Chapter 7

Fayly POV

“Dobby, come on, boy!”

I’m standing at the edge of the forest waiting for the little mutt to show himself. He got out of mom and dad’s backyard and we have spent the last half an hour searching for him, his scent was leading into the forest and I have tried every trick in the book but the rascal is obviously having too much fun running wild.

“Why don’t I just fly up and see if I can spot him?”

I spun around and glared at Ikelos.

“Why didn’t you just suggest that in the first place?” I asked as I stalked toward him. His lips twitched up at the corner and he gave me a half smile. He looked so sèxy, and he knew it.

“Because I enjoy watching your perfect ass swaying from side to side when you walk. It’s so firm and juicy, it is enchanting to me, like a forbidden fruit begging to be bitten. As much as I would love to stare at this delicious booty,”

He ran his hand across my ass as he moved around me. He stopped in front of me, his body pushed up against mine. He leaned down slightly so that his mouth was next to my ear. I could feel his breath fanning against my neck, sending pleasant shivers through my body. Even after 8 years of being mated to him, he still made my heart skip a beat and butterflies flutter in my stomach whenever he was close to me like this. He made my mind go into overdrive when he was this close to me. I would picture him pressing his lips against mine or working his way down my body with them.

“I can feel something coming.”

He pulled me closer and wrapped his arms around me. He leaned in closer to me, so I nipped at his lips with my teeth, making him growl in appreciation.

“Go and find the dog and I will wait for you back home,” I growled, eager for him to finish what he had started.

I pushed away from him and skipped away. I felt the wind against my back from his wings as he took off above the forest to find Dobby. It felt like I was being caressed by a loving breeze on a warm summer day.

With everything going on and the impending war looming above us, we decided it was better if we moved back here. There was a lot to prepare for and we were needed here more than at Ephion.

Ephion is the realm where the gods dwell. It’s a beautiful place, everything seems more vibrant and bright there. Beautiful mountains surround Ephion, they’re so green and lush that they don’t look real, they look like someone has painted them to make them look as beautiful as they do, the mountains are thick with forests full of supernatural creatures of all kinds and each mountain holds a gate to the realm. The water is the most beautiful shade of blue, and it glows with the magic that runs throughout Ephion. Waterfalls crash down into deep rivers and they run throughout Ephion. The buildings the gods use are exactly as you would imagine, large and beautiful, like they have been plucked directly out of a fairytale and placed there for them to live in. Because Ikelos is the god of nightmares, he resides in the dark part of Ephion, it’s not an evil place it’s just as beautiful but the creatures that reside within the mountains of the dark side of Ephion are more sinister, the gods make sure to love all the creatures they create and you can tell when you stroll through the forests on the dark side. The forest is full of monsters and demons but they seem to be subdued, probably due to the fact that Ephion air is so fresh each lungful makes you feel happy and relaxed like there’s a drug in the air that makes you feel more alive than you could ever imagine. Time moves differently in Ephion as well, time moves faster, so one hour on earth is like a year in Ephion. Because Ikelos is my mate, when he marked me I became connected to his life meaning when he takes his last breath so do I but that is only when we are in Ephion, down here on earth I’m plain old Fayly which is why he won’t leave my side for too long. Even though I have trained with the gods and I’m a fierce warrior, he still feels the need to protect me, which I don’t mind. I like that he wants to care for me and protect me.

We ended up moving into the pack house. Mom was furious because we didn’t even ask to stay with her and now Ember is mated to Logan she has also moved to the pack house to be with him, but after talking with her I made her see it was for the best, dad wouldn’t be able to cope with me and Ike under the same roof, he has a very high libido and we weren’t quite about it, having sèx with Ikelos was wild and rough and mind-blowing every time he touched me it felt like magic was licking against my skin and when he made love to me it was hard to remain silent. Dad would have heart failure, and I didn’t want to make him feel uncomfortable about having us there. It’s his home that he made for himself and mom. He should be able to enjoy his home without worrying about his daughter and her mate.

