

Chapter 11 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

"So what do we need to discuss? It must be important if we need to do it here."

I ask as soon as we sit down.

He sighs and rubs his hand down his face.

"It is.. And your probably not going to like it. I got an interesting phone call this afternoon. From Zane."

I feel my heart start to pound as soon as I hear his name.

"What was the call about?"

"Zayde."

I swallow the lump in my throat. Here it comes. The moment I've been dreading.

"I'm assuming from the look on your face you already knew that he knows about him."

I nod my head.

"Yeah. Had a run in with Jake who immediately figured out who he was. Told me he had to tell his Alpha."

"How do you feel about Zane knowing?"

I shrugged.

"I knew I wouldn't be able to hide it once we get here. He looks too much like his father. I honestly don't want anything to do with Zane.. but if he wants to get to know our son.. I'm not going to take that away from my boy."

"So you're open to him getting to know Zayde?"

I nod.

"Yes. As long as I don't need to spend unnecessary time with him myself. Why? What was the call about?"

"He wants a meeting with you."

I shake my head.

"No."

Dan sighs.

"Shay come on. One meeting. He wants me and Jake to be present at the meeting. He's not pressuring you into meeting him alone. He just wants one meeting to discuss your son."

"He doesn't want to be alone with me?"

"I didn't say that. I'm just saying he doesn't want to pressure and overwhelm you. For now he just wants to talk to you about Zayde."

"And both you and Jake would be there? With us?" I ask to confirm, frowning because I wasn't sure if I really understood what he was saying.

"Yes Shay. You won't be alone with him."

"Did you come up with this arrangement?"

"No, Zane did. Why?"

I shake my head.

"This makes about as much sense as your disappearing rogues."

Dan frowns.

"I don't understand."

"I mean, why is he making this so easy? This isn't the Zane I now. I thought he would be mad, and demand access to our son."

"I didn't say he wasn't mad. He is, but he also knows why you did what you did. I really think you guys need this meeting."

"Why does it sound like you're on his side? Aren't you still mad at him?"

"I still hate what he did to you. But he's changed and grown a lot since then. If I were in his shoes, I would've wanted my mate to just give me one conversation and hear me out. Wouldn't you?"

"I don't owe him anything Dan."

"No, you don't. But you owe this to yourself Shay and to Zayde. Have the meeting, hear him out and try to let go of the resentment. If you ever want to move on you need to do this."

I frown at Dan, thinking about what he said before I nod slowly.

"Fine, when does he want this meeting?"

"As soon as possible, but he said it's up to you."

"Fine. Call him back and tell him we'll do it tomorrow at noon. I need to talk to Zayde first thing tomorrow morning. He's had enough excitement for one day." I say as I stand to leave.

Dan nods and smile at me.

"I'll let him know. I'll see you at dinner, yeah?"

I nod before I leave his office and head over to Ashley's room.

I knock once and enter giving them both my best smile.

Zayde smiles back and continues to play while Ashley just looks at me.

"What's wrong?"

I sigh and sit down on the sofa.

"Zane called Dan. He wants a meeting with me about our son."

She frowns.

"What did you say?"

I relay my conversation with Dan to her and at the end she nods slowly.

"I agree, it's a little suspicious how calm he is. But I guess we'll see tomorrow."

She stands up from the floor to join me on the couch and then frown at me.

"What?"

I asked confused and look down to see if there is anything on my shirt because she's staring strangely at me.

"Why do you smell like that?"

I scrunch my nose.

"Like what?"

She frowns and shrugs.

"I don't know, this smell is making me go nuts. Who were you with?"

"You know my mother and I went to the hospital and then I was with Dan. I don't smell anything different on me. Your acting so weird. But at least your not sniffing me."

"Who sniffed you??"

"Dan, he also kept going on about some smell.." I stopped midsentence wanting to say more, but my words got caught in my throat as something occurred to me and I just kept staring at Ashley.

She frowned at me again.

"What? Now your looking at me like I have something on my face?"

"Both of you have been smelling something today that no one else does."

"Yeah, so?"

"Think about it Ash. A smell that no one else smells."

She looks at me like I'm crazy before my words sink in.

"You don't think.."

She trails off and I nod.

"Oh I do. I really do. What if he's your mate?"

She stares at me with her eyes wide.

"I don't know. Oh wow.. I know we joked about me finding my mate on this trip but I didn't really expect it to happen."

I squeal excitedly.

"Your mated to my brother! I can't believe this. We're going to be sisters!"

"Calm down Shay. We don't know for certain that he's my mate."

I frown and nod.

"That's true. Then lets go find out."

I stand up and wait for her to join me. But she doesn't move from the couch.

I frown at her just sitting there biting her lip.

"What know?"

"I... Well what if we're wrong? I don't want to get my hopes up and then be utterly disappointed when it turns out we were wrong."

I sit back down and put my hand on her knee.

"I honestly think he's your mate, but I get it. We don't have to go to him right now. Let's just go to dinner, we can talk about this later."

Ashley nods and I call for Zayde as we get up to leave the room.

Just as we round the corner in the hall Ashley bumps into someone and almost falls before he wraps his arms around her to prevent the fall.

"Oh I'm so sorry, I didn't..."

She trails off as she stares at the man that caught her.

I hear a growl come from his chest before they both speak at the same time.

"Mate."

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I look down at Zayde tugging on my hand with a frown on his face.

"Yes baby?" I ask softly.

"What's going on? Why is uncle Dan and aunt Ashley just staring at each other? Are they okay?"

He whispers rather loud, bringing the two people out of their trance.

Dan lets her go slowly and gives her a smile.

"Hi, my name is Dan. What's yours beautiful?"

Ashley blushes as she gives him a shy smile.

"It's nice to meet you Dan. I'm Ashley. I'm sorry for running into you."

He shakes his head.

"No, I'm sorry. I was following the scent that has been driving me crazy since I got back and I didn't notice where I was heading."

They stand there just smiling at each other like idiots, until my always untimely son pipes up again.

"I still don't understand what is going on. They're just staring at each other again." He huffed.

We all laugh at the annoyed and confused look on his face.

"You'll understand when you are older. But uncle Dan and aunt Ashley are mates."

He looks at them curiously.

"So people who just stare at each other are mates?"

I smile and shake my head.

"No, sweetie. They are just happy to see each other for the first time."

He nods at me and then tugs on my hand again.

"Okay, are they done now? I'm really hungry."

I shake my head at him.

"Seriously Zayde?" I turn to Ashley and Dan giving them a smile. "Congratulations guys. I'm so happy for you."

Ashley smiles as Dan wraps his arms around her shoulders and pulls her closer to him.

"Thank you. I can't believe my mate was with you all this time. How have we never met?"

I shrug.

"It's crazy right. She lives right next door. And you've been to visit many times."

"I guess the Moon Goddess has her own timeline." Ashley says smiling up at Dan.

Dan nods. "Indeed. All that matters now is that you're here, finally." He says kissing her on the forehead making Ashley blush again.

"You guys are so cute!"

Before I can say anything else Zayde tugs on my hand again and mumbled something about mates making us late for dinner.

