

Chapter 67

Thank the Goddess for Aunt Beth's seating arrangement. She had the head table set with Rayna and Jer in the middle, Uncle James and Aunt Beth on Jer's other side, followed by Ben, Tommy, Jason and me. On Rayna's other side were Ryker, Josh, Danny and Bennet. Unfortunately, the gammas must have had some sort of understanding and they switched places as everyone was sitting down so no one could protest without causing a scene, sneaky bastards.

At least it was Bennet and not Ryker sitting next to me though, that would have made for even more awkward conversation, if he talked at all. This left no doubt in anyone's mind who I am to the Dark Moon pack and the pointed stares and whispers started up again.

I kept conversation surface level with Bennet through dinner and Tommy is always super chatty so I didn't have to engage much. Once the DJ starts playing music and drinks are flowing more freely I began to loosen up and enjoy myself with Rayna and my guys. I actively avoided Ryker and just pretended that Bennet wasn't following me around like a shadow. I have to watch how many drinks I have though. Not having a wolf's metabolism, alcohol affects me so much worse and I need to be clear headed to follow through with my plan.

When it looked like all of my guys, Ryker and most of his guys were occupied, I hugged everyone and said goodnight, claiming the long day and night before on being tired. I know Ryker is watching me, he has been all night, but hopefully he will continue to keep his distance and pretend like I don't exist. The same hope is nonexistent for Bennet. He glued himself to my side the whole way up to her room. ①

"I'm going to sleep, Bennet, go enjoy the rest of the party. Today was probably not much fun for you. Or go to sleep, I know you were out here

all night last night."

"Not happening, Lu..."

My hand shoots up in front of his mouth. "Don't you dare call me that!" I took a deep breath to calm down, he's just doing his job. A job he is forced into. It's not his fault he was assigned to me and clearly feels like I am so weak I need to be protected inside the packhouse that currently has three alpha males roaming around and countless warriors. "It's just Kennedy, nothing else. And I have been perfectly safe in the confines of this room for my whole life. Go rejoin the party, or go to bed, but don't sit out here all night." I don't give him a chance to answer. I walk in my room and close the door, then I lock it for good measure. It wouldn't keep any of them out if they really wanted to get in here, but it sent the message that I wanted to be left alone. 1

I quickly stripped out of my dress and hung it up in the closet switching to black leggings, black tank and black long sleeved shirt, sock and tennis shoes. I am not going to stay here if the plan is to just ship me back to Dark Moon without even having a discussion first. Clearly more people knew about me being Ryker's mate and no one thought to tell me or ask how I felt about the situation. Ryker barely talked to me when we were at Dark Moon and didn't even try to approach me to talk today. Asshole probably thinks I will just fall at his feet like all the alpha chasers do. Well he has another thing coming if he thinks he can just pack me up and dismantle my whole life at his command.