

Chapter 31 - Returning to my rejected mate

Zane's Point of View

As soon as we near the kitchen I pick up on a scent that makes me break out in sweat. I didn't even think about them maybe running into each other. I see Shay frowning, sniffing the air and trying to place the smell and I tense. She looks at me and I know she picked up the change in my behavior.

"What's wrong?"

I shake my head and give her a forced smile.

"It's nothing really.."

I start but the words die on my tongue when Lisa steps out of the kitchen.

I see Shay freeze, when realization strikes her.

Lisa looks over at me quickly before she sneers at Shay and pushes past her.

I can hear my heart pounding in my ears as I wait for Shay to react.

She slowly turns to me and the look on her face pierces my heart. I try to touch her but she moves back and holds up her hand while shaking her head.

"No.. Don't.. Just give me a minute."

She takes a few deep breaths before she looks up to me.

"She's still in your pack?"

I nod slowly, not saying anything and she nods back at me.

"Is she mated?"

I hesitate, not sure how to answer her and Shay narrows her eyes at me.

"Is she mated Zane?"

I sigh and run my hand through my hair before I shake my head.

"No.. She rejected her mate. She thought that I'd..."

"That you'd make her your Luna?"

I nod again.

"You said it's over between you?"

"Yes, I promise. It ended after two months. And we were never even really together. We just slept together, there was no relationship."

"Did she accept the fact that your over?"

I sigh.

"Shay.."

"Just answer my question Zane."

"No.. She still acts like there's something more between us. Like she's going to be my Luna."

"So she still wants you?"

"Yes."

"Has she tried anything recently?"

I hesitate again, not sure what her reaction would be.

She sighs frustrated.

"Zane, I asked you a question?"

I sigh again and run my hand through my hair.

"Yes she did. When I came back to the pack after the last attack she was naked in my bed."

"I see.. And what happened?"

"I threw her out, immediately I swear. Shay.. I don't want her. I only want you. You know that right?"

She stares at me for a while her eyes roaming my face before she nods slowly.

"Okay, I believe you.. But Zane if there's anything.."

I take her hand and pull her closer to me.

"There's nothing I swear."

She nods and gives me a small smile.

"Okay.. But just be honest with me if something happens, or if she does something. I don't want you to hide things involving her."

I nod and kiss her head.

"I promise I'll tell you if anything happens."

She gives me another small smile.

"I think I'd like that coffee now."

I give her a smile back and nod.

"Sure, let's go get that coffee."

I say, pulling her into the kitchen.

Shay's Point of View

"Shay are you sure you're okay? You keep spacing out?"

I look up to Zane staring at me looking worried and I give him a small smile.

"I'm sorry, I just feel a little rattled.. First the movie.. then the girl. I'll snap out of it, I promise. What were you saying?"

"I'm sorry, about both those things."

I smile and shake my head.

"It's fine. I don't want to talk about it. So what were you saying?"

I ask again. Zane's eyes roam over my face and I arch one of my brows. Zane sighs but answers my question.

"I said I have quite a lot of work to catch up on tomorrow. So if it's alright with you I'll spent most of my morning in the office with some work. You and Zayde are free to roam around, I'm sure my mother or Megan or Amy would love to show you around. Or you can wait till I'm done, around noon, and then I can go show the two of you around the pack?"

I think for a minute.

"I think we'll wait for you. Zayde would love it if you were to show us around the pack. We can find something to keep us busy with tomorrow morning."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm sure. You don't have to worry about us. You have a job to do. I understand and Zayde will as well. We'll be fine, and find something to do for a few hours. Trust me it won't be hard to find something to keep him occupied."

I say with a smile and Zane nods at me.

"Okay. I'll finish as quickly as possible."

"Zane, you really don't have too. I know how much time you've already taken off to spend time with us. You can take your time and get your things in order. We're not going anywhere."

I say squeezing his arm and giving him a smile.

He smiles back at me.

"I know I've been slacking and giving most of the workload to Jake and Ryan. But this is important too."

He takes both of my hands in his and rubs his thumbs over the backs of my hands.

"This.. Us.. It's important to me. I want to make this work. And if that means putting in more time. That's what I'll do."

"I know. I want this too work to. But we're good now. You can focus on your pack, before they think you don't care about them anymore."

I tease with a smile and he nods at me.

"Fine. Starting tomorrow I'll focus most of my energy back onto the pack."

"Good.."

We drink our coffee in silence for a while before I speak up again.

"I've been thinking.. About those attacks. I still don't think it's random rogues attacking. They're way to organized for that. Maybe it's a pack? And about them disappearing.. They're using vehicles to get away. I'm sure of it. That's the only logical explanation for them disappearing so quickly."

Zane frowns while looking at me. I can see he is thinking about what I've said before he nods.

"I haven't even thought about it. But I think your right.. Their trail always goes cold somewhere close to a road. God why haven't I even thought about that. It makes completely sense."

I nod.

"Yes, the question though is, if it is a pack attacking. Why are they attacking just our packs. What do they want?"

Zane sighs and runs his hand down his face.

"I wish I had an answer."

"Maybe my dad knows something."

Zane frowns and looks at me questioningly.

"What do you mean?"

"Well, think about it? Why was he so violently attacked the last time? I think he saw something or he knows something and they didn't want any loose ends. They probably thought he wouldn't make it."

Zane nods again thinking about what I've said and sighs.

"Maybe, but we won't know until he wakes up."

I nod and sigh as well.

"I know. Leaving us back at square one. With lots of theories and questions but no solid leads.."

He squeezes my hand.

"I know.. But we'll get them Shay.. They won't get away with this."

"I just don't want us to loose anymore people."

"I know. Are you done?"

Zane asks motioning to my coffee cup and I nod.

"Good, let's go see if the kids are up yet."

I nod and we get up heading up the stairs.

My mind wonders back to the girl in the kitchen. I can't really put my finger on it. But I have a really bad feeling about her. I guess I'll just have to keep an eye on her.

I sigh and shake my head. Why can't anything just be easy..

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Shay's Point of view.

I wake up slowly, blinking my eyes trying to figure out what woke me. I feel something move next to me and turn my head looking into two excited little eyes.

"Morning mommy"

Zayde sing songs and I groan, running my hand over my face.

"Zayde, it's still dark out. What time is it?"

I ask looking at the clock.

"It's barely 6:30 am. Why are you awake?"

Zayde shrugs.

"I couldn't sleep. I want to watch some cartoons."

I nod and open the covers for him.

"Fine, get in. I'll put on some cartoons for you will I sleep a little while longer yeah?"

Zayde nods and gives me a big smile while climbing into bed with me.

"Okay mommy! I love you."

I kiss his head after I put on some cartoons for him.

"I love you too baby."

I lay down next to him and close my eyes.

A little over an hour later I wake up again, looking beside me to see Zayde fast asleep with the cartoons still playing on the tv.

I smile and shake my head as I sit up and stretch.

I head over to the bathroom to do my morning routine before I make myself some coffee, and head to my laptop. Might as well check in with the shop and get some work done.

Two hours in I hear Zayde starting to toss and turn, indicating he's about the wake up. I look up and wait for him to open his eyes before I give him a big smile.

"Good morning baby! Did you have a nice sleep?"

He nods at me with a sleepy smile before he yawns.

"I'm hungry now."

I look down at my watch and nod at him.

"Okay. Lets go get you dressed and then we can head down for breakfast."

He nods and gets out of bed, making his way over to the door connecting our rooms.

It doesn't take long to get Zayde dressed and we make our way down the stairs, hand in hand.

"Is daddy done yet?"

Zayde looks up at me questioningly and I shake my head.

"No, baby. I'm sorry but he's still busy. He'll only be done sometime after lunch."

Zayde sighs.

"Why does he have to work? Isn't the Alpha the boss?"

He asks with a frown and I smile.

"That's exactly why he has to work. Yes technically the Alpha is the boss. But you have to lead by example. Daddy has to work to motivate the other pack members. An Alpha has the most important job in the pack. He has to make sure the pack has money; food; housing and he has to make sure that the pack is kept safe."

