

Chapter 21 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

I rip another rogues throat out, moving on to another one.

It feels never ending, they keep coming and I can see our warriors are getting tired.

I hear something and turn ready to attack just to see the warriors from Zane's pack entering through the woods.

Finally some backup.

I see a young warrior's wolf pinned down by a rogue and I charge tackling the wolf to the ground, my jaw locks around his neck and I shake until I hear something snap and he goes limp. I drop him to the ground but before I can look around to see if anyone needs help I'm tackled into a tree.

I feel something snap as I make contact with the tree. My wolf snarls in pain while I whimper in my head.

I slowly get up, shaking my head to get my bearings straight again and I see the wolf that tackled me snarling a few feet away.

He's big. And I can feel the power of his aura. Not an Alpha ranked but definitely a Beta ranked wolf.

He takes a step closer and I bare my teeth at him, snarling.

He snaps at me and then jumps, taking me by surprise. I dodge his attack just in time and turn around biting into his hind leg.

He snarls and kicks me in the face making me let go.

I can see the slight limp I caused as he starts to circle around me, looking for a place to attack.

He lunges at me again and I jump out of the way, but he swipes at me and gets my side, leaving a deep claw mark.

I snarl in pain again, attacking him back, trying to find his weakness.

I can feel my wolf getting tired, we had quite a few injuries but I couldn't just let this one go. After quite some time I finally see my shot and I pretend to swipe at him and when he moves to the side I lunge at him, landing on his back and sinking my teeth into his shoulder.

He growls and tries to shake me off but I dig my claws in deeper using the last of my energy to hang onto him for dear life.

I can feel him starting to lose energy when suddenly I'm yanked off him, I feel my hind leg snap and I whimper as I'm thrown to the ground.

My wolf immediately shifts back into my human form and I hiss from the pain coming from my leg.

I hear a wolf snarl and I look up to see the wolf that attacked me from behind getting ready to pounce on me. I try to get up but my broken leg gives out on me.

I hear a menacing growl before a big black wolf comes out of nowhere and rips into the rogue that attacked me from behind.

I see the beta ranked wolf trying to slip away and a lot of the rogues follow him, flanking him to ensure no one can get to him.

I shift into my human form the same time Zane does and he rushes to me.

"Are you okay?"

He asks looking me over worriedly.

I nod.

"I'm fine, but he's getting away."

Zane frown.

"Who?"

"The wolf I was fighting. He's beta ranked, I'm sure of it. He's getting away, and they're protecting him. He's important, we have to go after him."

I say and try to get up only to grunt in pain and sit back down, my leg still isn't aligned right after the rogue broke it.

Zane takes my leg into his hands.

"Deep breaths okay? This is gonna hurt. On three okay?"

I nod and take a deep breath.

"One.."

"Two.."

Suddenly Zane realigns my leg and my wolf snarls at him.

"Son of a bitch! You said three."

"I know, but you knew this was coming."

He helps me sit up, and I look around.

"They've all retreated after you injured the beta ranked wolf. Don't worry, Dan and some of the warriors went after them. We need to get you checked out."

I shake my head.

"No I'm fine, we need to help those seriously injured."

"Why are you out here in the first place?"

"I had to help my pack."

"What about Zayde?"

"He's safe in a bunker with my mother and Ashley."

"Have you always been this reckless?"

I frown at him.

"Excuse me?"

"You heard me. You have a son to think about. Why would you come out here to fight? What if you were seriously injured or worse, killed today?"

"But I wasn't, I was doing fine."

"Not from where I was standing. You were hurt pretty bad in that fight and when that rogue threw you your wolf shifted back. He was going to attack you in your weakened human form Shay."

"I had to okay. This is my pack. My family. They've already tried to take my father from us. I couldn't let Dan come out here alone to defend our home."

"He's the Alpha Shay! That's what we do. You have a responsibility towards our son! Why would you leave him? His first attack and you leave him alone!"

"He's not alone!"

"You know what I mean! He has to be terrified and instead of being there with him you're put here trying to what? To prove something to someone?"

"I did what I felt I had to. A lot of these warriors have children as well. Why is it okay for them and not for me? You're out here as well, what if something happened to you?"

"It's not the same Shay and you know it. You didn't have to put yourself at risk like this today, you wanted to do this. Did you even stop to consider our son? Or me? Or your mother that is barely hanging on with your father still laying in a hospital bed?"

I open my mouth to argue. But then close it as I frown and look away.

"I know I took a risk today. But I felt guilty okay. I had to do something to help, even just a little. I've left my family and my pack for 5 years, left them fighting on their own and look what happened to my father. It's stupid okay but I had to do something. I had to show my son it's okay to be scared but still go out and fight. To be brave. Now can we please move on from this? I don't need a lecture. We have injured warriors to attend to."

He looks like he wants to argue but I glare at him and he frowns at me before he nods his head, helping me to my feet.

Once we're standing he places his arm around my waist to help keep me up.

I feel the sparks dancing over my skin and I suddenly realize we're both still naked.

I feel something poke my hip and I look at Zane with wide eyes, not daring to look down.

I see Zane clenching his jaw trying not to react to the fact that we're naked.

He pulls me closer to his side, as if to hide my body with his as he snarls at some of the warriors. They all show their necks in submission and I frown, hitting Zane's chest.

"Stop doing that!"

"I can't help it! You're naked! And they can see you."

"We're all naked Zane, we're werewolves nudity isn't a problem for us."

He frowns at me.

"I don't like it." He mumbles, just like our son does when something doesn't go the way he wants it to.

I shake my head and give him a smile.

"You'll get over it. But if it'll help, behind those trees should be some clothes. Go get us something so we can help those injured."

He looks over at the trees I'm pointing to and nods. Glaring at a few warriors again, warning them not to look at me.

I sigh and roll my eyes, and soon I see him rushing back with shorts hanging low on his hips before he pulls a shirt over my head before I can protest.

"Zane! Seriously! Stop this!"

I growl at him and pull the shirt on completely.

"I don't want them to look at you. That should only be for your mate's eyes."

I lift my brow at him.

"Oh really now? Stop behaving like a child and go help those that need it."

I stalk off to go help our wounded warriors.

I hear him mumbling something behind me about this not being over but I tune him out.

I know we're going to talk about this again later. And he's right. I didn't need to fight today. Now thinking about it I realize how stupid I was. I could've gotten hurt or killed and then what would happen to our son.

I sigh and shake my head well at least he's talking to me again, even if it was just to yell at me. Now I need to focus on those that need my help.

I'll deal with him and probably Dan later.

Chapter 22 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

Halfway through cleanup Dan; Jake and some of the warriors that went after the rogues joined us.

"Did you find them?"

Jake sighs and shakes his head.

"No, if we get one they come back for him. They don't leave anyone alive behind. The beta ranked wolf got away quickly, they made sure of that."

Zane frowns and nods at them.

"Report?"

Dan asks, referring to our warriors.

"Quite a few injured, some serious but luckily nothing life threatening. Neither of our packs lost anyone. Most of the rogue bodies has been disposed off."

Zane gives a quick overlay and Dan nods.

"Atleast we didn't loose anyone this time. Let's head back."

We all nod at Dan before we walk back to the packhouse.

The walk back is rather silent as all of us are caught up in our own thoughts. But I'm very aware of the fact that Zane is walking very close to me, without touching me but close enough for me to know he's there.

I glance up at him but he's looking around us with a frown.

"Are you looking for something?"

His gaze snaps to me and he shakes his head.

"No, I'm just still on edge. Just want to make sure I don't hear anything that shouldn't be here."

I nod at him and we continue our walk in silence.

"Have you spoken to mom or Ashley? Are they okay?"

Dan nods.

"Yes, they're fine. They are in the game room."

I nod and as we reach the packhouse I try to head for the game room but Zane snatches my arm en pulls me to a stand.

"Where are you going?"

I frown and try to pull my arm away from him.

"To go see my son. Let go."

He clenches his jaw and shakes his head at me.

