



Chapter 13

Lexi's Point of View

I can't believe I just won. I can't believe it. I'm a mix of emotions. Shock, excitement and disbelief about the fight, and then also anger, and hurt because of my mate. The mix of emotions made me lose control in front of everyone a minute ago. I said I needed a shower because I didn't know if I could hold it in much longer.

I run home and rush upstairs to the washroom. I undress and hop into the shower. As soon as the water hits my skin, it's as if the dam broke. I'm sitting in the shower, water spilling on me, sobbing into my hands. He was so close to the fight. I could smell him, and I know he was right there watching, but I couldn't look at him. It's so hard. I'm having chest pains, and all I want to do is get Molly, curl up on the couch and fill up on pizza and ice cream, but I know I need to get out there to support Lev in the Beta and Gamma fights.

After 10 minutes of crying and losing control, I get up and wash my hair and body. After the fights, I'll take care of myself and Molly, and avoid the world. Right now, I need to get my s**t together. I get out of the shower, and blow dry my hair, and wear it down, and let my natural loose curls hang. I put on some black skinny jeans, and a plain baggy v-neck white t-shirt, half tucked in.

My eyes are a little puffy, my nose is red, and my lips look swollen and red from the crying. I put on some mascara, a natural coloured lip stain, and some powder on my nose to hide the evidence of what happened in the shower. My lip and nose are already healed from the fight.

It wasn't serious, and werewolf healing is great.

I pick up Molly, and stop at the snack tent and grab a frozen fruit smoothie, and a big chocolate chip cookie for Molly to tide her over until dinner. Then I head towards the fights with Molly on my hip.

Beta and Gamma fights have started. I see that Lev looks fine, so he must not have fought yet. I don't see my mate, thankfully. I soon see Marcus sitting on the bleacher, and he has a swollen eye, and lip, but is in good spirits. I walked over, standing in front of him and asked, "How did it go?"

"I lost," he admits sounding defeated.

"2nd place out of all these warriors is still really good." I try to cheer him up. He nods.

"First place is better. It must feel pretty good knowing that you beat all of those women? I'm so proud of you, Lex," he smiles.

"It does feel pretty good," I admit with a cheeky smile. I look at his swollen cheek, and I move my frozen smoothie to touch it.

"You should be icing this," I say with a wince.

He stares at me and smiles. I've never noticed him look at me like this. He puts his hand on my arm without breaking eye contact. He's looking at me with what looks like adoration. Marcus is a good man, he's strong and attractive too. And even with Molly in my arms, he's looking at me like I'm something special. I know I should move on. He'd be a good father figure for Molly too. I don't think he's found his mate yet, and he's only 22. I'll have to talk to him about it in private, at some point. But I'll need some time to process the loss of my mate. I'm pulled out of my thoughts with the sound of a loud growl.

I turn my head and see my mate enraged, as he

marches towards me. I'm not sure what his problem is.

"Get your hand off of her NOW," he growls, with full Alpha authority. Marcus looks confused, and let's go of my arm.

"What is your problem?" I ask, thoroughly annoyed. He doesn't want me, but no one else can have me either?

"Can I talk to you?" He asks, now with a little calmer tone. He wants to talk to me now?

"Please?" He adds, even softer. I hesitate, but then nod and he ushers me to go first.

"You don't have to go, Lex," Marcus says, maybe concerned for me, or jealous. I'm not sure.

"It's okay, Marcus," I assure him.

We walk to somewhere more private, while Molly is still in my arms. We are in a grassy spot away from everyone.

"What?" I ask bluntly.

"Can we sit?" He asks. I sit with my legs crossed on the grass and sit Molly on my lap. I give her a piece of the cookie I grabbed for her and she's content with that.

"Mmm, cookie," she keeps saying.

Her little voice loving on her cookie is so cute. I look at Jack, and he's smiling too. That stings. Seeing the man I want in every way possible looking adoringly at the person I love and am most protective of. He looks so damn good too. His black t-shirt hugs his arms and chest tightly, and I can see his perfectly sculpted body. Focus Lexi, Focus, I tell myself.