"Being alpha sounds hard."

I nod.

"It is. And it's a very big responsibility."

"So an alpha protects the pack when it's attack? Like when we were at uncle Dan's? And daddy come to help too?"

"Yes baby. A good alpha fights and protects his people. A good alpha also helps does that need it."

He frowns, thinking.

"Am I going to be an Alpha someday?"

"Well.. Yes.. Technically you are the next alpha of this pack. Just like your grandfather handed the pack over to daddy, one day when you're all grown up daddy will hand down the pack to you."

"And then I'd have to do all the hard work?"

"Yes. Then you'll do all the hard work."

"And protect the pack?"

"Yes, and protect the pack."

He looks down at his shoes, a frown on his face and clearly thinking hard about something. But before I can ask him he nods his head and looks up.

"Okay."

"Okay?"

I ask confused.

"Yes. Okay. I'll be a good Alpha someday. Like daddy. I'll do all the hard work and make sure were safe. I don't want anyone getting hurt like grandpa."

I hear the tinge of sadness in his voice and I pull him close to me.

"Then you are going to be a great alpha baby."

He gives me a big smile and I smile back just as we enter the dining hall.

"Zayde!"

"Jason!"

The two yell simultaneously and run to each other.

I smile at them and shake my head before grabbing us plates and heading over to the buffet.

As soon as I'm done getting food I make my way over to the table where Zayde is already seated next to Jason.

I smile at Amy and Diana and they both smile back at me..

"Hi, how did you sleep?"

"Good morning Diana. Good thank you. Although Zayde woke me up early to watch cartoons. Luckily I got in a little more sleep while he was watching cartoons, and he fell asleep as well so I got a chance to get some work done that's been piling up."

"Good, I'm glad you had a good sleep. Is everything okay back home? Is it okay for you to be away this long?"

I shrug.

"My manager is pretty good at her job. There are a few appointments we had to cancel because people wanted to meet with me personally but I told them I'm on indefinite leave until further notice. For the most part everything is going good over there without me. But at some point I would have to go back to sort some things out."

"Have you and Zane talked about you going back?"

Amy asks, eating some of her scrambled eggs and I nod.

"Briefly.. He mentioned at some point we'd all go down to get our stuff but we haven't really discussed it yet. We've decided to just enjoy these few days together."

Diana and Amy both nod.

"So what are your plans for today?"

I shrug again eating my bacon, watching Zayde and Jason eating and talking.

"I have no idea. But I'm starting to think whatever it is, it's going to involve Jason."

Diana and Amy both look over at the boys and smile.

"It would seem that way. Gosh.. This reminds me so much of when Zane; Jake and Ryan were little. They were inseparable."

I smile and nod.

"Dan; Liam and Austin were the same. I'm glad they bonded this quickly. Now they just need their third."

Amy nods.

"Yes, I know he's free to choose his own beta and gamma.. But I really do hope they come out of the current families."

"Me too. I'm pretty sure Jason is going to be in the mix, but Megan's little one is going to be quite a bit younger than them.. I guess we'll just have to wait and see."

They both nod, all of us still looking at the boys, before Amy turns to me again with a smile.

"Okay, so back to what you are doing today. I know Zane wants to show you around, so how about we just head out to the park with the boys and pack a picnic basket?"

I smile and nod.

"That actually sounds great. Would you like to join us?"

I ask, turning to Diana and she nods giving me a big smile.

"I would love to join you."

Amy stands and nods.

"Great, I'm just going to go get Jason ready and then we'll meet in the kitchen in 20?"

Diana and I nod at her before she picks up her little one, heading for the stairs.

Diana stands up and motions to me and Zayde.

"Come on, let's go get the picnic basket ready while we wait for Amy and Jason to come back. You can pick anything you want, would you like that?"

Zayde nods excitedly and rushes into the kitchen. Diana and I laugh, shaking our heads and follow him into the kitchen.

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Shay's Point of View

Zayde picked out a few sweets and some chips while Diana and I make a few sandwiches.

"I know you've only been here a day, but what do you think of the people so far?"

"Well so far everyone has been really nice and welcoming.."

I stop midsentence, hesitating, thinking back to my encounter with the girl in the kitchen.

Diana looks at me worriedly.

"Dear? Are you okay?"

I give her a small smile.

"Yes sorry. I'm good."

"But?"

I sigh..

"Well we had an encounter with the girl Zane cheated on me with."

Diana frowns, putting down her knife.

"With Lisa? What happened?"

I sigh.

"Well nothing really. We just ran into her yesterday. She bumped into me, sneered at me, telling me to watch where I'm going and then just pushed past me. I just didn't really expect to see her. And she sure wasn't happy to see me."

Diana nods.

"Yes, well that I believe. She was pretty set on being Luna. You being here makes that impossible. Are you okay?"

I shrug.

"I guess. It shook me a little seeing her. I didn't even think about her being here still."

Diana nods.

"I get that. I'm sorry you had to see her."

"See who?"

Amy asks as she and Jason enter the kitchen.

"Lisa."

Diana answers, returning to cutting the sandwiches.

Amy looks at me with wide eyes.

"Really? What happened?"

"Nothing much."

I fill her in on our little encounter and Amy frowns.

"I thought you were aware of the fact she's still here. Men are stupid."

She says shaking her head and Diana nods laughing.

"That they are. That's why they need us."

Amy and I nod at her, packing away the sandwiches she hands us. Soon we're on our way to the park.

"So what are you going to do about her?"

I sigh.

"I don't really know. As long as she stays away from us, nothing I guess, but looking at her yesterday I don't think she's going to do that. She still wants him."

Amy nods.

"Yes, I think everyone knows that. But don't worry me and Megan will help you keep an eye on her."

I smile at her in appreciation.

"Thank you."

"Of course, we have to help our luna keep her family safe. But for now, let's play with our boys and enjoy our picnic, we can worry about her later."

I smile and nod at Amy joining Diana and the boys, who have already set down the blanket and picnic basket.

2 hours later

We were still playing tag with the boys when Amy stopped and motioned for us to wait, before her eyes glazed over.

After the mindlink she turned to me and smiled.

"Ryan says their almost done for the day. We can start to head back to the packhouse."

"Is daddy finally done?"

Zayde asks, looking up at me and I smile at him.

"Almost. We can quickly gather everything and start to make our way back. I'm sure by the time we get there they will be done."

Amy nods at my words and the boys cheer excitedly before they help us pick everything up so we can be on our way.

As soon as we enter the packhouse I see Zane; Ryan and Jake walking down the stairs talking. Zayde and Jason both squeal rushes over to their father's.

Zane scoops Zayde up quickly and hugs him tightly, while Zayde wraps his arms around his dad's neck.

"I missed you daddy."

"I missed you to buddy."

"Is your work done now?"

Zane nods.

"For today, yes, but I will have to work more days this week. I'm sorry."

Zayde smiles.

"It's okay daddy. I know you have important work to do. Can I help?"

"If it's okay with your mom, you can spend tomorrow with me and help me in the office and then at training?"

Both pairs of molten eyes turn to me and I smile at them, nodding.

"Sure, if you want to. He can be a handfull, and Zayde, you know office work can get boring."

They look at each other and shrug.

"We'll be okay right buddy?"

Zayde nods and Zane looks at me again.

"See, we'll be okay. You can have the day for yourself tomorrow."

"Ooh that sounds amazing. How about you take Jason as well, then you boys can look after the kids and me; Meg and Shay can have a girl's day out?"

Amy says, looking at Ryan excitedly. He nods at her and smiles.

"That actually sounds like a good idea. It could be fun?"

He says looking at Zane who nods and then he looks back at Amy.

"Okay, it's settled. We'll take the boys and you girls can do something."

"Great, I'll tell Megan, and we can decide on what and a time later?"

She says looking at me and I nod.

"Sounds good."

Amy nods, taking Ryan's hand and leading her mate and son up the stairs.

"Good, we'll see you guys later."

Zane turns to me and smiles, I give him a smile back.

"So are you two ready to start our tour of the pack?"

