

## Chapter 1 - Unscentable

Piper sobbed softly out in the middle of the woods, it was all too much to handle now a days, it was time to leave her home pack here in Montana. She could no longer take the pain of his betrayal anymore. Not that her Alpha, Alpha Bradley of the Black Haven Pack, knew that it hurt her, every time that he was with another. He had no idea who she was to him.

She however had scented him out 3 years ago, at the age of 18. On the first full moon after her 18th birthday. Had felt pain almost instantly, and not because he'd been with another at the time, but because he'd not scented her, not recognized her as his Mate. He had bumped right into her that day even.

Piper and her wolf Harper were more than nervous tracking his perfect woodsy scent through the pack-house it had a hint of blackberry, had led them all the way to him, she had been standing right behind him, only half a foot away, he was taller than she was by a long way he stood 6 foot 4 inches and was all muscled up, he'd been wearing faded blue jeans and a dark purple tee-shirt that day, his dark brown hair had been a little messy.

Alpha Bradley had been talking on his phone that day, and when he had turned around, had run right into her, his deep blue eyes with those flecks of green in them, had turned right on her and then he'd frowned right down at her, she was only 5 foot 6, he'd towered over her. There had been no recognition in his eyes at all "Don't stand so close girl." he casually stated and then had stepped around her and just walked away from her, and her heart had broken.

Harper had howled in pain inside of her mind. They'd known what he was to them, but he had no idea.

It was what she and her wolf had always feared, all her life even after gaining Harper, even since she was little, had lost her parents to a rogue attack at the age of 10, and no-one here seemed to notice her after her parents' death, no-one seemed to know who she was, it was like she just didn't exist.

That had been her life, though she had attended school here in the packs small K1 to year 12 school, and had graduated with good marks, people were always bumping into her and telling her to watch her step. No-one knew she was there, invisible to the entire pack is what it felt like, unless someone was looking directly at her, and she knew why.

She had no scent.

Though she could smell every one of them, no-one could smell her, she had gotten a job and worked long quiet hours, tucked away in the back room of a dress making store inside the pack. She'd loved to learn how to design and create beautiful dresses.

Even a lot of the packs she-wolfs wore her dresses to the pack's events and mating balls. To their 16th and 18th birthday celebrations. She how ever did not, she lived alone away from the pack out in a tiny cabin away from everyone so that they would not hear her sobs and distress as she put up with the pains of betrayal.

The first time she had felt him with another, she and Harper had howled in pain and run away deep into the woods, found that tiny cabin no longer in use, and curled up into a ball had stayed there in agony till he'd stopped being with another. Then had just stayed there for a whole day unable to go back to the pack. Their pain would have been for all to see if anyone saw her that was.

There was nothing they could do about it. It had hurt like nothing she'd ever felt before, and continued to do so right to this day, and to hide their pains they had hidden themselves away unable to tell him, what he was to them.

She knew he would never believe her, only if he scented her out would he recognize her as his Mate.

She and Harper both knew this, and they both knew he was never going to be able to do that either. The pains were worse when he was away from the pack, mating some other she-wolf in another pack. Did not hurt her any less than the one she-wolf here in the pack he bedded on a regular basis.

3 long years she'd had to suffer now, 3 long years she'd walked the halls of the pack-house, came across him, and not once did he pay her the slightest bit of attention and when he did bump into her as did so many others, because they couldn't smell that she was right there, he would just frown down at her, either apologize or ask her to move out of the way, and just move on. Had occasionally snapped at her all angry to watch where the hell she was going.

For 2 years she slipped into his bedroom when he wasn't here in the pack, looked at his things, touched his clothes, felt hot tears slide down her cheeks

for the man that was her Mate. The man that had never once scented her out. The man that she and Harper loved, but would never love them.

Had even slept curled up in his bed, not that he'd ever known it. No scent of her remained, she could wander at will anywhere she liked, left no trail at all, had even sat in his Alpha's chair once, touched his desk and wondered what it would be like to be his Luna.

Tonight, he had been with another, she knew who. He had one regular girl here inside the pack Bianca, she was older like he was, a warrior, highly ranked. She'd seen them together chatting and flirting on occasion. Seen the way he looked at her body, even that hurt too. He desired Bianca, she was tall and very fit, all muscle, he like that about her.

Piper had once been fit like that, not tall but very fit, and had been strong too. But the past 3 years had drained her, she was thin now, always had dark circles under her eyes and looked quite frail.

The small amount of joy she had taken from training as a warrior, to try and make her parents proud, they had been warriors, that joy of being a good fighter not that she had been old enough to go out and fight, had dwindled to nothing once she'd turned 18. she was barely a shell of her former self now.

She stayed away from all pack events, just worked in the small back room of the store, surrounded by materials and designs to be created. Orders to be filled. Her only solace, that she could create something so beautiful amidst her own misery.

Harper was a ball of sadness and pain, they could not take anymore, they had to leave, it was killing them, and she knew it. Bradley was going away on some Alpha meeting or some pack business in just two days and so that is when she was going to say goodbye and leave.

She had no idea if she could reject her Mate without him being there or knowing what she was to him for that matter. But that was what she was going to do, had to try it anyway it was all they could do.

Piper figured if he had no idea who she was for the past 3 years then why would he need to be there to hear her rejection, it was likely only going to cause her pain anyway, he would feel nothing because he knew nothing. Then once the full moon came and went after that rejection surely it would be

official and severed completely by the moon goddess herself or at least she was hoping that's how it worked.

She and Harper had put themselves in front of him many times, they had no choice left to them, they were nothing to him, never would be and they knew it. 3 full years and nothing not once had he so much as twitched a nose at her presence.

So, no more would she put herself or her wolf through that. They had enough money saved up to go out into the human world and make a living for themselves, she had good skills in fashion and design, though she mostly made dresses, there were millions of humans in need of wedding dresses. The equivalent to a Luna Ceremony Gown.

