

## Chapter 6

Hayden POV

I felt like my life had spiraled out of control. That I was spinning in the darkness, not knowing which way was up or down. I could feel the darkness wrapping around me, trying to pull me deeper into desolation, but then I saw her. She was the light leading me out of the darkness; she pulled me back from the brink of destruction and led me with hope. No matter how much I wanted to wallow in my own misery, she wouldn't let me. Her love fought away all the darkness seeping into my mind and lled it with love and adoration. No matter how much I wished it wasn't real I couldn't change the past, I had to deal with knowing my cousin had joined sides with a goddess hell-bent on taking my mate from me so that her sick and twisted grandfather could use her to open up the portal to the realm of the gods. He had killed my aunt and uncle because he knew they would have tried to stop him and he was planning on destroying everything I loved most in this world.

Sleep eludes me now. When I close my eyes, the darkness tries to creep back in. I sit up and look back at Amelia as she sleeps peacefully beside me and carefully climb out of the bed, making my way quietly down the stairs so I don't disturb her.

I still nd it hard to wrap my head around the fact Noah was working with Randall to take Amelia away from me, mind you I don't think the mate bond means anything to Noah, I have had someone try to track down Brea but there's no sign of her which makes me believe his claims that he killed her, his mate, the one person created for him who would love him no matter what. Brea's apartment was burnt down, and no one has seen her. Some of the residents of the apartment block she lived in think she went back home to her parents but they haven't seen or heard from her either. They have ocially reported her missing and now the human authorities are looking into her disappearance. It boggles my mind. Noah always used to talk about what he would do when he found his mate, how he would worship the ground she walked on, and to know he has done the opposite makes me feel sick to my stomach. When I think of Amelia and treating her the same way, it makes my gut twist painfully, I could never imagine hurting her in any way, shape, or form, she is a blessing that I cherish more than anything else this world has to offer. I had already lost Amelia once before and I wasn't willing to lose her again; I didn't want to waste another minute with Amelia, if this war didn't go the way we all hoped then I didn't want to leave this world as just her mate, I want to leave knowing she was mine in every way possible, call it controlling or possessive, but to me, it was how she made me feel I was consumed by the love I had for her. She possessed my thoughts; she dominates my mind, and all I can think about is her and how much she means to me. She's the last thought on my mind at night and the rst thought in the morning. When I thought I had lost her, I felt like my life was over. I couldn't go on without her by my side and I was willing to end my life because without Amelia, my life is not worth living.

"Are you ok?"

Her voice makes me look back over my shoulder at her. She looks beautiful as she slips out of the sliding door and makes her way over to me. She is wearing just her knickers and my shirt, and seeing her like that excites me. She strolls over to me and climbs onto the pool lounge I was sitting on and cuddles up into me. Feeling her against me like this makes me feel whole. She completes me.

"I couldn't sleep. Did I disturb you?"

I gently run my hand across her face and brush the hair away from her eyes and gently tuck it behind her ear.

"I can't sleep when you're not next to me." She answered as she rested her head against my chest.

I felt her getting comfortable, so I sat back, letting her rest on me. I felt her breathing getting heavy and knew she was falling asleep again. I lay there enjoying the feel of Amelia as she rests against me whilst looking up at the stars in wonder. I wondered what the future held for us. Would we make it through this war without losing any more people we loved, or would we lose the people that mattered most to us? The sky began to turn a beautiful shade of pinky orange, so I woke Amelia up. She raised her hands into the air and stretched her back out as she yawned.

"What time is it?" She asked.

"It's sunrise. I thought we could watch it together?"

She smiled and turned around so she was facing the rising sun now. Her head rested against my chest and I felt at peace. I wrapped my arms around her body and we sat silently watching the sun rising above the island, lling it with warmth the same way Amelia did with me, she was my sun and I was the happiest man alive when I was holding her in my arms.

"Do you want a coffee?" She asked as the birds began to sing their morning songs.

"Yes please."

I kissed her and watched her ass sway from side to side as she made her way inside to the kitchen, the smell of coffee mixed with jasmine and spearmint as she placed it beside me on the small table. She sat opposite me on the same lounge with her legs draped over each side, watching me carefully.

"Hayden, you need to stop blaming yourself. What happened with Noah isn't your fault. He's sick."