"Almost, we just need to run to the bathroom quickly and then we can leave."

Zane nods, handing me our son and Zayde and I head to the bathroom to do our thing.

A few minutes later we make our way back, Zane stands from the chair and smiles.

"Ready?"

"Ready!"

Zayde sing-songs nodding his head.

"Great, let's go. I thought I'd show you the training area; the school; and where the shops are. And then maybe we can go for ice cream?"

"Ice cream!! Can we do that first??"

Zayde asks excitedly but Zane shakes his head.

"No, the ice cream is for the end of our tour. So behave, or no ice cream."

Zane warns and Zayde frowns but nods.

"Fine, but I want two scoops."

Zane nods, picking him up.

"Sure, if you behave to can have two scoops with sprinkles."

Zayde looks at me with big eyes.

"Really mommy?"

I smile and nod.

"Sure, if you behave you can get two scoops and sprinkles. But if you have to be reprimanded even once, no ice cream okay?"

I ask arching my brow and Zayde nods vigorously.

"I promise, I'll be good."

Zane looks at me, shaking his head with a smile.

He takes my hand and we make our way over to the training grounds first.

"What is this place?"

Zayde asks curiously watching some of the warriors sparring.

"This is our outdoor arena were the pack trains."

Zayde frowns again.

"What are they training for?"

"Well they are working on their fighting skills."

"For when we get attacked?"

Zane hesitate, looking at me and I nod.

"Yes, for when we get attacked. We have to make sure everyone is in their top form, so they don't get hurt."

Zayde nods.

"Can I train too?"

Zane and I both look at Zayde and I frown.

"I don't think so baby."

"I'm not a baby."

Zayde says, folding his arms over his chest.

"No, of course your not. Your mom just means your her son, her baby. Not that you are a baby okay."

I nod at Zane's words.

"But why can't I train?"

"I think your just still a little to young for training."

I say looking at Zane, waiting for him to agree with me but I see him hesitate and I lift my brow.

"What? You don't agree with me?"

"No, I don't. My dad started training us at five. Nothing to heavy, but just some basic skills. He is the future Alpha. He needs to learn to protect himself atleast."

"Please mommy?"

I frown looking at them both.

"Fine, you can start training with your dad tomorrow. But nothing to serious."

I warn, looking at Zane and they both beam at me.

"I promise. He'll be safe."

I nod.

"Can we dtag here and watch them fight for a while?"

Zayde asks looking up at his father and Zane nods with a smile.

"Sure. We can watch them for a while."

As we sit down on a bench to watch the warriors I turn to look at my mate and son.

My heart clenches a little, looking at Zayde. He's growing up so fast. And now being here, he'll only grow up even more, learning to be an Alpha.. I sigh and Zane looks at me with a frown.

"Are you okay?"

I give him a small smile and nod.

"Yeah, I'm fine. Just thinking about how quickly he's growing up."

Zane squeezes my hand.

"He'll be fine Shay. He was born to be an Alpha."

"I know. But it's still hard hearing my little baby wants to start his training. You know, this morning he told be one day he'll be a good alpha and protect his pack. Just like daddy."

Zane looks down at our son with a smile of pride.

"I'm sure he'll be a great Alpha."

I smile and nod.

"He definitely will."

"Oh mommy! Look what they're doing!"

Zayde squeals excitedly, pulling our attention back to the warriors fighting.

I look into his excited eyes and ruffle his hair.

"I see baby. One day you'll learn to do that to."

He nods, looking at them again.

"I can't wait until I'm big enough."

I just give him a small smile, kissing his head before leaning against Zane, and watching the warriors train.

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Shay's Point of View

I laugh and shake my head at Zane and Zayde, chasing each other around while we head over to the ice cream shop.

"Come and get me slow poke!"

Zayde yells at his father, running away as fast as he can.

Suddenly something slams into me, almost knocking me on my ass.

I look up, to see Lisa sneering at me.

"Can't you ever just watch where you're going?"

I frown, folding my arms over my chest.

"You slammed into me, maybe you should watch where you're going."

I say coldy, she opens her mouth to answer but suddenly her entire expression changes and she smiles at something behind me.

"Is there a problem here?"

I hear Zane asking behind me, stepping closer and putting his hand on the small of my back.

Lisa shakes her head with a big smile.

"No, of course not. She just ran into me, knocking my things out of my hand. I was waiting for an apology but it doesn't seem like I'm getting one. It's fine though. She is the future luna."

She says sweetly, loud enough for people passing by to hear. I see them looking at us, whispering and I frown.

"I didn't run into you. I don't owe you an apology."

"Of course not Luna, I'm sorry what was I thinking."

She says meekly, bowing her head to me and I feel anger bubbling up in me.

I turn to Zane who is looking between the two of us with a frown and I arch my brow.

"Are you buying this? She slammed into me, almost knocking me on my ass and then sneering at me to watch where I was going. Just like last time. She should be apologizing to me, not making it look like I'm the bad guy."

Zane looks at her.

"Lisa, apologize to Shay."

Liza looks around, frowning but then nods at Zane with a smile.

"Of course Zane."

She says placing her hand on his chest, before turning to me with a sickly sweet smile.

"I do apologize Shay, I hope you can forgive me. We wouldn't want to make you feel uncomfortable while visiting our pack."

She puts extra emphasis on the word our, and leans closer to Zane her hand still on his chest and I narrow my eyes at her.

She is still looking at me with that fake smile.

"Normally if someone apologizes, you accept the apology, Shay."

Zane looks at me expectantly.

Is he really expecting me to accept her fake apology?

I scoff at her, rolling my eyes and Zane frowns.

She looks at Zane with a small frown.

"I did my part Zane, but again it seems the Luna isn't going to do her part. But it's okay. I will leave you to enjoy the rest of your day. It was really nice seeing you."

She give Zane a big smile, removing her hand from his chest and saunters away. Throwing a last glance and smile at Zane.

I frown staring up at him, to see him already looking at me with a frown.

"Really?"

"What? I didn't do anything wrong?"

I say flabbergasted and Zane shakes his head.

"I'm not doing this right now. I promised Zayde some ice cream. We can talk about this later."

He stalks into the ice cream parlor with Zayde on his hip, leaving me standing outside, confused about what just happened.

I shake my head and sigh, heading inside after them.

Zane's Point of View

I stare at Shay, talking and laughing with our son and my mind drifts back to the encounter with Lisa.

I know Lisa probably started it, but Shay shouldn't have let herself get baited like that. Lisa knows how to play people, and she did a good job trying to make Shay look like a bitch.

I need to talk to her. Well both of them. Shay needs to learn how to better handle herself in situations like that. And Lisa needs to learn her place.

Eventhough people know how Lisa is they don't know Shay, and it's going to be hard for her to win the pack over if they have a bad first impression of her.

'What is it I'm hearing about Shay thinking she's to good to apologize to a pack member?'

My father's annoyed voice pops into my head and I sigh.

'That is not what happened.'

'Well it's what is going around the packhouse. Lisa is making sure of that. What happened?'

I grit my teeth and relay the encounter between them to my father.

I hear him sigh through the mindlink.

'You need to fix this, before people start to get the wrong impression about their future luna.'

'I know. I will.'

I say shutting of the mindlink, running my hand over my face.

Shay looks over at me with a frown.

"Is everything okay?"

"We'll talk later. Are you two finished?"

Shay nods at me frowning while Zayde just smiles at me.

"Good. Let's head back. Dinner is in about an hour, so we can head back and shower before then."

I put money down on the table, nodding my head at the shop owner before I lead Shay and Zayde outside. I see Zayde trying to hide a yawn, while telling his mother he is not tired and doesn't need a nap.

I laugh and scoop him up.

"We can see you yawn buddy. Just take a quick 20min nap, that's all. You haven't slept all day. You are going to be cranky later."

Zayde nods with his head against my shoulder, already dosing off.

"Fine, I'll take a nap. Eventhough I'm not even tired."

He mumbles and Shay shakes her head smiling.

"Thank you."

I nod.

"Of course."

We walk in silence for a while before Shay touches my arm.