"What did you want to talk to me about?" I ask, a little softer than before.

"I have made a huge mistake. I followed you to the hospital last night, and I thought you, Lev and Molly were

a family. I thought Lev and you were together, and that you just had a moment of weakness with me.”

“What? Me with Lev? He’s my brother.” I say with disgust.

He smiles, “Yeah, Lev told me.”

“You talked to Lev?”

“Yeah, he also told me that you thought I left because you have a kid,” he confesses, and his green eyes look at me as if he feels my pain. I nod, trying to hold back the tears.

“You’re completely single?” he asks and I nod again.

“Thank Moon Goddess!” He says with a sigh of relief. I can’t help but smile a little.

“So you don’t mind that I’m a mom?” I verify, not letting myself get my hopes up.

“If I’m being honest, it hurts that you’ve experienced so much with another man. Creating a child... It hurts because I feel like she should be ours, not yours and someone else’s. It hurts, but I don’t want to lose you.” His confession has me tearing up.

Hearing him say he doesn’t want to lose me makes my heart feel like it’s going to burst, in a good way. Not the way it has been feeling all day.

“I don’t want to lose you either,” I admit. He grabs my hand and kisses it. I feel the sparks from the contact and it feels so good.

“I didn’t have those moments with another man. You need to know this, but it isn’t something that I want to be public knowledge. I’m not Molly’s biological mother.”

“W-what does that.. How? I’m confused,” he mutters, his eyebrows furrow.

“I found her as a newborn in the forest in a

cardboard box. Soaking wet in sweat, hungry and dehydrated. I felt an immediate connection to her. Alpha wanted to drop her off at the fire station. He assumed she was either a human or an Omega and would be fine living as a human either way. I knew I couldn't let her go. It's hard to explain, but I felt like she was my destiny. Alpha said I could keep her and stay here with her until she was a year old. If she was a wolf I could stay, but if she was a human, I agreed to move out and raise her among humans."

He raises his eyebrows, it must be hard for him to imagine me giving up my pack. "I don't want people talking about the fact that she isn't biologically mine. I don't want her to ever feel like she's not mine, or that she doesn't belong. She is mine. I'd kill for her, I'd die for her. She's mine." I explain.

He nods while giving my hand a squeeze. The sparks coming from his calloused hands feel amazing. He smiles, and pulls my hand up to his lips and kisses it again.

Just holding his hand, and smelling his delicious scent has me wanting to jump him. If Molly wasn't here, I wouldn't be able to control myself.

"I think you're amazing. Molly is lucky to have you, and I hope I'm lucky enough to have you both in my life," he tells me.

I look into his deep green eyes, and all I see is love. My heart feels so full. I can't even help that I'm smiling from ear to ear. Molly stands up and makes her way to Jack. I'm a little nervous. Jack is so large and muscular and has a real hardness about him. It's hard to picture him being tender with kids.

As much as I want him, it suddenly dawns on me, what if he isn't good with her? I feel my heart rate

quicken. I watch as she walks up to him. "Hi, Molly!" He says, in a softer voice.

"Bite. Bite. Cookie!" She says to him while raising her cookie for him to have a bite. He smiles and obliges her and takes a bite.

"Mmm, thank you," he tells her with a big smile.

She sits on his leg and leans her head into his chest. She's not usually so good with new men, so it surprises me to see that she's so comfortable with him. He wraps his strong muscular arms around her in a hug. Oh, my friggin' ovaries. I didn't think he could get any sexier but seeing Molly feel so comfortable with him, and him physically embracing her makes me happier than I ever could have imagined.

"She looks so tiny in your arms," I say because I know I'm smiling so hard, and I don't want him to know I'm totally fangirling over him. I can't stop thinking about how much I want to touch him. He's sitting across from me, with Molly still in his arms. I crawl over to them and sit beside him and cuddle into him. He groans and plants a kiss on my forehead, "You smell so good," he whispers to me.