"And I didn't even notice. I was too wrapped up in my own little world to notice what was going on. Maybe if I had cared about someone other than myself."

"Stop it right now, Hayden. Since I have known you, I have seen how much you care for everyone else around you. You give your everything to your pack and your family."

"But if I had paid more attention to him, then maybe Aunt Vi."

I couldn't nish the sentence. My voice sounded weak, and the tears were threatening to spill. I know if I uttered her name, I would break. Amelia placed her coffee on the table and grabbed my face so I was looking into her beautiful blue eyes.

"He is not your responsibility, Hayden. He was good at hiding his true self from everyone. Not even his parents knew what was going on with him because if they did, they would have come to you for help. I wish I could tell you it will get better, but it won't. It will just get easier to live with. Please stop thinking that there was something you could have done because you will only drive yourself crazy."

My mate was an amazing woman, and I knew deep down that what she said was true, I had to stop blaming myself for what happened with Noah but I wasn't sure if it would happen soon, I couldn't forgive myself for not seeing it sooner and not been able to save Aunt Violet and Uncle Max, they didn't deserve that, no one did. She leaned over and kissed my lips gently before sitting back and picking her coffee back up and taking a sip.

"So, what are we doing today?" She asked.

She seemed so perky and upbeat and I couldn't help but smile at how she made me feel with just one look.

"I was thinking we could go for a swim in the ocean and try out the snorkels."

She smiled at me and it was bright and radiant, just like the morning sunrise we had just watched.

I had hired some snorkels from the concierge when we rst got here, and she seemed excited when I told her about it. I had planned on taking her shopping today but that can wait. Ember's shirts seem to make her smile and I will endure wearing them if it puts a big smile on her face.

"I will go and get my swimsuit." She smiled, getting up and running off into the villa.

I sat back and enjoyed the rest of my coffee whilst Amelia got ready. I could hear the sound of her ip-ops as she came back out slapping against the stone oor. She strolled toward me, making my mouth drop open. She wore a black bikini that seemed to make her breasts look bigger. The way the pants hugged her ass made it look so perky and juicy. Her body was beautiful, and I loved admiring her curves. I pictured myself running my ngers across her body and saw her cheeks ush. I knew she would feel my desire through the bond. Her body sashayed from side to side, making me growl at how entrancing it was. I could see her smirk. The little minx was teasing me.

"Are you ready?" She asked.

She bent over and took her ip-op off, pushing her ass into my face. I lifted my hand up, wanting to feel her glorious backside that she was waving around in my face when she suddenly stood up and walked away out of my reach.

"Come on." She shouted as she made her way down the wooden steps to the dock that hung over the ocean.

I growled and stood up, following the intoxicating scent of my mate. She looked beautiful standing looking out across the ocean. The wind blew her beautiful long hair, and the sun shone down on her as she basked in its warming rays.

"So how do I do this? I have only ever done it once before and it didn't end too well."

I looked at her, waiting for her to explain, but she didn't. I held the mask up so I could show her what she needed to do.

"Ok, this mask will go over your eyes and nose, creating a seal. This goes in your mouth and you will gently bite down and wrap those juicy lips around the mouthpiece to keep it in place. I need you to stay calm and take slow, deep breaths until you nd the rhythm, and then we can go and see what sh and other marine life we can see."

She took the mask off me and placed it on her face, making me chuckle.

"What don't I look pretty?" She asked, making the mask fog up.

"You look beautiful. Let's get into the water before you put that in your mouth."

She sat at the edge of the small wooden dock and let her body slip into the water. I followed behind her, putting my mask on.

"Ok, you have to put your face into the water like this, then bite down onto the snorkel like this."

I got the snorkel in my hand ready as I put my head into the water and placed the tube into my mouth. I stood back up and waited for Amelia to do it.

"Once it's in, we can swim around."

I watched as she placed it into her mouth and swam forward. I put my own snorkel back on and followed behind Amelia, looking at the colorful sh swimming beneath us. I would glance over at her every now and then and see her eyes sparkle with delight. We spent an hour in the water before deciding to go back to the villa for some food.

"So, what did you think?" I asked as she bit into a large ham and tomato sandwich.