"I don't think so. You should go shower first."

I narrow my eyes at him.

"Excuse me? You can't tell me I can't see my son. I.."

"Shay." Dan puts his hand up interrupting me and I frown at him.

"What?" I snap.

"He's right. You should go shower first. Your covered in blood. Zayde is already terrified enough as it is, you don't have to add to that by having him see you like this."

I look down, only now realizing how bad I look. I sigh and run my hand through my sticky hair.

"Your right. Thank you." I turn to Zane. "And I'm sorry."

He only nods at me, not answering before heading into the packhouse.

I turn to Dan and he smiles at me.

"I'll tell them to keep him busy and then after we've showered we can meet them in the dining room."

I nod and we head into the packhouse and up the stairs.

"Shay."

Dan calls me just as I turn to go down the hall to my room.

"Yes?" I ask arching my brow.

"I'm glad you're okay. But we're still going to talk about you showing up to fight."

I sigh and nod.

"Yes I know. I'm going to have to have that same talk with Zane as well."

Dan smirks at me.

"Oh your definitely going to have a talk alright. Good luck."

He says before he heads for his room.

I sigh again and make my way into my own room, heading into the bathroom.

I switch on the shower waiting for the water to heat up, and go stand in front of my mirror.

I lift the shirt over my head to examine my injuries. There are quite a few scrapes all over, but they all look like they're basically healed up.

The claw mark in my side doesn't look too bad, it's still not completely healed but it's getting there.

I touch the wound on my head and flinch. It's still tender but luckily not bleeding anymore.

I get into the shower and give myself a good scrub, making sure there's no blood visible for Zayde to see.

As soon as I leave my room I hear a door open a few doors down and I look over.

I see Zane coming out, wearing only sweatpants while pulling a shirt over his head.

I lick my lips unconsciously, my eyes running over his chest, down the planes of his stomach, to the waistband of his sweatpants and I swallow.

I hear someone clearing their throat and my gaze snap up to Zane who's smirking down at me.

I blush, realizing I've been caught checking him out.

"Oh. Hi. I didn't even realize you were there."

I say quickly and I see his smirk grow before I quickly start to walk away.

"Oh really now? I could've sworn you were just checking me out."

He says as he falls into step with me.

"Nope." I say, popping the P. "You're mistaken."

"If you say so."

I hear the smile in his voice but I don't answer him I just continue making my way downstairs.

"Shay, wait."

He grabs my arm and pulls me to a stop again.

I arch my brow at him, waiting for him to speak.

"We need to talk."

He says and runs his fingers through his hair, I follow the movement and nod at him. Heading for one of the receiving rooms on the floor we're on.

Zane locks the door behind us and turns to me again.

I hold my hand up.

"Before you start. If you want to yell at me, or fight. Just please save it. It's been a long day and I don't have the energy for this. I'd like to go see my son."

He frowns at me.

"I'm not going to yell. And I don't want to argue. I just.. I'm sorry okay?"

I frown.

"Your sorry?"

"Yes."

He says nodding at me and I cross my arms over my chest.

"Sorry for?"

He sighs and runs his fingers through his hair again.

"I don't know.. Everything? I guess."

"You guess?"

"Stop it will you! Just listen and let me talk!"

"Fine! Then actually talk!"

He frowns at me, but I only lift my eyebrow at him motioning with my hand for him to speak.

"As I was saying. I'm sorry. Sorry for doing what I did and saying what I said back then. Sorry for getting mad because you wouldn't just let me off because I said I'm sorry. I'm sorry you felt you had to leave your pack, your family because you thought it would be better than to tell me your pregnant. And I'm sorry for getting mad at you about Zayde. I still don't like what you did, and I still feel like I would've liked to know about him earlier,

but I can see your side as well. I acted like a kid, more than once and I'm sorry for giving you the silent treatment and being so childish. My ego was hurt that you didn't just come to me when I said sorry even though I knew I was wrong, and sorry wasn't going to fix everything. I just... I'm just sorry.. For everything.. And also I just want to thank you. Thank you, Shay. For keeping him and raising him all by yourself. I know it had to have been hard, but you did a great job. He's a wonderful little boy."

I blink, just staring at him. Unsure if I actually heard what I did and if I did how to react to it.

"Shay? Are you okay?"

Zane asks with a frown, stepping closer to me and touching my arm.

I shake my head, trying to clear the confusion before I focus on his molten eyes.

"I'm okay. I just wasn't expecting that. Thank you."

Zane nods at me and gives me a small smile before he lets go of my arm and turns to leave, but I grab his hand.

"Zane! Wait!"

He looks down at my hand and then at me.

"I'm sorry too. I'm not going to apologize for trying to protect my son, but I am sorry for just assuming that you wouldn't want him. I should've given you a choice. But I was young and hurt. It wasn't the best choice. But at the time I thought it was. I wish I could go back and make different choices but what's done is done. You know of him now, I just want us all to move on from this."

Zane nods at me and takes my other hand into his as well.

"I want that too. To move on and be part of your lives. I want us to be a family Shay. But I promise I'll be good. I won't force you into anything I just want you to give us a chance."

I try to pull away but he tightens his hold on my hands.

"Please, think about it. We can take it as slow as you want too. You don't have to answer me now. Just promise me you'll think about it."

I look into his pleading eyes reluctantly and I sigh before I nod slowly.

"Fine. I'll think about it. I'll really think about it."

Zane gives me a wide smile and hugs me quickly.

"Thank you. You won't regret this. I promise. Now... About you joining the fight today."

His voice and face suddenly turns serious and I flinch from the look in his eyes, folding my arms around me as a defense mechanism.

I was kind of hoping he wouldn't bring this up now, but I guess luck isn't on my side.

Chapter 23 - Returning to my rejected mate

Zane's Point of View

"Now.. About you joining the fight today."

I fold my arms over my chest and I see Shay flinch before wrapping her arms around herself and staring down at her feet.

"Do you realize how reckless you were today?"

She goes to speak but I stop her.

"No wait. Just listen."

I wait for her to nod before I continue.

"Your dad is still in a coma; your mother is having a hard time coping without him. Dan is the packs Alpha, he had to fight, eventhough he just found his mate and would've preferred to be by her side. But he knows his duty as an alpha. You didn't need to be there. Dan was there. His beta was there, as well as the previous beta. I was there. What would've happened to your mother if both you and Dan were killed today? To your pack? What would've happened to our five year old son? If both you and Dan were killed your pack would be left without an Alpha. The next in line would've been our five year old son. Even if I would've been there to help, imagine the burden that would've been put on his little shoulders. If you were killed today, our son would've lost his mother; I would've lost my mate and my pack their rightfull Luna. I was terrified when I smelled you out there and I thought my heart was going to stop when you shifted back and that rogue tried to attack you. And just imagine what our son felt today. He is only 5. This is the first attack he's been in. And you left him. I know you are a good fighter, and you can hold your own. I also understand you want to help protect your pack but you can't do this again ever. Unless you really have no choice, you have to stay out of these fights. For your pack; my pack; and our son. We can't lose you Shay. Just think about us before you do something this reckless again. Do you think you can do that?"

I step closer to her and tilt her chin making her look at me while I wait for her answer.

I was waiting for her to argue with me, what I didn't expect was for her to bury her face in my chest and start to cry.

Shay's Point of View

As I look into his eyes his words keep playing in my head. I know he's right and that makes me feel awful. Especially the part about our son. I didn't really think about anything except getting back at them for my dad. Which is mainly why I felt I had to fight and help protect the pack. I bite my lip to try and stop the tears but it doesn't work as a sob rip through me.

I step forward, wrap my arms around Zane, bury my head in his chest and I let the tears I've been holding since I heard about my dad fall.

Zane tenses for a moment before he wraps his arms around me and pulls me even closer. Holding me against his chest, allowing me to cry. Every now and then he pets my hair and whispers encouragements and sweet nothings into my ear all the while just holding me, allowing me to cry myself out.

After a while I start to feel a little calmer, his scent and touch helping me to calm myself. I take a shaky breath and rub my cheek against his chest.

