

Chapter 180

I have scoured so many pages, my eyes are starting to cross. My dad has a determined look on his face, like he knows what he's looking for, but he doesn't seem to be in the mood to share.

"So, Alpha Ryan, is there a reason you have been avoiding Kennedy?" Josh asks and I almost swallow my tongue. I was thinking the same thing, but I haven't found a respectful way to ask my dad. He has been so contradictory when it comes to her and I don't understand.

"There is, beta." He doesn't deny it or even look up from his reading. It is just common knowledge and apparently okay in his mind to avoid her.

"What!?" I stop pretending to read the same line for the third time. "Why would you do that? I thought you approved of her as my mate."

"Oh I do approve. I have seen her with you and the rest of the boys. She is perfect for you and this pack. We were growing before her, but now we are thriving." He is still avoiding looking at us. What the hell? 1

"That doesn't make any sense, sir." Josh aims for a respectful tone. I'm glad it's him speaking, because I would not have phrased it like that.

"Kennedy and I have history. I'm not sure what she even remembers, but I am in no hurry to bring up the past."

Now, both Josh and I stop pretending to read. He has our full attention. "I'm going to need more explanation than that, father. How do you have history with my mate? We didn't even know about her until Rayna met Jeremiah."

"I have known Kennedy Matthews for almost three years. But I will not tell this story more than once. If you need to hear it, so does she. I don't



believe it will do anyone any favors though." He sounds calm, looks calm even. But there is something in the air now that is eating away at his false calmness, I can't taste it. "Call your mate, your mother too." 2

His resolute look gives me a bad feeling.

"Kennedy, baby, meet me in your office. Bring mom, my dad has something to tell us." I try to not let my worry seep through the bond. I know she can feel it, just like she felt it yesterday when I was in Claude's office. I know it was her suppressing my anger through the bond. I don't even know how. She doesn't have a wolf and I always thought that was the connection between mates, the magic that our wolves possess. 4

I'm fidgeting as I wait. I need her close to me, this feels like something bad and my anxiety is growing. They must have been close or sprinted, because she bursts into the room not five minutes later and straight into my arms. 1

"What's going on?" She looks up at me. She isn't scared, just worried about my tone. Goddess, she is perfect.

"Kennedy, this is my dad, Ryan Tryn. Dad, this is my mate, Kennedy, but why don't you tell all of us how you already know her." My focus doesn't move from him as Kennedy and my mom look back and forth between us, confused.

My dad sits, my mom finding a spot next to him on the small couch. Josh follows suit and I pull Kennedy into my lap as I take my seat in the cushy office chair. I wrap my arms around her waist pulling her back to my chest aiming for as much contact as I can get like this.

My dad takes a deep breath, lets it out slowly and looks right at my mate. "Kennedy, what do you remember about your accident and your parent's death?"