



Chapter 34

23 – Kennedy

Other than my senses being fried from being hyper aware of his presence all night I am having a great time. I have had the chance to talk to a bunch of the warriors that were at training with us today. And like all warriors we discussed totally practical things like the best fighting styles, best meals and what times of the day we thought were best for training and of course, my personal favorite, the best fight scenes in the best fight movies. Many of them are around my age and still in high school too so we talk about the strains of doing all of that and what they are planning to do after school is over. It's cool to hear that they have options, even as warriors, with so many packs to take care of.

These people are amazing and have me laughing the whole night and for the first time in a long time my guys aren't hovering. They seem to be enjoying themselves too, instead of playing my bodyguards. That doesn't mean that they went too far from me, but it's a start. And Rayna and I are having a blast. She has introduced me to more people than I will ever remember names of, but it's nice having a girl in my corner for once. I think she feels the same, I noticed her brother and his friends patrol the same way mine do. We have more in common than I originally thought. They leave us dancing in the middle of their makeshift barrier. They may think they are being subtle, but based on the way guys keep looking at us and then at them, it's not subtle in any way. I couldn't care less though, we are laughing and singing to all the songs and many of the older wolves have called it a night so I don't feel bad for being a little more wild.

Finally a slow song comes on and Ben scoops me up. I have danced with all of them equally tonight, but Ben has been extra close, more than normal. Something is going on with him and I'm kind of afraid. I know we aren't mates, but sometimes the way he looks at me makes me think



he wants more than just friendship. I had firsts with all of them, but he got my biggest first and that will always be something special, but I just don't see more than friendship in him. 1

I let him hold me tight though. I have a feeling this is something he needs from me right now. We are only dancing for a few moments when Rayna shouts "Ryker! There you are. Come meet everyone."

I turn around in Ben's arms and see the unfairly gorgeous Alpha looking at us. Oh sh*t, oh sh*t, oh sh*t. My brain stalls out as he heads this way. I have tried to avoid him all night, but he always seems to be just in my proximity. Like he's a planet orbiting around me, or more likely Rayna, not getting any further or closer no matter where we move in this gigantic room. And he does a great job of interacting with people as he patrols us. I'm impressed. He could teach Jer a few things about hovering incognito. 1

Ben lets me go to stand beside him as she introduces us all to her brother officially. He just gives his little half smile, like his face doesn't know how to accomplish a full one. Maybe this is just formality stuff for him. I mean Rayna said herself most of the rumors are true. Maybe he is an absolute narcissistic asshole and we just aren't worth his extra effort. Or maybe this is his extra effort. I mean other than his speech he hasn't spoken to any of us and I hate that my lady parts would really like to hear the deep gravel of his voice again. I thought I was going to c*m on the spot just listening to him talk about pack unity, the vibrations of his deep voice working better than any BOB I own. 1

When I shake my head of those thoughts, carefully packing them away for when I am in my room alone later. I realize Alpha Ryker and I are alone. I look around me to make sure I'm not hallucinating. When did that happen? Just to make things even more weird another slow song comes on and he almost looks like he is in pain at the thought of having



to dance with me. But, before I can turn tail and run, he holds his hand out to me silently and I take it just as reluctantly.

It feels like I stuck my finger in a light socket while standing in a pool of water. I couldn't let go if I wanted to. Every nerve in my body went off like a rocket and I am pretty sure I came this time, panties destroyed, legs jello, mind addled. I am lost in his eyes and can't see anything all at the same time. That was from just one touch of his hand, then he has to go be a gentleman and pull me in all slow like he's asking permission to touch me, sliding his other large hand around my waist and to the small of my back where the only thing separating us is the barely there sheer fabric of my dress. The warmth from his hands seeps into my body and continues south, adding to the heat already there from staring at him for most of the night.