"Zane?"

"Hmmm?"

"Is everything okay?"

I sigh and give her a small smile.

"Let's get back to the packhouse. We can talk once we get him settled."

Shay nods at me, not saying anything and we walk the rest of the way in silence.

As soon as I lay Zayde down and Shay tucked him in I motioned with my head for her to follow me outside.

She pulls the door close after her, looking at me expectantly.

"Meet me in my office in thirty minutes? We need to talk?"

She nods again, not saying anything just moving to her door and shutting it behind her.

I sigh and make my way over to my own room.

Shay's Point of View

I sigh as the warm water runs over my head. The three of us had a great afternoon, that is until we got to the ice cream shop.

I wonder how many run ins with her it would take for her to leave me alone.

Everything she did today she did on purpose, I sigh. She was trying to paint a picture of me, that would reflect badly, and I fell for it.

I know Zane is annoyed with me, probably about how I handle the situation. But she irks me.. And the fact that she kept touching Zane.. and tried to make it seem that she was somehow important to the pack. It bothered me. I feel annoyance flare up inside me just at the thought of Lisa.

I sigh again, rinsing the soap out of my hair. I know I didn't act the way a Luna should, but still. Zane didn't immediately take my side and he expected me to accept her obviously fake apology. While allowing her to touch him and stand so close to him..

I scoff, annoyed and shut the shower. I better get dressed so we can have this talk.

After getting dressed and lightly towel drying my hair I make my way over to Zane's office.

As soon as I reach the door, I frown, a now all too familiar smell greeting me and I frown. What is she doing here?

I open the door and there she is, in barely there exercise clothing, once again touching Zane's chest, smiling up at him.

I clear my throat and arch my brow at them. Zane looks over at me and takes her hand, quickly removing it from his chest.

"Leave."

He says coldy and Lisa smiles.

"Sure handsome. I'll see you around."

She smirks at me as she brushes past me. I stare at her until she dissappears around the corner at the end of the hall.

Turning back to Zane, I fold my arms over my chest, arching my brow at him.

He sighs and runs his hand through his hair.

"I can explain."

He says, motioning for me to come inside.

I nod, heading for the sofa, sitting down and crossing my legs, waiting for him.

"Of course you can. So let's hear it. What is going on with Lisa?"

He sighs again but closes the door and heads over to his chair.

"For now, let's forget about Lisa. Let's first talk about you and your behavior today. Do you know in what light it put us?"

Chapter 35 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

I shake my head, staring at Zane.

"Seriously? Okay yeah, I know I didn't react very well to the situation but what do you expect? I can't stand her. And she was trying to get a rise out of me. Which she did. And I'm sorry I didn't handle it very well. And if anyone knew what happened they'd understand why I react to her the way I do. But you know what.. No, I'm not really sorry with how I acted. I could have handle it better, more diplomatic but I'm not sorry. She is trying to make me look like a bad person and you are just allowing her to do and say what she wants regarding me."

Zane frowns.

"That's not true. I told her to apologize, and she did, you just didn't want to accept it. I also called her to my office and told her to stop what she's doing. That's what you saw when you came."

"What I saw when I came, was you once again standing very close to your, barely dressed, ex and allowing her to touch you. And regarding the apology. You didn't even immediately demand one. You were standing there contemplating whether or not to choose my side. And how can you expect me to accept her obviously fake apology after she once again implied I don't care about others, I just care about what I want because I'm to be the luna. And what is with the touching? She was practically standing right on top of you with her hand on your chest telling me she wouldn't want me to feel uncomfortable in your pack. Like she is someone important in the pack. You didn't even pick up on that because your to focused on how I acted. And again now. Why was she standing so close to you, touching you? Do you want her too?"

"No of course I don't want her touching me. I just don't want to be rude."

"Oh! You didn't want to be rude. Well go right ahead then. Please be more considered about what your ex is feeling, clearly it's more important than how I feel. Why do you care so much about what she thinks?"

"It's not just her. It's the entire pack. It's important to me what they think of you. First impression are important. And right now most of their impression is that you are self-centered and that you think your better than them. And my dad is pissed, you're the furture luna and if the people don't like you we're going to have a problem."

"I don't care what your dad thinks! Honestly! And they only did that because your precious Lisa spread her rumors and lies. Your people don't know me but they know Lisa. I'm pretty sure everyone knows she wants to be luna and that she twists things to fit her narrative. If your people.. if you and your father got to know me at all you'd know that what she's saying and implying about me is out of pure jealousy. But clearly you don't know me and you are reprimanding me because I reacted badly, one afternoon, to your ex that made a scene.."

I shake my head and stand up.

"Shay we're still talking. Were are you going?"

Zane asks frowning, now also standing from his chair.

"No, we're not. We're done. I can't do this.. I don't want to do this. If you and your father think this low of me, and that I'd be a terrible luna then I'm just wasting my time here. We're just wasting each other's time. I'm going downstairs to have dinner. And tomorrow I'm having a girls day with Amy and Megan and then I'm going back to my brother's pack."

"Shay, please."

Zane moves around his desk and tries to reach for me but I step back, shaking my head.

"No. You're supposed to be on my side. To make sure Lisa stays away from you. From us and to stay in her lane. You're supposed to help the pack see me for me.. Not the picture she's painting. You're supposed to protect and stand by me. And your failing miserably in that regard. As long as she's still here, and you and your father care more about your reputation than doing what's right, there's no future for us. I can't deal with something like this everytime she picks a fight. And she will. Because she knows you won't do anything, and she knows you won't stand by me. So I think it's better if I leave. We can ask Zayde whether or not he wants to stay here. But I'm leaving the day after tomorrow."

I turn and walk from his office, not giving him a chance to say anything else and quickly make my way to our room to go get Zayde for dinner.

I stop outside Zayde's door, quickly wiping the tears from my face before I take a deep breath and open the door.

Zayde is sitting on the floor, playing with blocks but he looks up at me, smiling, when I step inside.

I smile back at him.

"Hi baby. How long have you been awake?"

He shrugs, continuing to play with his blocks.

"Not long. You weren't in your room so I just stayed here and played with my blocks waiting for you."

I sit down next to him.

"Sorry I was with your dad."

Zayde looks at me about to say something when he closes his mouth and frowns.

"Why are you crying?"

I give him a big smile.

"I'm not crying. See."

He touches my face.

"Your eyes and face is red, like when you cry." He frowns again and looks down at the blocks in his hand. "He made you cry again didn't he?" He looks up at me. "It was daddy." He answers his own question nodding his head, not giving me a chance to answer him.

I sigh and brush my fingers through his hair.

"Me and daddy had a fight."

"Are we leaving?"

"Mommy is. The day after tomorrow I'm going back to uncle Dan's pack."

"Do I have to leave too?"

He asks with a small voice and I shake my head pulling him into my lap.

"No baby. You can stay here if you want. Your daddy, and grandparents still want to spend some time with you."

"But what about you?"

I smile and kiss his forehead.

"I'll be okay. Mommy is a big girl. I'll miss you, but you can come see me anytime you want. I'm sure your grandma or Auntie Meg or Amy will bring you over anytime you ask. or I'll come visit you here."

"Can I really stay a little while longer? I like it here.."

"I know baby. And yes, you can stay here for a while longer. Now, come on, let's go downstairs and get something to eat."

Zayde nods and we get up, heading out of the room and downstairs to the dining room.

I let out a breath I didn't even realize I was holding when I saw Zane wasn't at dinner.

I smile at Diana, Megan and Amy as Zayde and I go get our food before joining them.

Diana gives me a small smile.

"I heard what happened. Are you okay?"

She asks, squeezing my hand.

I give her a small smile but before I can say anything Zayde answers his grandmother.

"Daddy made her cry. She's leaving."

All eyes at our table snap to me.

Jake frowns.

"What does he mean you're leaving?"

"Oh, so you're talking to me now? Just that.. I'm leaving the day after tomorrow. I'm going back to my pack."

"But you and Zane.."

Amy says with a frown and I give her a small smile, shaking my head.

