

Chapter 69

44 - Ryker

This whole day has been a roller coaster of emotions. Add to that not sleeping and my wolf worrying about whatever made Kennedy so afraid that she screamed herself and half the packhouse awake last night.

I can only pace my room so long hoping to hear any of their conversations. Clearly, this is all normal and everyone just goes about their business like nothing happened.

I hear Rayna and Kennedy getting ready in her room when I go down to meet with Alpha James and Luna Beth this morning. It lessened some of the tension in my chest to hear them laughing together. At least she likes my sister.

"Maybe that will soften her up for us." My wolf sounds lovesick and wistful.

"We can only hope." I roll my eyes, because I have a feeling Kennedy has fairly strong, expressive emotions and she probably would not put 'soft' and I in the same sentence.

There isn't much for us to do since Beth won't let Jeremiah near the girls, which apparently extends to all the guys except Jason and Bennet. Josh can sense me about to crawl out of my skin. I rarely have down time and could be doing so many things while we wait around for guests to be welcomed in and final touches being done.

"If you don't stop pacing you are going to owe Luna Beth a new floor." Danny chuckles and the rest of the guys laugh from their spots around the island.

"Shouldn't it be me who's nervous?" Jeremiah asks.

"I'm not nervous, I don't like not having anything to do." I squeeze the bridge of my nose.

Five minutes later Alpha James walks in the back door. "It's time boys, let's get this party started."

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Thank the Goddess. We walk out to our seats and get settled. Danny and Josh have not taken their eyes off of me. I can see them out of my peripherals. Danny's smirk makes me want to smack him and Josh's stoic face gives nothing away if you don't know him. But, I can see the muscle in his jaw tick. He's ready for something to happen. That makes me more nervous than anything.

I am fully prepared to see my sister walking towards her mate. I may be biased, but my sister is always beautiful. Today was no exception. But, I stopped breathing as I watched Kennedy walk forward with Beth and James. I only resumed the process of taking in oxygen when Josh elbowed me to turn my focus where it should be, on my sister walking toward her mate. Both my sister and Kennedy had pastel dresses that were long and flowy, with thin straps barely holding the things up. They looked like they would be better suited for summer than fall, but with the way wolves' body heat runs, my sister probably doesn't feel it. I'm surprised to see Kennedy doesn't look the least bit uncomfortable though. Where my sister's dress is a soft pale green, her favorite color, Kennedy's is an ice blue that matches her eyes. She looks strong and confident like any female warrior, her head is held high and for the briefest moment I feel something like pride watching her stand with her family and accepting my sister. But the feeling is short lived as she watches my sister join their pack. A flash of anger and jealousy crosses

her face as Rayna and Jeremiah join their hands. 1

I feel my own anger and jealousy rise watching her reaction. Her breathing is quick and shallow, like she's holding in tears. It happens again shortly after and this time it is laced with sadness when Jeremiah marks Rayna. Does Kennedy wish it was her in Rayna's place? Is she that good of an actress to pretend to be friends with my sister? Another surge of irritation hits as Bennet comforts her and her breathing slows and shoulders visibly relax. Is she just quick to lean into any wolf that shows her attention? Will she go after Bennet too? She's clearly close with Ben. I wonder who else she has her sights on?

My whole body is vibrating, swirling with anger, hurt, sadness, lust, wanting, jealousy. It's enough to drive anyone insane. If I wasn't here for Rayna, and in the front damn row, I would just get up and leave and never look back. But I can't do that to my sister. I can at least hope that now that they have marked each other, maybe Kennedy's sadness is her coming to terms with Jeremiah finding his true mate and she will not cause them any trouble. 2