"Thank you, I needed that."

I feel him kiss my head and nod.

"Of course. Are you okay?"

I nod and pull away reluctantly, giving him a small smile.

"I am. I feel a lot better."

"I'm glad."

We stare at each other in silence for a moment before I speak.

"You're right. I was selfish and reckless. I was angry about my dad and I felt guilty. I honestly didn't even stop to consider Zayde. Hearing you point that out... I would never do anything to hurt him on purpose.. I just didn't think any of this through. But I promise you from now on I'll stay out of it and leave the fights to you and Dan. I'll focus on keeping everyone safe and calm in the bunkers and I'll focus on keeping our son safe."

Zane nods at me and pulls me closer for a hug again and I go willingly, wrapping my arms tightly around him.

"Thank you. I don't want to tell you what to do, I just really think you should focus more on the Luna's job at this time, especially with your mom so out of it and Ashley being new. Leave the fighting to us. And focus on our son. I'm just scared that he'll end up being terrified of living in on of the packs because of the attacks, he's not used to things like that and with you leaving him.. I'm sure that'll leave a bad lasting impression."

I nod at him.

"Thinking about it now, I do see your point and I know your right. I'm sorry about today. I have to apologize to Zayde aswell. I can't believe I didn't even consider him today."

"He's young, and he loves you. He'll be fine. We just need to make sure we don't put him in that spot again if it isn't necessary. Now come on, let's go get you cleaned up before we go down for dinner. I don't think you want him to see you all red and puffy, it might upset him."

He takes my hand and leads me to the bathroom adjacent to the receiving room we're in.

I wash my face with cold water a few times and dry it off.

I take a look at myself. My eyes are still a little red and puffy. I turn to Zane.

"How do I look?"

"Beautiful as always."

I blush.

"That's not what I meant and you know it."

He smirks at me.

"I know but you do. You look fine, let's go. I'm sure Zayde is on edge already."

I nod and we make our way down to the dining room. As soon as we enter I hear my son yelling and something running into me almost knocking me on my ass if it weren't for Zane's arm around my waist holding me.

"Mommy!"

I go down on my knees and wrap my arms around my son tightly. I feel his little shoulders shake as he cries against my chest.

"Your okay! I was so scared."

My eyes fill with tears as I hear his terrified little voice and I hold him tighter, kissing his head.

"I know baby. And mommy is so sorry. I'll never leave you again okay? I promise."

I feel him nod against my chest while I sit there, rocking him trying to calm him down.

After a little while I feel Zane crouching down next to us, wrapping both of us into his arms. Zayde moves away from me and snuggles into his father's chest.

"Daddy, mommy left."

I hear his soft voice and my heart constricts.

"I know buddy, she came to help me and uncle Dan fight the bad guys. But she's back now and she's okay that's all that matters. We're all still here and save right?"

He nods his little head and then looks at me and gives me a small smile.

"Can we eat now? I'm starving."

I smile at him and nod, ruffling his hair.

"Of course baby. Let's go get some food. I'm starving as well."

We all get up, Zayde still in his father's arms and we head over to the tables with the food.

As we get our food Zayde tells us about what they did in the bunker and in the game room and I smile hearing him and Zane converse as if this is a normal occurrence. As we sit down and I see people looking at the three of us and smiling I suddenly realize, this is our first official meal as a family in the pack.

My heart starts to race a little and I look up into Zane's eyes. He gives me a big smile that I return.

I know I told Zane I'd think about it. But seeing them now.. I don't have to think about it anymore. This is a kofe I can get used to. I want this. I want us.

Chapter 24 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

After dinner we all meet up in the living space in Dan's suite.

The men all sit on the couch taking turns playing video games with Zayde while we stand in the kitchen making some coffee.

"I see you and Zane look all cozy. I'm assuming you guys talked?"

I look over at Megan, while stirring the coffee and I nod.

"Yes, we did have a talk."

I tell them about what happened earlier and they all smile at me.

"I'm glad you two talked things out."

I look at my mother and I smile at her.

"Thank you mom. I'm glad too."

"So, are you two like together now?"

Ashley asks looking at me excitedly.

"I think so. He asked me to give us a chance, again. And I really want too. I just realized tonight that this is something I really want. I want to move on and try to be a family."

Ashley and Megan squeals and my mom laughs at them while I just shake my head with a smile.

"Have you told him yet?"

"No, but I think I'll give it some time before I do, I would like to see him actually try to woo me, you know. I want him to show me he'll really try. I don't want everything to just be about the bond. I want us to really connect because we want to, not because of Zayde or the matebond."

My mother nods and squeezes my hand.

"I understand. And I think that's a good idea. Go on a few dates and get to really know each other again."

I nod at her and then I actually look at her, really look at her and I realize she looks a little better. I suddenly remembered I haven't even asked about my father eith everything going on.

"I'm so sorry mom. With everything going on I forgot about you and dad. How are you doing? How is dad doing?"

She gives me smile, a real smile.

"I'm doing a lot better. The doctor says he's showing signs of improvement and the swelling around his brain has come down alot. It looks like he might wake up soon."

I give her a big smile and we all take turns hugging her.

"I'm so glad to hear that mom! We'll go visit him again tomorrow morning, yeah?"

She nods at me.

"Do you want to go join the boys in there or are we going to stay in here and talk some more?" Ashley asks as she puts the mugs on a tray.

We all look at each other and I shrug.

"Maybe we stay in here and talk? I don't feel like watching them play games?"

Megan suggest and my mother and I nod in agreement.

Ashley nods back at us.

"Okay great, I'll just go give them their coffee then, you guys can go on out and sit on the terrace, it's a bit more comfy there, especially fo you Megan."

We head out to the terrace and make ourselves comfortable, drinking our coffee.

"So how are you feeling dear? I haven't even asked you?"

My mother turns to Megan and Megan smiles at her.

"We're doing good. I haven't really had alot of morning sickness or anything. My emotions are a bit all over the place, so poor Jake has to walk on eggshells most of the time."

My mother laughs.

"Poor guy. I remember that part. My poor husband had a hard time as well. Everything he did annoyed me, and I wanted him to leave me alone, but I was also so very needy and I wanted him around all the time."

We all laugh at that.

"I remember with Zayde, the stupidest little things made me cry. Like putting my shoes on the wrong foot or something. It's really tricky controlling your emotions sometimes."

My mother and Megan nods at me.

"It really is. I keep snapping at Jake and then I cry, because I feel bad and he is just trying to help."

"He loves you, I'm sure he knows you don't mean it when you snap at him."

Ashley says as she joins us and Megan smiles.

"I know. He keeps telling me it's okay and that he loves me anyway. I'm so lucky I have him. So how about you and Dan? How is that going?"

Ashley smiles and gets a dreamy expression on her face.

"It's going great. He is so caring and sweet. I can't believe it took us this long to meet, but I'm so happy we did. He's everything I've always wanted."

"I'm so happy for the both of you. You both deserved someone great and you compliment each other so well."

Megan and my mother nods their agreement.

"So am I getting any grandpups soon?"

My mother asks with a teasing smile and Ashley blushes.

"We haven't really talked about it.. But we did get carried away on our first night. So I guess we'll just have to wait and see."

"Are you okay with that? Having pups so soon?"

My mother asks and Ashley nods.

"I love kids. I've always wanted a bunch. And I can't wait to have some little babies with Dan so if I am pregnant, I'd be okay with that. And I hope Dan would be as well."

"I'm sure he will be happy if you are indeed pregnant."

My mother says squeezing her hand softly.

"What about you Shay? I know you literally just decided to give it a go, but do you want anymore children?"

I look at Megan and shrug.

"I've always wanted a big family. But after what happened with me and Zane I kind of gave up on that idea. But now... Yeah, if things work out between us I'd love to have some more babies.. Well alot more babies."

"That's very good to know. I'd love that too."

His voice sends shiver down my spine, and I blush as I turn to look at Zane.

