



## Chapter 146

“When we have kids?” I finish for him.

“Uh, yeah.”

“So, then, how does it work if there are half a dozen heirs? Is it always the oldest, or do they have to compete or something? What if you have a girl as the oldest?”

“Whoa! Slow down. I’m still at the starting line with all this stuff.” He laughs at me squeezing my knee again. “You already have me one foot in the grave and kids taking over.”

“I told you before, this kind of thing I never paid attention to, but now it’s important.”

“Are you done eating?” He interrupts my thoughts.

“Huh? Why?” I blink at the abrupt subject change.

“Dance with me.”

“Uh, I got the impression, dancing isn’t really your thing.” 

“It’s not, but with you, I make a lot of exceptions to my normal behaviors. Besides the last time I danced with you I was too busy trying to not touch you in that killer dress. I don’t think I have ever been that stressed in my life.”

I laugh at him. “I thought you were mad that you got stuck with me since everyone else had paired off. You held me like we were at a middle school dance and we needed to be a foot apart.”

“Nope. I was just doing my best to not freak you out with my physical



reaction to how hot you looked. I mean, Danny almost lost his arm for having it slung over the back of your chair when I walked in.” He stands up in front of me and holds out his hand. I take it and follow without another word. 1

He pulls me close, holding one of my hands over his heart and the other firmly around my back, forcing the front of our bodies to connect at every possible point. I lean my chin on his chest, staring up, trying to ignore the looks we are getting.

“You never dance do you?”

“No. It was something I never wanted to mess with. I have seen some girls take something as simple as one dance and take it to mean they are a chosen mate. I never had the time or the mind to deal with that kind of drama. It just became a well known fact that things like dancing or even attending a party was something I was only ever going to do with my mate. I never let anyone sit in my truck for Goddess’ sake. Not until you.” 1

We only danced to the slow songs. I guess even I don’t have enough power to make Ryker bust out moves to something upbeat. He did however allow me to dance with Bennet without too much grief.

When I thought my feet might fall off from being in heels for so long, Ryker walks up to me and whispers. “Are you ready to go? Our ride is out back.”

I nod silently, but give him a look that lets him know I have caught on to the weird situation. He tilts his head to one side and I follow, still silently willing him to mindlink me what is going on. I know we still aren’t in the clear when Ryker, Jeeves and another warrior, Brian I think, have joined us.

“Ryker? Talk to me, you’re freaking me out a little.” I grab for his hand



and he lets me, but doesn't return the pressure, his hand is just stiff in mine. "Mindlink me, if you can't talk out loud." I ask as we pull out from the shadows behind the building. The sun has just started to set. It's still bright outside with the dark orange tinge creeping in on everything. I am irritated, but I won't put us in danger if he is tracking or listening for something. The mood in the cab is too intense for me to lay back and sleep though. 2

A while into the drive, I am so bored I don't really know how long it's been, I finally get snippets into what is happening.

"That was close, boss." Brian mumbles, but then they must go back to mindlinking, since there is nothing else. I watch all three of them repeatedly scan around us. They are discrete. If I wasn't ready to rip my hair out from lack of anything else to do, I never would have noticed.

"Can I get a Cliff's notes version of what is going on? Or should I start guessing." I cross my arms like a child throwing a tantrum.

"I'll explain later." Was all I got from Ryker, but he doesn't sound panicked so I relax a little. Now I'm just frustrated with being back in the dark.

I pull on his arm to get him to lean back in the seat. He looks confused, but I return the 'no information' favor and say nothing as I get cozy, tucking my legs up and using his shoulder as a pillow. He drapes his arm across my knee and that is the last thing I remember. 2

I blink away sleep as I am being gently swayed. I take a deep breath in and the rosemary and mint hit me like a shot of caffeine.

"Hey sleeping beauty. Rest, we just got in." Ryker whispers as I move to get out of his arms. 1