I chuckle and lift my head and look him in the eyes. I move in and plant a little kiss on his lips. He leans his head against mine. "I'm sorry," he whispers. I smile, "Me too. We both made conclusions that hurt us both," I admit. We enjoy a quiet moment, leaned into each other.

"There's something I want," Jack's deep voice cuts through the silence.

"What?"

"Once I mark you, I want her to be ours, not just yours. I want us to be a family, and I want to be her Dad." I look into his eyes and I see so much tenderness.

He's everything I could have ever hoped for, ever dreamt of, and ever wanted and needed. I nod. "Nothing would make me happier," I confess.

He sighs in relief. He moves into me and gives me a small kiss. "I always felt like Molly was my destiny, and it's crazy because she is great with Lev and Jett because she's so used to them but other than that she has stranger danger with men. She took to you so quickly, it makes me feel like she wasn't just my destiny, but our destiny." He smiles and kisses the top of her head.

"All gone. Mo cookie? Peas Mama?" Molly asks and I smile.

"How do you say no to that?" Jack asks with a chuckle. I lean over and grab another piece.

"Tank you, Mama."

"You're welcome, baby." Molly takes her cookie and makes her way to some wildflowers about 10 feet away. I look up at Jack and he's staring at me and smiling.

"What?" I ask.

"You're just everything," he says while snaking his arm around my waist and pulling me on top of his lap. I'm sitting sideways on him, and he holds me tight, breathing me in. I do the same, and I feel such a sense of calm and ease. I think we both needed this. After a minute, he reminds me.

"We should head back. I requested that Alpha fight earlier, it's not going to look good if I'm a no-show," he chuckles. I groan and stand up.

"Come on Miss Molly!" I tell her while holding out my hand.

She runs over and holds my hand.

"Do you want a shoulder ride, Molly?" Jack asks her. He scoops her up and sets her on his shoulders while

holding her legs. She's laughing and pointing at all the things she can see from upon his shoulders. She's so happy.

"Seriously, my ovaries," I groan and he gives me a megawatt smile. His perfect smile makes me want to jump him. Everything he does seems to have that effect on me.

When we get to the bleachers the final Gamma / Beta fight is starting. Jack takes Molly off his shoulders. I offer to take her but he refuses and holds her in his arms. I see Lev is up against Jack's Beta, Zac. I can't believe Lev beat out so many Beta's, including Cold moons.

Usually, the Beta is stronger than the Gamma. I'm in shock and run to Lev. "I missed everything. You made it to the final. I am so proud of you." I tell him. He smiles, and I can tell he is so happy and proud too. There are a bunch of our friends around him. The ref is calling them in and I haul off and slap Lev as hard as I can on his bareback. "You got this!" I yell! He nods and heads into the ring. I make it back to where Jack and Molly are.

"We're rooting for opposing teams," I tell him with a smirk and he nods.

"What's with the slaps?" Jack asks.

"What? You don't do that?" I ask, surprised. He smirks and shakes his head.

"Weird. Well, a hard slap on the bare skin stings." I admit.

"Yeah... I know! So why do it?" He seems confused.

"To piss him off. Now he can take all that anger out on Zac-y boy over there," I smile and he does too but shakes his head.

"I wanted to kill your brother earlier for slapping you. I kept looking at his handprint on your back for the

entire fight,” he admits with a raised eyebrow.

“I didn't realize you were watching me so intently,” I smirk.

He moves closer to whisper in my ear, “I couldn't take my eyes off of you all day.”

His warm breath tickled my neck, and my breath hitched. I bite my lip. I find myself breathing heavier. I look him in the eyes, and I can see flecks of black in his once green eyes. That's arousal. He must have sensed the effect he had on me. I lick my lips, and he's looking at them with hunger. Oh no, I need to get this situation under control. People are everywhere, and I'm supposed to be cheering my brother on. I think of something to say to lighten the mood.

“That's... Creepy,” I smile. He chuckles and suddenly his eyes are green again.