He's standing in the doorway, with a big smirk on his face. I see Zayde asleep against his chest.

"It's rude to listen in on other people's conversations."

"I wasn't listening in. I came to tell you he fell asleep and I just happened to overhear the last part of your conversation."

I get up and walk over to them, brushing Zayde's hair from his forehead.

"I'm sure. Aww my poor baby, he must've been exhausted. I'll go put him to bed and I think I'm going retire as well. Goodnight."

Everyone says goodnight and I try to take Zayde from Zane but he shakes his head.

"No, I got him. I'll bring him to his room for you."

I nod, and quickly say goodnight to Dan and Jake before Zane and I make our way to my suite.

Once there, I show him to Zayde's room and he lays him down slowly. I tug him in and kiss him on his forehead before Zane kisses him as well. I make sure his night light is on before I switch of the light and pull the door partially close.

I walk Zane back to the door.

"Thank you for bringing him."

"Of course, it was no problem."

We stand there, just sort of awkwardly staring at each other.

"So are you staying over or heading back?"

"I have to head back. Megan and Jake are wait for me in the car already. I don't really want leave my pack overnight especially not after a neighboring pack was attacked. I've already spent most of my day here, been doing that alot lately."

"I'm sorry, it's because you keep coming here for Zayde."

"No, it's fine, I want to see you."

"But you keep leaving your pack. I feel guilty."

"It's fine really, they understand and my parents are there, Jake is there most of the time as well."

"Still.. What if.. Well maybe Zayde and I can come over and spent some time at your pack? Maybe meet upur parents? If that would be alright with you?"

I suggest nervously, but the smile Zane gives me makes all my worries dissappear.

"That would be great. I would love that, and I'm sure they would aswell."

I smile and nod.

"Great. I'll just speak to my mother and Dan and we'll be over there in two days?"

"I'll pick you up. Thank you."

"Then it's settled. Goodnight Zane."

"Good night Shay."

I start to close the door when suddenly he grabs it, stopping me.

"Shay, did you mean what you said back there? About us having more kids? Does that mean you're giving us a chance?"

I give him a gentle smile.

"I did.. If things work out, I'd love to have more babies with you."

Zane gives me a wide grin.

"That makes me really happy, knowing you'd want a future, a family with me. Goodnight Shay. I'll see you in two days."

He says, giving me a quick kiss on the cheek. My heart starts to race and I blush.

"Goodnight Zane."

I quickly close the door and lean my forehead against it.

Damn this matebond and his good looks.

If he keeps on looking at me like he did tonight and smiling at me that way I might just forget that I wanted us to work on us.

I shake my head and make my way over to the window, just in time to see them drive away.

My heart aches watching him leave. It's going to be a lot harder than I thought not giving in to the matebond too early I think to myself as I get into bed.

Chapter 25 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

I watch my son in amusement. Today is the day we're going to Zane's pack and he's buzzing with excitement. I can't get him to calm down and he keeps on talking very excitedly.

I shake my head and smile as once again he jumps up and runs to the window seeing if the car approaching is his dad's.

He squeals excitedly and starts to jump up and down.

"He's here! He's here!"

He yells and rushes to the front door pulling it open and running outside just as Zane steps out of his car.

Zayde rushes into him so quickly he loses his balance for a minute before regaining it again and scooping our son up to hug him tightly.

"Someone's excited."

Zane says and shoots me a grin over our son's head.

I nod and smile.

"Oh I know. He's been up since five and I can't get him to calm down and stop talking."

Zane laughs and looks at Zayde.

"Are you ready to go? Your grandparents can't wait to see you!"

As soon as I hear those words my heart rate spikes and I don't even hear Zayde's reply. I forgot about his parents. I haven't seen them since coming back.

"Hey, you okay?"

I feel the sparks running down my arm and I look up at Zane.

"What if they hate me?"

Zane's eyebrows draw together and he looks at me in confusion before I see realization cross over his face. He smiles and shakes his head while wrapping his free arm around me, hugging me to his side.

"It's going to be fine, you'll see. They don't hate you. My mother ripped me a new one. They're angry at me. Not you. They can't wait to see both of you."

I bite my lip nervously.

"Are you sure?"

He nods again and pulls my lip out from between my teeth.

"Don't do that. And yes I'm sure. Now do you both have all your stuff?"

Zayde and I both nod at him and he smiles.

"Great, let's get going."

He leads us to the car and opens the trunk, putting our bags in before going to the backseat to buckle in Zayde. I move around to the passenger door but Zayde stops me.

"What are you doing?"

He ask me with a frown.

I frown as well, staring at him.

"I'm getting into the car."

"But I haven't gotten the door for you yet."

I roll my eyes.

"I can do it myself."

"I'm aware of that, but as your mate it's my privilege to open doors for you. Please let me."

Zane says as he opens my door for me and I blush while I get in. Before I can say anything he closes the door and rushes over to his side and gets in.

He turns me and smiles.

"Ready?"

I smile nervously at him.

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

He nods and starts the car.

"How about you bud?"

He looks at Zayne in the rear view mirror.

Zayne nods vigorously.

"Yes! I can't wait!"

He yells excitedly and we both laugh at him.

"I'm glad your excited. I'm sure you'll love it."

"Are there many other kids as well?"

Zane nods.

"Yes, there are. You'll have lots of new friends to play with. My third in command, Ryan, has a 4 year old boy, I'm sure the two of you will be best of friends just like me and his dad."

I look over at Zane.

"Jake never mentioned Ryan finding his mate. Do I know her?"

Zane nods.

"Yes, I think so. Amy Wells. She's from your pack."

I nod.

"Oh yeah, I remember her. We never really spent any time together but she was pretty nice."

"Yes, she is. Her and Megan became fast friends. You three will get along well."

I nod at him but don't say anything.

We drive in silence for a while before Zayde speaks.

"Daddy?"

"Yeah?"

Zane looks at our son through the rear view mirror.

"Are we going to stay with you forever?"

Zane glances at me quickly before focusing on our son again.

"We'll see buddy. For now you're just visiting. Are you guys hungry? We can stop at the diner to eat something?"

Before I can even answer, our son yells out very dramatically from the backseat.

"Yes! Please! I'm starving."

Zane chuckles and I shake my head.

"You're always starving, and you had breakfast so you can't be that hungry."

"Yes I can! That was ages ago! I'm a growing wolf! I need lots of food!"

Zane just smiles at him before he looks at me questioningly.

"Yes, we can go to the diner and get some food to feed our starving little wolf."

Zane's smile gets even bigger as he nods at me.

"What?"

I ask arching my brow.

"Nothing."

Zane shrugs.

"No, tell me."

"You said OUR. I like it."

I frown at him and shake my head.

"Your weird."

"That my be, but I'm your weirdo."

Zane smirks at me as he parks the car in front of the diner and gets out. He walks around back to get Zayde and I make to open my door but his voice stops me.

"What are you doing?"

I open my mouth to answer him but he closes Zayde's door and opens mine, looking at me with one of his eyebrows raised.

"I was just going to open my door."

"Why?"

"That is how you get out of the car Zane."

"I told you to let me get the door for you."

"Seriously Zane?"

I roll my eyes at him again as I get out.

He nods and takes my hand, pulling me along with him to the door.

"Yes seriously. This is what guys do too impress the girl. I still have too whoo you right? So let me."

I blush and look at him from across the booth as soon as we sit down. He looks so serious, just staring at me waiting for me to say something.

I give him a small smile and nod.

"Okay, fine. I'll try not to open the door myself."

He smiles at me.

"That's all I'm asking."

A waitress approaches us.

"Hi there. My name is Carol. Can I get you anything?"

She asks Zane with a big smile and I feel a sliver of anger rush through me when I realize she is only looking at Zane. With her breast practically in his face, almost spilling out of her shirt.

Zane, engrossed in his menu at the moment doesn't even realize what she's doing but I stare daggers at her.

Suddenly Zane's head snaps up and he looks at me with a confused expression before he realize her breast are right there in his face.

