Chapter 34: A mating ceremony

-Clara-

According to Shawn and Angel's plan, they must be officially mated before sending a petition to the King, where Shawn will recognize Renata's pup as part of the linage of leaders of his pack including Renata as a former fiancé… before meeting his fated mate Angelica Dupont. Not exactly the truth but close enough.

They are using the law of protection for the Alpha's linage which is supposed to protect a pup from the Luna's family. They could be offended to the point of killing the pup from another female. Since Alphas are precious and rare, this regulation protects the Alpha's pup and by extension also the mother.

It is not the exact case, since this protection is not against Angel's pack looking for revenge or to protect the birth right of her own pups but Renata's, the other female.

Sunlight is not ranked and could not afford an attack from Dark River pack which is third in the rank of werewolves. During an attack, Renata and her unborn pup could be harmed. Therefore, the protection of the King's is needed in application of such law, which is to preserve the life of the unborn pup of an Alpha. This decree will save everyone's life in Sunlight.

I am not the King, but the petition looks solid enough for me. However, the mating ceremony is a requirement of this petition as part of the file that Josh will help to deliver. He has informed the King and he agreed to approved it as long the full file in ready and presented tomorrow at the latest. I assumed by email.

It is important to do it all today because Shawn and Angel must ascend to Alpha and Luna of the pack in the same act to enable the application of that regulation.

There will be a small group of warriors from the Royal pack coming and going to Sunlight over eighteen years at least. It is a smart move from Shawn and Angel, which will keep Dark River pack at bay due to the protection of the King besides of the presence of Royal warriors.

It is a great sacrifice from Angel because her first born son will not be Alpha of Sunlight if Renata's pup is male. They might be passing a conflict for the future, but Angel feels that if all of them are raised together as siblings they will learn to love and respect each other, where such conflict will not exist. I hope she is right, but since she is so determined, I trust her judgement.

Angel is acting very mature about this whole situation, I still want to slap Renata for what she did, and sometimes I even wonder if the pup is in fact Shawn's or not. She lied and tricked already once. Shawn told her that his wolf was able to hear the pup's heartbeat. Only a father has that ability in our species. Therefore, it must be true.

Furthermore, this is Angel's story with Shawn, and as long she is happy, I will support her as much as I can.

Therefore, we are running against the clock to put together a mating ceremony and keep an eye on Renata's door. Fortunately, Paige is locked with her inside her room, so we only monitor one door and her window… we do not want Paige to escape, Josh needs to take her with him to the King. A couple of guards are helping with that duty.

It was discussed to have the ceremony at the pack's auditorium, but it will require a lot more work and resources than we have now. Pack members would have liked to attend but this is a last-minute call for everyone, so it was limited to the closest of the family, which includes us.

We will do the ceremony in their living room; it will be crowded tough. We moved the couches and all furniture out to improvise a small altar and a walk for the bride's entrance. The Beta female, who is Alpha Dean's sister, came to help and brought benches. We will fit here somehow.

Louise came back with Luna Aerin and got really excited about the ceremony, she had a lot of white crepe paper as well as Junior, the beta's son… they have the same age. We gathered it all and made white paper flowers as decoration, for which I am grateful… I have allergies to flowers. The guys went to town to buy something to a wedding cake, and other implements to carry on this mating ceremony.

Luna Aerin lent Angel her old mating dress which fortunately fitted her, they even considered to make it a tradition for future Luna's to wear the former Luna's dress for good luck.

I got a blue dress since I was her maid of honor. I did not bring any pretty dress with me; I was not prepared for this event to happen. I think it is amazing how life can change from one moment to another, and sometimes even to something as good as this.

Blanche prepared a surprised incantation as her wedding gift and kept it a secret for the ceremony. Besides, she made appear a lot of her wine. Well, it got delivered from one of her stores, with the extra p*****t for express shipping and delivery, she hardly needs to use her magic.

I got myself busy at the kitchen to help in the preparation of the buffet for everyone. I am so thankful to Luna Michelle, Rose, and Gloria! My cooking skills helped me to open my own business, and now I am even helping my friend to have her mating ceremony dinner.

Getting ready in the borrowed dress took me in total fifteen minutes, a quick shower of five minutes helped a lot. I changed in Angel's room.

Angel was so nervous and happy about her ceremony with Shawn. Although a bit sad, they were waiting for her parents to come before this crisis happened. Summer and Mark Simmons were expected still in a couple more of days to begin preparations.

