

## Chapter Nine: Invited

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Aurora POV:

Kai laughed and shook his head; the rest of the way home, we stayed in a comfortable silence as I dozed off, looking at the beautiful scenery. After a few minutes, I felt someone shaking my shoulder and poking it and, judging by the not-so-subtle way the person was doing it, no doubt it was Kai. Groaning, I cracked open an eye and saw Kai hovering over me with a little smile playing on his lips.

"Has anyone ever told you that you snore like a laughing hyena?" He said, trying his best to be serious but eventually burst out laughing.

His comment made my eyes shoot open and glare daggers at him. How dare that little brat, I so did not snore! Did I? I had never slept with anyone, in both senses, never. Well, if you exclude the few times I was a kid and was scared of the thunder, I cuddled up next to daddy.

And in the physical sense, it's not like I didn't want to, but the occasion never arose. I and one or two more friends from school were the last standing virgins; everyone else in the group liked to say they lost their little Mary a long time ago while dealing with the stress of med school, to which I always gave them a bored look. More like they were horny twenty-four-seven and couldn't stop dropping their panties on the first good-looking guy that even so looked at them. I was not judging; everyone has the right to live their lives; I just found it unnecessary, like at least make your body count worth it, you know.

"First off, my douche bag of a brother. I do not snore, and second, who pokes someone like that! You'll end up bruising me." I said to Kai, rubbing my shoulder.

Stupid wolfy Lycan strength, if it stays like this, I'll be bruised and battered in the next few days.

"Hey! Don't shoot the messenger; I'm just telling you. So when your mate comes along, you can tell him beforehand, so he doesn't go deaf." Said Kai, laughing.

I just threw the tissue box from the compartment at him as he ran inside, laughing like crazy. I just chuckled at my stupid brother's antics and got out of the car to walk inside. I had somewhat of an idea of getting around this mega-mansion since Kai gave me a tour of the place before we headed out in the morning. The moment I walked in, I was greeted by the smiling face of that little girl from the morning, Nina; I smiled back at her before I could say something, and she spoke up.

"Ms. Aurora, the alpha and luna are waiting for you in the private dining room along with your grandparents and former royal beta female Beth. Do you need me to take you there?"

Said Nina.

She was adorable!

"No, sweetheart, I think I know where it is; I'll only learn to get around here until I get lost a couple of times." I chuckled, ruffled her hair and went towards the dining room when what Nina said hit me, and I turned around to face her and smiled.

"You can just call me Aurora or Rora. No need to add Ms., it's too formal," I said.

Nina beamed and nodded her head excitedly. I chuckled at her expression and went towards the dining room; after getting lost for a solid fifteen minutes, I was nally at the door of the private dining room. It was gonna take some time to get used to this place, it was massive, and I couldn't keep getting lost; hell, people would doubt I graduated from med school at the age of twenty. The moment I entered, I was swept into a pair of soft arms; I was shocked a little at first, but when the person started talking, I couldn't help but smile.

"Goddess, look at how you've grown. Those pictures don't do you justice, Rora; you are way, way more beautiful in person." Said Aunt Beth

I hugged her back.

"Good to see you too, auntie! It's been years. I would've asked about your secret to your glowing and wrinkle-free skin, but with all the mumbo-jumbo, I've learned. Apparently, you guys don't age." I said, giggling at the last part.

I heard aunt Beth snort and then led me to the table where everyone else was watching our interaction with a smile on their faces.

"Well, at least you are taking everything well," She said.

"So well, the damn girl fainted on us when she saw our beasts, and before that, she was convinced we were deranged in the head and was hell-bent on sending us lonnieville."

Snorted papa.

Everyone laughed; I glared at everyone playfully and ended up laughing as well.

Remembering how they were right, I had full intention of locking them up in bodysuits in a rehabilitation centre.

"Hey! You can't blame me; I still can't believe you guys exploded into lycans. Like it's mind gobbling, like how do you go back to your human self and the fact you have another entity inside your head that can talk to you is the denition of insanity." I said.

"You'll get used to it, apple." Said Nana.

Yeah, maybe in the next hundred years or so and, by the way it looks, I'm gonna be around for a while.