"There is no Zane and me."

They all look at each other and Ryan frowns looking back at me.

"Are you saying you're over?"

I nod, taking a bite of my food.

"Yes."

"What the hell happened today? What did I miss?"

Megan asks with a frown looking around the table.

I sigh and look at Zayde, seeing him deep in conversation with Jason before I turn to look at them. Briefly I explain what happened at the ice cream shop and in Zane's office.

Diana frowns and makes to stand but I stop her, shaking my head.

"Leave it."

"But Shay.."

"No. This is between me and Zane."

I say with a firm tone and look her in the eye.

Her frown deepens but she nods and sits down.

I look at the rest of them.

"That counts for all of you. This is between me and Zane. Please respect that."

I look down, continuing to eat my food, clearly putting an end to the conversation.

Chapter 36 - Returning to my rejected mate

Zane's Point of View

I take another sip from the glass in my hand, staring at the amber liquid in the glass.

I can't get myself to go down to dinner. I don't think I can see her right now.

I sigh and run my hand through my hair, resting my head back against my chair.

I think about what Shay said about Lisa touching me. I know I should probably have done something about it, but over the years I've become so accustomed to just ignoring her talking to or touching me that I didn't even think about what it would look like to Shay.

I kept hearing my father in my head, not to be disrespectful and rude to Lisa, that it sets a bad precedent. And suddenly I wonder why, all these years, he specifically kept telling me not to be rude and disrespectful to her.

I look up when my door opens and I growl at my father that just saunters into my office.

"Can't you knock?"

"Don't you growl at me boy. This used to be my office. I can do what I want. Did you talk to Shay?"

I sigh, running my hand through my hair.

"I did."

"And? Is she going to apologize for the way she acted?"

"No. She's leaving."

He frowns.

"What do you mean?"

"I mean she's leaving dad. The meaning is pretty clear."

"What about Zayde?"

"I don't know. She said she'd talk to him to hear if he wants to go back with her or stay here a little while longer."

My father nods.

"Maybe this is for the best."

"What?"

"Her leaving. She clearly isn't a good fit for the pack. Maybe now that she's out of the picture you can move on and find a more suitable luna for the pack."

"She's my mate dad. The goddess paired us for a reason. If Shay wasn't right for me, she wouldn't have paired her with me.. Twice.. And if Shay, my goddess given mate, isn't a suitable Luna for our pack then who would be?"

"She's been known to make mistake, Zane."

I frown and look at him.

"What's your problem with Shay? Thinking back, you didn't even really care about the fact that I rejected her. Mom was the one who did the yelling."

"Excluding the fact that she hid my grandson, your son, I might add, from us for five years? Shay has always been to outspoken. Even as a kid. She would pipe up and interrupt grown up conversations. And her parents let her, saying they were raising her to be strong and independent, teaching her that girl's are aloud to have an opinion. Shay has always liked to do thing her way. Taking charge of everything and having it the way she wants it. She would do the same here. She would change the way we do things. Lisa on the other hand is from here. She knows how things are done, and what is expected. I don't see why you couldn't make it work with her. Why you had to keep looking for Shay."

My father says, shaking his head with a sigh and I frown.

"What is wrong with Shay being strong and independent? Maybe it wouldn't be a bad thing if she were to change things. Change is good. And Lisa? Seriously? You think she'd make a good Luna?"

He nods.

"I do. She's from our pack. You've known each other all your lives. The pack knows her. She rejected her mate for you."

"I didn't ask, or wanted her to do that!"

"But she did! She's willing to sacrifice things for you, to be by your side. Will Shay? The first time you reprimand her about here behavior she decided to leave. Not willing to sacrifice her pride for a simple apology."

"Lisa provoked her. She was openly trying to pick a fight and make Shay look bad. I didn't want to cause a scene, as to not embarrass anyone. But Shay felt I didn't take her side. And yes, she didn't handle it very well but considering her history with Lisa, I understand why she acted the way she did. Lisa should have given her an sincere apology, Shay doesn't owe her anything. She didn't do anything wrong...."

"And yet you reprimanded Shay, and allowed Lisa to make her feel unwanted. You allowed another female to openly touch and make passes at you in front of your mate, and the mother of your child. You do realize she's leaving because she thinks you haven't changed and that you're still choosing Lisa over her?"

My mother interrupts me from the door with a scowl on her face.

"And you..."

She points at my dad, her eyes blazing.

"You actually encouraged our son to reprimand Shay but not to reprimand Lisa and put her in her place. Shay's been here one day. And you've driven her away. What the hell is wrong with the two of you?"

"As I was saying, before you interrupted me, mom. Shay didn't do anything wrong, but by listening to you dad, I've once again chased my mate away. And this time I'm not sure if she'll come back."

"Shay runs when things get to hard, we have seen that before. Lisa doesn't. She's been here for Zane for five years even though he threw her aside to chase after Shay."

"Are you serious?"

My mother stalks over to my father.

"She is a gold digger. She doesn't care about Zane all she cares about is the title. She wants to be luna. How can you even think she's a better fit to be the next luna?"

"She's from our pack, people know her and she didn't hide the next heir for five years."

"The people tolerate her. If you'd have bothered to hear what people have to say about her you'd know that she's selfish and rude. Things you've accused Shay of.. Because of the things that you've hear about her from Lisa. I know Lisa is your best friends daughter and you promised him you'd look after her when he died. But trying to force her on our son is not the right way. Lisa would make a terrible Luna. And the two of you better fix things with Shay before it's to late."

My dad opens his mouth to argue but my mom raises her hand silencing him, shaking her head.

"No. You are wrong about this. You've been wrong about it since the start. Maybe you should actually put in a little effort and get to know Shay before you condemn her."

She turns to look at me.

"And you.. You disappoint me boy.. I thought you'd get your head out of your ass and be the man she deserves. But you keep screwing up. I should have know to keep you from you father you've learnt a few bad things from him. Shay is hurting. You should talk to her, not hide out in your office like a coward. Talk to her. And pray to the goddess she doesn't reject you again."

My father scowl trying to speak agabut my mother frowns at him again.

"Seriously! You, shut up. You are just making things worse. This has nothing to do with you, it's between Zane and Shay. So stop meddling."

My mother stormed out of the room leaving just me and my dad.

Before he can say anything I shake my head.

"I can't deal with anymore of this now. But just to make sure you understand. Lisa will never be Luna. Shay is my mate. And mom is right you should get to know Shay beter and stop pushing Lisa and me together. Whether you like it or not, Shay will be my luna. Now, please leave. I have work to do."

I say returning to my seat and ignoring him. After a while I hear him storm off.

I sigh and run my hand through my hair.

I'll give her tomorrow, for her girls day but, the day after that, Ill start to grovel.

I sigh again before starting up my office computer to get some work done..

Chapter 37 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

Groaning I roll over, reaching for my phone on the nightstand to shut of my screaming alarm.

I run my hands down my face staring at the ceiling. I don't think I've slept all that much.. Luckily Zayde had a sleepover with Jason so at least I didn't have to worry about getting him ready for the day.

If I'm being completely honest I don't want to get myself ready to go to this girls day out. With Zayde occupied I want to stay in bed and feel sorry for myself.

I look at the time on my phone and sigh again before getting out of bed and heading into the bathroom to start my day.

20 minutes later someone is hammering on my bedroom door.

"I'm coming! I'm coming! Hold your horses!"

I yell grabbing my things and rushing to the door. I fling it open to Megan standing there with her arm raised to knock again.

She lowers her hand and both her and Amy smirk at me while I frown at them.

"What is with the raucous?"

"Just making sure your not in bed and trying to skip out on today."

I close the door behind me and we head downstairs.

"I wasn't even considering it."

Megan scoffs.

"Of course you were. I know you."

I sigh.

"Fine, I considered it but I'm here aren't I?"

I grumble and Amy flings her arm around me, giving me a side hug.

"Yes, you are. And we're going to have a great time. You'll see. Just for a little while let's forget everything going on and just focus on us."

I nod and give her a small smile.

"You're right. Let's make the most of it."