Spent the next 2 days in the pack-house library, looking at places she could go, her mind made up. She was not even going to look at him one last time, there was no point. Sat at a computer one hand on the mouse scrolling through places that were well away from the pack, away from forests and where packs could well be.

She maybe a wolf, but didn't feel like one, was just invisible mostly.

Her other hand was on the Blue Azure Crystal Pendulum drop necklace that hung around her neck, it had a white gold chain that was fine and felt warm against her skin all the time and had white gold casing to hold the crystal itself and a smaller blue azure crystal ball right above the casing that attached to the chain.

It had been her mothers, she told her that one day she would get her daughter one too, a gift for her 16th birthday, and they would have matching mother daughter jewelry. But Piper had only been 10 when she had lost both her parents. She'd never taken it off, it was the only thing she had left of her, had found it on her body when the attack had been over and had retrieved it as her only heirloom.

She and Harper were at the point where they might as well live as human, no wolf would ever smell her, and she would remain Mate-less from the moment she rejected him. They were already resigned to that fact. Found a nice city several states away Harper didn't care that there was no forest nearby. She had not shifted to her wolf in over a year now, couldn't it seemed or perhaps just no longer wanted to. So she was fine with a city, didn't want to be in the

woods, didn't want to run and be free, didn't seem to care at all anymore about being a wolf herself.

Found and booked a flight out there, a hotel for somewhere to stay while they found a small apartment and sorted out their business that they were going to create. They would die and wither away, no more. They would become strong from this, live a human life from now on. Then they went back to their cabin in the woods by the southern border of the pack, and had just stayed there. They could see the packs gates with the use of a set of binoculars from the roof of her cabin.

Sat and watched and waited for his car to leave, not that hard to spot, it was white, unlike most of the other pack cars that were black or silver, he drove a white Mercedes SUV. Saw it leave and grabbed her hiking backpack, it was full of her belongings.

Living a simple life meant not much to pack, her whole life fitted in that one backpack it was large and designed to be used for long hiking trips but even with her small, weakened stature she could manage it. Walked through the woods until the pack-house came into view, sighed heavily and headed for it.

Today was the day, she was leaving, no-one would even notice she was gone because they didn't even know she existed. Only those who came into the store to buy one of her dresses maybe wonder where she had gone, at Renee's store, Haven Gowns. Though Renee had always claimed them as her dresses, told Piper she was the store owner, so this was how it was. Piper's name was on the labels of all her dresses though. Renee never minded about that, and she did pay Piper well. Not that anyone ever asked who Piper was or asked to meet her.

Walked into the pack-house and right up the main set of stairs, to the very top floor, no-one stopped her, placed her backpack down the hall and around near the Omega stairs, that she would use to leave, it was out of sight and no omegas would be up here at this time of the night. All their work done for the day. Only the Alpha Unit lived in this part of the pack-house, and they were all off with the Alpha.

Walked down to his suite and let herself in, it was clean and smelled like him, fresh pine with eucalyptus and that hint of Blackberries, walked about one last time, a glutton for punishment, she knew. Should have just left already but couldn't not without one last scent of him.

Walked into his walk in and touched all his clothes, slid her hand along them all, touched everything, couldn't help herself. As much as it pained her and Harper, they were still drawn to him. Likely always would be, leaving was simply self-preservation and if her rejection did not hold, they'd likely not survive much longer anyway.

Walked over and stood looking down at his bed, one last night here in his bed and then gone at the brink of dawn, that was the plan. He'd be gone for several days always was, the first night away was usually peaceful but not the nights after that. Stripped off all her clothes and got into his bed. Grabbed onto the pillow that smelled the most like him and buried her face into it, let the tears fall one last time.

Fell asleep in the middle of his big king-sized bed, wrapped in his scent, in the very sheets that would touch his skin while he slept, allowed herself to dream it was where she belonged one last time.

Woke with a start, it was still dark, then there was the sound of the bedroom door banging closed, she bit her lip, heard movement and then the sound of clothing being removed, she could smell him, Bradley was back, he could not smell her, had not realized she was in here, in his very bed, hadn't even turned the lights on.

She was very small at 5 foot 6 and was now so thin that she likely didn't even make a small lump in his bed which had a thick plush feather down comforter on it.

Felt him get into the bed, and prayed he'd stay on that side of the bed, that she would be able to slip out once he was asleep. The punishment for this kind of thing, being in his bed would likely be terrible. And he would be the one to dish it out. She did not relish the thought of getting a beating or whipping or thrown in the cells afterwards by her own Mate. It would likely destroy them completely.

Why was he back?

Felt his hand touch her back, still completely on her skin and then a large angry growl came from him, he knew there was a stranger in his bed, he was well within his rights to kill her and she and Harper both knew it. Wondered if he'd even feel the disconnection afterwards, though doubted it.

Then his body was suddenly pressed up against her “Well I guess you want some time with your Alpha.” his voice had suddenly turned all husky and his hand had slid over the curve of her hip and he’d pulled her hard against him. His mouth was on her shoulder and a groan escaped him as his fingers dug into her hip “I could use the company after my day.” he’d growled “So you’re in luck.” then his hand had slid up her body.

It was leaving a burning hot trail over her skin, everywhere he was touching her. Piper had no idea what to do. No-one had ever paid her the slightest bit of attention, no-one had ever touched her, and now he was, something she never thought would happen.

Slid that hand over her breast and stroked his fingers over her nipple, she gasped as it hardened under his touch, heat bloomed between her thighs and then she was tugged over onto her back and his mouth was on her neck, his hand sliding down her body “Fuck your hot to touch.” he’d growled into her neck, sounded full of desire to her. His fingers had dipped right between her thighs and oh Goddess, the pleasure of his touch, she had cried out as he’d stroked her firmly, grabbed onto him, wanted more, needed more of him.

