

Chapter 63

40 - Ryker

I grab her arm as she moves away from us. "What are you talking about? What's wrong with her?" What other weakness could she possibly have? Naturally, when I need answers, my sister ignores me, so the rest of Jeremiah's team leaves me guessing too. They clearly care more about her feelings than my anger.

"You maybe should have talked to her before claiming and embarrassing her in front of her friends and family like an alpha-hole." Rayna pulls her arm from my grasp and I just stare at her as she goes.

What the hell just happened? Josh pats me on the shoulder as Jeremiah reaches out and shakes my hand.

"It'll be okay, just give Rayna a bit to calm Ken down. I guess congrats are in order, and maybe good luck." He winces. "My mom is going to lose her mind when she finds out." He chuckles under his breath then follows my sister in the house.

"We'll show you where you and your guys are staying." Ben walks up to us with the delta, I think his name is Tommy. Ben is smart enough to look me in the eye, but not hold it long enough to be challenging. He's not weak or a hot head, I can see why Kennedy would gravitate towards him, which makes my wolf grumble his annoyance at the beta.

"At least she didn't choose to spend her time with some pansy ass." I grumble back at him.

"She shouldn't be spending any time with anyone but us." He quips back.

"You do understand how stupid that sounds considering how many



women we have entertained in just the last month alone." 6

"You have never bedded any of them. We have been saving that for our mate. She should have the same respect."

"You don't know what her plans were." I'm trying to shut down that train of thought. I just can't, no matter how logical it is. "She's human, there was never any reason for her to think she had a mate, settle down. Rayna is right, we have to tread carefully with her. We don't know anything about her. She wasn't raised the same way we were."

"What are you talking about? She was raised in a wolf pack! She knows damn well what is expected!" He is so agitated, I may have to go on a run to settle him down, but I don't trust him not to jump into her window and try to mark her while she sleeps.

"Knock it off! You're getting me worked up again. And people say I'm a d*ck with a temper. Get your act together or she's not going to want anything to do with us and I still don't know if I even want her as a mate. I think it's too dangerous for her. But she's tied to us through Rayna no matter what and I won't mess up that friendship. Rayna would never forgive me. We have to tread carefully."

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"Here you go, Alpha Ryker." I stop and blink. Again, I was so distracted by her that we made it all the way inside and upstairs without my notice. "I hope this is okay, we weren't aware of your...umm...situation." Ben glances at a door that has to be Kennedy's based on the strength of her scent right across the hall from the one we stopped at.

"It's fine." I try not to growl at him. It's perfect and not fine all at the same time. My wolf is not going to let me sleep with her so close, but so far away. I will not make this any more uncomfortable for her or my



sister who is still in there with her based on the scent. "What time will we be needed in the morning?" I ask, not looking away from Kennedy's door, but needing a change of subject. Bennet is sitting in a chair right next to it, still in the suit he wore for the party.

"Luna Beth would like everyone down for breakfast at seven. That will give the girls time to eat and then get started for the day. Beta Josh will be to your left and your Gamma and Delta are on your right. Let us know if you need anything." I don't answer, just turn and go into my room. I don't have the mental capacity to be pleasant any longer.

"Let me know if anything changes. I need to know what my sister meant by 'setting her off.'" I link Bennet. She might even talk to him if she happens to open the door. I hate that I am relying on him to get information about her. But, she seemed to like his company while she was in my pack.

"On it boss."

Neither of us are going to sleep and we will have to pretend like we are alive and awake tomorrow or my sister will kill me. It won't be the first time we've had a sleepless night. It's just never been over a woman.

I tried everything. Doing a thousand push-ups, a hot shower, reading, pacing, laying on my bed staring at the ceiling, even sitting by the door where her scent was the strongest like a creeper. Nothing was going to calm my wolf enough to let us rest, but there is no way in hell I was walking out of this room to go to her after what she said downstairs. Rayna is right and I need to talk to her, but not like this. We both need to be calm and come up with a plan that works. Which means we have to wait until after this ceremony is over. It's going to be the longest twenty four hours of my life.

The worst part was hearing her scream. I knew it was her, I could feel the




panic thick in the air. It made my blood run cold, I left it to Bennet even though it physically hurt to not go to her. I thought my wolf was going to tear through the door, but we couldn't go to her. I don't know what it was, I just had a feeling we would not be welcome. I did however stand at my door listening to Jeremiah and Rayna talking in the hallway, it must have been to Bennet, about nightmares and some kind of trauma. What did the Moon Goddess give me? She's a frail, weak, human who has been traumatized so much that she has nightmares as an adult. She'll never be ready to be my Luna.

A surge of anger rolls through me again. My wolf and I are both angry, but for different reasons. He thinks we should go to her, just accept her, that she was made for us, she needs us. He's angry at my determination to keep her away.

I feel like I have been tricked somehow. I have been waiting for years for a woman who was, at the very least, strong enough to lead beside me and this is what I was given. Like the Moon Goddess doesn't want me to have a real mate. What did I do to deserve this? 1



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