

Chapter 50

KINGSTON

The packhouse has been peaceful the last two days, no complaints from the staff about their Luna and honestly, I couldn't be happier.

I am on my way to meet with a new private hunter about Aeliana's life in Clinshore because Marvin has nothing for me yet, when a black SUV pulls into the driveway and honks at me. The windows are up, and tinted so I can't tell who is inside until the window rolls down, revealing a familiar face. "Hello there, estranged friend."

"Jax!" I cheerfully gasp. I haven't seen him in years, Jaxton is a good friend, Alpha of the Blackthorn pack, and Danielle's psycho brother.

In the passenger seat is his Beta Tristan.

The shock is yet to register to me when the backseat window rolls down and reveals Theo, gamma of Silvercreek. On the other seat, right beside Theo, is Maddox, our pack doctor. Technically, Maddox is my pack doctor, but he's been bouncing between our packs for so long that he feels like everyone's pack doctor. We did fight over him a few times before we decided to stop. "Surprise," Maddox grins.

He was Theo in Silvercreek the last I heard from him and after that, he was to travel to Jax and Tristan's pack.

They step out of the car and I pull them all into rough hugs and back-slaps, our usual greeting. "So, where is the party at?" Tristan grins.

"Party?"

"I called Dani this morning to greet her, she told me there was a mini



pool party."

I pause, I hadn't heard of it. "Nice ring," Maddox says teasingly. "Sorry, we couldn't make it on short notice."

"Fuck off." I groan.

Tristan pats my shoulder, "You have no idea how badly I wanted to see you, brother. I have so much to say. Did I tell you about the boar I killed?" He smirks, gesturing to himself. "In this form?"

"Yes, Tristan. But I'm happy to hear it again," I nod. "Why don't you tell me about it over some beers." 

"Yes!" Jax cheers, "The gang is back together, it calls for celebration. Speaking of the gang, where is my Rowan?"

Yes. His Rowan.

Jax has a field day whenever Rowan is around, he reserves a special kind of torment for him, the kind that has them pounding each other's faces, and only one of them gets a kick out of it. Guess who? Yep, Alpha psycho himself. Rowan is in the back with Danielle, maybe that's the party they're referring to. The pool gets pretty full on a hot day like this.

I mindlink Rowan to come inside while I show the guys inside. They arrived in Mooncrest late last night and crashed in a hotel two towns over, but they are here now, and staying. So, I immediately arrange for someone to have their rooms ready.

After a few minutes of jokes and teasing, we end up in the backyard, sprawled under the big striped beach umbrella someone dragged out of storage. Jax doesn't immediately sit with us, he joins his sister, occupying Rowan's previous seat and once he is sure she has been



tormenting Rowan in his absence, he returns to the table.

I haven't felt this good in weeks.

Tristan is telling some story about a rogue bear he chased last month. Maddox is laughing at Jax's failed attempt at flirting with a human bartender a night ago. It feels like old times, back when life was simple, and we could goof around without the weight of our current responsibilities. Everyone is complaining about not making it to my wedding, so I pacify them by allowing them to throw me a bachelor party the next time we're together again.

Soon, Audrey appears with a tray of cocktails—something bright and citrusy that she named “winter sunrises,” garnished with sugared cranberries. I had asked her to have someone bring us a few beers, and she promised cocktails, which she delivers now, with her assistant. ⓘ

Jax takes one long pull from his glass then slams the glass down like he's declaring war. “Kingston, you secretive bastard,” he gasps. “You've been holding out on us. This drink is illegal in at least three regions. What is in this?”

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