I shake my head and look at my brother and my friend.

"Sorry guys, I'll take him down for dinner. Are you going to join us downstairs?"

Dan looks at Ashley hesitantly and she shrugs.

"Actually, would you mind if we didn't? I'd like to spend some alone time with Ashley." He turns to her. "That is if you want to of course?"

She blushes but nods her head.

"I would love to."

I smirk at them.

"Oh I'm sure you would. I'll have some dinner sent up to you. Have fun you guys. I'd love some nieces and nephews."

"Oh my god Shay!"

Ashley yells, turning bright red and looking absolutely mortified while Dan only smirks at me.

I laugh and give them a small wave before taking Zayde's hand and heading downstairs.

My smile falters as we walk in silence. I'm happy for them both, but now I'm losing another friend. Both her and Megan will be here while I'll be heading back home at some point.

I sigh and my mind wonders to the night I met my own mate. Every girl dreams about that magical day, finding that one person that is made just for you. And it really was a great night, we spent most of it talking, getting to know each other better. Only for the rug to be ripped right out from under me the very next morning.

My heart aches thinking about it. I don't know if I'll ever be able to forget that scene. Or the hurt I felt. I honestly didn't expect that. I thought the previous night was perfect, I

gave him everything I had and he told me he'd love me forever. I guess his forever didn't last long.

I was startled out of my thoughts when I felt a hand on my shoulder. I look around bewildered, not realizing we've already made it to the dining hall.

"Shay are you okay?"

My mother asks concerned, her hand still on my shoulder.

I give her a small smile and nod my head.

"Yes, sorry I'm was just deep in thought."

My mother looks at me skeptically but nods anyway.

"I asked where your friend was when you came down?"

"Oh well.. about that.." I gave her a big smile and gestured for her to follow me to the tables with food.

After I've filled her in on Dan and Ashley she looks at me with wide eyes as we sit at our table.

"Oh my! That's great. What are the chances."

I nod. "I know right. But looking at them.. They're perfect for each other Mom. I'm glad for the both of them."

Mom nods. "As am I. It's good Dan found his Luna. A pack with an Alpha without his Luna by his side isn't as strong."

I make a noncommittal sound while eating my food. My thoughts falling back on Zane.

"Are you going to see him while your here?"

"Who?"

"Don't pretend you don't know who I'm talking about. The very person that has been occupying your heart and mind since you left."

"That's not true."

I frown at her and she gives me small smile while squeezing my hand.

"Of course it is my dear. You haven't even attempted to find someone else."

"I've been busy raising my son and working on my career. I don't have time for dating."

"Shay, you can talk to me. You know that right? You can deny it all you want honey, but I know you and I know how the mate bond works. You still feel it.."

I frown and stab my potato.

"I know.. But I don't want to. He hurt me and I don't think I'll be able to trust him again."

"I know honey but maybe seeing him and talking things out will help you heal and move on."

I sigh. "Yes, that seems to be what everyone thinks."

She gives me a questioning look and I sigh again before telling her about my conversation with Dan.

"So yeah.. I'll be meeting with him tomorrow."

I finish my story and put another potato wedge in my mouth.

"Are you ready to meet with him?"

I shrug.

"Not really.. I don't know, but I'll have to do it sooner or later so I guess sooner is better."

She nods and then frowns at me.

"And you said he just wants to talk about Zayde?"

"That's what Dan said. I found it strange as well. But I guess we'll see tomorrow."

She nods at me again and we eat in silence for a few minutes before she calls my attention.

"Shay?"

"Yes?"

"Promise me something."

I frown at her.

"Okay? What?"

"Keep an open mind tomorrow. I know your still hurting and you don't want him back in your life. But please, there was a reason you guys were paired together. Just keep that in mind. Don't completely shut him out. I want you to feel the power of the matebond. To have someone in your love that loves you more than anything. Someone to protect and take care of you. Just consider giving him a chance. For your son and for you. Trust me, it is hard to be without the one made for you."

She stares at me and I look down at the table contemplating what she said before I nod slowly.

"I'll try mom."

She gives me a soft smile before she squeezes my hand and stands up.

"Thank you. I only want what's best for you, you know that right?"

I smile back at her.

"I know. Thank you."

"Goodnight dear. I'll see you tomorrow."

She heads over to were Zayde is seated with a few other kids and kiss his head before heading upstairs.

I look at her back until she dissappears up the stairs and sigh before I head over to my son.

"Come on, time for bed. Tomorrow is going to be a big day."

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I walk back to our room slowly after the early morning training session, my mind occupied with how I'm going to tell Zayde about his father.

I barely slept last night. Tossing and turning thinking about how to approach the subject. He's never really asked about him and we've barely had any type of conversation regarding him. And I'm not sure how to answer his questions, if he has some.

And then there's the fact that I have to face Zane today. I know my restlessness last night made Zayde restless as well he kept turning around in bed, luckily he didn't wake up, so as soon as it was time for training I got out of bed, got ready asked one of the omegas to keep an eye on him before I headed out to training. Hoping it would help ease some of my nerves.

It didn't. Not really.

I reached our room and opened the door, smiling at the omega watching over Zayde.

"Thank you Lucy. How is he?"

"He's still fast asleep Shay. I guess all the excitement yesterday spent him." She says as she gets up from the couch.

I smile and nod at her.

"It would seem that way yes. Can you ask them to send some breakfast upstairs for us please Lucy?"

She nods at me.

"Of course, I'll bring some up as soon as it's ready."

"Thank you Lucy."

She nods again and as she closes the door I head over to Zayde.

I brush the hair off his forehead and smile watching him sleep with his mouth open. I shake my head and get up heading for the bathroom. Time for a quick shower before he wakes.

As I get out of the bathroom I glance in Zayde's direction quickly. Still asleep, so I head into the closet to get dressed and take out his clothes.

Just as I get out of the closet, still towel drying my hair I see Zayde sit up and look around.

I smile at him, and hang my towel over a chair before I head over to the bed.

I pull him in for a hug and he cuddles into me.

"Good morning my baby. How did you sleep?"

"Morning momma. Great. I think I was really tired."

I smile at him and ruffle his hair.

"Yes, I think you were really tired too. Come one. Get up. I've already run a bath for you. Let's go get you cleaned up and then we'll have breakfast."

I say and stand. Holding my hand out for him to help him out of bed but he shakes his head and gets of the bed himself.

"No, mom. I'm a big boy. I can do that myself." He says heading for the bathroom.

I grin at him and shake my head.

"Of course you are. I'm sorry what was I thinking." I said as I headed after him into the bathroom.

Half an hour later Zayde was all dressed and ready for the day just as a knock came.

"Perfect timing. That must be breakfast. You head out to the terrace and I'll go get our food."

I say to Zayde and he nods, heading out onto the terrace as I open the door.

"Thank you very much Lucy. I'll bring this down when we're finished."

I say as I take the tray from her. She smiles.

"It's a pleasure. Enjoy your breakfast."

I close the door and head over to the terrace.

Zayde's eyes widened as he sees the tray of food.

"Oh my! That's a lot. Can I have all of it?"