“Please,” she had whispered, and his fingers were buried inside of her a second later, a deep groan had come from him as she’d moaned at the intense sensation of him touching her so intimately, and he was moving his hand, pushing his fingers in and out of her, as she clung to him, could feel her first ever orgasm coming, gasped and moaned under his touch, arched up to him and moaned his name as it rolled through her body.

Heard him growl “Oh, that was damned fine.” then his mouth was on hers and she felt him tugging her legs apart, it was too late for her, she could not deny what she’d always wanted couldn’t even utter the word no, somewhere inside her brain she knew she should but couldn’t.

Then he was in her, one hard thrust all the way in, she cried out in pain as he took her, felt his whole body still atop of hers, he knew, it was likely obvious she’d never been with another “Oh damn, even better.” he’d suddenly growled down at her, then his mouth was on hers once more, and he started to move taking her slowly at first and it hurt, was uncomfortable, he was so big, and she felt stretch completely around him.

His mouth moved to her neck as he tasted her skin, slid his tongue right over her mark spot, and her whole body burned hot like it was on fire, she cried out his name and thrust her hips up to meet his, pleasure finally taking over, he

was her Mate and was having her, if only just once, she would have him for herself. Take all of him, give him everything of herself.

Felt him pick up the pace as he felt her acceptance of him inside her. Cried out as pleasure started to build quicker, ripping through her body, like nothing she'd ever imagined it could. Clung on to him and begged him to not stop. Heard his deep throaty chuckle "I think you like it."

"Yes." she had answered him honestly "Please I want you, all of you." she moaned and had meant every word.

His mouth had found hers, his body moved harder and faster giving her what she had asked for, heard him groan as he came, felt his seed spill inside of her like a hot river spreading through her insides. Dug her nails into him as she'd cried out his name.

His hand slid down her body "You feel amazing." he growled deeply his hands had gripped her ass firmly and then he was moving again, hard and fast "I want more." he'd growled into her neck, pulling and pushing at her hips, his need to have her increasing. Then he was gone from her.

Piper had gasped at the sudden loss of him, only to be yanked over and up onto all fours, heard his gasp as he took her from behind "Fuck yes." and was thrusting in and out of her firm and hard, faster and with need. Piper cried out repeatedly as he held her hips, gripping on to her hard and was suddenly slamming in and out of her, could hear her own cries of pleasure filling the darkness of the room, could hear Harper howling with pleasure inside her own mind, as he took them, screamed out as she climaxed.

Only to have him shove her down on the bed and grate out "More." was holding her down, one hand on the back of her neck while the other pulled her hips up "Fuck." he roared as he started again, thrusting like he had lost all control taking what he wanted furiously, hard and rough holding her down dominating her completely 'Oh, fuck yes." he was really moving now, giving her all he had, everything.

Could barely gasp for air herself, just cry out as wave after wave of pleasure hit her, could feel the orgasms one after the other ripping through her till she was screaming in pure bliss, felt her whole body shunt forward as she screamed his name one last time as he slammed home his seed spilling inside of her again. His body was heavy on top of hers, she lay under him,



gasping trying to breathe and calm down, his breath she could feel was heavy and ragged like her own.

“I like fucking you.” he’d groaned as he’d rolled off of her body and lay on the bed next to her.

Pipers joy at what had just happened, was gone in an instant, felt hot tears burn her eyes. ‘He liked fucking her.’ she thought as pain replaced the pleasure she had been feeling. She was his Mate, and still, he did not recognize her. Felt not just her own heart shatter, but Harper’s too. She did not look at him, couldn’t, just lay there quietly, held in the sobs of pain, and waited for him to fall asleep.

Dragged her aching body from his bed, still he could not tell what she was to him, was just a good fuck. Picked up her clothes, could hear him snoring softly as her tears continued to fall silently down her face. At least they’d gotten to have him, just once. Stepped away from the bed, from him, closed her eyes and tried to stop the flow of tears.

Pulled on her clothes, turned from the bedroom doorway, looked at his sleeping body, pain seared through her and her wolf. They would never survive his betrayal again, not after this, they both knew it, and they knew he would go off and be with someone else again. They were nothing to him, never had been and without a scent for him to smell, they never would be.

Took a long silent breath in “I Piper Whitlock, warrior to the Black Haven Pack...reject you Bradley Drake as my Mate.” she whispered into the darkness of the room and then fled as fast as she could as pain coursed through her body, heard Harper howl in pain inside her mind. They ran from his suite, down the hall grabbed their bag and stumbled and nearly fell most of the way down the stairs to the door at the bottom, struggling with the pain of their rejection.

Refused to stop regardless of the pain, they had been through a lot of pain in the past 3 years they knew how to run and hold it in, to hide it till they were alone, didn’t stop running until they reached the western border of the Pack.

She knew she looked a terrible mess, tears streaming down her face, and she’d stumbled and fallen many times as pain tore at her insides but had picked herself up and kept going. Was still sobbing from the pain she was still in, looked at the patrol man, he was frowning right at her, had no idea where

she had come from, or who she was, not scented her coming, would have heard her, but even now she could tell he was confused as to what she was.

Stepped out over the border right into rogue territory, saw him step towards her his eyes widened at her actions. Not many females would do what she was doing. "I reject Alpha Bradley Drake and his Pack, the Black Haven Pack as my Pack, I...am a rogue now." she'd stated firmly her decision clear in her mind.

Heard the border patrol man gasp in shock, then she turned and ran from everything and everyone she'd ever known as she felt herself sever from the pack entirely. It was the only thing that could save her and Harper. They would die here if they had to stay and suffer any longer.

They were not afraid to be out in rogue territory, had been out here before, not even a rogue picked up her wolfen scent. She was a mere human to them as well. So, a human they would be from now on, they would live, breathe, eat and work as a human would, in the human world. Made their way to the airport to catch their flight and start over. A wolf no more.

