

Chapter 15

Maya

"Tylon! Tylon come quick!" I screamed as I pushed through the backdoor and bolted into the house.

Tylon was already awake and dressed, coming down the stairs with a confused look on his face.

"What in the goddess's name is wrong with you, Maya?" he hissed as I stumbled forward into his arms.

He steadied me before I could fall, and I gazed up and up into those dark gray eyes that held annoyance but a little bit of concern.

They raked down my body and heated just a bit, before they found my face again in question.

"Leo," I managed to say through a sharp breath. "We were running on the path and this huge, massive ass wolf just came out of nowhere and Leo told me to run and then I did because I didn't know what else to do but I think he stayed with that wolf and I don't know if he'll be able to stop it and he could be dead and—"

"Hey! Maya!" Tylon cut me off from my rambling, holding my cheeks between his large, warm palms now and gazing into my eyes. "Where was the wolf?"

His tone was calm... too calm. The kind that didn't match what I was saying, and that made it worse.

I didn't understand how he could be so calm about this, when I just told him that Leo could have been mauled or eaten by a freaking giant wolf!

"He... He was on the path that led back to campus I think. The wolf was already in the way, and he told me to run." My eyes burnt with tears now at the reality of what I did. "Oh my God. I left him out there alone. I ran left him like a coward and now he's probably dead."

The first sob broke through my lips and Tylon's jaw ticked, as if he was annoyed.

He was such a prick! I just told him that his friend could be dead and he was standing here looking at me like I grew an extra head.

"It's okay," he finally said as his hands fell from my cheeks, but there was no compassion in his tone. "Leo's fine. He can take care of himself."

I gawked at him.

"Against a freaking five-foot wolf!"

He ignored my statement. "Stay here," was all he said as he literally lifted me and placed me aside, before stepping past me.

"Are you seriously walking out there unarmed?" I demanded, following him. "Do you even have a plan, or are you planning to glare the thing to death?"

Still nothing.

"Hello!" I shouted after him as I followed behind. "Did you not hear what I said!"

"And I said stay here, Maya," he replied, annoyed.

I groaned and ignored the command as I continued trailing him.

"Are you planning to go die too! I told you so you could call someone! The authorities or someone trained to deal with these things!"

Again, I was ignored as he broke through the treeline.

"Tylon!" I shouted from the back porch steps.

But suddenly he stopped, and my heartbeat picked up as I wondered if it was the wolf.

"Tylon?" I called again, this time softer. I saw his shoulder shake, and my heart dropped as I assumed he saw the wolf's bloody mouth and realized what happened. I thought he was crying.

But oh was I wrong.

My mouth basically met the ground when I noticed that he wasn't crying at all, but... laughing. And the laughter carried with two more familiar ones.

It was then that I saw both Leo and freaking Caden break through the treeline, all of them scratchless and very much alive.

What the actually fuck?

I was relieved and thrilled. Really, I was. But there wasn't even a scratch to even suggest that Leo had a struggle.

Am I supposed to believe that the wolf just... left?

"Leo!" I shouted with pure relief as I ran to him at the base of the step and flung myself into his arms. He caught me almost effortlessly, before pushing me back slightly to look at me.

"Are you okay?" he asked, and I once again just gaped at him.

"Am I okay? Am I okay? Leo, what the hell happened!"

He chuckled as he set me aside him to walk back to the house. "The wolf wasn't going to hurt any of us."

"So why did you tell me to run?" I asked, confused out of my damn mind.

He shrugged as if it was nothing. "Wasn't taking any chances."

A snort came from behind, and I noticed it was from Caden. By the looks of the sly smirk on his face and the warmth in his blue eyes, I assumed he was back to his old self.

But that didn't excuse anything. "What's so funny?" I snapped a bit too harshly. The smirk fell from his face, and I saw the evident light of guilt in his eyes.

"Maya, I—"

"I need a bath," I said before he could say anything more. I turned to Leo and flashed him a smile. "I'm glad you're safe. I really am. But please don't scare me like that again." He nodded with a small smile of his own.

I flashed Caden and Tylon a look, because to me they were in the same boat currently, I disappeared into the house.

I pressed my back against my bathroom door and squeezed my eyes shut as the morning replayed in my mind. There was no way that wolf was a normal wolf.

And there was no way he just 'left' like that. Not that I thought Leo was lying. But the anger I saw in that wolf's eyes when he charged at us was a death glare. He was out for blood, and I didn't think Leo just 'talked' him out of it.

And Tylon's calm—the kind that comes from knowing exactly what's out there—stuck with me most of all.

Something strange was going on around here. I felt it from the first day

I came.

And for the sake of my sanity and safety, I needed to find out what.



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