"I will have a real ceremony with my real name and my parents when they arrive... And one day, we will defeat FDL and we will be ourselves again." Angel hugged me, there were tears forming in her eyes. This is not the way she would have wanted things to go for her mating ceremony and her ascension as Luna.

"Are you sure this is what you want? I still can help you to run away and reject him." I offered. It was not a joke, I got her back if she wants to, we can do it. She smiled and begin to laugh despite her tears.

"I am sure Clara. I know it is not ideal… definitely, not the mating ceremony of my dreams, but I am the rightful Luna of this pack… and I accept this challenging messy situation because I love him. And he loves me back… it might sound crazy, but we love each other beyond the mate bond. It just pulled us together, the rest is our decision." I can understand that, although I would have cut Josh's jewels first if I find him in a similar position. Probably, I should ask if there is someone I should know about.

Over time I have changed, my old self would have never thought this way. I guess people change with time and experiences in life. Angel used to be so shy and quiet, but now I see a very strong and determined female ready to lead a pack and defend her love. I am so proud of her.

Downstairs everyone was waiting for Angel. Shawn was anxious at the small altar wearing a suit, which I think he used just once before. He looked very uncomfortable on it.

Josh was waiting for me at the end of the stairs, from there to the altar was not a long walk. I gladly took his arm to walk with him there. His tie was blue like my dress. His silver-grey eyes where shining, probably imagining like me how our own ceremony would be in the future.

Alpha Dean was there was well, waiting for my friend. He was going to walk Angel to the altar, instead of her own father. They will have another more intimate ceremony with her real name instead of Angelica Dupont when the Simmons arrived.

Angel looked beautiful in the white dress walking a path decorated with white paper roses besides of balloons hanging in the walls with white ribbons as decoration. Blanche incantation took effect then.

It looked like we were all outside under the starts shining brightly, instead of a crowded place. You could almost feel the breeze of a summer night, it was freezing outside. Probably Luna Aerin's work. She can also make you feel what she wants you to feel.

Fireflies' light lit the way for Angel, while she walked through it by Alpha Dean's arm. Once they were in front of Shawn, Alpha Dean offered her hand to Shawn who took it with one of his to kiss it before placing it on his own arm.

They exchange promises, and Shawn was careful to say "My Angel" instead of Angelica in his promise. As tradition mandates for werewolves' mating, one drop of blood from both in a golden glass with wine was mixed and blessed by the Alpha and Luna. Shawn and Angel's wolves took control over their bodies to drink the wine from the same glass.

Since they both also were assuming the roles of Alpha and Luna of Sunlight pack, they had to make an oath of alliance and devotion to each other, and to the pack, promising to protect their members and take care of those vulnerable in their pack.

After it, they signed some documents besides of Luna Aerin and Alpha Dean, with the beta and gamma as witnesses.

It was a pretty ceremony; my best friend was now Sunlight's pack Luna and she was officially mated. We all clap excitedly.

Josh squeezed my hand which made me look at him; he was not looking to my eyes, but my necklace. The one he gave me. A big toothy smile decorated his already handsome face. What is it with me and beards, I find him irresistible! I was melting under his gaze.

The guesses shoved the benches to the walls to create space for dancing. It was a happy occasion after all.

We helped immediately to set the stationary for the buffet and the white cake at the dining room. A mating ceremony always has a white cake, it is traditional that the Alpha and Luna cut it and serve the first pieces to their pack members.

Shawn and Angel served the first pieces to each other, fed each other as tradition also mandates, but choose to serve the first portion for other to an omega. Not me. Shawn's nanny who was able to attend. The female cried surprised by the acknowledgment. It was very meaningful.

“I still remember your cooking, mate.” Told me Josh while cleaning his lips with a napkin. We were hungry. We worked hard for this and skipped lunch.

“I am glad you do, but I do not think I will be cooking for you every day. I have a business to run and a pack to set back on its feet.” I wonder if I sounded too cocky. “Yet, I can cook on weekends for you?” I offered.

Josh smiled and leaned to kiss my neck which send an electrical current to my systems, I almost moaned.

“You can teach me to cook… so I can cook for you too.” He whispered at my ear.

I grabbed his hand and pulled Josh to dance with me. I have always dreamed to dance with my mate one day, so I took the chance now. It does not matter that it is a CD player and not a band. It does not matter the reduced space. Us, together was all that mattered to me.

“I am really bad at dancing…” he said but held my hand and let himself being dragged. Josh was reluctant but since I insisted, he agreed. His arms around my waist while moving slowly was amazing. Josh’s chest was the warmest place to rely on.