The fight between Zac and Lev was a decent fight. I'm impressed with Lev. During the second round, Zac ended up getting Lev to tap out, or his elbow would have been dislocated. Now that Lev's done fighting, it's as if everyone realizes I'm standing with Jack, and he's holding a content Molly. I introduce him to everyone and I find out that Jack attacked Lev earlier, and most of my friends already knew about Jack's mix-up because they witnessed his and Lev's altercation.

Chapter 14

I have to go back to the cottage to get changed for the Alpha fight. Do you want to come with me, and meet my parents?" Jack asks. I'm so nervous.

"What about Molly?"

"I want them to meet her too," he insists. "I want them to meet both of you."

This was the best-case scenario that I had in mind when imagining my future. My fated mate accepted me and my daughter, and wants to embrace us both. My heart is so full.

"How are they going to take this? You show up with your mate and her kid?" I ask, with a wince.

"They'll be fine. Can we tell my parents about how you found Molly? I'll make sure they never repeat it." He asks.

"Yeah we can tell them. You can tell people you're really close to, that you really trust." I add.

"What should we tell our pack?" Jack asks.

"Our?"

"Yes, you're my mate. You'll be their Luna." He says so matter of fact.

I take a deep breath. "That's a lot to take in."

"Are you nervous?"

"YEAH!" I confess, like DUH! He chuckles. "Of course I am. I'm not an Alpha's daughter. I wasn't expecting an Alpha mate, and especially not one from one of the strongest packs. I don't know how to be a Luna," I admit. He laughs and pulls me close.

“Correction. THE strongest, and yes you do. You’re strong and kind, loyal, and hardworking. You’ll be the best Luna,” Jack assures me. I give him a grateful smile.

“Thanks!”

“So what should we tell our pack?” Jack asks again.

“I... I don’t know.” I furrow my brows, in confusion.

“We can tell them that I’m your second chance mate, and your first mate died?” He suggests. I raise one eyebrow at him. Who would believe that?

“No one is going to believe you could ever be anyone’s second choice. Maybe see what your parents think?” I suggest. He agrees, with a cocky smirk from my compliment of him.

When we walk in, his parents are sitting in the sitting room reading. “You guys missed all the action today so you can read all day,” Jack questions. His parents have their backs to us, sitting in chairs side by side. “It’s too loud and chaotic, we’ve paid our dues. We’re off the hook now,” his Mom says. I look at Jack and we smile at each other. They have no idea Jack’s not alone.

“I wanted you to meet 2 special ladies,” Jack tells his parents. They both whip their head around, shocked to see us.

“Is this...?” His mother asks. He nods, and I smile at her. I see her looking at me, and then in Jack’s arms, at Molly. Jack’s Dad looks similar to Jack, with the same dark hair, but he has sprinkles of grey, he’s tanned, very muscular but he has brown eyes.

His mother has shorter dark brown hair that hugs her face and comes to her chin, with some grey. She has fairer skin, and she has the same green eyes that Jack has. She is short and skinny. Jack’s Dad stands up, “Hello, I’m Tom, good to meet you.” His father tells me, as he

stretches out his hand to shake mine.

"I'm Lexi, nice to meet you too."

"And who is this little cutie?" He asks as he looks at Molly.

"This is Molly. Can you say 'hi,' Molly?" I ask her.

"Hi," she says, but cuddles into Jack. "She's usually pretty shy," I tell Tom so he doesn't take it personally.

"Usually anyways, she seems to have taken to Jack pretty quickly," I add. Feeling very proud that my mate has made such a positive impression on my girl.

His mother hesitates and gets up, I don't think she's thrilled about Molly and I. "I'm Claire, nice to meet you both," she says.

"It's nice to meet you too," I add. She keeps her distance, so I avoid moving in to shake her hand. She didn't acknowledge Molly at all either. That kind of pisses me off. Maybe she is overwhelmed, I'll give her the benefit of the doubt this time.

"Come, sit. Let's get to know you both a little bit," Tom says. I sit on the couch with Jack and Molly, sitting across from them. "I only have about 20 minutes before the Alpha fight," Jack informs them. "What Alpha fights?" Claire asks.

"They decided to add an Alpha category last minute," Jack says, leaving out his part in that.

