

ClawMoon Pack

Bethany

Once Bella and I are in the SUV with Alpha Calvin's men I finally allow myself to breathe. We're safe now, I may not know these men personally but if Brooke trusts them to come and get us then I know we'll be safe.

I fed and changed Bella before we left so she should nap soon. One of the warriors Jake is driving while Gamma Jack sits up front next to him. Callum, David, and Scott are sitting in the row in front of me and John is sitting in the same row as me with Bella in between us.

The closer we get to my new home the more I seem to calm down. I can't wait to see Brooke and I can't wait to not feel alone anymore. I'm pulled out of my thoughts by Bella crying as she stirs from her sleep. I check the time to realize we have been on the road for 4 hours already and I'm internally grateful for how quickly the time has gone.

"Shh shh, baby girl."

"Beth, there is a diner 5 minutes up the road would you like to stop for something to eat and to see to Bella?" Gamma Jack calls from the front of the SUV. Honestly, I don't want to stop, I just want to get to Brooke but Bella needs changing and feeding so we need to take a quick break.

"That would be great thankyou Gamma Jack."

"Beth just Jack is fine, we are family now and there's no need for formality outside of pack business." I send him a gentle smile through the rearview mirror and nod agreeing. Having him say we are family before we even know each other actually means a lot to me.

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Brooke has told me on many occasions that everyone is family there and I think I'm starting to see what she means.

I start stirring from my sleep to the sound of Ryan's voice gently flowing through the car. 1

"Beth, we will be arriving on our pack lands in just a few minutes."

I start to slowly sit up while leaning over Bella's car seat to check on her but she's not there, what the fuck?

"Where's Bella?" I shout out louder than I probably needed to but I'm instantly panicking.

"She's fine Beth she's here with me, look." I look to the other side of the car seat and Bella is giggling on Gamma Jack's lap as he blows raspberries on her tummy and I instantly feel the biggest relief.

"She woke up about 20 minutes ago crying bless her heart and we didn't want to wake you up but John is not the best with babies so we swapped seats and we've been playing blowing raspberries ever since."

He's beaming while talking to me and I can tell he's already got a soft spot for Bella, not that it's hard to that girl has everyone she meets wrapped around her little finger in seconds including me.

"Bella Wella" He sings out to her as she continues to giggle away. "Oh, Ashley is going to love her." He shouts out laughing.

"Who's Ashley?"

"Oh, he's my mate. You'll meet him when we arrive and I know miss Bella here is going to melt his heart the minute he lays eyes on her."

"Your mate is a male... I've never met any same-sex mates before,



that's cool" I give him the first genuine smile I've managed all day.

"Weren't there any same-sex mates at your pack?"

"No, not that I knew of anyway, I can't wait to meet Ashley though." His beaming smile is back on his face as John announces our arrival from the front of the SUV.

Talking with Jack kept me distracted and for a moment I forgot what was happening but the minute I'm pulled out of it by John announcing our arrival I instantly tense up. I can't wait to see Brooke but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't scared, this is a new pack, a new life and I haven't got a clue what I'm doing.

Jack steps out of the SUV and as soon as I'm out he hands me Bella which I'm grateful for. I keep my head down looking to the floor as we make our way around the SUV towards the packhouse entrance.

I look up expecting to meet Brooke's face but instead, I find the most beautiful brown eyes staring back at me. For a moment I seem to get lost in those eyes before things get awkward, I force myself to look away and finally, there she is, my beautiful sister is standing in the arms of a very large man that I can only assume is Alpha Calvin.

It feels like we've been looking at each other for hours but I know it's only been seconds and as if on cue we both run to each other and I can slowly feel myself crumbling. All the tears I've been holding back, all the pain I've felt screaming through my veins mixed with the realization that I'm not alone anymore is all too much.

As Brooke wraps her arms around me and for the first time since my mom woke me up, I finally feel safe and relaxed and it only encourages the tears I've been holding back to surface and spill uncontrollably down my face. Brooke tightens her hold on me, one of her arms wrapped around my back while her other hand is resting on

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Bella.

After a few minutes of us just holding on to each other, Brooke releases me and places a gentle kiss on both mine and Bella's heads. "I'm so glad your safe Beth. I always knew you were strong but getting yourself and Bella out of there, well I'm incredibly proud of you and I know mom, dad, Josh, and Harley would be too." She tries to hold back her tears as she's talking to me but I can see she's struggling.

"Bethany I'm Alpha Calvin, but please just call me Calvin. I'm so glad you're both here with us, I hope my men looked after you both?" He moves toward me as he talks to me and I expect him to maybe shake my hand but he doesn't, instead, he pulls me and Bella into a gentle hug. I would have thought it would feel awkward but it doesn't, it feels safe and it reassures me that everything's going to be fine.

"It's lovely to finally meet you Alpha... I mean Calvin. Thank you for sending your men for us and taking us in, are you sure this is ok? I don't want to cause you any trouble. I know I'm only 14 but I'm happy to take Bella and raise her if it is going to cause any problems for you? And your men have been amazing with us since the moment they arrived at the hotel." I assure him of the last part because I'm only being honest. 3

"Beth we are family and me, Brooke and every member of my pack are more than happy to have you here with us. In fact, we wouldn't have it any other way. From what Brooke has told me about you and the behavior I have seen you show in the last 48 hours I have no doubt you would be more than capable of raising Bella on your own 14 or not. But that's not going to happen, Beth, you are not alone anymore.

That being said I don't want you to think we are about to step on your toes, I understand you have a very special bond with Bella and I wouldn't dream of taking that away from you, so how about we all

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raise her together as a family yes?" I can't help the smile that rises upon my face as I nod agreeing with him.

"That would be perfect calv..." 1

"OMG look at you two, cute as a button!" I jump with fright as some guy starts pounding down the packhouse steps and straight toward me and Bella.

"Ashley, what did I say? Don't smother the poor girl, she just arrived!" I can see Jack running behind the guy and I quickly realize that this must be his mate that he told me about. 1

"Oh, I'm sorry girl, I've heard so much about you and I just couldn't wait any longer to meet you or this little cutie."

"Bethany please excuse my mate, he likes to get over-excited, very regular." He rolls his eyes while speaking to me and I can't help the giggle that leaves my mouth. It's the first laugh I've experienced in days and I have to admit it feels good. 1

"Oh, bore off square pants. Beth, I am Ashley, it is a pleasure to finally meet you. I've heard a lot about you."

"Haha Hi Ashley, it's lovely to meet you too, Jack told me about you on the way here." He pulls me into a hug before quickly letting me go.

"Oh, all bad things I hope." He winks my way and again I'm laughing at him. I've got a feeling we will become very good friends. 1

"Come on baby girls, let's get you both inside and settled." He wraps an arm around me and starts leading me up the steps, Brooke soon joins him as she reaches the other side of me.

As we are making our way inside the house, I can't help but notice that Alpha Calvin and the guy that I made eye contact with earlier

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seem to be mind-linking each other both looking pretty tense. It's none of my business so I choose to ignore it and continue to follow Ashley and Brooke as they start to lead me up the stairs.

"Cal I'm going to take Beth and Bella to see their rooms." 3

"Ok sweetheart, I just need to check something with Liam quickly, and I'll be right with you." They exchange a loving smile and we carry on up the stairs.

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