

Hybrid Aria

Chapter 16

Aria's POV

Getting up off the ground, I shoved past him. I didn't get far before his hand reached out to grab my shoulder. Spinning around, I grabbed him and pushed him. He flew backwards and landed on his back on the bed. Climbing on top of him, my legs straddling either side of his hips, anger and fear began taking over.

"Is this what you want? To see me break, to lose control? So, you can prove I'm the monster you think I am, to give you a reason to kill me?" I screamed.

Lifting his shoulders, I slammed him back onto the bed. He had a look on his face I was having trouble deciphering. He didn't look happy, just concerned, sad. Reaching his hand up, he placed it on my cheek, his thumb tracing the veins that were exposed under my eyes. His touch sent shivers down my spine. My body wanted to lean into his touch, but I refused, pulling back. I watched him; his hand dropped to my hip, squeezing it lightly.

"I don't want to break you. Just let go and give me control, Aria. I... It's hard, but I can't reject you. You're not like them, I know this now." His voice was soft.

"Not like all the Hybrid's you killed. What did they do that has you hating us

so much that you would be sick enough to exterminate us completely?
You
want control? You're an idiot if you think I will give you control. People
only
want control because it's power over the other person, something to
use
against them," I spoke through gritted teeth.
"I wouldn't do that; the mate bond wouldn't let me. Why can't you see
that? I
was wrong, what I did was wrong. I know that now."
Pfft, I refuse to bow down to anyone anymore. I'm sick of being a
pawn in
everyone else's game, sick of hiding, sick of fighting what I am. As I
was
about to climb off him, he sat up, holding me in place. I went to shove
him
back with my hands, but he gripped both my wrists, holding them
firmly to
my sides. He lent in and placed a kiss on my jaw.
My eyes widened before they closed, a moan escaping my lips. His
head
dipped lower, kissing my neck. Reaching up, he grabbed my hair,
wrapping
his fingers in it softly pulling, giving him better access to my neck. I
could
feel his erection pressing against his jeans. I inhaled his scent, arousal
flooding me mixed with hunger. Pulling back, he looked up at me. I
hadn't
realised I was growling at him. Not in anger but hunger and desire,
both
fighting against each other not sure which was going to win.
Reid pulled my face down so we were looking at each other, his eyes
holding
mine. Desire coursed through me as he leaned in, kissing my lips
softly. His
lips moving against mine filled with desire. I answered his kiss. Kissing
back

fiercely, both of us fought for dominance. My hands moved to his chest, and I ran them along his shoulders. His arms wrapped securely around my waist, pulling me closer. Kissing him behind the ear, I heard him moan against my shoulder.

Moving closer to his neck, hunger took over, devouring my senses. My fangs pressed against his flesh. I tried to pull back, to run, to stop from hurting him.

His grip only tightened, one of his hands reached into my hair, holding my face to his neck.

“Shhh.... it’s okay Ari, let go. I won’t let you kill me,” he whispered, pressing his lips on my cheekbone. Hearing him use my nickname and the tenderness in his voice, I let go. My walls came crumbling down, no longer scared, no longer hiding what I am. Trust, something I never thought I was

capable of, trusting someone completely and of all people, I truly did, at this

moment, trust him. Sinking my fangs into his neck, his blood rushed into my

mouth. I gulped it down greedily, yet he didn’t scream like I thought he would. Instead he moaned, pressing me tighter against his chest.

I could feel his emotions flooding into me: love, acceptance, desire.

His intoxicating scent was nothing compared to how he tasted. I could taste every

emotion he felt, making me want more. I was sure I could get drunk on his

taste. Pulling back before he had a chance to, I ran my tongue along my bite.

I watched as it sealed but remained the same as the mark he gave me,

marking him. I didn't realise I had tears running down my cheeks until he wiped them away before kissing me. Rolling me on to my back, he kissed me harder, his legs pushing between my thighs. I could feel the bulge in his pants pushing against my core, moaning loudly at the friction. His hands running beneath my shirt until they reached my breasts, my nipples hardening under his touch. Pulling my shirt off, he sat up, looking down at me. There was so much in the way he was looking at me. I could feel how much he wanted to touch me. How much he loved me, how much he wanted me. He didn't hate me. Just how had I been so blind to see it. His love for me outweighed the anger he had for my kind. I pulled him down, pulling his hips into mine. I arched my back, wanting more when I felt his teeth graze my nipple as he took it in his mouth. I wanted him, all of him. I don't know why I felt so bold. Reaching for his belt buckle, I started undoing it, my hands shaking. Seeing me struggle, he gripped my hands, holding them in one hand above my head. He hungrily kissed my neck before I felt his hand push inside my pants, slipping his fingers between my wet lips, leaving me moaning against his touch. He rubbed his fingers in a circular motion around my clit, my core throbbing in anticipation as he slipped a finger into my flooding hole. "You like that?" His husky voice sent thrills all through my body. I didn't respond, my moans were my answer. Opening my eyes, he was watching me,

seeing my reaction.

A seductive smile appeared on his lips. He slipped another finger in, curling his fingers, hitting my g-spot, my hips moving against his fingers as he slipped them in out. My skin started to burn up. My legs began to shake as I could feel my release coming, just sitting on the edge building up until I felt my walls clamp down on his fingers. He slowed his movements, letting me ride out my orgasm. Slipping his hands out of my pants, my face flushed when I watched him suck his fingers clean, tasting me on his fingers. Kissing my neck, he sat up. I just laid there never feeling so relaxed as I did now.

“You might want to get up, we have company.” His voice ran clear in my mind. Shocked, I looked over at him. He had a cheeky smile on his face.

“Did you just mind-link me?” I asked. Instead of answering out loud, he mind-linked instead.

“Yes, I did. You’re part of this Pack now that you have marked me. You are my Luna.”

I blushed all the blood rushing to my face thinking back to me marking him.

Now everyone will know what we just did. How embarrassing.

“Don’t be embarrassed.” I couldn’t help it though; I was never one for public

displays of affection. Looking at the mark on his neck, it was red, angry. It

was no longer bleeding but clearly on display, much to my horror.

Seeing how uncomfortable I was becoming, he put out his hand. I gladly accepted it, letting him pull me to my feet.

“Why are you so uncomfortable? If you’re this embarrassed now, I would hate to see how uncomfortable you will get after the mating ceremony.” The mating ceremony oh my god, how awkward. Now I’m glad we didn’t have sex. The whole Pack would know, be able to smell his scent on me, claiming me as his.

