

Chapter 34

If there's one thing I have known in all my twenty-three years of living, it is that a gut feeling is never wrong. However, I had to accept defeat in one thing: my doubt with the wolfsbane theory was uncalled for.

It has been two days since Maxim and I decided to go along with the risky but desperate plan, and it has been good.

I feel a lot better, even though my wolf is completely vacant. I hated that I could barely feel her, but this gave us enough time to entirely get rid of the mark now that I was on my feet.

"Look who's up and about." Fiona's voice came from behind me, and I smiled brightly as I rose from my stool to go hug her. I missed talking to her and hanging out with her. And though I wasn't fully healed, I would be able to do more with her from now on.

"I know. It feels great," I told her as we both sat. The helpers were back in the house, so they were making us lunch. Maxim went to the border patrol to look at how they had been doing since he had barely checked in on them all this time.

"I'm glad. I guess Lukas's crazy wolfsbane idea turned out fine, huh?"

I shrugged. "I guess. But it's not permanent."

"Oh, I know. But until we get a solution, we need to get some food into your system. You have lost far too much weight." I knew she didn't mean to insult me, but I couldn't help the tiny sting in my chest as she said this.

"Lora is making my lunch, and I had a big breakfast. In a couple days, I should regain some weight," I mumbled over the straw of my orange juice.

Her face fell. "Awe, honey, I'm sorry. I knew it was not your fault, and I wasn't trying to tell you that you look bad or anything," she sighed. "I just want you to be healthy, that's all."

"I know, I know," I quickly told her. "I just... I just wish it didn't happen. That's all."

"Don't we all?"

We fell into a moment of silence for a while as Lora shared the food. I was definitely starved, and I gulped down the wonderful meal in no more than ten minutes.

As I nibbled on my final bone, Maxim entered through the back door, and I perked as I saw him.

"Maxim," I cheered, almost jumping from my seat. I had become a love-sick puppy for that man. Partially because he has been there for me so much.

"Hey there, beautiful," he greeted with a kiss. He pulled away after a simple peck, but I held onto him and deepened the kiss.

It had been too long since we shared a heartfelt kiss. It had been nothing but pecks while I was sick.

He swept his tongue over my lips slowly, and I moaned in approval as I granted him access. He instantly took charge of my tongue, dominating the kiss with just a single thrust. I felt my stomach fluttering in utter bliss, and I squeezed my thighs together as my sensitive area throbbed.

A smile lingered on my lips as we finally pulled away for air, and his eyes shimmered in admiration for me. All for me.

"So, I guess that's what it's like, huh?" Fiona asked, making us completely aware of her presence once more.

"What's like?"

She giggled before answering. "When Leo and I kiss in front of you guys."

I bellowed out a laugh as she got up to leave, and I didn't waste any time to kiss my mate again.

"So, how was the border patrol?" I asked as I pulled away but kept my arms snaked around his waist.

"Good and not good. There was another dragon attack last week, so that's not good," he told me.

I gasped. I had completely forgotten about the entire dragon situation. It felt surreal.

"But they dealt with it great. Notice that we didn't hear about it? They managed to get rid of them before they could get inside."

"Well, that's great." I groaned despite my positive words. "I have too much to handle. Dragons, wolfsbane, Lukas, Lukas's mark, the full moon, the moon shard."

"Hey, look at me." Maxim held my face in his hands and guided my eyes to his. "We will get through this, okay? You and me." He emphasised the 'we', which remarkably assured me.

I hugged him, just to be able to be in his arms like I loved. "Thank you, Maxim. You have been so great to me."

"Did I mention that you are my life now? Because you are."

I giggled as I met his eyes again. "You've mentioned it once or twice."

"Good." He pecked my lips, but I grabbed onto his with my teeth. He groaned at my swift and slightly bold move before initiating the kiss I asked for. But just then, there was an "ah-hem" from behind us.

I almost jumped away from Maxim as I spun around, seeing Lukas standing at the door holding a paper in his hand.

Hurt flashed in his eyes for a while, but it didn't stay. He guarded his emotions swiftly as he met my gaze. It was the first time I had seen him since I 'got better'.

"Good to see that you are better," Lukas said as he nodded in acknowledgement towards his brother.

"Thank you. I guess it will give us more time to find a permanent solution."

He nodded, knowing exactly what I meant. "Your brother called. He urgently wanted to speak to you. Here's his number."

"Oh. Thanks."

I hadn't heard from my brother since the last time he called. I thought about the possibility that Lukas told him I had been sick. That was the only reason I could think about why he would want to talk to me urgently.

Was everything okay at home? I suddenly had the urge to go back.

"Um, actually, could you give Logan a message for me?" I asked.

"Sure."

I quickly gazed at Maxim for a second, wishing desperately that we had a mind link. The very thought made my head hurt.

"I... um... I think I want to go home. To visit, of course." Both men let out a breath of relief as I quickly added the last part. I realised how it might've sounded like I wanted to leave permanently. But I would never leave Maxim and Fiona. Especially Maxim.

"Of course. I'll give him a call back when I go to my office," Lukas said, and I nodded in silent thanks. I still wasn't on the best of speaking terms with him. I was still annoyed by his presence, and every time I felt the scar on my neck, I felt violated and angry.

"I'm going too," Maxim declared. "Tell them to expect us both."

Lukas gazed at me for a while as if silently seeking my approval. But I was pumped that Maxim wanted to come with me. I knew my brother and my uncle weren't his favourite people in the world since I told them about my life growing up, but I loved that he was making an effort.

"Will do," Lukas finally said before leaving.

I refocused on Maxim and wrapped my arms around his neck again, smiling up at him with my whole heart.

"You want to come home with me?" I teased. Somehow it felt funny.

He chuckled but nodded anyway. "I won't let you go anywhere alone. You're still sick, and the dragons are still after you."

"My pack has a protective force field."

"Really?" His eyes almost shot from their sockets in shock; I flung my head back with a laugh.

"I don't know. That's the theory Fiona, and I came up with when we noticed that I had never had a moon shard dream at home, never seen a dragon or heard of one attacking the pack."

He shrugged. "Could be the climate."

"We're two states away." I hit his shoulder playfully with a laugh. Besides, the climate wouldn't stop those monsters.

"Well, maybe this trip will help us figure something out about that too. We could go to the stream... the one you saw in your dreams."

I bit my lip in thought.

"I guess. But first, I had to know what was so urgent that my brother wanted to talk to me."

"Maybe someone died," Maxim simply stated as if it was nothing.

I narrowed my eyes on him. "How very assuring."

He chuckled again as he pecked my lips swiftly. "You taste like fried chicken," he said, completely out of the blue.

I shook my head with my own chuckle as I retook my seat by the kitchen island, undoubtedly ready for another meal.