“We just have to practice more… together.” I said.

Josh’s scent was driving me crazy… Ianthe was controlled despite all. I guess my threats had effect on her. Besides, we do not want to expose our mate in front of others. Alastair was purring loudly, Josh chest vibrated strongly.

Since everything was chaotic, I forgot to mention to Angel about Josh been here and been my mate. She just narrowed her eyes and smiled at me.

“I think I will have to explain Angel about us being mates later.” I told Josh, but he smirked.

“Are you planning to stay here for a full week?” Is he kind of mocking me?

“No… why?” I do not understand him.

“I doubt they will leave their cabin anytime sooner than… that after marking.” I blushed. Really? A week?

“How do you know?”

“My beta Marcus found his mate this year, and that is what took them to came out from their room… By the way, he and Allen will be here in the morning. Allen is my gamma.”

“Sure!” I am happy to meet his friends, but I do not understand why they are coming, everything is settled now. Josh just needs to go to the King with the file and Paige… he is leaving, he must leave.

“You are leaving tomorrow morning, right?” I was sad to part from him. Ianthe wanted to howl, I do too.

“Yes… but you still can come with me.” He said still hopeful and I wish I can, but I am needed back at my pack. There is another mating ceremony waiting for me there.

“I would love to, but I cannot…” He interrupted me with a soft kiss on my lips. We were still dancing, while speaking.

“That is why Marcus is going to be with you until I can…”

“What?”

“Love, I am not leaving you unprotected…” Is he serious? I was able to take care of myself all this time, with some help. But still…

“Josh, I have lived perfectly fine until now. I am safe at Saint Isabella town.”

“Clara, Marcus and at least six guards from my pack are going with you. There is no discussion about this. You must be protected at all times.”

“I… Josh, that is not right… it will call too much attention! I have Blanche and Leon as nannies. You do not have to worry!” Alastair flickered in his eyes and tightened his hold on me. I was firmly pressed against his body. His breath was short and hard.

“Mate, you are in danger and I will not be by your side for some days… six guards and a beta will ease my mind and heart about leaving you to do my work.” I bit my lower lip, he was intense… about me. It was kind of… arousing.

“I love it when he is angry!” Ianthe was too quiet before that, fortunately it did not slip from my lips. But I just blushed deeply as always.

I know he is kind of right; I am also anxious about him being away from me, that something might happen to him. He probably feels the same, but I do not want to jeopardize what I have achieved alone so far. The same way, I trust him to be safe. His life is my life too.

“Alright, I understand your concern. What if we negotiate about this?” I offered.

“What do you mean?” His eyes were back to be silver-grey. Josh was back in control.

“Just Marcus… like he is on vacations at Saint Isabella.” First offer, I know he will say no.

“What about Marcus and four guards…” Not good enough, but we are getting close to what I am willing to allow.

“Marcus and one guard.” It was still a cheap offer for him, but he smirked.

“Marcus and two guards, final offer.” That is what I was looking for.

“I can live with that, until you come back to me…” I kissed him to seal our first compromise, he kissed me back.

Probably, I should be embarrassed from making out in front of others in the middle of the dance floor… Well, I am not. I guess I am more like Ianthe than I thought. She part of my soul after wall.

“Those guards are already mated, right?” I was asking to confirm.

“Yes… I would not let my mate anywhere near unmated ones, not even from my own pack.” He caressed my cheek. He is so sweet that I want to eat him up. I am sure Ianthe is mocking me right now.

Blanche told me it should not surprise me that I have these kind of strong emotions and lust for my mate. It is just that while growing up I was told that the males were the horny lustful ones, not the females. I was very confused about that before. Females are supposed to be pure for our mates and wait until our mating ceremony. I honestly wanted to do that.

“No, just eat him already!” My wolf is not helping with my resolution. Besides, it seems like we would need seven days… we do not have that much time! While debating and probably zoning out, Josh leaned and kissed my cheek, pulling me back to reality. The song ended and everyone was clapping. We joined the clapping, Angel and Shawn ended their dance and left to their new mated cabin.

“I’ve wanted to do just that for years!” He said taking me back to where I was sat, only to sit himself there and pull me to sit on his lap.

“What?” I asked him since I was not sure. Sitting on his lap, I felt something hard and pleasantly warm under me.

“Pull you back to me from one of your reveries with a kiss.” Oh Josh… if you tell me one more of those sweet lines of yours, I might change my mind tonight… However, seven days will not be enough...