"That's my girl. Now get in the car already."

Megan says holding open the door. She swats me as I get in and I yelp, glaring at her.

Her and Amy both laugh getting into the car themselves.

Soon we're on the road, heading to the next town, singing along to the radio.

"I can't remember the last time I felt this carefree. I love Ryan and Jason. But sometimes I just need some time for myself."

I nod my head.

"I know exactly what you mean. I love Zayde and spending time with him. But in the last five years I've rarely had a chance for some RNR. This morning I really didn't want to get out of bed, but I'm starting to get super excited about today."

Megan smiles and nods.

"Me too. We're gonna get some massages; get our hair and nails done. get some facials.. you know the works. and then some shopping with my girls. And no boy talk."

"Agreed."

Amy and I say in unison.

"So Meg, how is the baby?"

She turns around to look at me, resting her hand on her stomach.

"The little bean is growing fast and everything is as it should be. And it seems like most of the morning sickness has passed so I'm super excited about that."

Amy and I both laugh, nodding our heads.

"I feel you. For the first half of my pregnancy I couldn't really stomach anything other than crackers and coke. And the smell of meat, especially pork, completely put me off."

Amy nods.

"Me too. I couldn't stand the smell of bacon and I kept craving chocolate cake."

"I had this constant hankering for beer. And normally I don't even like the taste."

Megan laughs.

"Pregnancy is weird. I just want chips all the time. With lots of salt, vinegar and ketchup. And pineapple. I can't get enough of it. I think Jake is pretty fed up with me, because all he does most of the time is cut some pineapple for me."

Megan says with a smile and we both give her a smile back.

"Well, here we are! Let's go get some much needed RNR."

Amy says as she stops in front of the spa.

"Amen."

Megan answers and we laugh heading into the spa.

Maybe there's still hope for this to turn out to be a good day.

Zane's Point of View

I stare at the boys playing in the corner of the office.

"Zane, are you listening?"

Jake asks with a frown.

My head snaps in his direction.

"Excuse me?"

"I asked if you're listening. Which, clearly, you, aren't. "

I shake my head.

"No, sorry. Go ahead."

"Nevermind. Have you talked to her?"

"Who?"

I ask, looking down at the papers in front of me.

"Don't act like you don't know who I'm talking about. Shay. Have you talked to her?"

I sigh, and run my hand through my hair.

"No, I haven't."

"Why not?"

Ryan asks with a frown, crossing his arms over his chest.

"I don't know what to say."

"How about you apologize?"

"Yes, I know. But I don't know where to start.. And I don't know if she'll even listen to me."

"So, you're not even going to try?"

"Of course I am.. I just thought I'd give her the day."

"You're hiding from her. Because you're an idiot."

Ryan says with a scoff.

"Yes, I know okay. I keep screwing up and I don't know what to do to fix this. What should I do? Apologize?"

"I don't think apologizing is going to be enough."

Jake nods.

"Apologizing is definitely not going to be enough. You're going to have to do a lot more than apologize."

I sigh and run my hand through my hair again..

"That's what I thought. Any ideas?"

"This is your mess. Clean it up yourself."

Jake says shrugging and I look over at Ryan.

He shakes his head.

"I'm with Jake. You're on your own this time. Fix your mess."

Before I can say anything Zayde looks up at me.

"Can we do something? We're bored."

I smile at him and nod, motioning them over.

"Sure thing. Want to come help us work out patrols for the borders?"

Both boys nod rushing over and we smile.

"Good, because one day you boys are going to have to do this. How about after we're done here we go around the pack and show the two of you the pack borders? On the four wheelers?"

Both boys look at him with big eyes before Jason turns to his father.

"Can we really daddy?"

Ryan smiles and nods.

"Sure. It sounds like fun right?"

Jason nods, but Zayde frowns at his father.

"What's wrong?" Zane asks ruffling Zayde's hair.

"Nothing, just wondering if mommy would be okay with it. She doesn't like four wheelers."

"We'll go slow and be safe. I promise."

Zayde frowns but nods.

"Okay, fine but I'm not the one telling her about this."

Jake and Ryan laugh.

"Well at least when she comes to yell at you, you'd get a chance to speak with her."

Ryam smirks and I frown at him.

"Shut up, and get over here so we can get this done with."

Jake snickers as they all gather around the table and start making suggestions.

I look at my watch. Six more hours until she's back. Maybe I should get her some flowers.

I frown. I honestly don't know how to clean up this mess, but I don't want to let her go.

"Dad!"

Zayde pulls on my shirt with a frown on his face.

"Are you listening?"

I give him a small smile.

"Sorry what were you saying?"

"I asked you what a bastard is?"

I frown.

"Where did you hear that?"

"The mean blonde lady said it."

"What mean blonde lady?"

"The one from the ice cream store."

I frown.

"What did she say exactly?"

"This morning at breakfast she told me to watch where I'm going, that I'm just like my mother, always in her way. And then she said I'm just a little bastard and there's no place for me here. That you don't really want me and mommy here and we should just leave."

"What? She said this at breakfast?"

Jason and Zayde both nod.

"She did. She was really mean and she pushed Zayde. I don't like her."

Jason says with a serious face and Zayde nods in agreement.

I look over at Jake and Ryan to see them looking at each other with frowns on their faces.

"Do either of you know anything about this?"

They both shake their heads.

I look at the boys and give them a smile.

"I tell you what. Let's forget about the mean lady and go out to ride the four wheelers and then maybe get some ice cream?"

Both boys nod vigorously and we all get up to leave.

I grab Jake's arm holding him back as Ryan leaves with the kids.

"Find out what the hell happened this morning. This is not okay."

He nods.

"I agree. Lisa needs to be put in her place."

I nod.

"And she will be. Just find out exactly what happened and who saw it."

"Of course."

We head out of the office, down the stairs before Jake speaks again.

"Shay is going to be pissed if she hears about this."

I sigh and run my hand down my face.

"Oh, I'm aware of that."

"Are you going to tell her?"

"If I don't Zayde will and then she'll have my balls.."

Jake laughs and pats my shoulder.

"Well good luck to you then. I'm just glad I'm not you."

He smirks as we reach the others.

I just frown at him.

I help Zayde on the bike and fix his helmet before I get on with him.

"Everyone ready?"

They all nod and then we're off.

Heading to the border I keep thinking about what Zayde said.

I don't know how to tell this to Shay.. She's pissed of already as it is..

I sigh, well I guess I'll have to talk to her tonight. The sooner the better right..

Chapter 38 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

After spending hours at the spa we finally head to the mall to get some food and to shop.

"Finally! I'm starving!"

Megan exclaims, very dramatically, as she flops down on the chair.

Amy and I both frown at her.

"You're the one that didn't want to leave. And that kept telling us their snacks were enough and that we didn't need more food."

I say with as raised brow.

A waiter approaches our table and hand out menus, I look up at him and smile, thanking him before starting to read through the menu, and ordering something to drink.

"Well it was enough then. I'm eating for two. I get hungry very easily. It's not my fault."

Megan says rubbing her stomach. Amy laughs at her and I just shake my head.

"Just order your food so we can feed that poor baby."

The waiter comes back over to our table, brining our drinks. We thank him again and place our orders.

"I didn't even realize how much I needed that. We should do it again sometime."

Amy and Megan both nod.

"Definitely, I couldn't keep my eyes open during the massage. I don't think I've ever been that relaxed."

Amy says and Megan nods again.

"I agree. That massage was great and I love my nails. Now we just need some food and some shopping and the day will be perfect."

"Well we're definitely off to a good start."

I say drinking my milkshake.

"So... I know we said no boys.. But are you really going to leave tomorrow?"

Amy asks taking a sip from her milkshake.

I frown and nod.

"Yes. I am."

"Are you sure you want to do this Shay?"

I look at Megan and nod.

"Yes.. I can't be around her. And I don't think Zane is going to do anything about her."

"Maybe after your fight he'll realize he has to do something about her?"

Amy says and I shake my head.

"Yeah, no.. I don't think so. If he wanted to do something he would've already done so. Without having to fight about it. "

"What would he have to do to make you stay?"