I see the points of his ear turning red and he clears his throat moving away from her and closer to our son.

"Uhm, well I don't know what I want yet, my wife should probably order first for her and our son while I decide.

The blond waitress suddenly realize there indeed are two other people at the table and the smile on her lips go tight.

"Of course. What would you like?"

She turns to me with her tight smile and I see the hostility in her eyes.

I glare back at her.

"I'll have a bacon cheese burger with fries and a lime milkshake. He'll have some dino nuggets with fries and a small chocolate milkshake."

She nods stiffly and turns back to Zane.

"And what will you have? Anything on or off the menu."

She practically purrs at him and I feel my cheeks heat up with annoyance. Zane looks at me again looking a little worried, and Zayde looks over at me as well.

Zane clears his throat uncomfortably again.

"I'll just have what she's having. Thanks."

She nods, not looking in my direction once, and heads to the kitchen.

"Are you okay?"

"Mommy, why do you keep growling?"

Zane and Zayde asks at the same time.

I frown and look at them.

"What do you mean?"

"You were growling little wolf."

My eyes widen.

"Sorry. I didn't even realize. I just.. She was flirting with you right in front of me. She didn't even notice me or our son. I just hate people like that."

He nods and squeezes my hand.

"I'm sorry, I didn't realize how close she was. Or the fact that she was practically flashing me until I heard you growl."

I shake my head.

"It's fine don't worry about it."

Suddenly that morning starts playing in my head. Him kissing that girl in the kitchen and my heart constricts.

"Shay?"

I look up and see the concerned expression on his face and I give him a tight smile.

"It's fine, I'm okay."

He doesn't look convinced and looks like he wants to say something but I stand up quickly.

"Please excuse me, I need to use the bathroom."

I rush away, I know he didn't do anything wrong but I just need a minute to gather myself.

Chapter 26 - Returning to my rejected mate

After I've used the bathroom I wash my hands and splash some water on my face before I stare at myself in the mirror.

I know technically Zane didn't do anything wrong but still my mind can't help going back to that morning with the blonde in the kitchen.

I take a deep breath, rubbing my hands against my legs and leave the bathroom.

Just as the door closes I see the flirty waitress put down our food, and slipping a piece of paper over to Zane before she saunters off, swaying her hips. I see him glance down at the paper before quickly shoving it into his pocket.

I frown, feeling anger and hurt rush through me. I make my way over to the table and sit down.

Zane looks at me and smiles.

"Hey. Just in time. The food just came."

I hum in response not giving him an answer just starting to eat my food.

Throughout the meal Zane keeps trying to engage me in conversation, I keep on waiting for him to tell me about the waitress and the little paper but he doesn't and my anger and jealousy grows so I either ignore him or give him short answers. After a while I hear him sigh and he gives up. The rest of our lunch the conversation mostly consist of Zayde talking and asking questions.

After our lunch all three of us heads over to the bathroom before we get on the road again. When I come out I see Zane and Zayde throwing away our mess and my heart skips a beat as I see Zane slipping his hand into his pocket and throwing away the paper the waitress gave him.

He's not keeping it.. My heart races and suddenly I smile. He's not keeping it, he threw it away. Relief fills me, as well as guilt for expecting the worst from him.

I wonder if maybe he'd bring it up later. But even if he doesn't it makes me happy knowing he has no intention of calling her.

As I make my way over to them Zane looks up at me and I give him a big smile.

He looks a little startled and gives me an unsure smile back. I can't really blame the guy for being confused. For the last hour or so I have practically ignored him as much as possible. Once I get to them I place my hand on his chest on go on my toes, pecking his cheeks.

"Thank you."

"It's my pleasure. I'm glad you enjoyed your lunch."

I just smile at him, I was actually thanking him for throwing away the paper but he doesn't need to know that.

As we make our way out, I take the little paper with the number on it out of the trash as I see the waitress smile at Zane.

"Thank you for coming. I hope to see you again soon."

I stop and smile sweetly at her.

"Oh we'll definitely be back. You see with my pregnancy I keep craving fries and milkshake and your just hits the spot. And my husband as wonderful as he is drove us all the way over here just to satisfy my needs."

I see her smile straining and start to walk away before I turn back, as if remembering something.

"Oh shoot! Sorry pregnancy brain, before I forget. I think you left something on our table. I'm guessing it's a number someone left for you, it would be such a shame if you lost it and kept the person waiting."

I hand her back the number she slipped to Zane and I see her face going red and the smile disappearing from her face, while Zane's face goes a little pale.

"Thank you for lunch. You have a nice day now."

I say and turn away, making my way over to Zane and Zayde, taking Zane's hand and leading them out to the car.

Once were all settled Zane starts the car and we get on the road again.

Zane keeps casting nervous glances at me and after a while I hear him nervously clearing his throat.

"Shay.. About that.."

I shake my head and put my hand on his thigh giving it a quick squeeze.

"Let's talk about this later. Not in the care and not in front of him."

Zane looks like he wants to say something but then just closes his mouth and nods.

The rest of the trip Zayde, curious as always, keeps asking questions about the pack and Zane's family.

"Do I have any cousins?"

Zane nods.

"Yes. Two, both girls. Amanda is two and Aria is three. They're my sister, your aunt's, pups."

"Are they going to be there today?"

Zane smiles and nods.

"Oh most definitely. Your aunt is really excited to see you and your mom so she and her pups will definitely be there."

"Do they live in your pack?"

Zane shakes his head.

"No, she was mated to a delta in a pack two hours away from here. So they only come to visit every now and then."

Zayde nods and stares out the window, watching the trees go by.

I look at Zane.

"Do they know everything about us?"

He nods.

"They do. I told them about you after I started looking for you.. And then after I found out about Zayde I told them that as well.. Let me tell you. They were pissed."

He glances at me quickly.

"At me, not you I swear. My sister also smacked some sense into me. She and Megan both told me I was an idiot, trying to force you to just forget and move on from the past. She told me I was behaving like a kid and that I have to get my act together before it's too late. By the way, both she and my mom thinks that you did the right thing back then. And both have threatened to kick my ass if I ever do anything stupid again."

I give him a small smile.

"By the sound of it, I think I'll like them both. I'm glad they don't hate me."

"I'm sure you'll love each other. And no, they definitely don't hate you."

"What about your dad?"

"Well, he was really mad and yelled at me for being reckless and immature. And he was.. is a little annoyed that both you and your father kept us in the dark about Zayde. He says he understands why, and that he'd probably have done the same if Annabeth was in that situation but he feels that if either of you came to him he would've helped and Zayde wouldn't have had to get to know them when he was already five years old."

I sigh and nod my head.

"I get it. I took five years from them, while my parents got to have them with Zayde. I need to apologize."

"You don't have to Shay. That's not why I told you."

Zane says shaking his head.

"I know, but I want to."

He nods but before either of us can say anything Zayde squeals excitedly.

"There's wolves running in the trees! Are we there?"

Zane looks at him in the rear view mirror and nods, smiling.

"Yes buddy. We're here. Welcome home."

I look over at the gate nervously. Not knowing what to expect. But looking at Zayde's happy face I know I'd take anything that comes our way, as long as my boy keeps that smile.

Zane give my hand a small squeeze.

"Hey, everything will be fine okay? Everyone will love you. Both of you. This is were you belong."

I give him a small smile and nod as the patrol guards head over to the car, here we go.

Chapter 27 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

As we reach the packhouse I feel my heart start to race seeing the people waiting on the grass.. I thought I'd have some time before having to face them.

I swallow nervously and Zane glances at me, giving me an apologetic smile.

"Sorry, I asked them to give us some time but clearly they didn't listen."

I give him a small smile.

"It's okay, they're excited to meet Zayde."

"They're excited to see you too."

I arch my brow.

"Really? Even your father?"

"Don't worry about him. Mom will put him in his place."

"I don't want to cause any problems between you."

I say, nervously wringing my hands.

Zane turns to me as he switches off the car.

"You won't. I want you here, he'll just have to get used to it."