“Are you a virgin?” he asked. I stared back mortified, and he chuckled softly.

“Well sorry, but I have been a bit busy raising my sister. I didn’t have time to being throwing myself at randoms,” I said sarcastically, trying to hide my embarrassment. His eyes glazed over, his wolf taking charge. Gripping me, he pulled me to him, crushing me against his chest. I relaxed in his hold before someone awkwardly cleared their throat. If I had been paying attention, I would have heard them come in. Stepping back, Reid’s eyes were back to normal, his wolf no longer holding control. Looking over at the door, I saw it was Zane.

“Lily wants to know if she can go see Zoe?” he asked, raising his eyebrow a small smirk playing on his lips as he took in my dishevelled appearance. I nodded, embarrassed, walking past him to go search for Lily.

Chapter 17

Aria’s POV

Walking downstairs, I find Lily playing with Amber. They were both sitting

peacefully playing with a dollhouse and some barbies. Sitting next to them on the floor, I watched.

“Can we visit Zoe? I miss her,” Lily asked with a frown on her face.

“I can send Zane with you; I have a few things to look into,” Reid said, walking over to us. Lily beamed at him. Excitedly, she stood up, running off

before coming back with some pictures she drew.

“Can I also go back to school?” Lily asked. I went to tell her not yet, but Reid

decided to answer for me.

“Would you like to go to school with Amber at the Pack’s school?” asked

Reid. Seems like he has everything figured out, so I didn’t object.

“Yes,” she squealed excitedly, throwing herself in my arms. Looking up at

me, she sniffed me before sitting back. “You smell different, Ari.”

“That’s another thing we have to talk about Lily, we are going to join the

Blood Moon Pack, that’s why I smell different.” I thought Lily may be a bit

disappointed joining another Pack that wasn’t connected to our family, but

she looked just as excited.

“Really, we don’t have to hide anymore?” I shook my head, tears springing in

my eyes at her excitement.

“Come on, we will go see Zoe and talk about it more when we get home,” I

told her. Zane walked out standing beside me. Reid was on the phone now

but pulled the phone from his ear as we were about to leave. “We are going to

have a bit of a ceremony to introduce you to the Pack as the Luna. We can

also do Lily’s initiation ceremony as well,” he said, handing me his credit

card. "Here, find something nice to wear. Zane will escort you just in case you run into anyone from your old Pack," he said before kissing me on the cheek.

When we arrived at Joe's Diner, Lily took off and ran straight through the doors. Walking into the diner myself, I was greeted with a hug from Zoe. She

hugged me so tight I didn't think she would let go. Marcus also came out, picking Lily up and throwing her up in the air.

"Let's go make pancakes, Lil," he said excitedly. Lily followed him to the kitchen.

Turning back to Zoe, she had tears in her eyes. "I thought that Alpha killed you, but when he came in looking for you and Lily, I knew you must have escaped."

Being shocked at her words was an understatement, I was completely gobsmacked. Zane gave me a nod before sitting in one of the booths. Zoe

ushered me out of the diner and into her studio, walking behind the tv that sat

in the corner off the wall. She pushed on the wall, which opened up, showing

some stairs. I followed her down the stairs. As we walked down, lights started flicking on. They must have been motion sensor lights, little LED

lights were running on each step. When we reached the bottom, the lights

turned on and revealed a bunker.

Along the walls were tv screens. I could see different angles of the diner and

the street outside as well as the back entrances. Looking at Zoe, she gestured

for me to sit down at a long stainless-steel table that looked more like a

medical table than one you would eat at.

“What’s going on, Zoe? What is all this?” Looking at Zoe, I came to realise I

didn’t know Zoe as much as I thought I did. She never really spoke much of

her life with her husband. Mainly she asked about us or told us what she had

planned or what she might have done that day, but nothing personal. I just

assumed the memories of her life with Joe were too painful, and so I never

pushed her for answers.

“I’m shocked Reid didn’t say anything.”

Looking back over to her, I said, “What? He knew all along?”

“No, only recently when I figured out he was your mate. I kind of told him to

back off and leave you alone,” she mumbled.

“So, what is all this?”

“My husband used to be a Hunter. This was our weapons bunker.”

Zoe got up

and pressed a switch on the wall. The wall opened a hidden compartment,

and the whole wall on the inside uncovered an arsenal of weapons.

Standing

up, I walked over, examining them carefully. There were weapons for every

sort of supernatural creature plus some I had never seen before.

“What’s this,” I asked, pointing to a ground ball with a pin in it. It appeared

to be a grenade but was clear with a gold liquid in it.

“It’s a wolfsbane grenade.” A shiver ran down my spine. Turning back to

Zoe, I watched her carefully. She didn’t seem fazed about being in my presence. No matter who Zoe is or what her past contained, I knew I could

still trust her.

“I know you have questions. If you take a seat, I want to show you something.” Sitting back at the table, Zoe walked back up the stairs and came

back with a photo album. Opening it up, I saw a picture of Zoe with her husband. “I married Joe when I was 18. Joe was 19 at the time. I came from a

Catholic family, so when I found out he was a Hunter, I instantly thought I

married a nutter.” She giggled at the memory. “But after a little time, I came

to see for myself. I never agreed with any of this, I couldn’t bring myself to

stand on the sidelines either, so I was also a Hunter for a while. I helped track

them down but didn’t get involved in the war, Joe preferred it that way anyway. He was a bit old fashioned, said it was too dangerous for a woman.

Joe came from a family of Hunters, and when his parents died, he took over.

He was raised to believe all supernatural creatures were dangerous and

merciless killers and that he needed to rid the world of their evil. When he

was in his early twenties, he met a man. They became best friends, but he

soon discovered his friend wasn’t human.”

Zoe turned the page revealing a picture of Joe and another man. The man had

black hair and a strong jawline; he was tall and strongly built, he also had

orange blazing eyes. But that’s not what I found the most astonishing thing to

this story; the necklace around his neck- it was my necklace. Picking up my

necklace between my fingers, I looked at the wolf’s head before turning it

over to see the back, which I realised had the same face as the man in the picture. It captured his features perfectly, even the eyes which were the same orange as mine now.

“That’s my father, isn’t it?” Zoe nodded sadly.