I smile at him.

"You can have as much as you want too dear. Just don't eat too much."

"I won't." He replies, not even looking at me as he already dug into the food.

I shake my head at him before I sit down to eat as well.

After we've been eating for a while I decided to open the subject of his father.

"Zayde?"

He looks up at me questioningly.

"Yes?"

"I need to talk to you about something. It's about your dad. You know I told you he's from a pack around here?"

Zayde nods. "Yes I remember. Are we going to go see him?"

He looks at me, eagerly waiting for my reply.

"No. Not really. He will be here a little later today. He wants to talk to me about you, and then I'm guessing he'd want to meet you. Would you like that?"

He nods vigorously. "Yes, when can I see him?" He asks excitedly and for a moment my heart clenches, thinking about how I've kept him from his father.

"As soon as the grown ups are done talking I'll come get you and you can meet him. Would that be okay?"

He nods at me and smiles. "I'm so happy, I can't wait to see him." He says as he dug back into his food.

"Sweetie, if you wanted to meet him, why have you never asked?"

He shrugs but doesn't say anything, just continuing to eat.

"Zayde, you can tell me."

He looks at me for a while and I feel my heart clench as I look into those eyes so similar to his father's.

"Because he makes you sad. I don't want to make you sad."

"How do you know it makes me sad?"

He shrugs. "I just feel it, and then it makes me sad. I don't want to make you sad so.."

He drinks his juice but before I can say anything he speaks again.

"Mom?"

I smile at him. "Yes sweetie?"

"Why does talking about dad make you sad?"

"It's complicated grown up stuff. You're too little to understand."

"Did he hurt you?"

My smile falters but I nod at him.

"In a way yes. He hurt my heart."

Zayde frowns.

"Is he your mate?"

"He was, yes." I say nodding at my son.

"Mates don't hurt each other. I don't want to see him if he hurts you."

Zayde says with a frown, looking out over the terrace.

"Sweetie, like I said it's grown up stuff. You can't be mad at him about it. He really wants to see you."

"Then why didn't he come see us? Does he not like me?"

I sigh. "No. It's not that. That's my fault. I didn't know I had you in my tummy when he hurt me and then mommy left. Without telling him."

"About me?"

"Yes sweetie. He didn't come because he didn't know."

He doesn't say anything but just frowns down at the table and I touch his hand.

"Are you mad at me?"

He looks at me and shakes his head.

"Then what's wrong?"

"What if he doesn't like me?"

I pull him into my lap.

"Don't be silly baby. He's going to love you. What's not to love. Now come on. Go and brush your teeth and then we'll go play outside for a bit. Okay?"

He nods and runs off to the bathroom.

That went a lot better than I thought. Now I only need to get through seeing Zane for the first time since he rejected me.

Easy right.

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Shay's Point of View

About an hour later Zayde and I were still playing outside when my mother approached us. Zayde smiled at her and ran to give her a hug. She bent down and swept him up into her arms before she hugged him tight and started to kiss all over his face.

I smile as I watch them, Zayde's laugh ringing out around us as he squirms in his grandmother's arms.

"Stop! No more!" He laughs trying to push her face away.

"More? Okay!" She says as she starts to kiss him again.

"No grandma! Mommy help me!"

I give him a grin.

"Okay I'll help."

I say as I begin to tickle him.

He shrieks of laughter and tries to wiggle away from us.

Suddenly I feel someone's eyes on us and the hairs on the back of my neck stand up.

I turn to see if I can see anything. My eyes fall on Dan's office window and my heart jumps into my throat. Eventhough I can't clearly see him, I know it's him.

Zane's here. For a minute I just stare at the window before I swallow nervously and turn back to my mother and my son.

"He's here."

My mother stops tickling my son and nods at me.

"He is. That's why I came down. Dan asked me to come take Zayde and to tell you they are waiting for you in his office."

I nod, but I stay rooted to my spot.

"Are you ready?"

I look at my mother and give her a small smile.

"I guess I'm as ready as I'll ever be."

She gives me a side hug.

"You got this sweetie. Whatever happens in there and whatever you decide, I'll be on your side okay?"

"I know. Thank you. And I promise I'll keep an open mind in there."

I turn to Zayde and give him a smile.

"You're going to play with grandma for a little while okay? Your dad is here. Us grownups are going to have a quick talk and then I'll come and get you and you can go see him."

He smiles at me and nods.

"Okay mommy." He turns to my mother with a frown. "No more tickling grandma okay?"

She laughs at him and nods.

"Okay I'll stop. I promise."

I smile at them and shake my head.

"I'll see you both later."

I give Zayde a quick kiss on the head before I head over to Dan's office.

Zane's Point of View

"Don't you think they'd mind us showing up earlier than arranged?"

Jake asks with a frown from the passenger seat.

"I don't know. I've tried to phone Dan but he isn't answering. I just feel really antsy. I needed to get out."

"Dan found his mate last night so he's probably too busy to focus on you right now."

Megan pipes up from the back and I look at her in surprise through the rear view mirror.

"He found his mate? Who?"

"Our friend, Ashley that came down with Shay."

"Oh wow. That's great. Now I kind of feel like we'd be intruding."

I sigh and run my hand down my face.

"Let's go have some breakfast at the diner on the way. Once were done eating we'd be there closer to the arranged time. Plus this pup is really hungry. "

Megan suggest and Jake nods in agreement.

"I think that's a good idea. You had us out of the packhouse so early that we didn't even have time for breakfast. She's eating for two now you know."

I nod, turning the car in the direction of the diner.

"Fine. Let's go have some breakfast before we head over there."

About an hour later we're back in the car and heading over to the Desert Shadow Pack.

"Are you nervous?"

Megan suddenly asks and I look at her in the rear view mirror.

"About seeing Shay? Or about meeting our son for the first time?"

"Both."

"I'm nervous but also really excited about meeting our son. And Shay.. Well yeah.. I'm nervous, really nervous. The last time I saw her was the day we rejected each other. That wasn't a good day for either of us. I'm not sure what to expect."

"Are you hoping the mate bond between you two still exists eventhough you've rejected each other?"

For a moment I just sit, thinking about her words before I nod.

"If I'm completely honest.. Yes. I hope it's still there. I hope I can fix what I screwed up back then."

Megan just humm at my words and turn to look out the window.

I look at Jake, who has been mostly quiet this entire trip.

"What are you thinking?"

He looks at me and shrugs.

"I'm mostly just wondering how this meeting will go. I mean in the last five years she's never asked about you. Whenever one of us brought you up she would change the

subject. And yesterday. What she told me to tell you. I don't think she ever wanted to see you again, and she was definitely never going to tell you about Zayde. I know you want there to still be a bond between you two, but I'm not sure she wants that. "

I frown at him.

"So you're saying that I shouldn't try with her?"

He shakes his head.

"No.. I'm just telling you what I've seen so far. I don't think she's over what happened. And forcing your way back into her life is going to make things worse."

"So what would you have me do Jake?"

"You're used to getting your way and everyone doing what you tell them. That won't work with her. You'll have to be patient and keep your temper in check. I'm pretty sure she is going to try and test you. You'll have to show her you've changed, prove to her that you'd be worth a second chance."

