

Chapter 62

The entire party stops with collective gasps from all the guests. Even the music ceased and her face fell, all the color draining. "No!" She whispers so low I might have imagined it.

I just stare at her. It's not a choice for either of us. She's mine and I just told everyone here. There's no going back now, but I can see the shock and war in her eyes. She doesn't want this anymore than I do, but she also knows what mates mean to wolves. "Yes...mate." My wolf forces out of my mouth again. I can't help myself, I smirk at her reaction. I want to push her, to see how far I can before she breaks in front of all these people, needing to find a weakness, any excuse to reject her and leave her here. She should stay here.

She steps closer and puts her finger in my face. "Say that again and I will remove your tongue. I am no one's mate. You keep your distance." She turns on her heel and moves inside. I go to follow, no one walks away from me, but my sister steps in my way.

"Let her go, Ryker, you've done enough tonight." I blink a few times and have to fight to pull my eyes from where Kennedy went through the door to look down at Rayna. Why does she look angry with me? I thought she, of all people, would be happy I finally found my mate. Even if it was like this.

I look at Bennet and he just nods and follows. It's the only thing that calms my wolf enough to listen to Rayna. Kennedy is his responsibility now when she isn't with me. He'll stay outside her room all night if need be, especially when she is this angry and not very likely to talk to any of us. I can't communicate with her or track her emotions and she needs protection now that my wolf has claimed her publicly. The news will spread like wildfire. She will be a target from now on no matter where

she is. He seems to think this won't be a problem. I, on the other hand, see this as a major disaster. I am an aggressive alpha known for taking out alphas and packs without breaking a sweat. My reputation has gained me loyalty and enemies in about the same amounts. My enemies will be salivating at the chance to get back at me by harming her. She will be an easy target as a human. She can get hurt so easily and heals so slowly, she's a liability that I can't afford. And yet...

"Let's call it a night. Emotions are high right now." Jeremiah wraps his arms around my sister and she visibly calms. "We can talk about this tomorrow once everyone has had time to process." He looks me straight in the eye. It's not a challenge, but a warning to be on my best behavior with my sister, and his, while in his pack and I can respect it. That doesn't stop my wolf from letting a low, annoyed rumble break through my chest. It's my sister's reaction that shuts him up though.

"Oh, stop. You big brute. You couldn't have chosen a better, less public time, to do that?" She rolls her eyes and turns to Jeremiah, "I need to go check on her, I'm afraid this is going to set her off tonight."

 **Miss L** 

Thank you so much for reading. All constructive comments and gems are appreciated. I cannot interact here. If you would like to join in the conversation you can find me on FaceBook under 

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