“Hey. What’s going on?”

Zak was walking into the pack house with a bunch of kids trailing behind him. They all looked terrified, some covered with blood, and all of them smelled like death.

“Someone dropped all these children off at the gate.”

Said to tell us Silas had taken every one.

He finished his sentence in my mind. I looked at the children and felt my rage begin to boil again. I couldn’t believe Noah had somehow merged with Silas. That Silas was now living inside my cousin, someone I grew up with and loved immensely, only to be stabbed in the back by him. Gran hadn’t taken the news too well. She hasn’t uttered a word since Aunt Violet’s murder, not even to gramps. We brought Aunt Violet and Uncle Max back here and we plan on having a funeral for them as soon as Hayden gets back, he and Amelia have been through an awful lot lately and deserve to have a few days for themselves before the shit really hits the fan and we are thrown into a war between gods. The pack is officially in a state of mourning and the bodies of Aunt Violet and Uncle Max have had a spell placed on them so they don’t start to decompose, it also gives everyone in the pack some time to say a proper goodbye to Aunt Violet was from this pack, she was born and raised here and has a lot of people who loved her here and Uncle Max was just as loved, he helped mom and dad in the demon war, he saved the lives of a lot of our warriors.

“Where are they from? I will go and check it out with Nolan.”

I walked inside and held the door open so the children could enter. Most of them were shivering from the cold and shock of what they witnessed tonight. I know Zak will take care of them, probably starting with hot chocolates and games whilst he figures out what to do next.

“Are you sure?” Zak asked.

I hadn’t been back at the pack long, but this place was my home and if Silas was somehow involved with these children ending up on our doorstep, then damn right I was going to help.

“Yeah, I’m sure.”

I know Nolan will want to go, he was also feeling betrayed by Noah, he grew up with him and treated him as if he was family, he grew up thinking of Aunt Violet and Uncle Max as his own and was devastated when he found out what Noah had done to them. Add in the fact that Noah was involved in Kezia being turned into a wendigo and kept locked up in his basement, and the fact he is still planning on taking Amelia and it only fuelled his hatred for Noah.

“Thanks, Fay, where’s Ikelos?”

Ikelos barely left my side, he was just as possessive as a male wolf, if not more.

“Finding Dobby.”

Zak nodded his head and turned back to the children.

“Where are you from?” He asked the children.

A young girl stepped forward. She had mud up her leg and blood splatter across her clothes, but I could see a strength inside of her. She had a spark that I recognized as the same spark inside of me.

“We are from Bronze Arch Meadows. Please don’t go there. The monsters will still be there and they will hurt you, too.”

“I will be fine don’t worry about me. How did you get here?” I asked.

“The angel lady brought us.” A small child said, pointing up at a picture of Amelia and Hayden.

The older girl picked her up whilst nodding her head. I looked at Zak, who just shrugged.

Who the hell is the angel lady?

I don’t have a clue. he replied.

“Did the angel lady look like the lady in this picture?” Zak asked the group.

They all nodded their heads with some saying yes, but it was unanimous that every single one of them thought Amelia had saved them.

Do you think she projected to them and saved them?

How would she get them all here, though? I don’t think it was Amelia. Mason was with me. He is acting weird. He took off saying he recognized the scent of whoever brought them, but he didn’t say anything else. He’s in a right pissy and if it was Amelia he would have said, I would have recognized the scent as well and why didn’t she stick around instead of just dumping them at the gate?

I will go and find out what’s happened there. You try to figure out who brought them here. I’ll let you know as soon as we get back what we found.

“Bye kids, Zak is going to look after you but I want you to know you are all safe here. We won’t let anyone hurt you.”

The children looked at me with small smiles. I could tell it was going to take a lot to make them feel safe. I watched them walk off down the hall to the rec room. I knew Zak too well and smiled to myself that I guessed correctly that he would take them to play games and probably get Mrs. Rossi to make them all a hot chocolate. I quickly ran up the stairs to my room, sending Nolan a mind link on my way, telling him to grab his stuff so we could go and check out the Bronze Arch Meadows trailer park and see what happened to these poor children.