"I'll try not to let my temper or my ego get the better of me. But I will make my intentions known to her."

Jake frowns but before he can speak Megan pipes up from the back again.

"Make your intentions clear if you have too. But also make it clear you won't force anything on her. Otherwise you can kiss a second chance goodbye. She's always been really guarded. And it's gotten even worse the last 5 years. You really hurt her."

"I know. And I wish I could change what I did back then, but I can't. All I can do is apologize and ask for another chance."

Before she can answer we near their border and the patrol stops our car.

"We're here to see Alpha Dan."

The patroller nods his head before his eyes glaze over.

As soon as his eyes clear he looks at me again and motions with his hand for them to open the gate.

"The alpha says you can head through. They'll meet you at his office Alpha Zane."

I nod, putting the car in gear again.

"Thank you."

As we near their packhouse my heart starts beating wildly.

I park the car and we get out. Jake and Megan head into the packhouse while I stand outside taking a deep breath.

This is it. This is possibly the most important day of my life, I'm finally going to see my mate again after 5 years. And I'm going to meet my son for the first time.

I really need this meeting to go well. I think to myself before I head inside as well.

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Zane's Point of View

I make my way over to Dan's office quickly. As soon as I enter the unfamiliar female talking to Megan looks at me. She squints her eyes at me for a second before she schools her face into a neutral expression. I frown but turn away from her, looking for Dan.

I head over to him and shake his hand.

"Good morning, sorry for showing up a little earlier than arranged. I'm just a little on edge."

Dan nods his head at me.

"Oh I imagine you are. It's fine we were up anyway. I want to introduce you to someone."

He motions the unfamiliar female over and she immediately comes up to his side, wrapping her arms around him.

"This is my mate, Ashley. Ashley this is.."

"Oh I know who he is. I'm a friend of Shay."

She says coldly, the tone of her voice clearly showing she knows who I am and she doesn't like me.

I give her a polite smile.

"It's nice to meet you Ashley. Megan told me you found your mate last night. Congratulations to the both of you."

Ashley only gives me a nod but Dan gives me a smile.

"Thank you. Shall we start? Would you mind if Ashley sits in?"

I shake my head.

"No it's fine, she can sit in, maybe that would help Shay feel more comfortable as well when she sees both of her friends in here."

Dan nods and his eyes glaze over mindlinking someone.

I head over to the window and look out onto the playground.

Suddenly my heart starts to pound like crazy, my gaze zeroing in on the two people playing. Even from this distance I know it's her. Shay and our son. I can't see them clearly but I can't seem to tear my eyes from them.

I see someone else approach, taking our son before Shay turns around, probably sensing someone watching them. Her eyes fall on the office window almost immediately and it's like my heart tries to jump out of my chest. We look at each other over the distance for quite a while before she turns back around to our son.

Soon I see her walking away from the duo outside and heading in the direction of the packhouse and I know she's on her way to Dan's office.

"You know, she loves that little boy more than anything. She makes sure that everyday he knows he's loved and wanted. I don't know exactly what your plan regarding your son is but she's very protective of him. You should be careful how you approach this, if she feels like your attacking or threatening her or him she'll react very badly to you."

Ashley suddenly says next to me.

"Why are you telling me this? You don't like me."

"No I don't. I don't think you deserve either of them But this is Shay's decision and I want what's best for them, what makes them happy. But just know, if you hurt either of them you'll regret it."

Before I can answer there's a knock on the door and it opens, my wolf starts to pace around in my head as a smell I hoped to smell again fills the room.

"Mate!"

Shay's Point of View

I make my way to Dan's office slowly, trying to delay seeing him but the closer I get to the door the more restless my wolf gets, and I'm not sure if I like what's happening with her. I take a deep breath and knock before opening the office door.

An very intoxicating smell hits me as soon as the door opens, a smell I remember very well and I stumble backwards.

No. How. Why. We rejected each other. I tell myself confused, thinking maybe I'm hallucinating until I hear him growl.

"Mate!"

My heart jumps into my throat and I turn and run away. Not sure where I'm heading but I just know I need to get away.

How the hell is this happening, why is this happening to me. My wolf whines and scratches in my head wanting to go back to her mate but I block her out.

"Shay!"

I hear him calling my name and a shiver runs down my spine at the way my name sounds from his mouth. And then I hear footsteps running after me. And I push myself to go faster. I run out the kitchen door, heading for the forest line, but just as I reach it arms lock around me and we tumble to the forest floor.

With the sparks running through me I know exactly who it is. He pulls me close to him and tries to block my fall. Once we stop rolling I realize that I'm laying on his chest. I push myself up quickly, my hand on his chest and I feel the sparks buzzing around us. I try to push off him but he tightens his arms around me and growls again.

"Mine!"

My eyes snap down to him and I snarl.

"Let me go!"

I struggle to get out of his hold and he smirks at me, those molten eyes sparkling.

"Wiggle all you want little mate. I'm quite enjoying our position and the view."

As soon as the nickname leaves his mouth it feels like he pierced my heart. A nickname I once thought was really cute now just hurt hearing it.

I let my claws out and dig them into his chest a little until I start to see blood.

"Don't. Don't you call me that. And I told you never to touch me again so let me go! Now!"

I see the amusement leave his face as he sits us up slowly.

"I'm sorry, I was just kidding. I didn't mean to upset you."

He says apologetically as he lets me go.

I jump away from him as far as I can my heart pounding loudly.

He slowly gets up and tries to approach me but I step back ready to bolt again and he raises his hands in surrender.

"I won't touch you again without your permission. I'm sorry."

I just look at him through squinted eyes and he gives me a small smile.

"It's really good to see you Shay. I've been waiting for this day for five years."

"Yeah well, I haven't. If it wasn't for this attack I would've never had to see your face again and now clearly the mood goddess is punishing me for hiding Zayde."

I say coldly crossing my arms over my chest.

"What do you mean?"

He asks me with a frown

"This."

I say gesturing between us.

"You mean the matebond?"

"Of course I mean this stupid bond. As if it wasn't bad enough I had to go through this five years ago."

"Is it really that bad to be mated to me?"

I give him a cold look.

"After the last time, why would I want to have you as my mate?"

"Shay, I know I screwed up back then. But there's a reason we were mated in the first place. Clearly we're meant to be together."

I shake my head vehemently.

"No. No, I can't. I, Shay O'Connell.."

Chapter 16 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

"No. No, I can't. I, Shay O'Connell.."

In a flash he's in front of me, covering my mouth with his hand and I gasp as the sparks run through me.

He narrows his eyes at me.

"Don't you dare finish that sentence. I'm not letting you go this time."

I bite into his hand and he yanks away cursing and frowning at me. I narrow my eyes at him.

"Don't tell me what to do. And you had no problem rejecting and letting me go five years ago."

"I was a stupid kid then Shay! And I made a mistake, a stupid one but you're the one that wanted the rejection back then."

