet red, "Lexi....I... there are no words. I'm so sorry. My Frank... he's worried about Chase, but that's just.... I promise you I will give him what for. After you volunteered to help with this Halloween party for the children. Oh gosh, you must want to throw me out of your oce." I said, "Nonsense. We have alerts for such things. He's worried about his son. I'm sure Ted's mother would go to that extreme if she thought of it. I'd like to think my dad would be a little crazy about me too if he were alive. Let's move this planning party to my oce."

Nadine smiled at me and her, Ted and I led inside. I pulled up my computer, "I had planned to input some designs this morning, but I was thinking something like this." Ted had input the school schematic into our program. I had the classrooms designing into different themes. There was the graveyard, vampires, pumpkins, zombies, and so and so forth rooms. Nadine whistled, "You guys go all out." I laughed, "It's my party planning brain." Ted said, "Ohh... we need a mummy room!" I laughed and added those details. I said, "The teachers could have candy in their rooms to pass out. You could have helpers there too depending on how many kids you'll have to go through." Nadine laughed "We call them pups, and Ted told them all about the party today. The pack is clamoring at the idea. The parents were very excited. Even some of the teenagers." I said, "If you have teens who want to dress up and be part of the whole thing that would be fun." Nadine nodded. We planned a few more details out. Nadine smiled, "Well, I'm sure Chase has yelled at my husband by now. I should probably get back to join the Frank is in trouble party." I laughed, "You could tell Chase it's ok." Nadine laughed, "Oh sweetie, for that to work... You'd need Chase's mate to tell him it was ok. Susie is your next best bet. If my stepson has a little girl.... He's so screwed. He's wrapped around my little Susie's nger. He'd stand no chance with his own." I smiled thinking of Chase with our little girl one day." Nadine cleared her throat, "Well, I'm off. Thank you both so much for this. Our Beta Male is doing two jobs right now, his and the Luna's with this little event. We are so proud of him!" She blew him a kiss and left the room.

Ted laughed, "She's going to be morted when she rds out you're Chase's mate. Matt said Chase did hand his dad his ass." I winced, "I don't want that. He still has his dad. I'd give anything for one more conversation with my dad." Ted shrugged, "Lex, his dad created a false threat. That's a big deal. He has to handle this. He's the top dog. Frank's not anymore. That can't be an easy transition." I frowned, "It's not new though. Chase has been in charge for four years." Ted shrugged, "He was gone though for that training thing. Frank and Cameron ran the pack while he was gone." I sighed, "His dads worried because Chase found me though. I feel like this is my fault." Ted shrugged, "He could've gone about it differently, and he should've. Yes, you can handle yourself, but crying wolf on a rogue attack? That's not remotely ok. Kevin and Kincade might have linked others raising a false alarm." I said, "I see your point, I just don't want to be the reason for their ght." Ted said, "You're really not though. Chase will be mad about what happened to you, but he already heard from your mouth you were ne. He will be mad about a fake rogue attack which isn't about you. It's about the method Frank used." I sighed and we got to work. Ted left for his Self-defense classes. I took a few more calls and went to answer the door when a knock sounded. I was shocked to come face to face with Frank Daniels.

"Hello, I'm Lexi Scott." Frank smiled, "I know. I came to apologize. I have been yelled about by our Beta, who's like my own kid, my own son, and my wife." I winced, "Sorry about that." Frank said, "It's not you who should be sorry. I did want to talk to you though." I said, "Please come in." Kevin and Kincade were at their oce door. I motioned them back. I led Frank to my oce, "How can I help you Mr. Daniels? Do you need a party planned?" Frank said, "No." He said nothing for several moments. Another knock sounded. I said, "Please excuse me." Frank said, "Of course." I opened the door and Susanne walked in. "Hi Lexi. Heath asked me to bring you this le. I'm helping out with Sally's company for now. Isn't that fun! Her sous chef called and asked me and everything." I smiled, "I had no idea you liked to cook." Susanna said, "I dabble here and there. I wouldn't do it permanently, but you know this is just temporary helping out. Just long enough for me to remember why it's fun in short spurts." I laughed, "How long have you been in the area? Susanna said, "Oh, I've been here for a bit." I smiled, "I heard. I heard we were both at that club. Who were you with?" Susanne smiled, "A vampire. Have you ever had one? Wild at s\*x I TELL you!" I laughed, "I haven't. I am working with the King in this state on some parties." Susanna smiled, "You gotta snag you one Lex. They use their immortal life spans to learn some things in the bedroom." I laughed as she left.