“I found the dog now it’s time for me and you too.. where are you going?” Ikelos asked as he closed the door behind himself, his shirt was already undone revealing his beguiling body. I let my eyes run up his hard, well-defined abs as I pulled my jacket on, not letting the god in front of me distract me with his glorious body.

“I have to go and check something out. A group of kids has been left at the gate saying Silas had taken everyone they knew.”

“Ok, but when we get home.”

I knew Ikelos would come with me. He felt an overwhelming urge to protect me, especially when we were in the human realm. When I was first born, Ikelos was always with me, but he saw how I craved his touch and wanted for me to experience life before becoming his mate. So he decided to just leave. I was young, so I didn’t notice, but I always felt something was missing. I didn’t understand what it was until I overheard Jordyn talking with Morpheus about his brother Ikelos. Hearing his name invoked something within me, and I was consumed with wanting to know more about the mysterious god. My best friend Melinda watched me as I sat in the library day after day trying to find out anything I could about him and ended up confessing everything to me. Melinda is Jordyn and Morpheus's daughter and Ikelos’s niece. She told me how he just took off one day without even a goodbye. That Ikelos was my mate. Everything clicked into place and I knew that what I felt was the mate bond missing from my life. I was heartbroken by the thought of rejection, so I lashed out at everyone. I would sneak out of the pack house most nights and numb my broken heart with alcohol, or by finding comfort with any man that would give it to me. Nothing could ever fill the void I felt in my heart, though. One night as I walked home, I stumbled upon a group of rogue wolves. I was outnumbered, and my wolf wasn’t strong enough to take on the group alone. I was resigned to my fate. I put up a fight, but it wasn’t enough. One of the rogues had slashed at my leg, making a deep cut across my thigh, and the blood loss made me weaker. I closed my eyes, ready to accept my punishment for all the wrong I had done, but it never came. I opened my eyes to find Ikelos drenched in the blood of the rogues standing over me. He was breathing heavily and had a wild look in his eyes, but I wasn’t scared. Everything seemed to click into place as my eyes connected with his. My body scrèamed to be close to him and it has ever since. The only time I am away from Ikelos now is when he would send me home alone for my protection, and that is only because he knows how much my family loves me and would protect me at all costs.

“You can do anything you like with me.” I winked as I pushed past him and made my way to the front of the pack house.

Nolan was waiting outside with Preston, Ben, Mateo, and Lash. I had begun training with both Lash and Kezia and I have to say the strength of a wendigo is impressive, Lash has moved on to train with the men which suits me better because I get to spend some time alone with Kezia and get to know her better, she wasn’t very trusting at first but the more time I spend with her the more she begins to open up to a friendship with me.

I climbed into the SUV with Ikelos climbing in beside me. He placed his hand on my thigh and trailed his fingers along the inside of it, grazing past my pùssy. I turned my head, so I was looking out of the window to distract myself from what my naughty mate was trying to do. I could see his smirk in the reflection in the window.

“I want everyone to be on guard. We don’t know if anyone is still here. Stay close together and if you find anything, mark it so we can check it out once we know it’s safe.” Nolan said before the car stopped.

I looked through the glass to see a thick fog covering the floor of the trailer park. Some of the trailers had lights flickering inside. I could make out smears of blood on some of the mobile homes and felt a shudder run through my body. It scrèamed danger and death. I got out of the car and the smell of death and blood hit me first. Ikelos wrapped his arm around my waist and pulled me closer to him. As tough as I may appear, I’m actually quite sensitive, and knowing innocent people died here makes me want to curl up into Ikelos and sob for the lives lost, all because of my cousin. But I don’t do that. I have to be strong for everyone I love. Ikelos is the only one I allow to see me when I’m raw and in need of comfort, his touch is all I need to push the feelings of loss and sadness down and gives me the strength I need to do what I have to do. I have to find answers for all those children that Zak is taking care of at the pack house. I have to be strong for them.