"What did you expect me to do? I woke up alone and naked, thinking maybe you were bringing breakfast. I came down to find you, cause you never came upstairs and I caught you with your tongue down someone's throat. The very first morning after we've found each other and mated. Did you expect me to beg you to be with me? You didn't even want to mark me, all you wanted was one night to get me out of your system and to get to brag about being the only guy to bed me. You said it yourself. And I deserved more than that. I still do."

"I know okay?! And I am sorry. I was young and stupid, thinking I didn't want to be tied down yet, I didn't want to reject you I just wanted to push you away until I was ready. I know it's stupid and selfish, but I thought you'd just stick around and wait for me. And then when you demanded a rejection and you didn't seem that bothered about it my ego was hurt. So I uttered the rejection, hoping that would make you ask me to stay, but you didn't. You accepted it. I'm not the only one that did something stupid. You demanded that rejection and then you hid our son from me for five years!"

"You cheated on my Zane! On day one! And the things you said to me were horrible and they hurt. I thought you didn't want me. I thought you'd throw him aside as well. You weren't even ready for a mate, how would you have dealt with the news of a baby!"

"But I did want you Shay. I still do. And I wouldn't have thrown him aside, maybe if I'd have know I'd have gotten my act together sooner."

He tries to approach me but I take a step back and shake my head.

"Well how was I suppose to know? I did what I thought was best. And no, I don't think you do. It's just because of the new matebond. You didn't want me then so why would you now and even if you did why didn't you ever come to me?"

He sighs and runs his fingers through his hair.

"I did. I did come for you. For 2 months I tried to get you out of my mind. But I couldn't. And then when I finally came for you, you were already gone and no one would tell me were you were."

I looked at him in silence. Thinking about his words.

"Shay?"

"How many were there?"

He frowns.

"What do you mean?"

"How many girls were there before you decided to come to me?"

"Shay.."

"No, tell me. How many?"

"There was only one."

"The girl from the kitchen?"

He looks away but nods and I feel my heart constrict.

"Did you sleep with her?"

I see his jaw tightening but he doesn't answer and I give him a bitter smile.

"So you did? How many times?"

He sighs.

"Why are you doing this? What doesit matter?"

"Just answer me."

"Fine. Only a few times, I tried to get you out of my system. Tried to make myself feel better about your rejection."

"Where there others?"

His head snaps to me and he shakes it.

"Only her, and only in those first two months."

I scoff at him.

"You're an Alpha and you expect me to believe you've been celibate for the last five years?"

"I swear to you Shay, I haven't been with anyone since then."

"Why?"

"I told you I've been waiting for this day for five years. I want you Shay. I've always wanted you. And to find out we have a son.. I screwed up so bad. And I regret what I did. Because I was a stupid, selfish kid, I lost five years with you and our son. I've been hoping that when we meet again I can convince you to give me a chance, even without the matebond. I can't explain to you the joy I felt when I smelled you today. The moon goddess gave us a second chance, gave me a second chance to prove to you that I can be better. That I want you and our son, and alot more babies. If that's what you want."

I just stare at him. Not sure how to feel.

"Is this something you'd want?"

He asks softly and those molten eyes draw me in, mesmerizing me like always.

"Shay?"

I shake my head, to clear to fog and look away from him and I take a deep breath.

"I don't know. You hurt me. And I'm not sure if that's something I can get over and forget about. I don't know if I'll be able to put myself out there again and trust you. If you want to get to know our son, I'm fine with that. But for now that's all I can give you."

He nods and gives me a sad smile.

"I'll take what I can get. But I'll prove myself to you. Just give me a chance."

I sigh and look away.

"We'll talk about this some other time. Right now I just want to focus on Zayde. We can have a discussion about him later, but for now.. Would you like to meet him?"

He gives me a big smile, and nods his head vigorously.

"Yes, please. I've been on edge since finding out about him."

I start to walk back to the packhouse and he falls into step with me.

"Does he know about me?"

I nod my head.

"Yes, he knows. To be honest I haven't talked about you alot, but I did tell him about you. He's really excited to meet you."

"What's he like?"

"He's so full of light and his laugh brightens my day. He is out going and makes friends really easy. But he's strong willed, and also very protective and caring. A true little apha."

We near the playground and I hear Zayde's laughter ringing out. I look to my side to see Zane rooted in his spot, his heart racing as he stares at our son that is running around with the other pups.

Zayde sees me and gives me a big smile before he comes rushing over.

"Mommy! Your back!"

I kiss his head and hug him tight.

"I am. Were you good for grandma?"

"Of course. Look I've made new friends!"

He beams brightly at me pointing at the pups running around.

I ruffle his hair and smile at him.

"I'm glad baby. Zayde, I want you to meet someone."

I say and turn towards Zane. Zayde suddenly realize I'm not alone and his eyes widen as they fall on Zane.

He turns his wide eyes on me.

"Is he my daddy?"

He whispers rather loudly in awe, and before I can answer Zane kneels down and smile at our son while he nods.

"Yeah buddy I'm your dad. My name is Zane."

"Almost like me! My name is Zayde!"

He smiles brightly at Zane and Zane nods.

"I know. It's really nice to finally meet you Zayde. Can I get a hug?"

Zayde looks at me asking for permission and I nod at him, trying to swallow the lump in my throat.

He rushes into Zane's arms and Zane pulls him tight against his chest.

I see the tears escaping down Zane's cheeks and the tears I've been trying to hold back breaks loose.

Suddenly my heart feels very full seeing my son hug his father for the very first time.

Zane and I make eye contact over our son's head and I give him a smile that he returns.

Maybe this can work.. Who knows what the future holds, but this meeting gives me hope.

Chapter 17 - Returning to my rejected mate

Zane's Point of View

As soon as I see him my feet stop working and I just stand there, staring at the little version of me.

My heart start beating loudly and I'm struggling to swallow the lump in my throat.

I have a son.. I can't believe we have a son. For a moment my anger sparks at the fact that she hid him from me for five years I know it's not completely fair of me, I know I hurt her but she hid him from me on purpose, with the intention of never telling me I had an heir. She didn't even give me a chance.

Before my anger can go any further a loud whisper catches my attention.

"Is he my daddy?"

I blink, trying to focus staring into the wide eyes of our son. I feel tears starting to prick my eyes. And before Shay can even speak I get down on my knees and smile at him.

"Yeah buddy I'm your dad. My name is Zane."

"Almost like me! My name is Zayde!"

I hear the excitement in his voice as he smiles brightly at me. I smile back and nod at him.

"I know. It's really nice to finally meet you Zayde. Can I get a hug?"

I see him look to Shay, silently asking for permission. She nods at him and he rushes over to me, launching himself into my arms. I hug him close to my chest, smelling his hair, imprinting his scent into my mind.

I can't stop the tears spilling down my cheeks when I hug our son and when I look up I see Shay crying silently as well as she looks at us.

We hold eye contact, over our son's head and she gives me a smile. I give her a small smile back before looking at our son.

He touches the tears on my cheek, frowning.

"Why are you crying daddy? Are you sad?"

I give him a smile and shake my head.

"No I'm just really happy to meet you."

He gives me a big smile and hugs me again.

