



Chapter 198

104 - Kennedy

"Alright that's enough. We need a break and need to sleep. No training tomorrow for anyone. That will give our omegas time to rest and feed our guests. Is that okay with you Luna?" Josh asks me as I scour another book.

I kind of stopped listening after I got the basics on how the trials will go for each person we brought in last night. Ryker can tell what rank each person is and they are questioned differently based on that. It's not a segregation thing, but a practicality thing. Omegas will have different answers than warriors or higher ranks. He can also tell if a higher rank is trying to hide among the masses. I guess some small packs have tried a trojan horse method to overthrow leadership, but they have also used it to protect children of fallen alphas who could be at higher risk for attack.

I know that Ryker and Josh brought me these books as a joke after taking them right out of Claude's hands, but I am curious as to what can be so important to a guy like him. Is he really concerned with legacy and bloodline like he says, or is it something else?

So far, everything has been about general things like plants and herbs. Healing and harming techniques. I've actually found several pages for Doc Bradshaw to look at as well as Greta. My current book is on bloodlines through the generations. Pretty boring when you don't know the names, but I just saw a name that I do recognize and there is a line that shouldn't make sense, but it gives me another reason to hate the former leader of the Demon Paw Pack. 3

"No way!"

"What do you mean 'no way?' We need to sleep Luna." He whines at me.



I look up from my book. "Huh?!" I pull my legs up from Ryler's lap. We managed to take one of the couches and he let me sit mostly by myself as long as we were touching. 2

"I asked if we could table this and come back in the morning. You okay?"

I don't look up right away, still scanning the page to make sure I am actually reading what I think I see. "Uh, yeah. But, I think I found something." I lean forward to set the old tome on the coffee table. "Look at this family line. Tell me what you see."

They all study the lines for a few minutes. "I see Claude's name, but who is that before him?" Josh says. Ryker turns the book to face him.

"It looks like Claude was the second born. That explains a lot. He wasn't supposed to be an Alpha. Looks like he was mated to the only daughter of the Demon Paw Pack. That's how he got the title. His mate was the heir and he just took over." 1

"Did you see what pack he came from?" I ask. They are missing the bigger picture here. 1

"What the hell? How did we not know that?" Ryker looks up and makes eye contact with each of us.

"Did you need to? I mean he was in power before you took over. Your dad put up with him and I'm sure you don't know the lineage of all the packs you have taken over since you became the Alpha."

"Now I think I need to know though, don't you." He looks at me.

"Maybe, but keep looking, it gets worse, or better, depending on how you look at it."

They all study the book a little harder now, but I can't wait for them to



put the pieces together. I have been looking at this page for over an hour. That's how many names and titles are here. The print is small and very swirly like old calligraphy. I think someone was trying to keep records, while also making it difficult to read quickly. Copyright © 2024 Miss L Writes and Ember Mantel Productions

"Here." I point to a spot not far from Claude's name, but positioned in a way that you don't immediately connect the two. "This was his mate and based on the little marking here, she was chosen not fated." 1

"How do you figure she was chosen?" Bennet asks.

They have all moved their seats closer to look at the book. It feels a lot like when I am teaching the pups. "First there are very few of this mark," I point to a tiny red plus sign next to the mate's name. "And second only the fated mates have their families added to another page." I flip the page to show a corresponding one. "So it must have been frowned upon to take a chosen mate, but it happened often enough and they wanted to keep track of where their bloodline went that they were written in. Specifically, first born sons' chosen mates. Also second born sons when they went to another pack, like with Claude. But, that isn't the most important part. Look." I point to a name just below Claude's mate, and at another under Claude's brother's mate's name. "That cannot be a coincidence." 1

"Are you sure?" Ryker asks. 1

"It's the only thing that makes sense. When did they get here? I never thought to ask because it was before my time." I look at each of them in turn. 1

Josh looks at Ryker. Bennet clears his throat. Danny speaks up first. "They arrived in the pack about three years ago, give or take."



"Amy and Janelle are pretty close. If they are cousins, that would make sense. What I don't understand is how no one knew Amy is Claude's daughter. Or I guess 'an' Amy is Claude's daughter. Did you know he had a daughter? When you took his pack over, where was his mate and kid?" I look at Ryker. 1

"When I fought him, his mate had passed and he didn't have a kid. No one said otherwise so we didn't question it. So the people closest to him, at least, lied and have continued to lie. I wonder if his pack knew about her at all."

"So Janelle is her cousin and a daughter of the Moon River Pack? Is that what we are thinking?" Bennet asks.

"If this all pans out the way you're setting it up, they showed up after the attack on Kennedy and your caravan. So, what? That plan didn't work so they played like lost rogues looking for a home to get close to you?" Josh spits at Ryker. "Isn't that kind of drawn out?"

"Not if she is Claude's daughter." Bennet huffs a humorless laugh, standing up to pace the room. "He's been playing the long game for ten years trying to get control from Ryker. He's doing what he did to his mate. They mated and he took the pack, now he's making his daughter try and force a chosen mate bond so he can take it from her too." 1

"We need to find them both and f*cking end this." Ryker storms out of the room leaving us to follow behind, me running after all of them. 1