“Yes, your father was my husband’s best friend. When he found out, he was

shocked but then realised his view on them was ruled by fear. They weren’t

much different than us. Yeah, you have your bad eggs, but they usually keep

to themselves. So, after he found out about your father, he quit. Your father

was a good man, and after a while, he became family. A few years later, as

you know, me and Joe couldn’t have kids, so we went and visited an orphanage, and we adopted a little girl. She was 3 at the time. She was

abandoned on the side of the road when the authorities found her, and we

raised her like our own.” I looked at the little girl in the picture. She reminded me of Lily.

“When she grew up and was about 10, she shifted into a wolf for the first

time. Gave us quite the shock, but your father knew all along. He helped

teach her to hunt, how to bond with her wolf. Your father also helped us keep

her hidden. When she was 21, our daughter and your father established a

relationship. They fell madly in love.” Turning the page tears sprung in my

eyes. It was my mother standing with my father and a huge baby bump. “Not

long after you were born, the Hunters my husband worked with found out about your father. My husband tried to get them to understand that he wasn't like the rest of the Vampires they had come across, but they refused to listen. One day they trapped your father and Joe. They were ambushed when they were out hunting, killing them both. My husband tried to save your father, but in the end, it got him killed. Your mother was devastated, and for a while, she left. She came back a few times when you were younger but never stayed long."

"So, you're my grandmother? Lily's grandmother?"

Zoe smiled sadly. "I'm sorry I didn't tell you, but Alpha David refused to let me be a part of your lives. So when you stopped in that day looking for a job, I knew it was my chance to be a part of your lives. Your mother used to send me photos of you growing up before she died. Alpha David was very controlling when he met your mother, and when he realised she was his mate, he kidnapped her. I thought I lost her. He forbade her from having contact with me, but after a while, the bond was too strong, and she stopped fighting to leave. A few years later she had Lily. We kept in touch secretly, but once David came into the picture when you were 7, I never saw you in person, only by photos. David forced your mother to have you hypnotised to forget about me. That's why you have no memories of me." Come to think about it,

I haven't got many memories from my childhood, only dribs and drabs. I had tears running down my face. Standing up, I hugged her tightly. I still

have a family; Lily and I aren't alone anymore. I have someone to connect me to my family.

"Aria, there something else, your father wasn't a Vampire, he was Hybrid. A

powerful one at that. He wasn't a werewolf. He was a Lycan. When we met

your father, he was 440 years old. My husband discovered after a lot of

research that your father was the first Hybrid in existence. Your blood holds

so much power. I didn't want to tell you earlier because if David found out

that you could take him and his Pack, he would have killed you, and I knew

you wouldn't want Lily left behind to be raised by that monster." I just nodded my head. There is no way I would want him anywhere near her,

especially after finding all this out.

"The more you feed, the stronger you will become, but you also need to be

careful about the Hunters. You may not hear of them, but they are still around. They find out about you, they will come for you. Your bloodline is

old, rightfully you would be considered an original Hybrid. You can't shift

because you don't have a wolf. Your Lycan blood means you aren't a mutation, you're something special. Your blood holds the past of when Lycans ruled when Lycans were considered Gods of Alphas."

"We shouldn't tell Lily, not yet I don't want to confuse her or scare her," I

said, which Zoe agreed.

"So how is everything with Reid?" Changing the topic to a lighter, almost

casual topic. Honestly, I was glad for the change in subject. I was having trouble wrapping my head around this whole Lycan stuff and the fact that I have a living relative not only connected to my mother but my father also.

“It’s okay. I thought he hated me when he found out I was a Hybrid, but he has come around. Now we are having a little ceremony tonight to introduce us to his Pack.”

“Go easy on him dear, he has his reasons for hating Hybrids. He has a pretty tragic background himself, but the mate bond will correct all faults. Trust in the Moon Goddess.”

“How do you know so much about him?”

“I have my ways; granny still has connections, and I have cameras all over the city. I have seen a lot over the years.”

“So does Marcus know about all this?”

Zoe nodded. “Marcus is also a Hybrid but just a normal Wolf and Vampire Hybrid.”

“How does he hide it?”

“Well for starters he drinks blood, so for the most part to the werewolves he smells human. After a while your eye colour will dim a bit, but he wears contacts mostly. His bloodline isn’t like yours, your eyes will probably stay like your fathers growing brighter with hunger and strong emotion, but you can try contacts if you’re that worried. Your father wore contacts before we discovered what he was.” Just as I was about to say something else, we heard

a commotion upstairs racing up the steps.
I ran towards the entrance of the diner, where I could hear growling and things being smashed around. Stopping when I got to the counter, I saw Marcus had Lily pushed behind him. Zane was fighting with Alpha David and his Beta. Quickly racing forward, I grabbed Michael and threw him into a table. Alpha David turned. Knocking Zane out of the way, he stalked towards me. Lily screamed loudly, distracting me just as David punched me, knocking me to the ground. Zane and Marcus were quick to jump at him though, forcing him back before he could lunge at me. Getting to my feet, I grabbed Lily and pushed her towards the back of the diner. As I went to go help Zane and Marcus, I heard Zoe walk out from behind the counter, a shotgun in her hand pointed straight at the Alpha. She cocked the gun. David froze, a snarl on his face. His claws extended and his canines elongated.
“I won’t miss, mutt. Now get out of my diner.” David growled at her, and Michael got to his feet and moved to David’s side. He went to take a step closer to Zoe, who had Lily behind her. She lifted the barrel, so it was directly pointed at his head. “You think you can take my daughter away, my heir. I’m her father?”
“Your daughter? How dare you? She isn’t your daughter. Being her father implies you cared for her and raised her. The only thing you ever did was

push your responsibilities on to me. You are nothing but a coward. Lily is

mine, I won't let you take her," I screamed, outraged that he thinks he can

even give himself the title of being her father.

Michael gripped David's arm, trying to pull him towards the door and out of

sight of the gun that Zoe held. They reluctantly leave.

"This isn't over you will pay for this; I will get her back." David sneered from the door.

"Pfft, you can try, but you don't scare me. You are delusional if you think I

will just hand her over to the likes of you. Mum would be disgusted in you.

You're no Alpha, you're weak and pathetic."

David growled at me, trying to push past Michael. I must have hit a nerve.

Fuck him, who does he think he is suddenly wanting to claim parental

rights. The Alpha and Beta Michael left in a fit of rage; David smashed the

glass doors, sending glass everywhere on his way out.