"I'm really happy too!"

He pulls away and looks over to his friends.

"Do you want to come play with us?"

He gives me a hopeful look and I stand up and look over at Shay again.

She nods as she moves closer to us.

"I think that's a great idea. Why don't you two go play with your friends and I'll go get us some food and drinks?"

Zayde nods and starts pulling me along to his friends.

I see Shay watching us for a little while, before she heads into the packhouse.

As we approach his friends, Zayde introduces me to his friends and heart wants to burst from happiness as he introduces me as his father.

The pups all smile at me and soon we're kicking the ball around the playground.

Shay's Point of View

I take a deep breath trying to get myself together as I look at them through the kitchen window.

"Are you okay?"

I whip my head to the side. Holding my heart.

"Jesus Ash! What are you doing? You scared me!"

"Sorry, how was I suppose to know you didn't hear or smell me?"

She said as she shrugged and looked out the window at Zane and Zayde playing with the other pup.

"I see you've introduced them. I'm assuming your talk went well then?"

"I guess. We didn't really talk you know, like we talked but we didn't talk about things regarding Zayde, we sort of just yelled at each other.. So we still have to have a talk."

I shrug as well while I head over to the fridge to get out bread and things I'd need for sandwiches.

"So what happened?"

I sigh and give her a rundown of what happened after we left the office.

"Oh wow.. Okay. How do you feel about that? You know him stating that he's going to pursue you? Or the fact that he's still your mate?"

I look up from the sandwiches and frown.

"I'm not sure. I always thought that maybe there would still be feelings between us, but I didn't expect an actual matebond to still be between us. That threw me a little. I don't really know how I feel about him or this matebond."

She nods as she leans against the counter.

"I get it. You were unsure of things even before the matebond was thrown in there again. But you said he'd wait right?"

I nod.

"That is what he said."

"Well, then give it time. Let him and Zayde get to know each other and then maybe you could spend sometime together as well."

"I don't want to be alone with him. Not yet. I'm scared of giving in to the matebond before we've sorted things out."

"Then spend time with him and Zayde, it'll take the pressure of a little. With a kid, there ain't enough time for deep conversation."

I smirk at her.

"That's true.. Maybe I'll try that."

I look up at her and then narrow my eyes before they widened and I squealed.

"Your marked!"

I take a wiff of her scent.

"You've mated as well! Go Ashley, so did you start on making me some nieces and nephews?"

"Oh god Shay stop!"

Ashley says blushing and pushing me away from her.

I laugh and wrap my arms around her, giving her a tight hug.

"I'm so happy for you Ash. Dan is a great guy, and I'm not only saying that because he's my brother."

She smiles and nods, getting a dreamy expression on her face.

"He really is great. I know we came here under terrible circumstances but this trip is the best thing that has happened to me."

"The best thing huh? What about me?"

Dan says as he comes into the kitchen and wraps his arms around Ashley from behind. She snuggles back into him and gives him a kiss.

"Okay the second best things."

"Now that sounds better."

He says grinning down at her.

"Awww you guys are so cute!"

Dan smiles at me.

"How are you?"

I shrug.

"I'm okay I guess. We still need to have a talk but for now I'm not going to do anything. So, would you guys like to join us for lunch outside?"

I say, gesturing to the sandwiches.

Ashley nods.

"Yeah sure, I'll just get a few more things, Dan you go find Jake and Meg and then all of us can have a picnic?"

I nod and smile.

"That sounds great. I'll just go get Zane and Zayde."

Ashley nods at me as I leave to go get my boys.

I stop in my tracks when I realized what I had thought.

It has to be this damn bond. I have to be careful around him.

I put on a smile as I near the spot they're playing at and two identical pair of eyes turn towards me.

"Boys! Come on, were going on a picnic."

Zane comes over, with Zayde on his back.

"Who's we?"

"Well, us, Dan and Ashley and Jake and Megan."

I say as we fall into step, heading back to the packhouse to meet the other.

My heart skips a beat when suddenly he takes my hand.

"That sounds like fun."

"Hmmm."

I make a noncommittal sound, while staring at our intertwined fingers.

"Shay, are you okay?"

"Uhm, yeah fine. Let's go they're waiting for us."

I untangle our hands and walk faster to put some distance between us.

Yeah, I'll definitely need to be more careful.

Chapter 18 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

About an hour later us girls are laying on the picnic blankets watching the guys kick a ball around with Zayde.

"It's good to see them this relaxed. They've all been pretty stressed about these rogue attacks, none of them has been as bad as the last one but still, they did quite some damage and both packs have lost a lot of good people. They've been driving themselves crazy trying to figure out what's going on."

Megan says while she watches Jake.

"I don't understand these attacks. They keep getting bigger and more organized with every attack. I think first they were testing us. And now they're slowly trying to eliminate as many warriors as possible."

Megan frowns as she look at me.

"I haven't really thought about it like that but now that you mentioned it, I think you're right."

"I don't really know much about what has been going on, but do they have any lead?"

Ashley asks looking at me and Megan and I shake my head.

"No, all leads have been dead ends."

Megan nods.

"Yeah, that's why they've been driving themselves crazy. They can't get any leads that pan out."

"How is your mom doing?" Megan suddenly asks.

I shrug.

"She says she's okay, but I can see the toll it's taking on her. She doesn't really eat.. According to the circles under her eyes she doesn't sleep as well.."

I say softly.

"I can't even imagine what she's going through. If that was Jake.. I don't know how I'd get up every morning."

"I know what you mean. I only met Dan last night and just thinking about him getting hurt like that makes my heart clench."

Megan nods at her and we all look at the guys again, all lost in our own thoughts.

"So, what have you decided about Zane?"

I look at Megan and shrug again.

"I haven't decided anything. But seeing him with Zayde today.. It made me feel really guilty. Knowing I've kept them away from each other for 5 years. I know back then I thought it was for the best.. But thinking about it now.. Maybe I should've gone to him and told him about the baby."

"What did he say about you hiding your son?"

"We didn't really talk all that much, just yelled at each other a little. We still need to have a conversation about everything.. But I think he's kind of mad at me. He also wants us to try again."

Megan nods.

"Yeah I know, he told us. Do you want to try again?"

I sigh and run my fingers through my hair.

"I don't really know. I don't know if I'm over what he did, or if I'll ever be. What if I can't ever get myself to trust him again... He told me he'd wait for me.. I told him all I can give him right now is a relationship with Zayde."

"Zayde seems happy."

Ashley says looking at Zayde running up to Zane cheering about their goal, flinging his arms around his father's legs.

I smile as I look at them as well my heart beating faster when Zane bends down and hugs our son.

I don't think I'll ever get tired of seeing them together. Everytime Zane hugs him or smiles at him my heart rates spikes, it make me feel things that I'm not sure I want to feel.

"Yeah he is. He just accepted him so fast. You know, I asked him why he's never really asked about his father."

"What did he say?"

"He told me he didn't want to make me sad. That he saw talking about his dad made me sad and he didn't want that."

"Smart little boy." Ashley says with a smile and Megan nods her agreement, while rubbing her still flat stomach.