I sigh.

"I don't know.. I want Lisa to be put in her place and if she steps out of line again I want her thrown out. I also want an apology. A real, public apology. From Lisa. And I want an apology from Zane and his father. They were wrong."

"So.. If all of that were to happen you'd stay?"

I frown thinking about her answer and shake my head.

"No.. But then I'd at least think about coming back. And giving it another shot. I think maybe some distance would put things in perspective for us."

"So you're not rejecting him?"

I shake my head.

"No, not yet. He is the father of my child and my mate. And even though he's an ass and currently I don't particularly like him all that much I still want to be with him.. Is that crazy?"

Amy sighs and gives me a smile.

"Kind of yes.. But that's the mate bond for you. It doesn't make sense and makes you crazy sometimes."

Megan nods.

"Maybe you are right, Shay. Maybe some distance will help him wake up. I'll miss you though."

I smile and shake my head.

"We'll still see each other all the time."

"I know but still."

The waiter brings over our food and we thank him.

Suddenly Amy's stomach rumbles and she blushes, making us laugh.

"Sorry, I didn't even realize how hungry I was when we came here."

"Well then hungry ladies, dig in. The sooner we finish the sooner we can go do some shopping."

They both nod before starting to eat.

"Would you mind if we head to Babies R Us too? I just want to check out a few things for the baby."

Amy squeals and shakes her head.

"Of course not. This is so exciting. What are we getting today?"

"I'm not sure. Definitely a cot and what ever else you think is necessary."

I nod and smile.

"That definitely sounds like fun. Decorating the nursery for the first time is so exciting. Are you doing to do a specific theme or color?"

"It is. Well I was just thinking wild animals and gender neutral colors. Maybe grey and green?"

I nod again.

"That sounds good. I did the same. Gender neutral colors make this so much easier. But even after I found out his gender I stuck to my plan. I don't understand why when after people find out the gender they change the entire room blue or pink."

"Yeah, me neither. Just stay with the gender neutral colors. I'm doing the same with clothes."

I nod again.

"That's good. Are you girls done eating?"

Both Amy and Megan nod at me and I stand.

"Okay, good. I'm going to go pay at the counter and then we can head over to Babies R Us."

I head over to the counter and pay our bill. As I am making my way back over to Amy and Megan someone bumps into me.

I lose my balance but two strong arms wrap around me, steadying me.

I look up into a very handsome face and I blush a little.

I step away pulling at my clothes.

"Thank you, and I'm sorry. I didn't see you there."

Mr. Handsome gives me a big smile, revealing the dimple in his right cheek.

"Don't worry about it. I got to hold a beautiful woman in my arms, even if it was for just a second."

I laugh and shake my head.

"Well thank you for not letting me fall on my ass."

"You're very welcome. I'm Ethan."

He says holding his hand out to me. I shake it and blush when he doesn't let go of my hand immediately.

"I'm Shay. Are you new around here? I don't think I've ever seen you around?"

I say looking at him, I can smell he's a werewolf but the smell isn't familiar to me.

He smiles and nods.

"I am. Moved here from a few towns over about 2 months ago. So I don't really know anyone yet. Are you from around here?"

I nod.

"Yes. I grew up here. My pack is about a town over. Are you from a nearby pack?"

His smile falters for a second before he shakes his head.

"No, I'm a lone wolf. I came here for my mate, but it didn't work out."

I frown at him.

"That's too bad. I'm sorry."

He shakes his head.

"No, it's better this way. She's in love with someone else. I don't want someone with me, always wondering if they are actually thinking about the other person."

He says with a shrug and I nod.

"I get it. But still. I'm sorry. It stings losing a mate."

"Do you have a mate?"

I laugh.

"That is a very, very complicated question Ethan. One that would take time to explain."

"Well, then how about I stick you for a coffee and you can tell me all about it?"

I look at him about to say no when I think about my situation. Maybe it wouldn't be the worst thing to try to move on..

"A coffee sounds great. But unfortunately I'm here with my friends, and we still have a full day of shopping ahead of us."

I say motioning over to Amy and Shay. He looks in their direction and flashes them a smile and a quick wave before looking at me again.

"Well that's too bad. Maybe another time."

"Definitely."

I take a piece of paper from the counter and write my number on it, handing it to him.

"Text me, or call me whenever you want to go get that coffee."

I say with a smile and he returns it with one of his own dimpled ones.

"Oh. I'll definitely give you a call. It was nice meeting you Shay."

"You too. I'll see you around."

I give him a small wave and head back over to the girls.

I turn around and give him one last smile before we leave the food court.

He waves back.

I didn't expect to meet someone today, but maybe this could turn out to be a good thing.

Chapter 39 - Returning to my rejected mate

"What was what?"

"Don't play numb. You know she's talking about the guy at the counter."

Amy says clicking her tongue at me.

"It was nothing. He just saved me from falling on my ass."

"It didn't look like just that to me."

Megan says wiggling her eyebrows at me.

"Okay, there may have been some flirting.. and I gave him my number, he asked me to have coffee with him.."

Megan squeals but Amy frowns at me.

"Are you sure that's a good idea?"

"Why wouldn't it be?"

"Maybe because your still not sure what you want to do about Zane. Do you really want to get into something new?"

"It's just coffee."

Megan says with a frown.

"Coffee is never just coffee. I'm just saying that maybe you need to figure out what you and Zane are before you get involved with someone else."

I frown.

"I know you are right. But still.. I want to have coffee with an attractive guy, that asked me out. It makes me feel a little better about myself and the situation."

"Zane is not going to like it.."

I shrug.

"It has nothing to with him."

"Well.. Technically he is still your mate. So it doen.."

Megan adds and I frown at her.

"I get it guys. I know I need to talk to Zane, there is still a few things unresolved between us. But if Ethan calls I'm still going to go have coffee with him, I've already agreed to it."

Amy shrugs.

"If that's what you want. It is your decision of course."

I decide to change the subject as we enter Babies R Us.

"So Megan, where do you want to start first? Do you want to go look at the cots first? Or the strollers and car seats?"

"Let's start at the cots first."

I nod.

"And what exactly are you looking for?"

"Preferably something wood. But I guess it depends on what catches my attention. "

"Okay, great. Let's do this."

I smile at Megan and both she and Amy returns my smile nodding as we head into shop.

Zane's Point of View

Somewhere along the way the boys got tired as we took them around the territory. So we decided to call it a day and head back, promising them we'll take them out again.

After putting Zayde to bed I made my way to my office where both Ryan and Jake were waiting.

"Is Jason asleep?"

Ryand nods, smiling.

"Out like a light and Zayde?"

"Same, but I had to promise him we'll go again a few time before he eventually fell asleep."

I smile shaking my head and sitting down.

I look up at Jake.

"So, have you been able to find out anything about this mornings incident?"

I ask referring to Zayde's run in with Lisa.

Jake nods his head.

"Two of the omegas putting out breakfast overheard them. Tanya says she asked Lisa what was wrong with her and told her that she should leave him alone, that he's only a boy. And Lisa told her to mind her own business and to remember her place, because once she becomes luna she won't tolerate disrespect like that."

I frown and shake my head.

"Seriously, there's something wrong with this woman. No matter how many times I say it's not happening she keeps telling people she's going to be luna."

"What do you want to do about the incident?"

"I'm going to wait for Shay to return, tell her what happened and then we can decide together how we want to handle this. One of you, mindlink me as soon as the girl's get back. And please tell Shay I want to speak with her."

Jake and Ryan both nod at me before getting up and heading out to go tend to their different responsibilities.

As soon as they leave I sigh and run my hand down my face. I don't know why I didn't realize it before but Lisa is a real problem. Telling people she's going to be luna. Being rude to pack members..

I link my mother and ask her to keep an eye on Zayde, and to keep him busy once he wakes up.

I look at the emails on my laptop and sigh before I start to work through them.

About two hours later Ryan's voice pops into my head.

'The girls are back. Want me to send Shay up?'

'Yes, please.'

'What should I tell her?'