Zane came over, placing a hand on my shoulder. "We should get back before

he sends for back up. Reid wants to come get you."

"Tell him no. We are leaving anyway, we can meet him at home."

"Yes, Luna."

Picking up Lily, I turned back towards Zoe, who placed a kiss on Lily's head.

"You should come with us; it won't be safe here." Zoe shook her head.

"I have Marcus here, and I'm not some defenceless little old lady. I can hold

my own, Ari. I refuse to be scared out of my home."

Marcus got a broom and started cleaning up the broken glass with a broom.

Embracing him in a hug, I said my goodbyes. As I was walking through the

busted door, I heard a low growl from behind me. Reid was standing there, glaring at Marcus. Marcus growled back, shocking me. I always thought of him as human, so it was quite shocking to him growl at someone, especially an Alpha. He must feel comfortable being himself around me now that I knew. I sort of understand why he remained hidden. This city isn't the safest for Hybrids. I'm his best friend, he shouldn't have felt the need to hide it from me, but now I am seeing him in a totally new light. Reid took a step forward, reached out his arm and grabbed Marcus. I stepped between the two of them and glared at Alpha Reid. "Move Aria."

"You are not going to touch him; he has done nothing wrong."

"He is a Hybrid, fucking move." He growled, shoving me to the side.

Spinning around, I passed Lily to Zane before jerking Reid back by his jacket, who had tackled Marcus to the ground.

"I said no. If you want to kill him, you can go through me first. Marcus is my best friend. I won't allow you to hurt him."

Marcus got up and went back to sweeping, seemingly unfazed by Reid's

show of dominance. Marcus could probably hold his own, but he isn't very confrontational and would rather diffuse a situation. The only time I had seen

him get angry or hit anyone was when I had customers being inappropriate or

vile towards Zoe or me, but Reid needs to get over his aversion to Hybrids seeing as I am one.

Storming off, Reid got in the car that was parked on the curb, slamming the

door behind him. Zane took Lily in his car, while I got in Alpha Reid's. "Why are you here? I told Zane to tell you to wait at home."
"You're my mate. As if I am going to sit at home like some house husband while my mate is in trouble, and then I show up and you're cuddling up to some Hybrid."
"Really, you're jealous? That's what this is about? Well, I'm afraid to burst your bubble, but you and Zane are more his type. Marcus is gay, and he is my best friend, so grow up. I don't know why you hate Hybrids so much, but if I catch you trying to hurt Marcus, Lily and I will leave, and then you will have no mate."

Chapter 18

Aria's POV

Driving back to the Pack house, Reid didn't say much. He seemed to be thinking about what I said. After about ten minutes, he finally spoke. "Do you know why I hate Hybrids?"
Shaking my head, I looked over at him. Reid was staring out the window.
"No, I don't know," I said. Reid thought for a few moments before speaking again.
"I wasn't an only child. I had an older brother: his name was Alexander. He was 4 years older than me, and he was meant to take over the Pack when my father died. He never got the chance, though. When I was fourteen, my father

took me away on Pack business with him. My mother and older brother stayed behind. Alexander was meant to go, but I begged my father to take me instead. We were gone for three days when my father got called through the Pack link saying the Pack house was under attack. We shifted and ran all the way home. My father screamed in agony every time he felt a Pack members link break, but he didn't stop running because he knew his Pack needed him. When we arrived at the Pack house..." Reid went quiet, trying to find the words to express what haunts him. "When we reached the Pack house, Pack members bodies were strewn across the place. Men, women, even the children that didn't have a chance to get to the bunkers. All ripped to pieces, their blood staining the soil where they lay. My brother was fighting for his life and the Packs, but we were outnumbered. My father screamed, clutching his chest. It was the most agonised scream I had ever heard. I felt like my chest was being crushed. I will never forget the feeling of my mother's link breaking. My brother dropped to the ground feeling it too, feeling my father's heartbreak through the Pack link. I ran towards my brother to help when a man put his hand through his chest, ripping his heart out right in front of me. I killed the man, ripping him limb from limb. The last image of my brother has haunted my dreams ever since..." Reid's hand clenched into tight fists white-knuckled he continued.

“When my father managed to get to his feet, he became crazed at the loss of his mate, my mother. The loss of my brother was the last straw. He slaughtered every single one of them. We lost half the pack that day. My father wiped out the entire other Pack, every single person. He didn’t care if they were involved or not, he went after them anyway. They were a rival Pack, my father had a dispute with them a few weeks before. They waited for my father to leave so they could attack, and they enlisted the help of the Hybrids. I hate them for what they did, not just the fact that they killed my family but for what they did to my mother. The Hybrids ripped her to pieces. It took us hours to find her entire body. “My father went on a rampage and killed every Hybrid in the city with my help. I promised him I would kill every Hybrid I came across, promised to keep the Pack safe. A few years after, when I was sixteen, my father took his own life. My father couldn’t handle the pain of losing his mate. I found him hanging from the ceiling in my office. Losing a mate will send a wolf crazy or make them bitter and angry. My father went crazy and killed himself, leaving the Pack to me. That’s why I hate Hybrids. It doesn’t matter if they weren’t involved. I have seen what they can do, I know the destruction they are capable of.” I sat silently listening to everything he said, letting it sink in. He didn’t look

at me or add anything else. Reid just sat there gazing out the window
trapped
in his memories. Reaching over, I grabbed his hand. Reid ripped his
hand out
of my grip, and a growl escaped his lips, making me flinch and pull my
hand
back. We had pulled up outside the Pack house. Opening the door,
Reid
walked inside, slamming the car door behind him, leaving me sitting in
the
car. I felt terrible not because he rejected me but because he had his
own
secrets, his own pain. A pain I couldn't take from him. Feeling through
the
bond, I could feel how hard he struggles with himself being around
me, but at
the same time, I could feel how much he rejects those feelings,
pushing them
aside for me. I felt guilty. I know I didn't kill his family, but that didn't
make
me feel any less guilty knowing that my kind were the ones to cause
his
heartbreak and knowing I was also making him break the promise he
made to
his father.

After a few minutes lost in my own thoughts, Zane came over, opening
the
door. He waited for me to get out. "Let him calm down. He doesn't
mean to
push you away."