"So, how are you feeling?"

Ashley ask her and Megan gives us a soft smile.

"We're doing great. The pup is growing well according to the doctor and I haven't really been sick so all's good."

"Are you going to find out the gender?"

I ask and she shrugs.

"I don't know, Jake doesn't want to but I'm not sure."

I nod.

"Are you hoping for a specific gender?"

She shakes her head.

"No, as long as it's healthy it doesn't matter."

Ashley and I both nod at her.

"So Ashley, I see you've wasted no time in getting marked and mated, should we expect some little Dan or Ashley's soon?"

Megan wiggles her eyebrows at Ashley while I smirk at the blush that crawls over her face.

"We haven't really talked about it. Last night kind of just happened. You know how it is when you find your mate."

"Oh do I.." I mumble a little bitter.

Ashley whips her head around to look at me.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean anything."

I shake my head and give her a smile.

"Don't worry about it. It's just me, that night still gets to me. I'm sorry."

"Well I know that night didn't exactly turn out the way you wanted, but you got a beautiful little boy out of it. And the moon goddess decided to bless you with the bond again, both of you have grown and changed in these five years. Maybe it was always suppose the turn out this way."

Megan says and Ashley nods silently.

I frown thinking about her words. Maybe she's right. Maybe this was the way it was always supposed to turn out.

I shrug.

"Who knows, only time will tell right."

The guys start heading back our way and I make eye contact with Zane.

He gives me a smirk and I feel my cheeks heat up as my heart rate spikes again.

Ashley and Megan both snicker and I glare at them.

"What's so funny?"

Dan asks as he sits behind Ashley and kisses her shoulder.

Zane takes a seat next to me, a little closer than needed and my heart skips a beat again.

I see Megan opening her mouth but I speak before she can.

"Oh it's nothing. They're just beings annoying."

I say quickly, glaring at them, silently warning both of them to shut it.

They both just smirk at me before turning to their mates.

I feel Zane looking at me and I turn my head.

Those golden eyes suck me in again and for a moment I get lost in his scent around me and in those eyes.

"Are you okay? You spaced out ther for a minute?"

I blush, tugging a piece of hair behind my ear.

"Yeah sorry. Just lost in thought. Did you say something."

He smirks at me, as of knowing he was the one distracting me.

"I said that we have to head back soon. I asked that if maybe you'd let Zayde come with us? Your welcome to as well."

"Yeah, no I think I'll pass. Last time I was at your's it didn't end so well."

I say a little sarcastically and he narrows his eyes at me.

"Really, you want to do that now? I already said I'm sorry. And I've told you it was a mistake."

I turn my head away and frown.

"Yeah I know. Sorry. I'll think about it on the way back and then I'll talk to Zayde."

He nods but doesn't say anything. I see him clenching his jaw.

"What?"

He shakes his head and moves away from me, only a little but enough to make me feel suddenly cold.

"Nothing."

"Zane." I try to reach for his arm but he subtly moves it out of my reach and my heart clenches.

"We should probably head back, we still need to go back to our pack. I still have some paperwork to fill out."

Zane says and gets up. Jakes nods at him before helping Megan up and all of us start picking up the picnic stuff.

Zayde turns to Zane with a sad look.

"You're leaving?"

His voice sounds small and my heart squeezes.

Zane gives him a small smile and ruffles his hair.

"Yeah, I'm sorry buddy. But we have to go back to our pack, I can't stay here."

"Can we come with you? Mom?"

Both Zayde and Zane turn to look at me in I feel like a deer caught in headlights, not knowing what to do.

Zane turns to our son first.

"Sorry, maybe another time okay?"

I see Zayde's bottom lip trembling but he nods slowly and when Zane picks him up he burries his head into his father's chest, not even looking at me.

Zane moves past me with our son in his arms, not sparing me a second glance and I feel my heart clench again.

I'm not sure what happened but clearly I did something to upset him.

I sigh and follow behind them slowly. I guess I'll find out once we get back to the packhouse.

Chapter 19 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

Somewhere along the way Zayde wanted to be put down so Zane put him down allowing him to run around. At some point he came over and took my hand, talking about the picnic we had before he ran off chasing a butterfly again.

Atleast he forgot that he was upset with me. I look over at Zane, who is having a conversation with Jake. He hasn't spoken to me since our little spat. He hasn't even looked in my direction. I shake my head and sigh.

"Are you okay?"

I look at Dan, walking with his arm around Ashley. I give them a smile and shrug.

"I guess. I'm kind of annoyed with how he's acting."

I say indicating at Zane with my head and Dan nods.

"You should tell him. He's an Alpha. Used to getting what he wants."

I cock an eyebrow.

"Yeah well behaving like a child isn't going to make me change my mind about him."

I say a little louder on purpose and I see Zane frown, I smirk knowing he heard me.

Ashley hides a smile and Dan smirks aswell, shaking his head.

Once we reach the packhouse I ask Ashley to take Zayde and she nods heading inside with him.

I head over to Zane and cross my arms over my chest.

"We need to talk."

"I don't really have time, I have to go."

He says coldy and I narrow my eyes at him.

"Well you're going to make time right know if you want to continue seeing my son."

He glares at me.

"You mean our son."

"He's still mine Zane. I've raised him for the last five years. You've only just come into the picture."

"Because you hid him from me for the last five years!"

"Don't you yell at me. And technically I didn't hide him. I just didn't tell you. And I didn't have to. You should be grateful I've let you into his life."

"Are you serious? He's my son. My heir. You can't just think I'd be okay with finding out about him now. I deserved to know about him!"

"No! No you didn't. I know you said you wouldn't have rejected him, and maybe that's true now. But back then.. You didn't know what you wanted. You didn't even want me. I wasn't going to take the chance to tell you just to hear that you didn't want him."

"I would've stuck by you if you'd have told me, and I'd have been there for him Shay."

"That wouldn't have made anything better. You already didn't want me, if what you say is true and I had come to you telling you about Zayde and you decided to stay with me you'd have grown to resent both of us. You'd see us as a burden."

"That's unfair, your assuming things."

"Am I?? Think about it. Do you honestly think it wouldn't have come to that? You just turned 18. You were about to take over as Alpha. You were young, ambitious and be honest you were a little bit of an cocky asshole. You didn't want a family at that point."

He frowns at me.

"Well.. No. But.."

"No buts Zane. Deep down you know I'm right. You were a complete jerk who broke my heart. You made a lot of promises that night. All of them just to get me into bed.. And I was stupid enough to believe you. You didn't even mark me. Most mates mark each other almost immediately after finding each other. You used me, and then just discarded me like I was nothing. And now you have the audacity to be angry at me because you said sorry and I didn't just jump into your arms and accept you."

He frowns again and cross his arms over his chest.

"That's not true."

"Of course it is. You've been ignoring me all the way back acting like a kid. All because everything didn't go the way the big bad Alpha wanted it to. You said you'd take what I can give, but your trying to force me to do things you want. Holding hands. Touching each other. Going over to your pack. I'm not ready. I haven't even decided how I feel about you. You said you'd prove yourself to me, but if your not willing to prove yourself or wait for me then this won't ever work and we can just stop everything here and now. I

need time and I need space to figure things out. And then we can get to know each other and see if this could maybe go somewhere."