Kevin beckoned me into the hall. Kincade stepped into my oce. I walked across to their oce. "Chase doesn't want you to talk to his dad. Matt's on the way." I sighed, "The man is in my oce." Kevin frowned, "I think it's a bad idea." I shrugged, "I want to hear what he has to say. One day he will be my father-in-law. I mean... Oh god... probably. Because well... I mean... Chase hasn't asked me to marry him." I put my face into my hands. Blushing furiously. "Can you just never tell Chase I said that?" Kevin moved my hands from my face. He was smiling, "Chase would not be upset you said any of that. At least leave the door open so Kincade and I can hear. I know you don't want to know about Chase's situation. His dad could say something." I sighed. That was a good point. I nodded, "Alright. I'll leave the door open. If you think he's about to say something about that, please step in. I really don't want to know." Kevin sighed, "Let's pray our Beta is driving like the wind." I laughed, "Do any of you drive slow?" Kevin shrugged, "What's slow?" I said, "Let's go with the speed limit as slow. Do any of you drive the speed limit?" Kevin laughed, "The rst few times we tailed you; you broke AT LEAST fteen laws getting away from us. You were also absolutely not going the speed limit." I feigned disbelief, "I am but a young woman who was being followed! What was I to do?" Kevin snorted, "You might be the least defenseless woman I know. Which is a very good thing. I've seen you ght. You're good, and you don't get mad when you get help. You send chocolates and owlers to two different Alpha's. My brother and I are very proud to be your guards." I smiled, "Thank you Kevin." Kincade smiled, "Same goes for me, Lexi Scott." I smiled, "Thanks guys."

I walked back into my oce leaving the door open. "Sorry about that Mr. Daniels." He interrupted me, "Please call me Frank." I said, "If that's what you prefer, Frank. What can I do for you?" Frank studied me, "First, I would like to say to your daughter, Susie, talks about you a lot. She likes you. Nadine told me about the Halloween event you are helping Ted coordinate for our pups. It's very kind of you. Second, I am truly sorry about bugging your car and you." I smiled, "I was careless. You reminded me I need to be more vigilant. It's ne. I have no intention of reporting this back to the Hood. You didn't hear anything that would be bad for you to know." Frank itched his collar, "Yes, I didn't think of that. Third, I would like to say my daughter in law raves of you as well. Please know that I say this next piece knowing that you mean a great deal to the women in life." I frowned, "Alright." Frank leveled me with his Alpha look, "Stay away from my son." I blinked, "I beg your pardon?" Frank said, "He was not himself, and now he's staying out. You reeked of him this morning. It's you. He's staying with you. I'll grant you he's seemed very happy, but Chase doesn't need a girlfriend. He needs to focus on his situation and nd his Luna. Do we have an understanding?"

I stood, "Get out of my oce Mr. Daniels. I am a grown woman, and you are not MY father. What I do with my personal time and personal life is NONE of your business. If you would care to speak to your son about this, that is your prerogative. Keep in mind us being together has more possibilities than we are dating. You may remember your Beta Male's mother was nearly murdered yesterday and saved by a girl I consider family. If you think I'd leave Ted's side in those circumstances without knowing he was perfectly alright. You are sadly mistaken." Ted came in, "Ummm what's happening?" I said, "Nothing. Mr. Daniels was just leaving." Matt walked in behind Ted. Frank simply stared at me. "You won't leave him alone, then will you?" I said, "I have not even told you if we have a relationship." Frank said, "You don't have to. I know my son." I said, "Not well evidently." Frank growled, "EXCUSE ME?" I said, "I won't. I was more than gracious about you bugging my car and myself. Then you come in here and tell me to stay away from your son? He will not take that well." Frank said, "He's distracted because of you! He could make a mistake and he could die! I can't lose him." Pain hit me hard, I let my eyes water, "I told you to leave." Matt said "Frank...." A man who must be Matt's father appeared, "Frank get outside, and get in the damn car. If you think Chase's mother wouldn't have kicked your ass for this, you've forgotten the woman. If you think Chase, Cameron, Nadine, Susie, and Reagan are going to take kindly to this... you are very wrong." Frank said, "Isaac I'll be one minute." He turned to me, "I need you to stay away from my son." I said, "I need you to leave my oce!"