"I know," I said, hopping out of the car. Zane looked at me, worriedly.
"I'm
fine, Zane. Reid is the one that needs you, not me." Zane nodded his
head,
following his Alpha.

Walking into the Pack house, I find Lily, who is in the kitchen talking to

Wendy excitedly about the upcoming celebrations. Looking at Lily, it made me think of what Reid said about losing a mate. How it sends a wolf crazy. Alpha David lost his mate, my mother. I could, for the first time, understand what he went through. I know if something were to happen to Reid, it would kill me. The mate bond was that strong, it would be like losing a piece of your soul. How was David able to live with it? I couldn't forgive all the horrid things he had done, how he rejected Lily, but for the first time, I did understand it. He blamed her even though she didn't deserve that blame. For the first time since my mother died, I felt sorry for him, but sorry doesn't erase what he has done. Sorry doesn't make me think any better of him. I just hope one day Lily could have a father figure in her life that adores her. But if not, she always has me. I will always make sure she knows that above everything. That her happiness will always be more important than everything else that life throws at us. But to keep her safe I will have to try to speak to her father. They may never build a relationship like I used to hope they would when she was baby, but I also didn't want to risk Reid's Pack, our Pack, if we were to go to war. I know Reid would go to war if we needed to keep her safe. I just hope it doesn't come to that, and if there is any way to stop it, I promise Lily I will try. After all, as much as I can't stand David, it doesn't change the fact that

he is her father. Lily may want nothing to do with him now, but that could change when she is older, and if there is a chance they could build a relationship, I will have to make sure she gets that chance. So, for now, I need to find a way to defuse the situation before it becomes out of hand.

Walking over to Lily and Wendy, they walked out the back onto the patio area that overlooked the pool and backyard. Following behind them, the first thing I noticed was heaps of Pack members. There were about a hundred people in the yard setting up long tables and placing out chairs. There were men setting up what looked like a DJ station and dance floor. Women were happily chatting amongst themselves, setting the tables. A large group of teenagers were hanging lights from the trees and on the huge gazebos. How did they set up all this in the time while we were gone? Everyone seemed buzzed and excited about the ceremony. I wondered if they would feel so excited when they discovered they have a Hybrid for a Luna. I suddenly felt inadequate. I was a noone, now I'm expected to help lead the Pack. Wendy, noticing me, walks over, wrapping an arm around my shoulders.

"This is all for you, Luna, you and Lily. The Pack members are excited to meet their Luna finally. We never thought Reid was going to find his mate. He has always been so closed off to everyone until you came into the picture, so everyone is naturally curious."

Her words only made me more anxious. Stepping away from her, I made my way back inside. Deciding to go upstairs, I walked into Reid's room, not really knowing where else I could hide from everyone. I looked for a linen cupboard, wanting to take a shower, but couldn't find one after a few minutes. I walked back downstairs to the hallway. Walking past the bedrooms before coming to Alpha Reid's office, next to it was a cupboard and opening it, I grabbed a towel out. As I was about to turn to walk back upstairs, I heard talking. "Calm down Alpha, if you go back and kill him, Aria will never forgive you." "I don't fucking care. I hate them, hate them all." I quickly dropped my head going to walk off back to the stairs when the floor creaked. Looking through the gap of the door. I made eye contact with Reid, who was glaring directly at me. His canines protruding, his face was distorted with anger. I couldn't seem to pull my gaze away from him. His anger was strong, thick, reaching through the bond. I suddenly felt like my blood was boiling, making me feel hot. His anger was burning hot and unrelenting. Zane stepped into my line of vision, breaking my eye contact. He looked at me, smiling sadly before closing the door. Running to the room, I locked the door before walking into the bathroom. His anger scared me. I felt frightened of what he might do if I pissed him off. I knew he can't kill me without destroying himself, but that didn't make me

fear him any less in this moment. Jumping in the shower, I turned the taps on, washing my body with the shower gel and a loofa. I washed myself slowly, not wanting to get out of the shower. My muscles were tense, and I was on edge. After about five minutes, I heard the door handle to the bedroom break. It dropped to the floor with a soft thud. My heart skipped a beat, and my stomach dropped when I heard the door handle to the bathroom twist before opening. Dread consuming me, I froze. Reid's imposing frame walked in. Watching him, I had the sudden urge to not turn my back on him. He was still angry. Reid stripped his clothes off before stepping into the shower and turning on the other showerhead at the other end on the wall. Putting his head under the hot stream of water, I watched his shoulders relax, and he let out a breath. I quickly washed my hair before turning my own shower off. Grabbing my towel that was sitting on the sink basin, I quickly wrapped it tightly around my body. When I looked up, Reid was staring at me, his jaw clenched and eyes blazing. Rushing out of the bathroom, I quickly closed the door behind me. Sitting on the bed was a dark aqua coloured dress. The dress was beautiful, it was a mid-thigh off-shoulder silhouette with a plunging neckline which would show a lot of cleavage. Picking up the dress, I stared at it. I couldn't

remember the last time I wore a dress, maybe when I was a little girl. I wouldn't usually wear something so revealing. Next to the dress was a blue suit, which must be what Reid will be wearing. Wrapping the towel tighter, I went to the draw and pulled out some underwear. The dress wouldn't allow for a bra, so I slipped my panties on, just as the door opened. Wendy and Christine excitedly stepped in. "You like the dress?" asked Christine excitedly. "It's gorgeous but don't you think it's a bit revealing?" "Nonsense, it will look great. Come on, let's get you changed," said Christine grabbing my hand, pulling me from the room and down the stairs to her room. Christine was wearing a lilac floor-length dress. Wendy was wearing a strapless blue mid-length dress that flared out at the bottom. Both of them looked stunning.

