

Chapter 208

108 - Kennedy

I look around even though I can smell Ryker isn't near me. His scent is on the pillow, but it is faint. I don't think he stayed long after I fell asleep. I get up slowly, my body is so sore even my hair hurts.

Slowly, one painful step at a time I head into the shower again, hoping the hot spray will unlock my rigid muscles. I take my time, it's a strange feeling, but I don't have any motivation to do anything right now. I know that the rogues who sided with us last night are being taken care of and anyone who went against us either died or is in a cell somewhere.

I should check in on everyone who was affected by the fire, but I know that is being handled too. I can just feel it, the pack is such a well oiled machine that now the tasks have been set up and delegated, I am not needed. It's almost like being back to square one, like when I first got here, but the difference is now I can feel the pack buzzing like a current under my skin. That's new since yesterday.

I drag my hands up and down my arms slowly reveling in the feeling as the hot water melts my aching body. If I really concentrate on a pack member, like EMily, I can even get an idea of where she is in the pack. I know Bennet is downstairs in the kitchen, probably waiting for me. Ryker is out at the arena with Josh and Danny. Greta is running a patrol south of me. Does this mean that the pack has accepted me? I have to smile at the thought and it gives me a boost of energy. 1

I wash, ignoring the different bruises littered everywhere that formed

overnight from my time with Amy. Every single one was worth it. I comb conditioner through my tangled mess of hair. If the pack has now accepted me I want to look the part. I think of Sarah and how, even casual, she looks like a Luna or someone in charge. Same with Robin. 1

Towel-drying off, I think about what I can get started on. What is there that I can do to keep proving I am worthy of this pack? Then I remember all of the books Ryker and Josh brought me from Claude. I would love to find an instance of a human Luna who survived being marked. I understand Ryker's unease now after hearing Finn's cry of pain when Amy accepted his rejection. That was awful and she didn't even bat an eye. I guess feeling your mate die is supposed to be ten times worse. No one should have to feel that, ever. I need to learn as much as I can about mates and being mated. I regret not paying as much attention in school.

I slip on a pair of leggings and a tank top and, just because I can't help myself, one of Ryker's sweatshirts. I don't know why he even owns these, he rarely wears a jacket or anything long sleeved outside of a suit, but I am so glad he has these for me to choose from. His rosemary and mint scent engulfs me and any tension that I had left in my body disappears. 2

I pull my long blonde hair up into a ponytail. I am really due for a haircut. It seems to have grown a ton recently. The ends of my hair almost touch my waist, even tied up. I slip on a pair of comfy flats and head out. I take the back stairway so I can grab Bennet on my way. He will be helpful for this and I am sure he is tired of me making his job harder by avoiding him.



"Hey Bennet, Cindy!"

"Hello Luna! How are you feeling?" Cindy asks, coming over with a plate already made up for me.

"Better, but sore. I don't know how you guys fight like that all the time. I mean, I train with you and all the warriors and now I know for a fact you are all being nice to me." I giggle at Bennet's face. "Bennet, I am okay. If I wasn't, do you think Ryker would be out at the arena working?"

He tilts his head, thinking through his answer. "How do you know he's at the arena?"

"I can feel it?" I know it comes out like a question, but it kind of is. I'm not sure what to do with my newfound senses.

"Feel it?"

"Yeah, it's kinda weird. Walk with me, I'll tell you about it. I have another project I want to work on too. Thank you Cindy." She nods her head at me as I step past.

"You're the boss." The stool squeaks as he slides out from the island.

"Don't let Ryker hear you say that." I laugh, walking quickly to my office.

"He will always be the 'bossman.' That does not, however, make him 'the boss.' I learned that from Luna Sarah." He laughs back at me. "Tell me about this weird feeling you now have that tells you the GPS location of your mate."



"It's actually with all of you."

"Huh?"

I motion him to his usual chair in my office and I sit on the little couch where we left most of the books yesterday. I set my plate on one of the open books and pick through the chips. 1