“We will go this way,” I said as I pulled out of his hold, pulling him along with me.

His fingers entwined with mine as we moved between the trailers. I couldn’t hear any sounds other than the wolves and the wendigo that came with us.

“There’s no one here,” Ikelos confirmed my suspicion.

“Let’s see if we can find anything useful,” I said as I pushed the door of the trailer I was standing beside open.

Inside was like chaos had erupted. The bedroom door was open so I crept inside. The bed had been flipped upside down and was resting against the wall on its side. The carpet on the floor was white with a large red patch lining it. I walked back out into the living area. The floor felt strange beneath my boot. I looked down to see dust covering the floor where I stood. I bent down and ran my fingers through the dust. It felt like ash from an old fire. I lifted my fingers to my nose and could smell the faint smell of metal.

“It was a vampire. There’s nothing else in here amore mio.”

I looked up at my mate and felt myself swoon. Ikelos could speak many languages. I particularly enjoyed it when he spoke Italian to me so he has taken to calling me amore mio, which means my love in the beautiful language. He strode across the room in two long and powerful strides and lifted me up off the floor. He ran his hand across my face, pushing my hair behind my ear and leaving a trail of tingles in his wake.

“Let’s keep looking. There has to be something here.”

He gently placed me back down and took my hand, pulling me outside. I took a deep breath to clear my mind and wished I hadn’t. The whole trailer park smelled like vampires, wolves, and death. A scent I wish I could erase from my mind. Silas was working hard to create his army. By using Noah, he has united his vampires to fight side by side with the wolves. The floor was full of scuff marks and blood was smeared across everything. I could see claw marks where someone was dragged from their home to their untimely death.

“There are three bodies over there.” Ikelos pointed to a dark corner.

The trailer park was surrounded by thick forest. I could see a chain-link fence and some black things on the floor just beneath the layer of fog. As we got closer, I saw the black blobs where the bodies Ikelos was talking about. One had his head taken clean off. I bent down and saw his skin had been cauterized. Whoever did this must have used a heated blade. Another one had the same wound, only it ran from his chest all the way down to his gut. I didn’t get a closer look at this one. The smell of his guts filled the air with a foul stench. I actually had to cover my nose. The third one was lying on the ground with his neck twisted. I stood up and stepped back to get away from the smell.

A noise from the edge of the forest made Ikelos turn quickly. I turned around, scanning the tree line, when I saw the blue glowing eyes of a wolf I would know, anyway.

“Mason, what are you doing here?” I shouted.

Mason’s wolf walked toward us, his snout raised in the air as he inhaled deeply.

I followed the scent here.

“He followed the scent,” I told Ikelos.

He wasn’t a wolf, so he couldn’t mind link with any of the pack, but he could read minds. He never did though because he didn’t want to break the trust of anyone which I admired about him.

“What scent is it, Mason? Zak said you recognized it.”

His wolf got closer and stood in front of me. He looked directly into my eyes as he answered.

It was the scent of my mate!

His words stopped me from talking as they sank into my mind and registered. Ikelos nudged me, snapping me back to reality.

“He’s been given a second chance, mate!” I carefully uttered, making sure I had heard Mason right.

“And you feel like you are betraying your old mate by accepting this new one?” Ikelos asked.

Mason’s wolf snarled, but Ikelos wasn’t scared. He was a powerful being, and he understood the strength of the mate bond. He tried to ignore his own with me and it only ended up hurting us both.

“I don’t mean any disrespect, Mason. I am trying to help you.”

Mason shifted, grabbing a sheet off the floor and wrapping it around his waist. For an old dude, he was in great shape. I can see why the younger wolves chase him around like lost little puppies.

“I’m sorry Ikelos, I never thought I would get a second chance mate. I was ready to live my life alone. I didn’t think anyone could ever compare to S.. Sam.”