'The truth.. Tell her I need to talk to her about an incident involving Lisa and Zayde.'

It isn't long before I hear hurried footsteps and Shay burst into my office.

"What the hell did that bitch do to Zayde?"

I stare at Shay, standing with her hands on her hips, tapping her foot impatiently. Her cheeks a little flush and I can't help but give a little smile.

"What's so funny?"

"Just thinking. You're really pretty when you're pissed."

The color on her cheeks deepen but she rolls her eyes.

"Seriously Zane? Not the time. What did Lisa do?"

She asks impatiently and I sigh, standing up and walking around the table until I'm in front of her.

I rest back against my desk, crossing my legs at my ankles and resting my hands next to me on the desk.

"Zayde brought it to my attention that he had a little run in with Lisa this morning.

This morning at breakfast she told him to watch where he was going, and that he was just like his mother, always in her way. And then she said he's just a little bastard and that there's no place for him here. She also told him that I don't really want you and him here and that both of you should just leave. She also pushed him."

I swear I can see steam coming out of Shay's ears.

"She called him a bastard? And she pushed him?"

I nod.

"Yes, Jason and two omegas confirmed the encounter."

"What have you done about it?"

"Well I haven't exactly done anything about it.."

I start but Shay scoffs and interrupts me, throwing her hands up in the air.

"Of course you haven't.."

I frown and hold up my hand, stopping her from continuing.

"I wasn't finished. As I said, I haven't done anything yet. I wanted your input, how do you want to handle this? This is your decision."

"My decision?"

I nod.

"Yes. To deal with anyway you see fit."

Shay frowns.

"If it were up to me I'd want to beat her senseless and put her in her place."

I look at my watch.

"Well.. It is 4'o clock.. She is currently at training."

Shay narrows her eyes at me.

"What are you saying?"

"Nothing. I'm just pointing out that training is currently on going.. Maybe you'd want to join."

I say and shrug. Shay stares at me, raising her eyebrow.

"What about the way that would look?"

"You were right yesterday, Shay. I should've defended you in front of my father and those that took Lisa's side. Today she went after our son. That is unacceptable and she needs to answer for that. And I feel it is completely in your prerogative to decide how you want to deal with her."

"And you'd stand with me? Even if I were to beat her?"

I nod.

"Absolutely. But in a controlled situation."

"Hence the training?"

Shay asks and I nod.

She stares at me and then nods.

"Fine. Let's go."

She turns and leaves my office just as fast as she came.

I shake my head and follow her out to the training grounds.

As we reach them, I see them getting paired into groups of two, and when the head warrior calls out Lisa's name Shay interjects.

"I want to be partnered with her."

I see the color drain from Lisa's face as she stares at the murderous look on Shay's face.

Anthony, the head warrior looks at me for approval and I nod.

"She is the rightful future luna. If she wants to join training let her."

Anthony nods.

"Lisa, you'll be partnered with future Luna Shay."

I see Shay give Lisa a smirk, one that sends a shiver down my spine.

"So you like to pick on little kids and push them? How about you give someone your own size a run?"

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Shay's Point of View

"So you like to pick on little kids and push them? How about you give someone your own size a run?"

I say staring at Lisa. I feel satisfaction coursing through me when I see the color has drained from her face.

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"Oh, so you don't remember the encounter you had with my son this morning? Where you called him a bastard and pushed him?"

I hear a few people gasp, and the murmurs start.

Lisa's face gets even paler if that's possible.

"That never happened."

"So you're saying my son lied about what happened?"

Lisa looks at Zane.

"Do you honestly believe this happened? Why would I do that? Obviously she told him to say I did that, so you would be mad at me. Clearly this is her way of trying to get back at me after what happened at the ice cream store."

I scoff but before I can say anything Zane answers her.

"First of, Shay hasn't even seen our son today. He spent most of the day yesterday and the night at Ryan and Amy's so when exactly would she have had the opportunity to tell him to say that? And if he was lying why would Jason have confirmed his story?"

"Kids lie Zane, maybe she spoke to both of them."

"Don't treat me like a fool Lisa. There were two omegas that witnessed the encounter and they corroborated what Jason and Zayde told us."

"Zane, come on. She probably spoke to them to. She's trying to push a wedge between us."

She tries to step closer to him but he growls.

"Stay where you are and don't touch me. There is no us, Lisa. Stop lying and spreading rumors. Don't make me use my alpha command out here in front of everyone to make you admit what you've been doing."

Lisa steps back and looks down.

I sigh, folding my arms over my chest, tapping my foot.

"Come on, are we doing this or not? I don't have all day."

I say staring at my nails and I see Lisa looking around us.

"I don't have to fight you. She isn't even from our pack. Why is she allowed to join training?"

Lisa turns back to Zane.

"Because she is your future Luna and I allowed her to join. Now stop wasting time and start."

"You're really going to allow her to do this? To hurt me intentionally under the guise that it was during training?"

"Yes, because if I let her handle you the way you deserve after the stunt you've pulled with our son this morning, you might be worse for wear. This is the better option for you."

"Zane, please."

She tries to approach him again but I growl at her.

"Enough. I've had enough of you. Since I got here you've intentionally been trying to pick a fight with me, you keep hanging onto MY MATE, you've tried your best to put me in a bad light in the eyes of the pack. But that's fine. I'm a grown woman. I can handle that. But when you go after my son.. That is where I draw the line. How dare you call him a bastard and tell him his father doesn't want him?? And then to push him. He's five years old. What the hell is wrong with you? If you want to take your frustrations out on someone..well.."

I open my arms and turn..

"Here I am. Come on take me on. Or are you scared? Too afraid to fight me head on?"

"I'm not scared of you."

Lisa says gritting her teeth and I smirk.

"You should be. Now enough talking. Let's start training."

The head warrior calls everyone out, organizing them into their pairs again and then training starts.

I get into a fighting position, waiting for Lisa.

"Come on then!"

I say and I make a come here motion with my hands.

"I promise I'll go easy on you."

I smirk at her and she frowns getting into position.

It doesn't take long before she lunges at me but I easily side step her attack.

"That all you got? No wonder you attack children."

I taunt and she snarls at me, attacking again. Soon we really get into it.

Lisa get a few hits in but it doesn't take long before she starts to get angry.

The angrier she gets, the sloppier she gets. And the more she misses the angrier she gets. I keep taunting her, striking at her continuously.

I realise everyone has stopped their training and is now staring at us.

I see that Lisa is getting tired and I stop holding back. Lisa staggers backwards as I land a hit on her jaw. She tries to lunge at me again but I easily side step her and aim a kick at her legs. She buckles and falls to her knees. I grab her by the hair and pull her head back harshly, making her look at me.

"If you ever go near my son again or try something like you did this morning I will kill you. Stay away from me, my son and MY MATE. If I see you touch Zane one more time I'll rip of your arms. Don't test me Lisa. This is your one and only warning."

I say before I punch her right in the nose and she falls to the ground.

I turn to the head warrior.

"Have someone take her to the hospital to get looked at."

He nods at me and motions at two warriors, who rushes over and picks her up, heading for the infirmary.

I turn to the crowd.

"I'm not sure what you've hear about me. Coming from Lisa it probably wasn't good. Just know, how I act with and treat Lisa has nothing to do with any of you. There is a reason things between her and me are the way they are. Before you judge or take her side, atleast try to get to know me. But if anyone goes after my son, or insult him do know that you will get the same punishment as Lisa.."

Zane nods and steps up next to me.

"Lisa has been spreading rumors about Shay, and I've dropped the ball by doing nothing. That stops now. Shay is your future luna. Treat her with respect."

I look at Zane and frown before looking at the people again.

"If there is anything any of you would like to know, or ask, you can come to me. I have nothing to hide. Stop helping Lisa spread her rumors."

Some of the people nod, while other reply verbally.

"Yes, Luna."

I frown and shake my head.

"Don't call me that. I haven't decided whether I'm staying or not."

I say before I turn around and walk back to the packhouse, without looking at Zane once.

I'll deal with him later. Now, I want to go see my son.