

Chapter 30

Epilogue – Meeting the Mate

Looking at my reflection in the mirror, I smoothed out my dark purple dress, which fell just above my knees. I slipped on a pair of black pumps, before pushing in a pair of pearl earrings.

"You look stunning, baby," his smooth voice groaned as he wrapped his arms around my waist. The familiar electricity began flying between the both of us as I sunk back into his muscular arms.

Turning around, I wrapped my arms around Chase's neck. "Hmm, thank you and you don't look too bad yourself."

It was true: he did look handsome, even after so many years of being together. His dark hair was styled to perfection and his face was flawless, free of any lines. He still looked the same as he did before, I suppose that was one of the advantages of being a werewolf. And his outfit did nothing but accentuate his muscular build. His crisp white shirt was tight over his arms and chest and his dark grey trousers hugged his legs perfectly. He looked delicious to say the least.

Then he did the most unexpected thing; he threw his head back and let out a roar of hearty- laughter, which sent my heart racing. He made me feel like a teenager nearly every day.

"Come on, we have to go now. Charis is probably here already," I told him, trying to act stern.

"Can we not stay up here for a little bit? I'm really not looking forward to meeting that boy and did I mention how beautiful you look right now."

"Chase! This was going to happen sooner or later and there's no point delaying it. I swear, if you don't go don't this minute, I'm cancelling our trip to Hawaii and you won't get any desert after dinner."

"Fine!" he pouted, even though his beautiful eyes were twinkling. "Let's go but if I don't like him, I tell him straight."

"No, you'll be polite at all times Chase, otherwise I promise you, you'll sleep on the couch tonight."

"But she's still a little kid, Soph!" he exclaimed.

"Honey, come here, sit down," I said, holding his hand and leading him to our bed. Once he sat down, I sat down on his lap. He wrapped his arms tightly around my waist, his body heat seeping through my dress. I brushed my lips briefly against his before gently holding his stubble-covered cheek. In my opinion, the stubble made him look even sexier.

"I know it's hard to let Charis go, she's our baby and especially your princess but you have to understand, she is nearly twenty and her mate loves her and she loves her mate. You know what I told you, the closer you pull them to you, the further they'll go. Besides, she's not going to stop being our daughter just because she found her mate. She's always going to be our baby. Now, she's happy so let's be happy for her."

"It's just so hard. She's our only daughter and my princess. It's hard to let her go. I love her so much."

"She knows that and she loves you too, even though you and Kaden were, and still are, over- protective of her."

He blinked his tears away, his eyes still glistening. "You're right. She'll still be our baby and she won't stop loving us even after she has her own family."

"I love you so much, Chase. You're an amazing father and an amazing husband."

"I really don't deserve somebody as perfect as you Sophia Carter. I really don't."

"Well, tough because you're stuck with me forever."

"Good, because I love you so much it hurts, baby."

"Come on, let's go now. I told Charis to bring Cameron for dinner at five thirty and it's nearly six already."

"Let's go then. I hope I don't shoot him."

"Connor, come on, it's dinner time," I said, as I knocked on the door of my third child. I tentatively opened the door, only to find playing games on his play station.

"But I want to play games," he whined.

"Well, Amelia is coming," I told him with a smirk. Immediately, he dropped his controller and turned to face me, with eyes full of excitement.

"Wai-really- I mean, why do I care? She's annoying," he frowned. Connor, my thirteen year old son, was one of the most stubborn person in this world. He was so stubborn that he would not admit his crush on Amelia, Alex's and Emma's daughter.

It turned out that Alex and Emma were really mates. Soon after our wedding, they both completed the mating process and two years later, had their first child, Amelia. I had Connor and his twin, Caleb, a year before they had Amelia and it certainly came as a surprise to find out that I was having another set of twins. But I suppose I didn't mind too much. Sure it was chaotic and loud, but at the end, it had been worth it.

"Yeah, sure," I said, sarcasm thick in my voice. "Anyway, it's dinner time so come down. Remember what dad and I said? You don't get privileges unless you do as you're told."

He sighed. "Yes, Mom. I'm coming."

"Good and get your brother too."

Five minutes later, an annoyed Connor and sleepy Caleb finally walked downstairs. Connor and Caleb could not more opposite. Connor was quiet and didn't really go out much at all and preferred to stay at home and play games or study. Caleb, however, was a social butterfly - he got on well with everybody and cared about his sports more than he did studies. They were complete polar opposites, even in appearances.

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Thankfully, Charis and Cameron weren't here just yet. She had sent me a text to inform me that they were going to be slightly late because they were stuck in traffic.

"Babe, can we try some of that lamb now? It smells delicious!" Chase asked, as he wrapped his arms protectively around me as if I was going to disappear from him. I placed my hand on his, drawing circles on it with my thumb as I nestled closer to him.