## **Chapter 2 - Unscentable**

Piper POV

Piper stood in her bridal shop window, pinning the dress to the mannequin, to make it a neat fit and look its best to attract customers. Not that she was short of them. Made her smile, her designs were well liked even here in the human world.

It was a lovely strapless A-line gown, a blush coloured dress with a square neckline, the skirt flowed freely, and it had a bodice covered in hand embroidered crystal beads, it had a pulled up neatly pleated section at the front of the dress that allowed all the wonderful soft ruffles of the overlapping layers, of the soft satin material to be seen. She did like it. Had just finished it yesterday.

Her Store 'Goddess Gowns' here in Portland was one of three she now owned, her main store where she worked from, it had a nice space, was in a two-story building where all her gowns were on display downstairs, with a spacious sitting area and plush seating. There was a small runway from the dressing rooms out into the centre of the store, where the waiting guests would sit and watch the bride to be, show off the dress she chose.

Her office was upstairs in a loft space, she'd had split into two large rooms, her office in the first space and her working studio where she sat and created her gowns, she was good at her job. Liked her work and had sold may dresses to wealthy humans as well as regular humans, she catered to all.

Kept to herself as much as possible, but did hold and attend fashions shows, was quite well known in the bridal industry. She stepped back and looked at her latest creation, adjusted it a couple of times, until she was happy with it. Heard the pretty bell she'd bought tinkle as the store's door opened to let someone in.

Most days they came by appointment, but Tuesday she kept open for walk ins, her books were pretty full at the moment, Izzy would likely show them around or make them an appointment to see her at some point in the future.

Then the scent hit her, they were wolves, inside her store were werewolves, felt Harper growl a little inside of her mind, though they had come across wolves and all other manner of creatures over the past 8 years, today the scent that hit them, reached their nose. Was one that particularly annoyed them.

Without even turning to look, she could hear the woman who was laughing and happy, excited to be in this very store, to purchase her gown for her Ceremony as she called it. Heard the man chuckle and remind her that Brad, had told her to get whatever she wanted, he did not care about the cost it would incur him.

Piper stepped out from the window display and refused to even look at them, knew by the Pack scent that was on them, they were of her old Pack, likely from the way the woman was talking this woman was here to purchase a Goddess Gown designed by Piper Harper Designs. To wear to her Luna Ceremony and to none other than to Bradley Drake himself.

"Izzy, please attend to the customers." she stated flatly as she headed up the stairs to her office.

"Yes Piper." she heard Izzy call after her.

Piper nor Harper wanted to be anywhere near that woman or her escort for that matter. Pain was already pulling at them both. He'd found another it seemed. No not found another. Had scented out his first Mate. She though

bitterly. He'd never once scented her, but obviously had that woman downstairs in her very store.

She and Harper might have left out of self-preservation, but it didn't mean they didn't still love the man. Knew their rejection had worked, seeing as not once since that night had she felt the pains of betrayal. It had been the right thing to do, saved both her and Harper. They'd moved well away from that pack even, several states away in fact. Why were they here in her store?

This was the first time, they had come across the Black Haven Pack, since they had left, why of all places would that woman come all the way here to her store. Was it just some cruel joke, she already felt like Selena had rejected her and Harper, cursed them and given her life of torture, but no that wasn't enough it seemed, now her Mate had his own Mate and was here to dump pain on her once again.

Heard a knock on her door "Piper, sorry to bother you. The young lady downstairs wants one of your older gowns."

"I don't make those anymore." Piper replied calmly "Just tell her to buy one off of the rack's downstairs, I'm sure there is something she will like. I don't have the time to make something knew right now, even from the old."

"Yes Piper...are you alright Piper?" Izzy asked her with a slight frown.

"I'm fine Izzy, have a headache is all." she waved the girl away "Close my door, I can't stand the smell." she stated, not wanting to smell them or even hear the conversation those two down there may have. And to hell if that escort or the girl heard her comment about the smell.

Glanced at the large wall clock and sighed, hopefully they would leave soon, she had to go and get Brandon from the bus stop in a little while. Did not want that man around her son, period. Not that he would connect any dots, she did not smell to that wolf downstairs and any likeness to Bradley, would simply be shrugged off.

Heard a knock on her door a few minutes later and was about to raise her voice to Izzy, for disturbing her yet again, she'd been given instructions already. When the door opened without her stating come in, looked to it a deep frown on her face. Her jaw tightened as she was Cooper open the door to her office without permission.

Cooper, the Beta to Black Haven Pack, he stood there in her office doorway, smiled right at her, all charmingly, thought he was going to be able to use his good looks and charm, to be able to sway her into whatever he wanted.

Most human females would be drooling already, at his black hair and deeply dark charcoal grey eyes, his chiseled jaw and well-built physic.

Little did this wolf know, she wasn't some gullible human out for the charming. She was not going to fall at his feet and stare up at him all dreamy eyed and become so smitten that she'd do whatever he wanted her too. It was likely how he'd gotten past Izzy though.

Had used those stormy grey eyes of his and by the look of it had run his hand through his hair, which would have showed off the muscles in his arm, he was only wearing a short sleeved very well fitted tee-shirt and those sickeningly perfectly pearly white teeth of his, that he had turned on her now. He was a picture of charm and sex appeal; he was definitely trying to play on his good looks to get what he wanted. She was not attracted to him in the slightest.

"Hello, I'm Cooper."

Piper cut him right off there "I don't care. Get out." she snapped at him, did not want this wolf anywhere near her at all.

Saw his smile actually falter, and frown at her "That's not a very nice way to treat a potential customer, I have a friend here who would."

"I don't care." she cut him off once again "I already told my store manager Izzy, I don't have time to make a dress from an old obsolete line." turned her eyes away from him, back to her desk and the design pad in front of her, effectively dismissing him, he would understand that, likely seen his Alpha do it many times, hell he'd probably done it himself a heap.

"Please." she heard him actually step inside of her office "We'll pay whatever you want."