"Why are these people just standing there?"

Zayde suddenly asks with a frown and I smile at him.

"That's daddy's family. Are you ready to meet them?"

He shakes his head and I see him nervously looking at them through the window.

"What's wrong baby?"

He looks at me and I see his lips tremble.

"What if they don't like me?"

Zane smiles at him.

"Are you kidding me? You're the best kid there is. They are going to love you!"

"Are you sure?"

He asks, still not looking convinced and chewing on his lip.

Zane nods at him.

"Of course I'm sure.. Now come on, put on your brave face and let's go meet them. Do you think you can do that for me?"

Zayde nods at his father and Zane smiles, reaching for Zayde's hair and ruffling it.

"Good. Because they're really excited to meet you."

Zane gets out and walks around the car to get Zayde. I can't seem to tear my eyes away from the people waiting in front of the packhouse. Zane opens my door and I swallow nervously as I get out.

Zane gives me an encouraging smile.

"It's going to be fine. Trust me."

He takes my hand and we walk to his family.

"Guys, what happened to giving us sometime?"

He asks them with a frown.

His mother waves her hand in the air.

"Oh you knew that was never going to happen. We're too excited to meet them."

She turns to me with a soft smile.

"Sorry for kind of ambushing you like this dear. We really just are excited to meet Zane and see you. I don't know if you remember me, I'm Zane's mother. You can call me Diana.. Or mom if you'd like."

"Mom! Stop that!"

Zane says with a frown and I smile at her.

"It's okay, I know you must be very excited to see Zayde. I'm sorry it took this long for you all to meet."

She makes a dismissive gesture with her hand again and shakes her head.

"Water under the bridge dear. Nothing we can do now except focus on the future."

She turns back to Zane and I see the tears in her eyes as she stares at our son, with a wide smile on her face.

"Oh dear, you must be Zayde! It's so nice to meet you."

Zayde hides his face into his father's neck, being unusually shy.

Zane rubs his back.

"It's okay buddy, can you say hi to your grandma for daddy?"

Zayde looks at his father and nods slowly before he turns to his grandmother again, giving her a small wave.

"Hallo grandma."

I see Diana quickly wiping the tears off her cheek and give Zayde another big smile.

"Hi little one. I'm your grandma, Diana. This is your grandpa, Jackson. That is your Aunt, Annabeth. And your cousins, Amanda and Aria."

She point to each person as she mentions them.

Zayde lays his head on his father's chest and gives them another little wave.

"Hallo."

He says shyly and I step closer, putting my hand on his back, rubbing it comfortingly and giving them a small smile.

"Sorry, he normally isn't this shy."

"Well, I guess it's normal seeing as this is the first time in five years he's meeting us."

Zane's father says coldly. I cringe internally, and move closer to Zane instinctively.

Zane frowns at his father and wraps his arm around me comfortingly, but before he can say anything his mother turns around and swats his father's chest.

"Stop it Jackson! What did I just say about focusing on the future? He's here now that's all that matters. Don't alienate him by being mean to his mother."

She says with a stern face, he frowns but nods at her before facing me.

"She's right. I apologize. Welcome to our home Shay, Zayde. We're glad your here."

He looks at Zayde and gives him a warm smile and Zayde immediately smiles back at him.

"He looks just like you."

He says looking at Zane who just nods, smiling back at his father.

"Okay, well let's get inside and show you to your rooms. Then we can have some freshly baked cookies?"

Diana says clapping her hands together and Zayde immediately lifts his head up, at the same time the girls start to squeal.

"Cookies!"

"Mommy can I?"

I smile at him.

"Yes, but first we're going to go unpack, okay?"

Zayde sighs dramatically.

"Fine.. I'll wait.. and starve.."

Zane immediately starts to laugh.

"Seriously Zayde?! You just ate at the diner."

Zayde frowns at his father.

"But I didn't have any cookies."

The other adults laugh while me and Zane just shake our heads.

"Let's go get you unpacked. The sooner you finish, the sooner you can have some cookies yeah?"

Zane says, looking at our son who sighs again but nods.

"Fine. I'll unpack.. But there better be some cookies."

"There will be. I promise." Diana says with a smile before we walking into the packhouse.

Zane and Jackson follow her, the girls running after their uncle and grandfather.

I see Annabeth looking at me and I give her a nervous smile as we head inside as well.

"Hi, I'm not sure if you remember me. I'm Annabeth."

I nod.

"Yeah I remember. It's good to see you again."

She gives me a smile.

"You too. I was really excited when Zane said you were coming over. I'm glad you're trying to work things out. I'm sorry for what happened."

I shake my head.

"It's not your fault."

"No.. But still.. I'm sorry about Dad as well. Don't take him too seriously. He's just a little upset, more so with your father than you. He feels like they've known each other all their lives, he considers him family and he feels betrayed that your dad didn't trust him enough to tell him about you and Zayde."

I frown.

"It wasn't his story to tell, but I guess I get it. I would be upset too. But there's nothing we can do about it now."

I say and shrug, she nods at me and we stop at a door at the end of the hall.

"Well here you are. Zane and Zayde is already unpacking in the room next door. Zane's room is the one on your left. I'm on the floor just below. If you need anything let me know."

I smile at her.

"Thank you. I'll see you in a bit."

She nods and heads for the stairs and I walk over to the room where I can smell Zane and Zayde.

I opened the door and I just watch them for a bit, talking while they are unpacking, well Zane is unpacking while Zayde just sits on the bed with a few shirts around him.

I clear my throat and arch my brow at Zayde.

He immediately gets off the bed and gives me an innocent smile, handing two of the shirts over to his father.

"Oh.. Hi mommy, look we're unpacking."

Zane just lifts a brow and shakes his head while I smile.

"Yes I can see. Now help your dad or no cookies for you. I'll be next door unpacking my things."

Zayde nods and quickly starts to help his father unpack his bags.

I shake my head and smile, closing the door and moving to my own room to start to unpack.

Well.. This could've gone way worse. At least Diana and Annabeth are nice.. Jackson.. I sigh. Well I guess we'll see how this goes.

I quickly unpack and then Zayde; Zane and myself head downstairs to join the rest of his family for some freshly baked cookies.

Chapter 28 - Returning to my rejected mate

As soon as we reach the receiving room where everyone is waiting I see a few more people has joined.

Megan and Amy, who has a little boy on her hip that's looking at us curiously, approach us and they smile at me. I give them a big smile back.

"Hi Shay. I'm not sure if you remember me, but I'm Amy. I'm Ryan's mate."

She holds her hand out to me and I shake it while nodding.

"Hallo. Yes, I remember you. It's nice to see you again."

She smiles at me again.

"Yeah, you too. I'm glad you're here."

She looks at the little boy on her hip.

"Jason, can you say hi to aunt Shay for me?"

The little boy gives me a wave and a smile.

"Hallo."

I smile back at him.

"Hallo Jason. It's nice to meet you."

Then she turns to Zayde, who's still perched on his father's hip, and gives him a smile.

"And you must be Zayde. I have someone that is very excited to meet you. He's been asking about you all morning. Zayde this is Jason."

The two boys give each other big smiles.

"Hi!"

"You wanna play with my truck?"

They both say at the same time and Zayde looks at me.

"Can I mommy?"

I smile and nod.

"Sure, but didn't you want cookies?"

He frowns at me.

"Oh yeah.. Cookies.. Do you want cookies?"

Jason nods vigorously and Zayde turns back to me.

"Can we have cookies and then play with his truck?"

"You can, if it's okay with his mom?"

Zayde looks at Amy questioningly and she nods at him smiling.

"Sure, you kids can have some cookies while playing with the truck okay?"

Both boys squeal excitedly and we just laugh at them. Zane and Amy put both boys down and Jason pulls Zayde over to where his truck is.

I smile watching them.

"Well it seems their fast friends already."

Amy says, smiling at them as well and I nod.

"Well, that's good right. Let the future of our pack bond over cookies and toy trucks."