"Nope, don't you dare and that goes for you too as well. We're not having dinner until Charis and Cameron and Kaden and Alexis get here. Alex just texted me saying he's a few blocks away, so he's going to be here soon as well."

My husband and my boys groaned, as if they were little boys. Chase acted like a little boy anyway so sometimes it felt like I was living with three boys instead of one. Kaden had recently moved away to buy his own home a few blocks away. He lived close and often visited, something I was glad for because I couldn't live without my babies. He moved out because he was going to be Alpha soon and thought he

needed to be more independent but couldn't do it without moving out. Also, he had found his mate, a quiet, petite blonde, Alexis. She and Kaden were perfect for each other; Alexis was quiet and kept to herself while Kaden was over- protective and dominating and an Alpha. They balanced each other out perfectly. And Alexis was sweet and kind and caring - she would be perfect for the role of a Luna when Chase and I retired from our positions, which was soon, in about a month, on Kaden and Charis' birthday.

The doorbell rang, interrupting my conversation with Chase. Hurriedly, I made my way to the door but not before telling the boys to behave.

As I opened the door, I was met by a tiny-looking girl, wrapped up in her coat and scarf with a looming giant holding onto her protectively. "Alexis! How are you, sweetheart?" I asked, pulling her into a hug.

"I'm good, Mom. Hmm, let me guess, you cooked one of your famous lamb dishes? It smells fabulous."

"Why, thank you sweetheart, come on in."

Once they both entered the house, I pulled Kaden into a tight hug. He was tall now, and loomed over me like a skyscraper. I can't believe my little boy had grown up so much!

"You two should come by more often! I've missed you both so much!" I complained as I led them through to the kitchen, following the boys' scent.

"Mom, we came here yesterday for lunch. Did you forget? Woah, you're getting old!" Kaden joked.

Alexis smacked him at the back of his head while I lightly slapped his huge arms. "You don't say stuff like that to your Mom!"

"You tell him, Lex. I'm not going to speak to him now because like old people can't here, I won't be able to hear him either," I said with a fake scowl.

"What? No Mom, I swear I was joking! I'm sorry, please forgive me!" Kaden pleaded. I turned away from him so that he couldn't see the smile that was threatening to appear as we entered the kitchen.

Chase, having heard everything, laughed. "I heard what you did, son. That was low."

"I was joking! I swear!" he exclaimed.

"Sure, sure," Chase chuckled, giving him a brief hug.

"Mom! Can we eat the food now?! I'm kind of starving!" Caleb complained.

"Cale, how's it going, man?" Kaden said, high-fiving both his younger brothers.

"I'm hungry," he groaned moodily before putting his head down on the kitchen island. He was going through the teenage mood-swings right now and to say that it was a pain in the a*s would be an understatement. But we had dealt with two teenagers already, so I was sure we could survive this one too.

"Ah, he's beginning the phase too," Kaden said knowingly.

"Unfortunately," my sexy hunk replied, running a hand through his soft hair.

My oldest son laughed. "You still have a couple of years to go through and it gets worst, you should know."

"Tell me about it. I barely survived those horrendous years with you," Chase teased.

"What are you talking about, old man? I was the most well-behaved one out of everyone." "Old man? What are you talking about? I have plenty of life in me. Ask your Mom." Everybody groaned as I turned scarlet while Chase howled in laughter again. Before anybody could say anything else, the doorbell rang.

As I opened the door for the second time, I was surprised to see Alex, Emma, Amelia and their son, Aiden, at the door, along with Charis and her mate Cameron, who we were going to meet for the first time.

I greeted everybody with hugs and kisses, ushering them inside the house, away from the cold weather even though I knew the weather couldn't affect any of us as we were werewolves and had an abnormally high temperature.

When I finally walked back in, I couldn't say I was shocked to see Chase, Alex, Kaden, Connor, Caleb and Aiden sitting on a sofa or standing behind the sofa, all looking intimidating, sitting opposite poor Charis and Cameron. They all had their eyes on Cameron, glaring at him. I knew this would have happened - everybody was always over-protective of Charis. I knew my brother, Ryan, would have been there too if he didn't have a very pregnant Becca who didn't want to go out at all. Becca was pregnant with their fifth child and I was excited for my new nephew or niece.

"So... Cameron, is it?" Chase started, breaking the tension-filled silence. Chase didn't move

his eyes the slightest, keeping his posture firm and rigid. "How old are you? You look a bit older than my daughter."

Cameron did look a couple of years older. He was a handsome man. He had dark hair and dark eyes and was tall with a muscular built, like most werewolves.

"I'm twenty-four, Sir," he replied, not looking the slightest bit intimidated. In fact, he seemed relaxed as he wrapped his arm around Charis' waist and sat so close to her that she was practically on his lap.

"What's your rank in your pack?"

"I'm the Alpha of the Luna Pack," he replied firmly as Charis glanced at him with pride shining in her eyes. No wonder he had so much power

emitting from him, I thought. The Luna Pack was one the smallest yet strongest packs, where most of them were trained warriors.