Turned her eyes back to him, more than annoyed now, trying to use money to get what he wants, now he understood his looks wouldn't do it, typical. "I don't need your money. Now I am very busy Carter...was it. Have your friend choose something in the store downstairs."

"It was Cooper," he grated out sounded like he didn't like her tone.

Well, she didn't like him in her office, any more than he looked like, he wanted to be in here right now, she was ticking the man off it seemed. Good. Maybe he'd take that woman and leave altogether.

"My friend wants a custom Piper Harper Gown."

Rolled her eyes right at him, whose store did he think he was in "Everything downstairs is a Piper Harper gown." she dripped sarcasm at his stupidly spoken request.

"You are very rude." he glared right at her.

Oh, this was not rude this was just annoyed, he didn't want to see her fully pissed off. And she was doing everything to get him out of her store with the attitude of not coming back at all.

Saw him actually take a breath and try to calm his anger, his wolf must be cranky at the lack of respect she was showing, heard Harper snort amused inside her mind, they'd not even really gotten started.

"Please, at least look at the picture of the dress she wants." turned slightly "Hadley come in here and show the lady the dress you want." he called to her.

Piper's jaw tightened all the way, so much so she could hear her own teeth grinding against each other. Saw him look right at her. He had picked up on it too. They did not want to know the woman's name and certainly did not want to have to look right at her for that matter. It was why she had come upstairs and asked Izzy to deal with them.

On any other given day in her store, Piper would have been more than willing and happy to stay downstairs and assist in her store, her customers like to meet her, she knew this and for the most part, didn't actually mind interacting with them.

Only the super prima donna's annoyed her, whining little spoiled baby's that had never heard the word 'No' before, irritated her and Harper for that matter. She was glaring right at him now, and actually saw him try and smell her, interesting response to her anger, he clearly wasn't used to humans challenging him or standing up to him.

A very pretty red headed girl walked into her office a moment later, obviously not her real hair colour it was as red as a fire truck, the girl, not woman, was

young, likely only barely 18 or 19. she smiled right at Piper, had deep dark blue coloured eyes, she had that trim taught and terrific body that all wolves had, was wearing a well fitted dress that accentuated her breasts and hips, drew ones eyes right to how fit she actually was. Just his type she thought bitterly, it did not escape her or Harper that she scented of Alpha blood either.

Did not smile at Hadley, she'd been called. Already initiated into the pack, had the packs scent on her as well. Saw the girl falter as Pipers eyes met hers, fully annoyed and angered to have to be looking right at her.

Saw Cooper bring her further into the office "I'm sure she won't bite Hadley." it was a warning; she and Harper had not missed his tone at all "Show her the dress you want. I'm certain, I will be able to convince her to make it."

'Fat chance.' Harper snarled inside her mind.

Watched him walk Hadley across the office and sit her down opposite to Piper herself. Glared right at him he was lucky Harper was still inside of her at this point and not fully on the surface. And oh yes, he was very used to getting his way all the time. And of course, whatever the Luna wanted, she would get, he was here to make sure of that. Well today he was going to find out that he couldn't have everything he wanted, she was no push over.

Yes, every other Luna out there got what they wanted, she and Harper hated Luna's almost with a passion, almost as much as they hated their own kind.

"Piper." she felt his aura roll at her, just a little. Likely trying to make her complaint "Please it is Hadley's wish."

"And I told you...I'm busy and don't have the time." she shot back at him, making sure he understood his aura meant nothing to her.

"Look at it." he practically demanded her.

Well, they were no longer a part of his pack anymore, rogues didn't have masters, didn't have to answer to anyone unless they actually chose to. Raised an eyebrow up at him "I don't like your attitude." she snapped and stood up, felt Harper bristle inside her own mind. They would be no match for him, but they were not about to let him lord it over them right here in their office.

“Nor I yours.” he snapped right back, watched him pluck the photo from the girls' hand “What harm will come from looking at it.” he held it out to her.

“Nothing I suppose.” she grated out and yanked the damned thing from his hand, it was actually a magazine clipping not a photo, and the moment her eyes landed on it her anger twitched up a notch. She had only made one of these, had tortured herself with it.

It was the very dress she had designed for herself, the one that she had always imagined she would wear, the one she had designed long before she'd left the pack, tormented herself with dreams of Bradley scenting her and claiming her, and that dress being the one she would wear for her Luna Ceremony. Never happened, never would.

There was one thing Piper was certain of, this girl before her was never going to wear that dress, she would never make it for her to wear to her ceremony to Bradley.

Tore the clipping in half, and then in half again “I will not make that.” she spat as she tossed the torn pieces of paper into bin. Heard the girl gasp and actually sob, then shot up out of the chair and left the room in a rush, saw Cooper go after her “Go and don't come back.” she practically snarled right at him.

Saw him stop and glare right at her, stand there and stare at her, right at her, she was not intimidated by him, and it surprised him. Shocked him that he couldn't seem to frighten her, saw him breath in again. He was once again trying to figure out what she was? Why she'd not done what he wanted? Well, he would smell nothing, like every other time he'd walked pasted her or ran into her and he had more than once. He would smell a human and nothing more, if he even smelled that.

Stood in her office doorway staring right at her as she stared right back at him, locked eyes right with him, her brown eyes never moved from him, saw a slight smirk touch his lips, she presented a challenge to him and his wolf it seemed.

Saw his wolfs eyes appear as it pushed forward, it was likely meant to frighten her, all he got from her was a raised eyebrow at him “You don't frighten me, get out of my store.” she stated, never moved her eyes from his wolfs.



Registered shock on his face at her lack of reaction to his wolf on the surface, then he just turned and left. "Yes, go away and don't bloody come back." she muttered to herself, knew his keen sense of hearing would pick it up, didn't care at all, wanted him to know that she didn't want him to come back.

Glanced at the clock and sighed, heard the bell ding, he'd left the store, poured herself a glass of water and drank it. Today was not a good day. Today was not something she had ever seen coming or even been prepared for.