Chapter 19

Aria's POV

Wendy and Christine didn't waste any time; they excitedly did my hair and make-up. I just let them do what they wanted. There wasn't any point in trying to argue with them, I had more pressing issues consuming me. How were Reid and I going to get along when he had so much anger and hatred towards things that were out of my control? I can't change what I am, but I won't stand for him, making me fear him. I have always been submissive to

how mine and Lily's life turned out, taking it as it comes. I'm not willing to sit and take it anymore. I know who I am now. More importantly, I know who I want to become, and that's not a person who gets pushed aside and walked all over. Only I can control who I am supposed to be, and standing there and taking blow after blow didn't work in the past. So, learning from those mistakes, I refuse to devalue myself for the sake of pleasing others or fearing the reactions of those who won't agree. Lily needs to know it's not normal hiding from everyone, not normal to fear everyone, and the only way I can get her to see her own strength is to display it myself. I was brought out of all-consuming thoughts after about an hour of Wendy fiddling with my hair and makeup when they asked me to get changed into the dress. The dress fit like a glove, though I must admit I wasn't comfortable with the length, but they insisted it wasn't too short. Slipping the black heels on, I stood in front of the mirror. Wendy had curled my long hair and put it half up half down, the curls raining down to the middle of my back. I had to admit they did a really good job. I looked nice. I looked how a Luna should look. Standing there, staring at myself in the mirror, I had a newfound confidence. I was starting to become excited about the celebrations. Today may not have been the greatest in terms of Reid and I getting along, but I

pushed those thoughts aside. Even if he chooses to ignore me or not even show up, I will manage on my own. I won't let the Pack see what a nervous wreck I am on the inside. Just smile, fake it until you make it, I guess. Walking out into the foyer, Lily comes bounding up to me. She had a pink frilly dress on that went to her feet. Her blonde curls shaping her angelic little face to the middle of her back and white sandals on. She looked like a little princess.

"You look pretty Ari," she said excitedly, pulling on my curls gently. I smiled down at her.

"So, do you, Lily, just like a princess." Lily laughed excitedly, spinning in a circle to show me her dress, the bottom flaring out as she spun around.

Holding my hand out, Lily took it, and we walked towards the back yard.

Beta Zane walked out with Christine and Wendy. The girls, noticing some Pack members, ran to go chat and mingle, leaving me there holding Lily's hand. Zane stepped over in his black suit putting his arm out for me to take.

"Luna." He nodded. "You look great, Ari."

"Thanks, you scrub up nice yourself," I replied, smiling. Lily, Zane, and I walked over to the end of the patio. The entire yard had been transformed.

Fairy lights shone brightly from the trees, making the whole yard glow. There were small fire pits scattered around, the tables were all set up and decorated.

Music was playing loudly. There were tables of food. Lily looked excitedly at

a group of kids around her age that were dancing on the dance floor that had been set up in the middle of the yard. Noticing her excitement, I nudged her.

“Go play, Lily, it’s alright.”

“But what about you?”

“I’ll be fine. I have Zane, and I’m sure Alpha Reid will be down soon,” I answered, not so sure on the last part. I watched Lily run off towards the

crowds of people. Every Pack member was here. Everyone standing around

talking, dancing, drinking, and eating. The atmosphere was very relaxed and

happy, carefree. Everyone was enjoying themselves.

“Ready?” asked Zane.

“Yep, as ready as I’ll ever be.”

Zane led me down the stairs. He introduced me to a lot of people. I could tell

some thought it was weird that Zane was showing me around and introducing

me to everyone instead of Alpha Reid. But no one said anything. They all

seemed excited to meet me, and I was just as excited to meet the other Pack

members. After a few hours, I did start to worry that Reid wasn’t going to

make an appearance. Pack members whispered amongst themselves. I even

heard someone call me an unwanted mate. I didn’t let it bother me, choosing

to ignore the whispers. Their opinion of me didn’t matter, and I didn’t care to

hear it either.

Letting go of Zane’s arm, I walked over to the bar area and grabbed another

drink. The gentlemen behind the bar passed me a flute of champagne. He had

red hair that jutted out everywhere, making him appear younger than he was.

He had a strong build but wasn't as tall as most male werewolves. He wore

black slacks and a t-shirt that had a picture of a tie on it.

"So, you're the Luna. It's a pleasure to finally meet you. My name is Damien." He bowed his head slightly.

"Nice to meet you, Damien. I'm Aria."

"Where is that Alpha of mine? Haven't seen him all night."

"He is somewhere, I'm not quite sure either." He nodded in understanding. I

could tell by the look on his face that he had heard the whispers. Does everyone think I'm the unwanted mate? As the night went on, I started noticing the women kept glancing or smiling sadly at me. Like they felt sorry

for me. I didn't want their sadness or pity. I wanted to feel like one of them.

Everyone was polite but didn't go out of their way to talk to me. Wendy and

Christine came over, finally finding me sitting on a stool at the bar.

This time

I was drinking red wine. Wendy took the glass from me, taking a sip before

she passed it back to me.

"I'll have that one please, Damien," she told him. He quickly handed her a

glass as well, and she motioned for me to follow her. We sat at one of the

tables. Watching everyone, I saw Lily dancing with a group of kids on the

dancefloor. Laughing amongst themselves. Zane came over with a huge tray

of food. There were various types of meats and cheeses, and we tucked in

eating, watching everyone. After we were done, Zane put his hand out for

Christine. She happily took it, and they made their way to the dance floor.

Wendy's mate also came and grabbed her. I watched them excitedly.

But

after a while, I found I was the only one still sitting at the table. I didn't mind,

I was happy just watching. I knew it wasn't normal for the Alpha not to be at

a ceremony he had organised. I tried to reach him through the bond, but he

pushed me out.

When Wendy and Christine came back over, they both put their hands out.

Gripping their hands, they pulled me up before dragging me to the dancefloor

with them. Feeling a bit giddy from the wine, I joined them, dancing with

them and laughing at Zane, who was trying to impersonate Mick Jagger's

strut. The whole night seemed to be passing by, but I didn't care. I was

having fun dancing with everyone, dancing with Lily whose face was red

with exertion.

After a few hours of dancing, everyone was clearly intoxicated and there was

still no sign of Reid. There was a commotion at the end of the dance floor.

Zane walked off to go deal with it. When the voices got louder, though, I

decided to walk over to see what was going on. Three Pack members were

arguing, throwing punches. Zane was trying to separate them. They were too

intoxicated and weren't listening to his commands, caught up in fighting each

other. A crowd had started to grow around the idiots that were fighting. I saw

Zane mind-link the Alpha presumably, but just as his eyes regained focus, he

was punched making him stumble. There was a collective gasp from the

crowd. Walking over, I put my hand out to help him up.

“You okay?”

“Yes, Luna, I’m fine. I will deal with this go back to enjoying your night.” I

went to walk away when one of the men threw a punch, forcing the other

man to stumble into me, knocking me to the ground.

“You fucking twit, show some respect to your Luna. Apologise now,” Zane

ordered. Getting to my feet, I dusted some leaves and dirt off my dress.