"Do you love my daughter?" he asked, bluntly as Charis turned as red as a tomato.

"Dad!" Charis exclaimed, hiding her face in shame.

"Yes, yes I do," Cameron replied without even so much as a blink. "I love her more than life itself." That's all I needed to know. I signalled to Emma and Lexi that I was going to the kitchen as they followed behind me. Amelia followed her Mom too.

"That was intense," Lexi breathed. "I didn't know they could all be so intimidating! They looked like they were about to kill the poor guy!"

Emma and I laughed, shaking our head at pale-looking Lexi. "They've always been like that, even the younger ones. They'll all too protective. It will be Amelia's turn soon."

"Oh I know what you mean about them all being so protective! Kaden doesn't even let me go out shopping sometimes without making sure I know all the drills and I have all the emergency numbers and credit cards and that at least three people know where I've gone. But secretly, I don't really mind. It shows he cares."

"I know what you mean, sweetheart," I smiled at Lexi. "I love it when Chase goes all macho on me, but that's our little secret. He thinks I hate it."

"Oh I'm in the same boat," Em laughed, high-fiving me.

Before I could say anything else, Chase walked into the kitchen with his eyes twinkling and a smile on his face.

"What are you ladies gossiping about?" he asked, a smirk on his face.

"Nothing that you should be concerned about, Mister. Now, are you finally done with the interrogation, then?" I asked, as my eyebrows rose.

"Yeah, he's a nice guy and he loves Charis and I'm sure he'll look after my baby girl."

"Finally, he sees the light!"

"Ha ha," he said, kissing me on the lips lightly before slapping my a*s lightly. "Now get the food woman!"

"Chase, don't make me put you in the dog house."

"Oh please, you wouldn't. You love me too much," he grinned.

"Chase!"

"Sophia," he mocked.

"Look what you've done now! They're all gone! Now you're going to have to help me to carry all the food out. And trust me there's plenty. It took me two whole days to make enough for everybody."

"My pleasure, my beautiful wife." He kissed me on the cheek before he picked up the large tray of roasted lamb.

"Don't drop anything," I ordered.

"Don't worry my beautiful wife," he grinned with a wink. "I have these guns for a reason." He flexed his arms, almost making my jaw drop - almost.

Even though my sexy hunk was reaching his forties, he was hot. I think he got even hotter nearly every day.

The rest of the dinner was spent with laughter and love and plenty of conversations, not to mention wine, going around. As usual, it was loud and slightly chaotic but I suppose that's what made us a real family - the family I never really had. I didn't want my childhood to reflect on any of my children and I always strived to make the best life for them. I wanted to give them the best I could and I hoped that's what I did.

At the end of the evening, I was exhausted. However, all the effort had been worth it. We had a great time and we all enjoyed ourselves. After Alex and his family left, all my children helped clean. Of course there were arguments and I think a glass even broke before it was quickly cleaned up and hidden from my sight, but by the time the house was spotless again, everybody were friends again.

"Bye, you two, have fun. And use protection!" I shouted, waving at Charis and Cameron who both turned a little pink.

Charis was staying at Cameron's today, about an hour and something away. I wasn't scared that she would be in any danger because I knew Cameron would protect her with his life. It was kind of hard to hurt your mate.

It had taken a lot to get Chase to agree to Charis staying at her mate's overnight, however, Chase reluctantly agreed when I threatened him with the 'no sex' card. "You're so embarrassing Mom!" Kaden groaned as he bent down to give me a hug.

"I'm a Mom so I have to be embarrassing. Have you forgotten the fun times when I embarrassed? Would you like me to remind you?" I asked, raising an eyebrow at him. "No! That was really embarrassing!" he exclaimed, "Anyway, we're off now. I think Lex might pop in tomorrow."

"Looking forward to it. You can come with me and see this new band that I scouted. They're a boy band and so hot. If I was younger, oh my god!" I grinned, sending Lexi a wink.

Chase growled, wrapping his arms tightly around me. Kaden also wrapped his arms around Lexi.

"You're not bringing her anywhere near those boys, Mom," Kaden instructed.

"Please, don't listen to this jealous thing. I'll see you tomorrow Mom," Lexi said, grabbing his hand and pulling him outside. Kaden was like putty in her hands and I was glad because Lexi had gone through so many bad things in her life and she deserved a happy ever after.

"What did you say you would to those boys if you were their age?" Chase growled, chewing on my ear gently.

"I was kidding, calm down."

"You better be, now let's go upstairs. I have a lesson or two to teach you," he moaned, his voice husky.

"I love you so much Chase."

"I love you too Sophia, thank you for giving me the perfect family and mostly, thank you for giving me you."

"Mom, Dad! We can hear you!" the twins shouted simultaneously.

Oops.