He just stares at me and I frown.

"Zane? You heard me right?"

He nods.

"Yes. I heard you. Fine if you want time and space I'll give it to you. As if five years wasn't enough already."

He scoffs and turns to leave but I grab his arm.

"Zane, come on!"

He sighs, running his hand down his face.

"Not now Shay. I really need to leave. I'll be by to visit Zayde. But I'll arrange it through Dan, that way you don't have to see me or spend time with me. Call me when you've decided that you've had enough time and space."

He turns around and stalks away into the packhouse, I'm assuming to go say goodbye to Zayde.

I see everyone still standing around us, a little further away but still there.

I sigh and shake my head.

"Well that went well." Megan says sarcastically while wrapping an arm around him. "Are you okay?"

I nod and smile at her.

"Yes I'm fine, thanks."

"We'll talk to him, okay?"

I see her look at Jake for conformation and he nods while giving me a small smile.

I nod and smile back.

"Thank you."

He nods, and then heads off into the packhouse.

A little while later both he and Zane emerges.

They say goodbye to us before the three of them leave for their pack.

I stare after their car for a little while and when I turn around I see Dan watching me.

"He'll come around. You'll see."

I just nod and walk over to him and he hugs me close.

"I think you handled that well, the ball is in his court now. Let him think about things and cool down. He'll come back."

"How sure are you?"

"I'm pretty sure. I told you he wasn't the same guy anymore. Although today didn't prove that."

I nod at him.

"Maybe this is good. Him having a tantrum and storming off. Both of us will have some time to think things over clearly."

Dan nods at me.

"Exactly. Come on, mom's waiting. We're all going over to dad room for a while."

"Don't you have work?"

"Oh tons of it. But today I'm spending it with my family."

He wraps an arm around my shoulder.

I smile and put my arms around his waist as we start walking back to the packhouse.

"I really missed you Dan."

He kisses my hair.

"Yeah I'm missed you to little sister. It's good to have you back where you belong."

Chapter 20 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

2 weeks later.

I'm sitting next to my father's bed. Lost in my thoughts.

He still hasn't woken up. The doctor said that he isn't getting worse, but he's also not getting better at this point. I keep coping he'll wake up soon otherwise we might lose my mother.

She isn't taking it well and has closed herself off from us. She's lost a lot of weight already and she barely sleeps. She doesn't even care about her appearance anymore. It's like she's giving up.

I sigh and run a hand down my face.

I hear someone approaching and I turn to the door.

Dan enters and I give him a small smile that he returns.

"How's he doing?"

"Still no changes. How's mom? Have you seen her?"

He sighs and nods.

"Yes. She's about as well as can be expected. Ashley and Zayde are with her."

I nod and stand up. We both turn and head back to the packhouse, to Dan's office.

"So did you find anything out there?"

There has been quite a few rogue sightings but we haven't been able to capture any. They kept away far enough from the packs. Obviously just observing us from afar, and no one knows why.

Dan shakes his head.

"No still nothing. I'm really starting to think your right. This isn't just some random rogue sightings. They have to be related to the attacks. I think we have a rogue pack out there."

I nod.

"I think so too. They obviously don't just attack. They have a chain of command. I think that's why they've been spotted so much lately. They're observing us after the last attack. Maybe to check our defenses. I think we should be extra careful, they have something planned."

Dan nods at me.

"Yes, that's what Zane thought as well."

"Hmmm."

I know I didn't really give him an answer but what am I suppose to say.

"I'm assuming you guys still haven't spoken to each other?"

"No."

Dan sighs.

"Shay.."

But I cut him off, shaking my head.

"No, Dan. I'm not making the first move. He is the one that needs to apologize. I didn't do anything wrong."

"Shay.. You know how angry I was when I heard what happened between the two of you. It took years for me to be able to be in the same room as him without wanting to kick his ass. He was a complete asshole. I know. And I supported what you wanted to do. But if I found out Ashley hid our son from me.. I'd probably be mad as well.. I know you feel like he didn't deserve to know. And he was wrong but just think how you'd feel if the roles were reversed."

I frown at Dan.

"I know okay. I know maybe I should have atleast told him about Zayde. Given him a chance. But I was scared. I'm not going to apologize for trying to protecting my son from a possible rejection."

"And you shouldn't. But maybe you do own hom an explanation, just explain calmly why you did what you did and why you felt it was okay and without throwing his faults at him."

Before I can answer him the warning siren goes off.

Dan and I both jump up as he yells.

"Rogues!"

I nod and we rush out of the office.

"Shay make sure everyone is safe."

I shake my head.

"No, I can fight."

"I know Shay, but someone needs to make sure everyone is safe in the bunkers. Ashley is new, she doesn't know and mom is in no position to contribute."

I frown but nod and head in the other direction.

"Be safe."

I yell back at him

"I will. You too."

I watch him shift and head off into the same direction some of our warriors are heading.

I take a deep breath and start to help people to the bunkers before I start looking for my mother; Ashley; and Zayde.

I find them on their way to one of the bunkers with some of the omegas.

Zayde rushes over to me and I scoop him up into my arms.

I look into his terrified eyes, his lip trembling.

"Mommy what's happening? I'm scared."

I hug him tight, heading down into the bunker.

"I know baby. But you have to be brave okay? We'll be okay."

He nods at me clinging to me tightly.

Once I'm sure everyone is safe inside and settled I hand Zayde to Ashley.

"Shay, what are you doing?"

I give them an apologetic smile.

"I'm sorry, I have to go help. I can't stay here."

"No Shay! I can't lose you too!"

My mom says with tears in her eyes, as she grabs my arm.

I take her hand and squeeze it.

"I have too mom. Dan is out there. And a lot of our pack members. I have to help them, atleast I can be there and watch Dan's back to make sure he's okay."

"I don't want you to go Mommy!"

I ruffle his hair.

"I promise you I'll be back baby, you have to stay strong yeah and protect everyone here right? Your my little Alpha."

He nods at me with his lips still trembling and I kiss his head.

"I love you baby. I'll be back soon."

I make my way out, ensuring the doors close properly behind me before I shift and head of in the same direction I saw Dan and the warriors go.

Once I reach the area the battle broke out in I stop to try and assess the situation.

There are a lot of rogues. And they clearly have had some sort of training, we are winning but only barely.

I head into battle, tackling a rogue to the ground that had one of our warriors pinned and ripping his throat out.

'Shay! What are you doing here?!'

Dan yells in my head.

'I had to help. Everyone is save, but I can't let you all do this alone. This is my pack too, my home. And I will help protect it.'

'You have a son Shay!'

'So do many of them! I'm staying! No stop arguing and concentrate on the fight!'

I say before I block him out.

I see more rogues coming from the woods and I for a moment I start to worry. If they keep this up, we won't be winning for long. I shake out my fur and jump back into the fight. This is my home, my father is an Alpha, so is my brother. I'm not standing down and letting them win.

Not after what they did to my dad the last time.