His voice cracked as he said her name. I felt his pain in my own heart. Sam was one of the most amazing people I had ever known. The day she died, I felt like I had lost my own mom. She had a way of making you feel special and loved and since her death, a huge hole has followed the pack. She was irreplaceable.

“The scent was like hers, but it had something else mixed in with it. It’s weird, isn’t it that my new mate has a similar scent to my mate?”

The fact Mason still referred to Sam as his mate made my heart break more. I couldn’t even begin to imagine his pain. It was hard to see Hayden when we thought Amelia was dead, but she came back. Mason was never going to see Sam again and now he had found a second chance mate. I can only imagine what was going through his mind right now.

“Mason, you don’t have to accept your new mate and if you did, it wouldn’t mean you didn’t love Sam anymore. We know how much you love her.”

“I don’t want to accept her, Fayly, but I don’t think I can stay away from her. Her scent is intoxicating. I already find myself going wild with want and need. I don’t know what I’m going to do. Please don’t tell anyone yet. I need to figure this out first.”

I nodded my head as the air went cold, and the wind dropped, making the air still and the smell of molten lava surrounded us. Ikelos pushed me behind himself, and Mason stood in a protective stance beside him.

“I’m not here for a fight, Ikelos. I’m here to tell you I’m on your side.” A large man with purple eyes said.

He looked Mason up and down with a look of disgust filling his eyes before turning his attention to me.

“She’s pretty. I can see why you are fighting this war now.”

“Moros, I’m warning you!” Ikelos growled.

I looked at the large man in wonder. I had heard stories of the mighty Moros god of doom or destiny. He was different from Ikelos. Ikelos could see someone’s fear and turn it into a nightmare. Moros could see the different paths laid out for a person and persuade them to take the wrong path, the path that led to doom and death, and then take the doomed souls to purgatory where they would be in turmoil for the rest of time. I had never seen Moros in Ephion. It was rumored he was helping Eris and I see now that was true.

“I won’t hurt her. I’m here to help. I have seen the downfall of Eris, and the wheels are in motion as we speak. Eris took something that belonged to me and it’s for her that I will fight by your side. It’s what she wants and so it shall be.”

“You’re in love?” Ikelos whispered, making me look at the large man.

“And Eris has her!” I finished.

“She is being held against her will and she can not leave for fear of something terrible happening to the ones she loves.”

His eyes flickered over to Mason, making me look at the man I considered family in curiosity.

“I will do whatever I can to help.” Moros declared.

What’s his deal? I asked Mason.

I don’t know! he replied.

“If you are really here to help us prove it!” Ikelos commanded.

The large man chuckled, making the earth beneath my feet rumble. He radiated power.

“I know that Silas or Noah, whichever you would like to call him, plans on attacking a pack, the pack of one of his wolves, the one with a scar down his face.”

“Hector!” Mason growled.

The large man didn’t even acknowledge Mason.

“He plans to strike the pack unaware in 6 days. If he succeeds, the rogue army will gain more wolves to fight their war and the women of the pack will be forced into servitude.”

“What do you mean, forced into servitude?” I asked, stepping forward.

Ikelos grabbed my hand and pulled me back so I was behind him again.

“I mean that the women will be used in any way the men see fit. Some will die, but others will not be as lucky and will suffer great pain. The woman taken from me is in there as we speak, working to stop the war, but she can’t save them all and in trying to help, it will only lead to her suffering the same fate. I can’t intervene and save her Ikelos, not until she accepts me.”

It is a law among the gods that they will not intervene with mortals unless that mortal has accepted that god as theirs and that each one belongs to one another. When Ikelos saved me, he was almost killed for interfering, but Selene stepped in and showed the other gods that I had already accepted Ikelos as my mate the moment I was born and that we did indeed belong together. This woman Moros was talking about has obviously not accepted him yet, so his hands are tied and he has to wait for her acceptance before he can save her.

“Who is this woman that has turned your heart warm?” Ikelos asked.

“She’s my little wolf!”