Walked down the stairs saw Izzy's eyes on her questioningly "I'm going to pick up Brandon."

"Yes Piper." she just nodded.

Walked outside her store and found Cooper across the street, with the girl, and as she glanced at them realized the packs Gamma and Delta were also both there. The Gamma looked right at her as the girl was hugged into him, taking comfort from her Gamma oh how sweet. She though bitterly. Turned and walked off down the street. 3 blocks to the bus stop and waited, she'd survived more than that, all that girl got was a "no", was a spoiled blood prima donna.

Watched as Brandon got off the bus and smiled at him, thankfully he had her caramel coloured hair with a few natural blonde highlights from the sun. and his skin was fair like hers too, though he did have his father's blue eyes with those green flecks in them. He was her one true joy in her life. Smiled right at him as he stood talking to his friends, would not interrupt the boy, he had people hanging off him, just 7 years old and already popular, typical of his Alpha gene's she supposed.

Finally, he turned his smile on her "Hey mum."

"Hey sweetie, I thought...we'd go and get waffles."

Saw him grin now "Sure." she knew it was his favorite thing, loved waffles with strawberries and doused in hot melted chocolate with a big scoop of chocolate ice cream.

Took his hand and strolled along to the cafe they ate at sometimes after school. Watched him eat happily "I thought we could get away, go on a little holiday, the long weekend is coming."

He looked right at her “No work?”

Piper chuckled even heard Harper chortle inside her mind “No work...why don't we go snowboarding.”

“Sweet.” he grinned now all excited, the boy did like to be in the outdoors, and he'd learned to snowboard at 5, bloody took to everything that he tried, his natural agility shone through, as did his track and field, even excelled at swimming. Everything he did was a natural talent at “Mum its fall.” he suddenly stated.

“It's snowing somewhere I the world.” she shrugged “get your phone out and find somewhere, we'll leave Friday after school and come back Monday. You pick where.”

### **Chapter 3 - Unscutable**

Piper POV

Suitcases were all packed and downstairs by the stores counter, they were all ready for their long weekend away to Whistler, she had booked a two-bedroom Panorama Suite at the Four Seasons Resort, the flight from Portland was also booked and a car would be picking them up from the store to transport them to the airport. As there would be one waiting on them at the airport when they landed.

It was actually really nice to be getting away and just take time out and relax, snowboard with Brandon all weekend. He'd been so excited for the trip over the last two days, already had written out what he wanted to do on their down time and what runs he wanted to snowboard on.

Piper was in her studio, it was Friday midday and she'd not seen any wolves in the past 3 days, since her run in with Cooper, obviously upsetting that girl, had made her want to go somewhere else to get her Luna's gown. Which suited not just Piper but Harper as well. They were not going to make a gown for their former Alphas, Mate. No way in hell.

She was sewing crystals to the bodice of a strapless gown designed by her for a wealthy heiress, was sitting with a container of those crystal beads next to her and the ivory coloured gown was laid across her lap.

Lifted her head up at the sound of her store's front door banging open and then shut. Frowned at the sound of her bell crashing around like crazy. Heard her name be stated by a very angry sounding man. Sighed heavily.

It was likely the Whitmore girl's father, she'd had to delay his daughters dress fitting this weekend, pushed it to next weekend and the girl had pitched a fit, and thrown a tantrum like a two-year-old, then yelled at her it was unacceptable, and she was going to tell her father. It wasn't unacceptable at all, the girl's wedding was not for another 4 months, and this was the last fitting, then she could pick up the dress the following weekend if she had alterations, which Piper was certain she would, had every other time she'd had a fitting.

Stood up, knew by the sound of the angry footsteps on the stairs and the lighter ones following, the man and his prima donna of a daughter were on their way up the stairs to likely tear strips off of her. Hung the dress she was working on back on the mannequin and brushed it out to straighten it.

This was the only part of her job that she did not enjoy, dealing with wealthy aristocrat people who believe the world revolved around them, just like Alpha wolves they were, lording their power over everyone and trying to make people do what they want. Annoying to say the least.

Turned as the door to her studio banged open and stopped dead at the sight before her, Bradley Drake himself, stood there in the doorway, dressed in dark grey slacks and a dark blue long sleeved dress shirt, his blue eyes and their green flecks practically glowing with anger and directed solely on her.

Felt pain tear at her and Harper, her heart rate doubled at the sight of him, felt like she couldn't breathe at all as she stood staring at him. Her own Mate, who never knew who she was. Never would. Felt goosebumps breakout all over her body, as pain spread through her. Couldn't speak, couldn't even draw a breath at the sight of him.

He still smelled the same to her, his scent filled her nostrils, and she heard Harper whin inside her mind. Then there was Hadley his Mate, right next to him and his hand moved to the small of her back, as he brought her into the room. Felt gut wrenching pain twist her heart, which was now beating erratically inside her chest, at having to see them together. She did not need this. Did not want to see him with her.

Finally managed to take in a half-strangled gasp of air, as she took a step back away from him, shook her head slightly. He was looking right at her, and she knew that his Alpha senses would pick up on her erratic heart beating uncontrollably, her sudden inability to breathe. Her reaction to him in this room, she couldn't hide it, the pain that she was feeling, that was pulling at every fiber of her and Harper at seeing him with another was too much, for them to handle.

"You will make Hadley the dress she wants." he stated coldly still glaring at her.

Piper shook her head no, because they would not. She would not let someone else wear the dress that should have been hers, especially not the woman that was taking her place at his side.

Saw him take a step towards her, felt Harper push forward as they stepped back from him, a snarl came from her at the threat he posed to them. Saw his eyes go more than a little wide, obviously thought he had come here to deal with a human, saw his head tilt and watched as he drew in a deep breath, trying to figure out what she was.

Harper's eyes would not give them away as a wolf, her wolf's eyes were white irises with a black outer edge, they did not have the standard green or yellow of a wolf.