"Honestly, it scares me to explode into a Lycan. Wouldn't it hurt because, from what I remember how you guys looked and from the few people shifted I saw today, bones were rearranged, you grow taller and have a freaking muzzle, like how is that even supposed to happen?" I asked as I stabbed into my spaghetti and meatballs.

"First of off, it isn't called exploding, sweetheart; it's called shifting. Yes, it is painful when you shift for the first time, but hopefully, you'll find your mate before you shift, so the pain will hardly be there with him around. And, I genuinely think your lycan will no longer be repressed once you find him. Afterwards, the more you shift, the less painful it'll be. It'll be like second nature to you then." Said Aunt Beth from beside me.

The one thing that was eating me up was this mate thing. How were they so sure that I would have this so-called mate? Wasn't I like half supernatural, so did that still apply to me?

"You know you all talk about me meeting this so-called mate. How can you all be so sure that I even have one? From what you've all told me, you can find your mate at the age of eighteen, and I am twenty now, will be twenty-one in a few months, and I honestly believe I haven't found the dude yet." I said.

"Maybe you roll for the other team then." Chuckled Kai from the side.

I gave a deadpan look, I had no problem with bisexuality or even homosexuality, but I knew that wasn't the case since I had been attracted to good-looking guys when I saw one. It was just that I hardly had time to mingle around much.

"I'm like a half-human; aren't you supposed to be like a fully supernatural-blooded creature to have a mate," I added.

"Stop with the labelling apple; we aren't creatures, and you're one of us, darling." Said Nana.

Meeking out a quick apology, I looked at Aunt Beth for the answer. She put down her fork and smiled.

"Every being with supernatural blood in them, regardless of species or half-breed, has a mate out there made for them by the goddess. You didn't find him back on earth because maybe he wasn't there, and he's over here in the wolf kingdom or the other multiverses. But there is no doubt you have a mate out there." Said Auntie Beth, as I saw everyone nod in agreement with her.

They were so sure, maybe they were right or wrong. I wasn't sure. The real question was, did I really want a mate? From how everyone made it out to sound, a mate is the other half of your soul, it completes you, and there's no more precious relationship than the mate bond. Could I handle being involved with someone so strongly, emotionally and physically wise and not expect to get hurt? What if that person left like daddy or just left the relationship as a whole? I'd be what if that pick up the pieces again. Seeing my expression, everyone quieted down, and mom called out to me.

"I know what your thinking, baby girl; it isn't like that. A mate is someone who will always be there for you and make everything in your life more beautiful. You may think that that's impossible or even be scared that he might leave you, but trust me when I say when you meet him, all your doubts will be like they never existed." Said mom.

Her eyes reacted nothing but honesty. I wasn't going to believe it till I felt like that myself fully, but I would take hers and everyone's word for it; after all, none of them ever wanted anything bad for me. I smiled at her and nodded. We were broken out of our conversation when we heard aunt Beth's bubbly voice.

"And I'm sure our Dr. Aurora over here will find her mate tomorrow." Aunt Beth said.

Huh? How could she be so sure?

That had gotten everyone's attention, all eyes prompting her to explain what she meant.

"There's a mating ball tomorrow at the palace, the triplet kings will choose a chosen mate, and all the unmated she-wolves have been invited along with their pack's high-end socials. I came by to drop off your invitations." She said.

"No way! Are they taking a chosen? I swear I thought that Brianna girl was already their chosen mate. Goddess, that she-wolf hadn't stopped bragging about being their mate wherever she visited any pack." Said mom.

From how everyone's face turned sour, I was guessing this Brianna girl wasn't really liked that much. Aunt Beth rolled her eyes, and her mouth also turned into a scowl.

"That little slut doesn't know when to shut up. However, she isn't all that far off. The mating ball is a gise; the council has already chosen her as the triplet's mate. They didn't want the other packs to object, not giving the other she-wolves a chance, so they're holding this ball to get them off their backs. So all in all, she is already technically the future Luna queen if the triplets' mate doesn't decide to pop up tomorrow." Said aunt Beth, annoyed by the fact.

For some reason, the thought of that Brianna girl mating with the kings was making me sad, which was weird; I had never met any of these people and probably wouldn't if I didn't have to go to this ball tomorrow.

Why was I feeling like that?