Frank sat down, "I'll leave when you agree to stay away from my son." I looked at Ted who was gaping. "I could be loud when you take a deep breath, "Three, two, one." I said that I cannot and will not throw you out of this oce. You are so very wrong. I'm a grown ass woman, and you are NOT the boss of me." Matt said, "Frank, Chase..." Frank said, "I'm doing this FOR Chase! He needs to nd his Luna! Not take up with this girl because she's pretty, smart, and has a nice smile." Isaac growled, "OUTSIDE!" I was shaking. I slammed my hands on my desk "MR. DANIELS!" Every head whipped towards me. Ted said, "uhhh this is bad... so very bad." I said, "ONE have insulted me in so different ways. You have insulted your son. I will tell you NEVER more time to leave my oce before I make you leave." Frank snorted, "Little girl, I could take you." Ted said, "Oh sweet mother of god..." Matt, Kevin, and Kincade growled loudly surprising Frank.

I took advantage. I took rope out of my desk and ran around Frank. I hoisted him up. "I am FAR from a little girl Mr. Daniels." I turned seeing Isaac was blocking the door. "Out of the way please." Frank said, "WHAT THE HELL?!" Ted was wringing his hands. Matt was in shock. Kevin and Kincade were laughing. Isaac sighed moving aside. I darted down the steps running to Chase's border. I threw Frank down in front of Chase's wolf who had just skidded to a halt. I yelled, "Keep your father OUT of my oce. AWAY from my car and FAR AWAY from me." I turned to Frank, "Mr. Daniels, TALK to your son." Frank rolled over. "Why don't you give me your father's number? I'll talk to him instead. Our kids are being idiots." Chase growled and shifted, "DAD! ENOUGH!" I said, "What?" I said, "My father was murdered when I was eight. If you can nd a way to talk to him about me, you let me know. My father would've kicked your ass for the things you just said to me. He'd tell you how lucky your son was to be with me. If you'd like my brother's number, I'm sure Ted can provide you with it. Don't think you'll nd a warm reception there either. My brother is protective and thinks I'm great." With that I turned to hear Frank yelling apologies behind me. I ran back inside. I had only made it to the stairs when Frank said, "I'm sorry, I'm so so so sorry Lexi. I don't know what else to say other than I'm so sorry." I cried, "He hates me." Chase said, "No. No, sweetheart. He doesn't hate you." I said, "Yes, he does. He's going to try to keep us apart. I can't..." It was getting hard to breathe. "Be.... without...you."

Chase swore, "F\*\*k! Lexi! Breathe come on. Look at me. LOOK at me sweetheart." His face came back into focus. "That's it, just look at me and breathe. No one will keep us apart. Nothing will keep me from you. My father will be dealt with. This will NEVER happen again." I said, "He will never accept me as your Luna." Chase said, "He will. He only came here because he thinks we are dating. Get I'm putting off nding my mate for you." I wiped my tears, "I'd always hoped I'd get along with my string's parents because I don't have any. I guess that's just not in the cards." Chase said, "He will be so upset with himself that he upset you. That he did this to you when he nds out who you are to me. I'd honestly have told him if I didn't believe he'd try to scoop you up and keep in the main house." I laughed a little, "That does seem like his M.O." We were both quiet, "What are we going to do Chase?"

Chase pushed my hair out of my eyes, "I'm going to lay down the law with my dad. I'm going to use my Alpha command. This will never happen again." I said, "I don't want you to ght with your dad about me." Chase kissed me. He pulled back and smiled, "Good. Because I'm not. I'm ghting with my dad because he's being a control freak who keeps forgetting he put me in charge. Are you ok?" I nodded, "Yes." He looked over his shoulder, "Get her back to her oce." Kincade came down and led me back upstairs. Isaac was standing there, "Holy s\*\*t. Chase came here. To defend you. From Frank. This... you're not just his girlfriend. Oh. dear. God. Chase's behavior. It started when you moved here. His wolf knew you were here. He's having YOU guarded by our best warriors. You're his mate!" Matt said, "Dad. You CANNOT tell Frank." Isaac sighed, "I want Chase to use his Alpha command on me. Lexi, I am so very sorry. Frank will not forgive himself for this when he nds out the truth." They left and Ted pulled me into a hug. I pulled back, "Let's get the rest of our day going. GOD, I wish Sally was here to cook us up some comfort food." Ted laughed, "Ordering comfort food. Then we are going for drinks after work. My girl needs one." I sighed, "We will see." Ted just smiled knowing he'd wear me down by ve o'clock.