

## Chapter 61

39 - Ryker

I have my fists balled to my sides and I can't look away, but I am mentally willing him to release her. She just needs to know and understand that she can't be that close to him, or any guy that looks at her like that, then my wolf will settle and we can go talk to them like a normal person.

The exact opposite happens though. Something amusing is said and they all laugh. Ben grips her waist tighter and rubs circles on her hip bone with his thumb... and she leans into him. Oh f\*ck no!

"Easy, Alpha. Take a breath before you go over and rip his arms off. They don't know because you are a dumbass and let your mate go." Danny warns me. He knows me too well for my liking, but it's for my own good.

"F\*ck off. You know how I feel about mates." I growl, but take a deep breath anyway. 1

"And yet, you are about to forcefully claim her in front of all her friends and family. You and your wolf need to figure this out. He doesn't seem to share your thoughts on mates now that you have found yours." Josh tries for reasonable.

"You're not wrong, but there's no way a human could handle being my mate. There's too much at stake to risk the pack, risk her life."

"Awe! So you do care, you big softie. Better not let Claude find out. And I would like to thank you for confirming that Kennedy is, in fact, your mate. Was that so hard?" Danny chuckles in my head before he walks off to talk to Rayna and out of my reach to throttle him.

"Again, F\*ck off!" But my blood boils at the thought of Claude coming

anywhere near her and my wolf eggs it on. She can't be away from us, no one can protect her the way we can. My decision is made for me, she's leaving with us, she's ours. I choke on an inhale. That was not my wolf's thoughts. They are mine. Oh, sh\*t! I am so f\*cked.

My wolf takes advantage of me lost in my thoughts. My legs are moving before I realize and when I finally come to my senses I am right behind her, removing Ben's arm from her body and angling myself in the small space I created between them.

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"A-Alpha Ryker. I didn't see you arrive." Ben stutters at my sudden appearance, but stands his ground. Good Beta. He looks around me, most likely to check on Kennedy, but that isn't his concern anymore so I move with him to keep her behind me. He looks back at me clearly confused. I can hear her soft breaths behind me, she's not impressed with me. "Kennedy was just saying goodnight to everyone before I walked her upstairs."

"No need, Beta. Keep your distance." My growl is menacing.

"Excuse you!" Her voice was strong and pissed. I'm surprised it took her this long to say something, but my wolf purred at the sound and the feel of her hand on my arm turning me around. We could easily resist, but we don't. He'll never resist her. He's already a whipped puppy. "With all due respect, Alpha." Why do I like the way she says that? "I think how I get to my room and who goes with me is up to me."

At the insinuation she was taking her beta up with her for the night, my wolf surges. He turns us to face her full on, eyes flaring, we are chest to chest and the deeper I breathe the more contact I have with her and I love the feeling. She's average height, but still has to tilt her head up to look me in the eye and she doesn't back down from the look of rage I know my



wolf is showing with his red eyes. Good girl. "Not anymore, mate." My wolf growls out to her and there's nothing I can do to stop him. 1