"It was amazing. It was like I was looking in on an alien world. I loved it, thank you, Hayden."

It made me feel good knowing I had made her happy.

"Would you like to do anything else today?" I asked.

I wanted Amelia to have an amazing honeymoon, we have had nothing but drama since again to appease. She was insatiable. We ended up consummating our marriage once again in the pool, the hot tub, the loungers around the pool, the gazebo, and the kitchen worktop. Being buried deep inside Amelia made me forget all my problems, she was my happy place, she gave me peace and freed my mind, and getting to hear her scream my name in ecstasy was what I lived for, I loved the way she screamed my name as she came. I loved feeling her ngernails digging into my back and I loved feeling her slick pussy around my cock.

"I'm sleepy. Are you coming to bed?" She asked.

We were laying down on one of the sun loungers around the pool looking up at the stars once again. The crickets and tree frogs were out in full force tonight, but I enjoyed the sound they made together. It was relaxing.

"Yeah."

I held my hand out as she took it and pulled me up. I climbed into bed and lifted my arm up so Amelia could snuggle into my chest. I actually felt tired tonight. She had worn me out, but in the best way possible. I felt my eyes getting heavy as the white ceiling above me began to morph into a sky full of stars.

I'm standing on a rock looking down on an army of wolves, vampires, and what I can only describe as monsters. Standing in the middle is a woman. She is wearing a black hooded coat and a mask over the lower half of her face, but I can see her blonde hair hanging down beneath her hood. She spins around, welding a samurai sword that looks like it glows like re. Her blue eyes glow and my heart stops.

"Don't ght me on this. It is going to happen whether you like it or not."

His voice makes my skin prickle and my blood boil. I scan the area looking for him when he appears beside me, looking down on all those below him. Noah!

"I will not let you take my daughter!" Amelia shouts, her voice sounds different though, but I know it's her. No one has eyes like Amelia. The monsters surrounding her all begin to charge toward her.

I watch in horror, unable to move, as she ghts back against the beasts, some scream out in pain as their limbs are sliced from their bodies, and others just drop down to the ground not even realizing they have had their heads cut from their neck, the air lls with the screams of agony but there's too many, they overpower her and grab her, she thrashes around trying to get out of their grasp making her black hood fall down and her beautiful blonde hair shimmers in the setting sun, large chains are wrapped around her, they have a golden glow to them, I can feel the power radiating off the chains and know that they are enchanted. I feel powerless, frozen to the spot, and made to watch the carnage in front of me. I try to call out to her but when I try to scream out her name, nothing comes out. Noah turns and walks away, leaving the monsters and Amelia. They pull her along the ground as the Dark Moon territory looms in the background.

I leap up, sweating and confused. I feel Amelia wrapping her arm around me and kissing my back as she pushes love and comfort through the bond.

"It was just a dream, baby." She whispers.

I look down at her arm as it moves across my chest, feeling the tingles she leaves from her touch. I rest my hand against her arm more to tell myself that this is real, not the nightmare I just had.

"I'm sorry baby, did I wake you again?"

She nods, but she doesn't seem mad, she seems concerned.

"You were screaming my name and shouting that they were coming. Was it a bad dream?"

Amelia has a theory that I can predict certain things and if that was the case I pray with everything I had it was only a nightmare and not a premonition, Cheryl had told me Silas can make Amelia do whatever he asked but in my dream, she wasn't cooperating with him, she was ghting against him and she was ghting to save our daughter. Her words always stayed in my mind through my ugly head every time I had a moment to think and now they were screaming at me through my dreams, if what she told me was true and he had some hold over Amelia I would die to make sure he didn't get his hands on her, I wouldn't let anyone take Amelia from me not again.

"You were in the middle of an army full of wolves, vampires, and monsters. You told Noah or Silas he couldn't have your daughter before they beat you and chained you up, and then I had to watch as they dragged you to our home. It was only a dream. But it felt so real."

"Shhh it's ok baby, I'm here and I'm safe. Lay back down and sleep."

I couldn't sleep, not after that nightmare. I lay back down, but the dream kept replaying over and over in my head. As much as I wanted to enjoy this time away with Amelia, I couldn't wait to get back home. I was going to nd Noah or Silas and kill him for everything he had done and was planning on doing.