Ryan says as he comes over and wraps his arm around Amy's waist before giving me a smile.

"Hallo Shay. Nice to see you again."

I smile back at him.

"It's good to see you too."

I say as I head over to where the boys are, putting down a plate with cookies. Both look up at me and smile.

"Thank you!"

They say in unison and I smile back at them.

"Your welcome."

I head over to where the other women are seated.

Zane and Ryan smile at me as I pass them but Jackson and Jake just nod at me before continuing their conversation.

I look at Megan questioningly as I sit down and she gives me a little smile while shaking her head.

"Don't worry about it. He's just still hurt that we didn't tell him about Zayde. And he can't really be mad at me so most of it is projected onto you."

"Great, so both Jackson and Jake hate me."

I grumble and sigh. Diana pats my knee.

"They don't hate you. And they'll get over it."

The other women nod in agreement.

"So, how is your father doing dear?"

Diana asks and I shrug.

"I don't really know how to answer that. The doctor says he's improving but they still don't know when he'll wake up."

"You poor mother, I can't imagine what she's feeling. I don't know what I'd do if Alex was in that condition."

Annabeth says, and the others nod, all looking over at their respective mates.

I look over at Zane as well and I sigh.

"Yes.. Somedays are better than others.. But she's taking it pretty hard. Everyone tries to take turns to keep her occupied."

"Now I just feel terrible for not trying to reach out to her more."

Diana says with a sigh.

"Maybe I should go over there, or invite her for a spa day out or something."

I give her a small smile.

"It won't hurt to try I guess."

Diana nods.

"Then I'll give her a call a little later."

"So how long are you staying here for?"

Annabeth asks and I shrug.

"We haven't really discussed how long we'll be here. But I want to give you all and Zane as much time as possible with Zayde. But I also want to help my mother as much as I can. I know Ashley and Dan are there to help.. But still."

Annabeth nods.

"It's understandable, but I hope you won't leave to soon."

She says with a small smile and I shake my head.

"I'm not planning on leaving to soon. But I will let you know if anything changes."

We sit in silence for a while before I speak again.

"While we're here.. I just want to apologize.. For not telling any of you about Zayde and taking five years from you."

I say, nervously wringing my hands while looking at Annabeth and Diana.

They share a quick glance before both give me small smiles.

"It hurts knowing we missed five years of his life. But both of us can understand why you did what you did. It's natural to want to protect yourself and your child. We don't hold it against you. We were pretty mad at Zane though.. I thought I raised him better. I'm sorry you had to go through that."

I give her a surprised smile.

"I didn't expect that. Thank you though."

They both nod at me and smile.

"So AB, where is Alex?"

Annabeth turns to Amy and sighs.

"He had to stay back home, they have a meeting with one of our allies and he didn't want to seem rude by missing it. But he'll be over a little after the meeting."

Out the corner of my eye, I see the two boys whispering , slowly approaching us.

"What are you doing?"

I ask them and arch my brow they both blush and Zayde slowly makes his way over to us.

"Yes, baby?"

I ask, waiting for him to tell me what's going on.

He leans a little closer, and whisper loudly.

"Can we have some more cookies?"

Everyone around us try to stifle their laugh, just shaking their heads.

I look up at Amy and she nods, so I look back down at my son and nod at him.

"You can both have two more okay?"

I look at Zayde and Jason, that comes over quickly, both nodding vigorously. I shake my head and head over to the counter getting them some cookies.

I see them eyeing the men whispering again.

"Boys, what is it?"

Zayde looks at me.

"We want them to play with us."

"Then just go ask one of your daddy's?"

Both boys immediately shake their heads and I sigh.

"Fine, I'll go ask them?"

"Yeah!"

"I told you."

Both boys yell out excitedly and I just smile shaking my head, making my way over to the men.

Zane's eyes immediately shifts to me as I approach and he smiles at me and I smile back. As soon as I'm in arms reach, Zane reaches out and pulls me to his side, kissing the side of my head. And I blush, with him smirking at me.

"Hey, what's going on?"

"Well.." I gesture to the boys. "These two gentlemen wants to know if you men would like to pisy with them? But they were a little shy asking?"

"Mom!"

Zayde yells, looking embarrassed and everyone laughs at the two boys before Zane nods.

"Sure, how about we all head outside and play touch or soccer or something?"

I see the boys hesitate and Zane arches a brow.

"What? Didn't you want to play?"

Jason and Zayde nods.

"Yes.. We did.. But.."

Zayde trails off looking at Jason and Jason looks at the plate in my hands.

"But our cookies.."

He finishes Zayde's sentences with a frown.

We all smile and shake our heads.

"You two really are two little hungry wolves.. You can eat your cookies on our way out, okay?"

Both boys nod, with big smiles. Stuffing both their cookies into their mouths.

"Jason!"

"Zayde!"

Me and Amy scolds at the same time, both boys looking at us, with big innocent eyes.

"What?"

Zayde asks with a mouth full of cookie, but I just sigh and shake my head.

"Nothing, let's go play outside."

I watch the boys rush out excitedly, with everyone following after them.

Zane smiles at me and holds out his hand.

"You coming?"

I nod and smile taking his hand, allowing him to lead me outside.

Chapter 29 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

About an hour later we're heading back inside. Zane and Ryan are carrying the boys who fell asleep while AB and I both carry one of her girls.

I smile down at the sleeping Aria and look at AB.

"She's so beautiful. With her big eyes and wild curls."

AB smiles back at me and nods.

"She is. But don't let her innocent look fool you. She's a real menace that one, I honestly don't know where she gets it from."

We both laugh as we walk inside.

"Where are we taking them?"

I ask her and she motions upstairs.

"I think they'll be out for quite a while so let's go put them in their beds."

I nod and follow her up the stairs to their room.

"So, I know you two are only now starting over.. But do you plan on having anymore kids?"

AB ask as she lays down Amanda, I lay Aria down as well before I turn to AB and shrug with a smile.

"I think so. Both of us want to, so.. I guess we'll see. How about you? Are you having anymore?"

AB laughs.

"Honestly, I don't know. Alex wants more, and I really want a little boy.. But these two are a handfull."

I laugh as well and nod.

"Yes, from what I've seen they do like to keep you on your toes."

She nods before we leave their room.

"That they do. But I love it."

She shrugs with a smile.

I nod at her.

"I know exactly what you mean.. Raising Zayde has had it challenges, and it definitely hasn't been easy but I wouldn't trade it for anything."

"It's true what people say, you don't know what you were missing until you've had kids. They make everything worth it. I'll take every sleepless night, just to be able to hold my little girls on my chest."

I nod and give her a soft smile.

"There is nothing better than having them sleeping on your chest. It's just something you can't explain to someone without children."

AB smiles and nods at me again as we walk to the receiving we previously occupied. Going inside I see a few people have left us.

"Mom and dad decided to retire to their own suite, they'll join us again later. Megan was feeling tired so Jake took her to their room as well. And both boys are sleeping in Zayde's room."

Zane explains quickly as he sees my eyes roaming the room.

"So it's just the five of us. What would you like to do?"

Ryan asks looking at us expectantly.

I glance at my watch.

"Well it's four thirty in the afternoon. Maybe we can just stay in and watch movies while the kids are asleep?"

Everyone nods.

"Great, you guys go pick a movie. We'll go get snacks."

Amy says, gesturing for me and AB to follow her while the men head for the television room to pick a movie.

AB stops midway and her eyes gloss over, clearly mindlinking someone, after the mindlink ends she gives us a big smile.

"Excuse me for a minute girls. Alex just got here. I'll just go grab him and then we'll join you."

Amy and I nod at her before she rushes out to go to her mate.

"What snacks would you like?"

Amy asks, staring at the items in the open cupboard. I shrug.

"I don't know.. Some popcorn? Well a lot of popcorn and maybe some chips and sweets?"

I say getting a few cans and water bottles from the fridge. Amy nods and starts to take the things out she think we'll need.

We're still busy popping popcorn and making small talk when we hear footsteps approach. We both look at the door to see AB and her mate Alex entering the room.