"Mama," Molly whines, and I reach out and Jack passes her to me. I swear Molly is so intuitive of energies and emotions. It's like she senses it, and that's why she must want me now. Jack's hand quickly makes its way to my back. He's very attentive.

"So tell us about yourself, and your family background?" His mother asks.

"Family background? Uh, my mother was a doctor, my

father was the Gamma before they passed. My brother is the Gamma now and I'm a warrior."

"What's your rank?" Claire asks.

"2nd among the females."

"Tsk tsk. Not anymore," Jack says with a proud smile.

"Well, I think I just got lucky today," I add.

"She beat everyone today. She even beat Laurel," Jack is beaming as he tells his parents. Both his parents seem pretty happy about that. "She also got first place in both the wolf and human form run."

"Wow. That's incredible. How long have you been training?" Tom asks.

"Well training seriously, for 13 months. I used to always want to be a doctor, so I only trained about 2-3 hours a week. I took 8 months off, and then I made it a priority to get as strong as I could."

"13 months?" Jack asks me, surprised. "I furrow my brows, "Yeah, why?" His Dad is nodding like he's impressed.

"That's a lot of progress. Laurel has been training 4 or more hours a day for the last 6 years." Jack admits.

"Wow!" I don't even know what to say to that. I feel proud of myself right now though. "Tell me about your daughter," Claire says. "Well, Molly is a year and 7 months." I take a deep breath and I feel Jack rubbing my back again, and his touch calms me.

"She's going to tell you something and it doesn't leave this room. She doesn't want our whole pack knowing this truth." Jack explains and they nod. I tell them about Molly and how I found her.

"Wow. So you were wrong then about the man that you thought was her partner?" Claire asks.

“Yes, that was her brother. I misread the whole situation,” he admits while shaking his head.

“Oh thank Moon goddess! I thought you just tore this family apart!” Claire confesses. We both smile at each other.

“I wouldn’t have done that to Molly,” I assure her.

“We don’t want people to know about Molly not being biologically Lexi’s, what do you think we should tell our pack?” Jack asks.

“I was thinking I’m her second chance mate, and her first mate died,” Jack admits. “Who’s going to believe she was fated to some warrior, and you are her second chance? You’re no one’s second choice,” Claire declares.

“I told you,” I beam. He smiles, and pulls me in and kisses my temple. “Lexi said the same thing,” he admits to his mother.

That seems to please her. She smiles at me. A real smile. “Everyone here at cold moon knows she was adopted, but I grew up here, and it didn’t matter when I was just a warrior. No one would feel the need to try and hurt her as a warrior’s daughter. But given Jack’s rank, I’m fearful people will throw it in her face to hurt her, as she gets older. I just don’t want anyone to ever make her feel like she doesn’t belong, or that she’s not really mine. I am fiercely protective of her,” I admit.

“I understand dear. Why don’t you just say she was your daughter from before Jack. If Jack and you decide that he is to take on that fatherly role with her, then it will be made known that if anyone ever even implies that she isn’t our family. They’ll be looking for a new pack,” Tom explains.

“Tom...” I need to pause for a second to contain my emotions. I clear my throat. “I really appreciate you saying

that. I am really grateful. It's such a relief to know that you'll accept Molly into your family." I tell him.

"I've talked to Lexi about it, and once I've marked her, I want to take on that role and become Molly's Dad. She agreed. Just so you're both aware," he explains.

They both nod and smile. "I'm going to change quickly, and then we'll go," Jack says, and leaves me in the living room with Molly, and his parents. Molly must sense that everyone seems calmer because she climbs down from me and starts telling Tom that she was playing in the sand today. Her little voice is too cute too.

She makes her way over to Claire and starts poking her head from behind the side table beside Claire. When Claire says "peekaboo" after Molly pokes her head out, Molly bursts out laughing. It's music to my ears, and theirs too. They laugh, and Claire continues. When Jack walks into the room, he's smiling ear to ear. "Listen to that cutie," he beams.

"I really hate to break this up, but I'm probably already late, we should go."

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