



Chapter 82

"We'll still talk all the time. We'll figure this out." I pull back and pat his cheek, trying for a smile. I don't believe a word I am saying, but for him I will try. I hug Rayna next. "Take care of him, we don't do separation well." Then Ben, Jason and Tommy. "You guys are going to be so bored without me. What are you going to do?"

"I for one am going to sleep. Do you know how much sleep I have lost in my life because of you?" Jason laughs at me and I give him a small smile.

"We have to head out, we've delayed as long as we can." Ryker says behind me. I have to fight to not roll my eyes. I can't avoid the deep breath and sigh that comes out though.

I walk over to hug and thank Aunt Beth and Uncle James for everything they have done for me. I take my time just to be annoying. Aunt Beth says she'll keep tabs on the studio while I'm gone and another pang of sadness hits me. She said it like she expects me back for it, like a sweater.

I can't decide if the thought of coming back makes me more happy or sad. I would be happy to have the life I planned out for myself. But, if I came back it would mean that I wasn't good enough for Ryker and his pack and he rejects me.

I have no idea what I am going to do about the business that my mom left for me. It's the one thing I have left of her and I can't take it with me. It's been my dream to run it for as long as I can remember. I take a deep breath and stuff the emotion. I can feel Ryker becoming more irritated by my goodbyes the longer it takes.

Bennet comes over and leads me to the second SUV. He seems to understand that I need help walking away from my family and friends, unlike my mate. I hop in and find myself alone in the plush black leather



backseat. The driver is a warrior I don't recognize and Bennet takes the passenger seat.

"Where is everyone else?"

"Dispersed in the other three vehicles and running a patrol. The Alpha had some business to attend to and he generally likes to get work done while we're driving, so..." He shrugs.

"So, he wanted to be in a car I wasn't so I don't learn what he does when he says 'business' and can't bother him with any other questions. Got it. Still being kept in the dark, good to know. If he's the only one I get to learn from, I am not going to learn a thing. You do realize how problematic and frustrating this is right?"

"It's not like that. It's... He's..." Bennet takes a deep breath. "We..." Then he grunts, closes his eyes and thumps his head back on the headrest and stays silent.

"You can't say anything can you? Gotta love that Alpha command." I let out a sarcastic little laugh and the driver follows suit. Good to know he trusts me as much as I trust him. "Can I have my phone then since this is going to be a relatively quiet trip."

"It's in the other car." He winces still not looking at me.

"What? Why!?"

"Umm...it's, uh, it has to go through a security check then you can have it back."

I rub my hands on my face. I guess I get that part a little bit, even if I think it's stupid. I'm being taken to his pack permanently and he knows nothing about me. I'm also going to be closely connected with everyone



who is closest to him. I'm an unknown security risk. I won't admit that I understand though. Why couldn't he just tell me that himself? Ugh.

"Can I have my bag then? I could at least get some homework done. This drive is not a short one."

He sighs again. "Also in the other car." This time he opens his eyes slowly to look at me. He knows I'm getting more angry by the minute and he's going to be on the receiving end when I do lose my temper. He looks ready for a verbal lashing. 1