



Chapter 182

"But you didn't know me, and I didn't recognize you. I would have remembered if you saved me." I cup his face and he gives me a sad smile.
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"I don't think so. You weren't old enough to find your mate then and you were so distraught and delusional over your parents, who knows what your brain actually processed."

"I took you from my son and had him and Josh double back to confront Moon River while I handled the clean up with the rest of the warriors with us. Your father had Alpha Jame's name in his wallet and on his phone as an emergency contact. I knew James from Summits in the past and knew you had a link to our way of life. I knew you were special then, but I never understood in what way until I heard your name again when Rayna found Jeremiah." 2

"Is that why your travel schedule changed?" Ryker asks his dad.

"Yes, partly. I was also afraid of this conversation. I was afraid you would blame us for your parents death, and possibly take it out on Ryker. He deserves the chance at happiness that he has waited for. I didn't want to taint your, absurdly slow, progress with this knowledge." He gives me that little smile his son inherited. I smile back. 1

"It isn't any more your fault than mine." I shrug as a few more tears fall. That's probably the one thing that therapy has taught me, it wasn't my fault. It was just a series of circumstances that happened. It doesn't make it suck any less though. 1

"No, but what bothers me the most is, without that situation, I don't know if Ryker would have ever found you." Ryan sighs.



I stop short as that thought hits me in the chest. I look at Ryker, who has gone pale. 1

"What do you mean?" I breathe out.

"I mean that without that situation, I don't know if you would have crossed Ryker's path the way that you did. It is possible that you might have met him at Rayna's Luna ceremony. But with all of the problems that we have been having here with Claude and a few other rogue alphas. I don't know that your crossing paths would've happened the same way."

Ryker pulls me tighter to him, we both need the comfort. 1

"You may have been in college by the time they had Rayna's Luna ceremony or any other gathering that would've given Ryker a reason to visit your pack. Everything had to happen the way that it did in order for you to have the mate bond that you have now."

My heart sinks, and my stomach clenches. Just the thought of needing to lose my parents in order to find Ryker has me sick to my stomach. The idea that I can only have one, but not both makes me dislike the goddess just a little bit more. I have never thought badly of her. I just never understood all the methods behind the things that go on with wolves. This is another one of those things.

I stand up from Ryker's lap. He must know that I need space because he doesn't fight me on it. "I just need a little time to process this, please."

I walk out of the office and straight up to our bedroom, there's really no place for me to go where Ryker doesn't follow, but I'm hoping that he will give me time to let this all sink in.

I decide a bath is the best thing right now. I lower myself into the scalding hot water, the perfume from the bubbles helping a little to relax



my mind as I think through his whole situation. I can't believe that Ryker was the one who pulled me out. I remember being told that the car had to be torn open to get to me, but no one explained who did it. I just assumed they used those jaws of life things. I woke up in the hospital with Aunt Beth. No one said anything then. I have so many more questions now. Ryan said he knew Uncle James. Did Ryan tell them not to say anything? Why did no one tell me a pack of traveling shifters were the ones to save me? It's not like I didn't know about them before. Before I can get lost in my thoughts, there's a soft knock on the door. 1

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