“Luna? Reid doesn’t want a Hybrid for a mate. He isn’t even here; she is no

Luna.”

“Watch your mouth, Tom. She is your Luna. Now apologise.” The man scoffed at me, rolling his eyes childishly. Lily came over wondering what

was going on.

“That’s enough, there are children present,” I spoke up, looking towards Zane

and the other man.

“See, that isn’t a Luna. She is weak.”

This bloke was really starting to piss me off. One of the other men threw

another punch, and it started all over again. Zane was trying to separate them.

Reaching through the mind link, “Reid can you come down here, please. If

not for me, do it for Zane. Things are getting out of control.”

Reid never replied. I know he heard me; I felt the connection go through. I

could even feel him listening. Zane managed to get them separated.

People

were talking in small groups, agreeing with the man about my

authority or

lack thereof.

The man from earlier, the one who knocked Zane down, stopped

fighting.

Walking towards me, he stopped directly in front of me. I could smell

the

bourbon on his breath. His white shirt had been torn from the fighting,

he had

a cut on his lip, and his blue jeans had blood on them from the other

man. He

had leaves in his blonde hair, which was all matted. Christine was

right about

one thing; having so many Pack warriors under one roof would be a

disaster

waiting to happen. The amount of testosterone in the air was

ridiculous.

The man smiled cruelly. I could tell he was up to no good. I also knew

if I

backed down, he would see me as weak and no one in the Pack

would respect

me. The man started jabbing me in the chest with his index finger.

Zane went

to walk over, but I put my hand up waving him off.

“You’re not fit to be Luna. Even the Alpha agrees because he isn’t

even

here.”

Some of the Pack members were nodding their heads, agreeing with

him.

Looking over at Lily, she was scared, worried I was going to get hurt.

When

the man jabbed me in the chest with his finger again, I grabbed his

hand. His

eyes widened, and he growled at me. Angry, I started twisting his

hand. I

bent it back, he tried to manoeuvre out of my grip, but I was stronger. Twisting his wrist until I heard a sickening crack. Snapping his wrist, it hung

at a weird angle. Everyone took a step back. I was pissed off. He may be

drunk, but that's no reason to be disrespectful. I could feel my anger boiling

bubbling in my veins. I knew my eyes were blazing, my fangs elongated. The

man let out a shriek as his wrist broke, clutching it to his chest. He snapped it

back into place, then glared at me.

"You bitch." He sneered, lunging at me. I stepped out of his way. He landed

face-first in the dirt. That didn't stop him lunging again. I don't know if it was his embarrassment or his ego, but he kept lunging trying to gain an

advantage. Trying to land a blow. I was too quick, my reflexes were faster

than his. It didn't help that he was completely shitfaced either. After the third

punch he tried to land, I had enough. Gripping him by the collar of his shirt, I

shoved him away, making him stumble into someone. Getting to his feet, I

yelled at him.

"Enough!! Sit down and shut up." My voice echoed through the trees surrounding the yard. The man instantly dropped to his knees and went silent.

I didn't realise how much authority I put behind what I said. I used an Alpha

voice, one I didn't know I contained. Only realising the extent of my command when I looked up. The entire Pack was on the knees with their

heads tilted to the side, baring their necks in submission. The whole yard had

gone silent. Even Beta Zane was on his knees, though he had a silly smirk on his face.

Looking around, I noticed Reid's imposing frame walking towards me.

He

looked over at the crowd of people on their knees at my feet. The man my

command was aimed at started shaking and whimpering when Reid approached. Reid looked handsome in his navy-blue suit. Placing his hand

around my waist, he pulled me into him. He gently placed a kiss on my cheek, his earlier anger completely gone. Now he just looked shocked but

proud. Using his Alpha voice, he commanded the whimpering man that was

at my feet. "Apologise to your Luna now." The man quickly apologised, stumbling over the words. Everyone let out a breath.

"You may rise," he said to the crowd. Everyone started to get up from their

positions on the ground. Seizing my hand, Reid pulled me towards the small

podium at the front. Up on the podium, Reid pulled me to his side, his fingertips rubbing circles on the small of my back.

"Well everyone, by now you have all met your Luna. You would also have

distinguished by now that she is Hybrid. Despite what I have said in the past

about their kind, I expect you all to show her the respect she deserves as the

Alpha Female. I'm sure she will put you in your place like earlier if you do

cross her." Raising his glass which I didn't even see him grab on the way to

the podium, "To the Luna," he said.

In unison, everyone replied before cheering. Having Alpha Reid beside me,

no one dared to speak out against me, but after the little show earlier, I think they realised my ability, and I had asserted my authority. The crowd sipped their drinks. Alpha Reid waited for the cheers to stop before speaking again.

Waving his hand in the air, everyone fell quiet.

“Now Lily, I would like you to please step forward and come to me.” I watched Lily excitedly skip up to the stage. Her pink dress was now covered

in dirt and grass stains from playing, but she still looked adorable. The crowd

watched as Alpha Reid took a knee, coming down to her height. She smiled

happily gazing back at him.

“Place out your hand for me, Lily.” Lily raised her palm up in front of Alpha

Reid. He clasped it gently between his own. “Now Lily I would like you to

repeat after me.” Lily nodded looking out at the crowd shyly.

Lily repeated after Alpha Reid, her voice was calm, and she didn’t stumble

over the words. “I, Lily Violet Blackwood, accept the Blood Moon Pack and

accept you, Reid, as my Alpha.” The Alpha took a small knife and sliced

Lily’s finger before slicing his own hand down the palm. It was quite unusual

to have a child be brought into another Pack. Usually, this was for adult

newcomers or rogues that weren’t killed, but a child was pretty much unheard

of. If Lily were my child, there would be no need for him to slice her finger

because she would have been a Pack member the moment Reid marked me.

Children were usually born into a Pack. Since we left ours, this was the only way for her to become part of the Blood Moon Pack. I was grateful that Reid didn't slash her palm like he did his, though. Lily's finger would heal quickly with her wolf gene. By morning, it would probably be gone. Lily didn't flinch when he pressed his palm to her fingertips, but she did gasp when she felt the Pack link merge, linking her to everyone. The audience all cheered excitedly, and for the first time, I felt emotional not because I was sad but proud of how far Lily had come. She was no longer the scared little girl, like in our old Pack. Here she was vibrant, happy, and everyone loved her. Lily started jumping up and down, not being able to contain her excitement. "We are home now, Ari; we have a home." Picking her up, I cuddled into her, hiding my tears in her shoulder.