Saw Hadley reach out and touch his arm, her eyes moved right to the way her hand landed on his arm, the way her fingers curled gently around his forearm, so very familiar, more pain touched them, felt her whole body shiver and then start to tremble as she heard Hadley say his name softly.

Then they were gone, out of the room, through the interconnecting door to her office, out the door to her balcony and down the stairs at full wolf speed, slamming doors closed behind her as she went. Ran all the way to the small courtyard that she shared with the 3 other boutique stores along the street.

Tears welling as she desperately tried to calm down and not to cry. He'd smelled her, still had no idea who she was, just stood there glaring at her like he hated her, had come into her office to make demands of her for his new Mate.

He had no idea how much it would hurt her, never had and why would he now. Her rejection had been in effect for years now, she was nothing to him,

never had been, never would be. Hated that she still loved him, that Harper too felt for her Mate. Hated that they could still smell him, leaned on the brick wall and felt cold all over, even with the sun shining on her still felt cold.

Had one hand over her mouth and the other was clutching at her chest, as she tried to calm herself down. Tried to let go of the pain that was eating them alive, Harper was already curled up in a ball of pain and misery inside her mind, pain was radiating off of her in waves at seeing him with another.

Slid down the wall and hugged her knees to herself, put her head on her knees and just stayed there. They had moved states away, left Montana altogether, so that they would never have to see him, never even have to hear his name in passing. The industry she was in, was nothing like his, and she made sure never to run in the same circles.

His pack was all about construction, they built skyscrapers and gated communities, private log cabins and homes for the super wealthy. The only risk she ran, was that they might at some point work for the same human, but even that was slim, seeing she had moved several states away.

Now he was here in her place of work, angry at her, for her refusal to make a Luna dress for his Luna. There were plenty of other places that the girl could go to get a dress made, hell the woman could get one made right in her pack. Piper was certain that Rene's boutique was still there, that Rene herself was still making dresses for the packs she-wolf population.

Closed her eyes and willed that man to leave, to just go away, to never come back. The pain was too great, knowing who and what he had been to them once. Knowing it would never change. He had another Mate now, tears burned down her cheeks in hot rivers, they could not deal with him. It was just too much to handle.

Sat there on the ground, trying to calm down, it was all she could do, closed her eyes and just breathed, long slow, deep breaths in and out until the pain eased off. It did not go away completely but eased until it was just a constant dull ache, would likely take all day to go away. Took her phone from her pocket and called her own store, called Izzy, who picked up as professional as ever.

"Izzy, is he gone?" she asked softly.

“Yes Piper, are you alright? Where did you go? He sounded very annoyed that you just left.”

“I don’t care Izzy. He left is all I care about. Did you see him drive away at all?”

“No, Piper. What is going on?”

“Nothing. Don’t worry about it. Just...I will not be working for him, for that woman or anyone from his company. It’s Drake Industries, the answer is no.”

“Piper if you are in trouble.”

“I’m not Izzy.” she reassured her “New protocol though, no taking any appointments without knowing the company they work from alright.”

“Okay Piper.” Izzy sounded a bit more than confused, but Piper knew that the woman would follow instructions. Was nothing but professional all the time. Had been working for Piper now 6 years, helped her to open her other two boutiques one in Olympia, Washington and the other in Los Angeles, California.

Izzy was also about to help start preparations for the first international store, in Sydney, Australia. She had been to a fashion show out there and presented her gowns, and they had sold out, she had orders for more already. Izzy would be opening and going to run that store, a full manager of her own store. There was no-one else that Piper trusted to do so, she and Brandon would be going for a three month period of time. Perhaps longer, depending on how things went, smooth or not.

Got up off the ground finally and headed inside by the back entrance to the ground floor, made her way through the storage area, passed the dressing rooms and to the front of the store. Saw Izzy looking at her somewhat worriedly as she walked towards the front window and looked outside.

Looked both ways up and down the street, could not see his car or anything like what his car had been back then. It could have changed she supposed but did know he would be driving a 4x4 of some sort, all his pack cars were, had to be due to the size of wolves, all large and imposing.

Saw nothing that would pass for a pack car. Then realized this far from his pack, it was likely that he would be driving a rental car, but there was no sign

of him or his unit that she could see, turned away from the window to find Izzy still watching her.

“It’s nothing.” Piper told her.

It was obvious that Izzy didn’t believe her “I’ve known you for a long time Piper. It’s not nothing, because nothing rattles you, ever. Not even the big billionaire's that waltz in here thinking it's their way or the highway. Now twice this week, I've seen you reject that woman and both her? Whatever they are, the men escorting her. Both of them left annoyed and seemed angry about your response to them.”

“Let it go Izzy.” Piper sighed.

“Piper!” Izzy sighed right back “Come on, it's your past, I know that much. You never said where you were from. You never talk about it, like you just appeared here in Portland fully grown.”

“I did.” Piper stated a little annoyed with her prying.

Saw Izzy actually laugh, “Yeah right...You know them...but, they didn’t seem to know you, right?”

“Correct and we’ll leave it at that, alright.”

“Fine...and if they come back?” Izzy huffed, giving up on trying to pull information out of her.

“I’m not here. Pure and simple.” Piper murmured.

“I don’t think, that either of those guys will believe that.”

“I don’t care, I’ll be away on holidays anyway and hopefully that will solve the issue. Then I can work from home for the next week.”

“Avoidance isn’t always the key, Piper.” Izzy commented casually.

Piper snort, there was not key, she didn’t scent to anyone. She was invisible even to her own kind and to others as well, and she had come across a few Vampires, they were fashion addicts, a few fairies and a Bear shifter once, that man had damned near knocked her over, put his hands on her to steady her, and had then looked right at her, smelled her up close, frowned deeply at her. She’d politely apologized to him, he’d continued to stare at her, obviously

uncertain as to what to make of her, but had stepped aside and allowed her to pass after a minute.