AB gives me a smile before leading her mate over to me.

"Baby, this is Shay, Zane's mate. Shay, this is my mate, Alex."

The big blond man beside her gives me a friendly smile and extends his hand to me.

"Hi, it's nice to meet you Shay."

I shake his hand and give him a smile back.

"You too. Are you two going to join us for the movie??"

The look at each other before they nod.

"Great, then you can carry all these snacks. Hi Alex, good to see you again."

Amy says with a grin, handing him the heavily loaded tray.

Alex smiles and shakes his head.

"Hi Amy, it's looks like your planning on feeding an army?"

He teases as we make our way to the television room.

Amy scoffs.

"Have you seen the way you guys eat? I'm not even sure this is going to be enough."

AB and I laugh while Alex just shakes his head.

Zane looks up and smiles at me as we enter the television room and motions me over to the sofa he's seated on. I slowly walk towards him and arch my brow at him, seeing he's seated on a single sofa.

"And where do you expect me to sit?"

"There's a perfectly good seat right here."

Zane says with a smirk, patting his lap.

"Seriously Zane? I can't sit on your lap for an entire movie?"

I say shaking my head and turn to head over to one of the other sofas, but before I can get far Zane's hand shoots out, wraps around my wrist and tugs me down onto his lap.

I stare at him shocked, not expecting that while the others in the room snicker at my expression.

"Well I guess it's settled then Shay, you'll be sitting on Zane's lap. So can we start the movie now?"

Ryan asks with a smirk and I blush before nodding my head.

Amy stands up and turns down the lights before she takes her place beside her mate again and he starts the movie.

As soon as the lights go out I pinch Zane's chest.

He flinches and rubs the spot, frowning at me.

"Ouch! That hurt. What was that for?"

"That was for manhandling me. You can't just pull me into your lap like that."

I hiss and he smirks again.

"I didn't manhandle you. And I want you close to me. Plus you'll be happy your sitting with me to hold you soon enough."

I narrow my eyes at him.

"What movie did you guys pick?"

As soon as I ask that I hear Amy groan.

"Seriously guys? Why this movie?"

I turn my head to the television to see what movie they chose and groan as well before glaring at Zane again.

"Seriously? The Grudge? You did this on purpose didn't you? You know this movie freaks me out!"

He wraps his arms around me and smirks.

"Maybe.. But don't worry. I'm here to protect you."

"You're going to pay for this. I don't know when.. Or how.. but you will."

I threaten him and settle into his chest, he laughs and nods before kissing my head and wrapping his arms even tighter around me.

"I can't wait. Now be quiet and watch the movie."

I honestly hate this movie, but I will get my revenge I think with a small smile, but for now I guess I'm going to have to watch the stupid movie..

I sigh and reluctantly turn my eyes to the screen.

Chapter 30 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

I turn my head away, hiding it against Zane's chest. I really hate this movie. It makes me very uneasy. I lift my head a little to glare at Zane again and he smirks, feeling my eyes on him.

"It's just a movie Shay."

"I know, a movie that I hate.. Do I have to watch it?"

Zane frowns and looks down at me.

"If it really bothers you that much we can leave and do something else?"

I lift my head to look around us and I see both Amy and AB fast asleep on their mates and I smile, I guess that's one way to avoid this movie.

I look back at Zane.

"You can stay and finish it with them if you want, but I really don't want to watch this anymore. This whole movie makes me feel uneasy.

Zane shakes his head, but before I can say anything he stand up, carrying me bridal style. I squeal a little wrapping my arms around his neck, not expecting him to stand up like that and the two men turn to look at us. I can feel my cheeks heating up.

"We're going to head out, and check on the kids. You can watch something else if you want or continue this movie."

Ryan and Alex both nod at Zane.

"I think we're going to finish this one, the girls are asleep anyway so they won't mind us still watching it. If our kids are awake let me know?"

Alex asks and Zane nods at him.

"I'll let you know if they're awake. Both of you."

He looks at Ryan as well who nods and smiles.

"Thanks. We'll see you later."

Zane nods and we leave the television room.

"You could've stayed and finished the movie with them."

I say looking up at Zane. I feel him shrug.

"It's okay I've seen it before. I'd rather spend some time with you."

"You can put me down now."

Zane pouts and looks down at me.

"But I don't want to yet. I like holding you. "

I sigh.

"If you put me down you can still hold me."

Zane sighs as well but lets me down, pulling me flush against him.

I push my hands against his chest and push a little against him so I can look up into his face.

"Fine, I've let you down. Where's my reward?'

I arch my brow.

"Your reward? No one said anything about a reward."

He frowns.

"I want a kiss. Otherwise I'm going to pick you up again and carry you through the whole packhouse, for everyone to see."

I narrow my eyes at him.

"You wouldn't."

"You wanna bet?"

He asks with a smirk and makes to pick me up again. I laugh and push against his chest.

"Okay fine. One kiss?"

He nods at me.

"Yes, just one kiss."

I nod, wrapping my hands around his neck pulling his head down a little before I stand on my toes and place a soft kiss on his lips. When I pull back Zane tangles his hand into

my hair, the other arm wrapping tightly around me, pulling me into him before he kisses me. Hard.

I moan as I feel the sparks coursing through me, and I kiss him back the same way.

He squeezes my butt and I gasp a little opening my mouth allowing him access and he slips his tongue into my mouth.

I feel him throbbing against my stomach and I moan again, feeling my own arousal growing.

All to soon he lifts his head and I groan in disappointment, while gasping for air.

Zane smirks down at me.

"As much as I want to continue kissing you, I don't want everyone smelling what should only be for me."

He says with a slight growl to his voice, and I can feel even more liquid pooling between my legs at the way his voice sounds.

He groans, pushing his face into my neck.

"Seriously baby, you're killing me right now."

I blush.

"Sorry."

Zane just shakes his head, holding me close while we both wait for our hearts to calm down, and the smell of my arousal to dwindle down..

After a while he pulls away and gives me a smile.

"That was one hell of a kiss."

I blush again, nodding but I don't say anything and Zane laughs.

"Still just as shy as back then I see. Come on, let's go check on the kids."

I nod, allowing him to take my hand and leading me to their rooms.

We go to check on the boys first, who are still fast asleep before we go check on the girls, who are both still fast asleep as well. Zane pulls the door close behind us.

"Since they are asleep still, do you maybe want to go to the kitchen and get something to drink or eat and then just talk?"

I smile at him and nod.

"Yeah, that's sound good."

Zane nods back at me and we head for the kitchen.

"So, what do you think of everyone so far?"

"Well, everyone I've met so far seems really nice, I think we'll get along just fine. Although both your dad and Jake seem to hate me at the moment."

I say with a small frown.

"Don't worry about them. They'll get over it soon enough. But I'm glad to hear you like everyone. They seem to like you too, which is good. You'll be their Luna soon enough."

I arch my brow at him.

"Oh really?"

Zane nods.

"Yes, really. I'm not planning on letting you go."

I sigh.

"Zane, we really need to talk about everything at some point. I have a business back home, I can't just abandon it. I'd have to go back at some point. We had a life there. We can't just leave forever."

Zane frowns but nods.

"I know. I get that. At some point we'll go back and get your stuff and sort everything out. But we can discuss that another time. Let's just enjoy our few days together without worrying about other stuff."

He looks at me, waiting for my response. I nod and smile.

"Fine, we can talk about all of it another time."

As we reach the kitchen I catch a smell, something that seems familiar but I can't really place it. As soon as the smell hits us I look over at Zane, who tenses, and I frown.

"What's wrong?"

Zane looks at me and gives me a forced smile.

"It's nothing really.."

But before he can say anything else, someone comes out of the kitchen and bumps straight into me.

Suddenly I realize what the smell was as I come face to face with the girl I saw Zane with in the kitchen five years ago.

I freeze in my place and she sneers at me.

"Watch where you're going."

I just stare after her as she pushes past me before I turn back to Zane with my heart racing.