Chapter 20

Aria's POV

After Lily's Pack initiation, the party went on for a few more hours. Reid went off to talk to other Pack members. Looking for Lily, I found her asleep next to one of the fire pits. Lily was laying on a chair cosied up next to the fire. Taking a seat next to her, I took off my heels because my feet were absolutely killing me. I felt relieved taking them off, rubbing my heel. A few minutes passed, I decided to pick Lily up and put her to bed. Getting up with

Lily in my arms, I looked around for Reid, but he was still busy talking to

Zane and Damien at the bar. Walking up the stairs, I made my way inside and

to Lily's room, placing her on the bed before removing her sandals.

Tucking

her in, I sat on the end of her bed. Tonight had been a long night. I still wasn't sure where I stood with Reid, because as soon as Lily's little ceremony was over, he disappeared into the crowd.

Feeling tired myself, I climbed in beside Lily, pulling the covers up. I snuggled into her tiny frame. It didn't take long before I fell asleep.

I felt like I had only just fallen into a deep sleep when I was jostled awake by

movement. I felt familiar tingles running up my back and legs. Reid's familiar scent hitting me, I nestled into his chest. Reid had found me and had

taken it upon himself to put me in bed. Leaning into his warmth, I fell back

asleep. I vaguely remember him unzipping my dress, but I was too tired to

care. The next morning, I woke to find Reid leaning over me, intently staring.

Opening my eyes to see his face so close made me jump in fright.

"Good morning," he said, before pushing his face into the crook of my neck,

inhaling my scent.

"You seem in a better mood."

"Hmm," was the only reply I got. His hands running along my body before

slowing just under my bare breasts. Reid's palm ran up and over my nipple,

causing me to shiver and nipple to harden.

"So receptive," his deep voice whispered just below my ear. I could feel his

breath on my neck. Reid sucked on my mark, sending pleasure all through

my body straight to my core, making me lean into him. I could feel him

chuckle against my skin, his lips curving up into a smile against my skin at my reaction.

Turning to face him, I placed my hand on his hips and pulled him towards me. Reid's hand running along my side then my arse before pulling my leg up, so it was draped over his hip. Just as his lips smashed into mine, the door burst open, and Lily bounced into the room. Reid groaned in annoyance, disappointed. I could only laugh at his reaction at being cock blocked. Lily, unaware of what she nearly ran in on, jumped on the end of the bed, jumping up down like it was a trampoline. "Wake up, wake up," she squealed. Reid rolled on to his back.

"And why must we get up?"

"I want to play outside. Zane's setting up a jumping castle in the backyard for me and Amber."

Reid shook his head. "So why must we get up?" he groaned.

"So you can play too." I heard him mumble something annoyed.

"We will meet you down there, Lil," he told her. Lily bounced off the bed,

jumping to the floor with a thud and went to run out the door when Reid

called to her. "Shut the door." Lily obeyed before darting back down the

stairs. Turning back to me, he nuzzled my neck. "Now where were we?" I

laughed, pushing him away.

"I'm having a shower."

"No... why? Stay here." He pouted.

"No, I'm going to play with the kids, go on the jumping castle," I told him,

walking into the bathroom.

“I have something you can jump on,” Reid sang out from his position on the bed.

“Tempting, but I’m already up,” I sang back, turning the shower on. Grabbing my toothbrush, I quickly brushed my teeth, trying to rid the dry

taste in my mouth from the wine last night. Washing my hair, I felt Reid’s

hands slide up my hips before he stepped in behind me, hogging all the water.

“There is another shower head over there. Move over,” I said, trying to get

the soap out, that was now burning my eyes.

“I’m good here,” I heard him laugh before he pulled me into his chest under

the stream of water. Quickly turning around and washing the soap off and

rinsing my eyes, I looked up at him. The obsidian eyes of his wolf looked

back at me; he had a sly smile on his lips. “What are you doing, Ryder?”

“Reid said you want to play.” His voice was deeper, rougher than Reid’s. His

eyes flickered before going back to their normal silver colour.

“Your wolf is a horn dog.” Reid laughed before pulling me back into him. I

could feel his rock-hard erection pushing into my stomach. “Stop Reid, we

have to go meet Lily.”

He ignored me, nipping at my neck before his hands found my ass, running

his fingers to just under my thighs before he lifted me. Forcing my legs to

wrap around his waist, he pushed me into the shower wall holding me in

place. I could feel his erection pressing against my core. Excitement pooled in my stomach.

“You sure about that?” he asked, not giving me a chance to answer as his lips

found mine. His tongue brushed my bottom lip. I parted my lips, and he

plunged his tongue into my mouth, exploring every inch of it. His hot tongue

playing with mine made me moan out, wrapping my arms around his neck. I

kissed him back. He pushed his hips up, his cock pressing between my wet

folds, making him groan into my mouth.

Pulling him into me with my legs that were wrapped around his hips, the tip

of his rock-hard cock pressed inside, stretching my tight walls. He inched

himself in, giving me time to adjust and stretch around his large size.

Pushing

the length of his thick cock in slowly until he was completely in. His lips

found my neck as he pulled out before thrusting back in, making me gasp.

“So tight,” he whispered, as he pulled back out before thrusting back in even

harder. Holding onto his shoulders, I could feel my pussy clench around him,

my juices coating his thick cock. Pleasure rippled throughout my body as he

plunged his cock repeatedly into my tight pussy, making me scream out in

pleasure. His fingers digging into my thighs only made me wetter. His flesh

pounding against mine. I could feel my orgasm building as my walls tightened around him. Digging my nails into his shoulders, I bit into the soft

flesh of his neck, making him groan against my shoulder as his cock plunged into my wet pussy repeatedly. Pulling back his lips smashing against my own, his breathing became rapid as I found my release. Reid slowed his movements while I rode out my orgasm, making me see stars as my pussy clenched around his cock. Finding his release, he groaned leaning into me, pushing his cock deeper into me. I felt his hot cum shoot into me before he came to a stop, resting his forehead against my shoulder. Letting go of my legs, I slid down the shower wall, standing on my feet. Reid pulled me towards him, wrapping his arms around my shoulders. "Come on, let's get cleaned up and go downstairs," he said before kissing the top of my head.