It was the reaction she got from most other worldly creatures, humans detected nothing at all, and it was likely most other worldly creatures thought she was just human, which is how she lived her life anyhow.

Piper went and picked Brandon up from the bus stop like normal, walked back to the boutique, and the hire car to take them to the airport was just arriving as they got back, very punctual. Didn't waste any time in grabbing their luggage. Told Izzy she'd see her in a few weeks, just in case there were other around listening.

Didn't want to risk it, got in the car and they were off, saw Brandon look right at her, "Mum what's wrong?" he asked.

"Nothing." she smiled at him.

"Weeks?" he queried.

"Oh that, I'm going to be working from home when we get back is all."

"Okay." he nodded smiling now. Their home was a lot closer to the school and meant less time on the bus, always made him happier, it also meant he could hang out with his friends and have them over as well. He had a good social life for a 7-year-old.

Piper had no idea how she was going to explain to him about his first shift, she was raising him human, it was better this way, especially if he turned out to be just like her, to have no scent. She could smell him, but he was her child.

Both her parents had never said they couldn't smell her, and they always seemed to know when she was about, so presumably they had been able to smell her. Just no-one else could as far as she knew.

Touched the crystal pendant as she thought about her mother, her wolf's eyes had also been white like Harper's. A hereditary trait she thought, but Piper did recall that her parents both had good social lives within the pack.

She did not understand why she was the way she was, only knew it was horrid to have to live with. Til she'd run away and gone rogue, saved her and



Harper from death. Their fate inside the pack had been killing them, slowly but surely.

Belonged to no-one out here. She was a rogue as was Brandon, not that she smelled that on him, didn't smell it on her either for that matter. Likely he too was going to be unscentable, she hoped not, didn't want him to suffer as she had, would not wish that on anybody, not ever.

They arrived at the four seasons, and the runs were still open for one hour, headed straight out with Brandon, he was super excited but kept reminding her "No work mum, you promised."

Piper was laughing at him now, he'd said it for like the tenth time, as though he didn't believe her, that he thought she was going to find an excuse to work this weekend. Piper had not even brought her sketch pad or any drawing pencils, this weekend was just her and Brandon, snowboarding and maybe some hiking, if the weather permitted and Brandon wanted off of the slopes.

He loved being outdoors, in the forest, went camping with his best friend once and loved it, did not surprise her at all, not considering what he was, and an Alpha wolf would love it even more, especially once shifted the hunting and chasing of prey. She had no idea when he would have his first shift, usually at 16 but research told her anywhere from 13 on wards.

Piper was going to have to sit him down at some point and explain other worldly creatures to him, before then, might have to get him to watch a few movies first to see what he thought, though at just 7, it was a bit too early for those types of movies.

They had dinner in their room, and he was now playing an online game with his friends back home, she didn't mind, was happy that he was just happy. Told him she would go for a walk and be back in a short while. He'd hollered "No work mum." as she'd headed out the door.

Made Piper laugh, "I promised already didn't I."

She saw him narrow his eyes right on her for a moment and then nodded his head, Piper had stepped out of her room and headed straight for the bar downstairs, needed a drink, it wouldn't touch the sides or affect her in anyway, human alcohol did nothing for her, just wanted one, had a long stressful day and wanted a drink, human would do.

Sank down on a bar stool and ordered an espresso martini, loved the smell of coffee, so it was a good start, could sit and sip it and enjoy the smell of it, just relax a little. She was well away from her home, and the stress of the day.

Heard Harper growl inside her mind, full annoyance in her growl, as the scent of wolves hit them, glanced in the mirrored back splash of the bar and saw a half dozen muscled up men and a few young looking women headed this way, downed her martini in one go and banged the glass down on the bar, "I'll take another." she told the bar tender as those wolves sat down at the bar, but before he could serve them.

Picked up that martini and downed it in one go as well, as the bar tender swiped her credit card, she would normally enjoy sipping on her espresso martini, but her night just got completely ruined.

Took her card back and spun her stool around, muttered as she got up and walked away from the bar "Hate the stench, that just came in. you'd think animals would learn to shower." heard the dead quiet of all of them, every one of those blasted wolf's had heard her comment and she knew it, didn't even care at all, she'd scented more than one pack, multiple in fact. It irritated her nose.

"What a bitch." came a female voice.

Piper snorted as she walked out of the bar "First class bitch at that." she shot back letting them know she had heard the comment as much as they had hers. Didn't know why they were all here, didn't care, had ruined her mood completely, stood and waited on the elevator to go back up to her room.

"Oh, my goddess, you're Piper Harper." a voice cried out all excited.

Piper rolled her eyes, so not in the mood, the woman or girl sounded very young and very excitable, a bride to be she thought, only brides would know who she was, turned and looked to where the voice had come from, saw a very pretty young woman hurrying towards her.

Dressed in a beautiful white cashmere sweater, black leggings and white furry boots, but it was the scent she gave off that made Piper look back to the elevator and pray it would open before the woman got to her. She had seen the rather large man strolling along behind the young girl, an Alpha, he was likely the girl's father, they had similar looks, same dark hair and slate grey eyes, he was smiling at the girl.

She reached Piper before the elevator did “Oh my, I love your Goddess Gowns, I want one when I get married.”

“Married?” that was a human thing. Playing at being human seeing where they were she guessed.

“Yes, I can’t wait to meet him one day, the man I will marry.”

The elevator opened and Piper stepped into it “I suggest you find him first, then buy a dress. Not the other way around, might seem desperate otherwise.” she told the girl, as she hit the button for her floor.

Saw the girls mouth open in an ‘O’ of shock and just stand and stare at her as the doors closed on her. “Can’t seem to catch a break.” she muttered to herself as the elevator took her up to her floor.

Must be some sort of Alpha meeting going on, just our bloody luck, go away to get away from wolves, only to find a whole bloody hotel full of them, on the bright side they did know what she was and would leave her alone.