

Chapter 1

Present Day

Alexa POV

"Alexa, where are you today? Your head is not in training. You are a top warrior, and you leave in two weeks for the Elite Academy," asked Beta Liam.

"Sorry Liam. I am distracted today."

"Well, if you don't pay attention, you're going to get your ass kicked."

He walked off and left me to continue training. I really wasn't in the mood today. I had been up since we am getting my workout before training at eight am. I got a little snack in between. It was now eleven, and I was just done.

"Son of a b***h!" I screamed out. My sparring partner Nick had landed a blow to my face, splitting my cheek open. Liam was right, my mind was not in it today.

"Alexa, are you ok? I didn't mean to hit you that hard," Nick said as he came over to me.

"If I can't take a hit, then I shouldn't be here."

"Alexa, go home!" Laim yelled at me from across the eld.

I walked over to my bag and threw my water bottle in it and walked to the pack house. I still lived on the Alpha's oor. I didn't really have anywhere else to go. After that horrible day, I haven't spoken to my family. None of them. They all knew what they were doing to me. They knew that it posed the risk of killing me. When my dad or sperm donor, as I now refer to him, killed my mate before he broke the bond.

As I made my way up the stairs, I ran into my best friend, Sloane. When she saw me, she did a complete 180 and started going back up the stairs, following me. She had found her mate as soon as she turned 18, like most wolves did. She is mated to Beta Liam. He was pissed with my family when everything happened, but he continued to be the Beta. He did, however, take me under his wing and has helped me improve my ghting. If it wasn't for him, I don't know that I would have made it into the academy. He is a few years older, and she wanted to wait for kids and marriage or for us a mating ceremony. She nally did that about six months ago.

"Girl, where are you going? I haven't seen you in a while." She asked me as she trailed behind me.

"My room. I need to get packing; I have a lot to do since I leave in two weeks."

"So, you're really going?"

"This has been my dream since I was a kid. The one and only trip I went on with my dad was to visit the campus and I fell in love. You know this. Plus, I have to get out of here. I can't continue to live here anymore."

"I know, but I am going to miss you."

"Come help me pack then."

She followed me to my bedroom, and I opened my door and walked into my mess. I had s**t thrown everywhere. I had to downsize what I was taking with me. I would have a small dorm room to live in.

"Alexa, your room is a disaster! I think you might need more help than I can provide."

"Real funny! I have been trying to gure out what I want to take."

Just as she was giving me a hard time about my room, I got a mind link from my dad. "Alexa, you need to meet me in your brother's oce at four."

He cut the link and didn't let me reply. I rolled my eyes and kept picking up stuff.

"What was that eye roll about?" asked Sloane.

"My dad, he wants me to meet him in my brother's oce at four."

"Why, you haven't spoken to him in almost two years?"

"I don't know. Maybe it is about me leaving. I am sure he has something to say about, but I won't let him stop me."

"Good. Don't let him ruin your dream. You have to go. As much as I don't want you to and I will miss you, you have to get away from them."

"I have to go. Liam just mind linked me, and he has an hour's break." She said and wiggled her eyebrows at me.

She left my room, and I was left to continue packing and sorting, but couldn't focus on it.

"Lex, go take a bath. It will help you calm down and you will feel better afterwards." My wolf, Jade, told me.

She was right. I would feel better after a bath. The hot water always felt amazing after hard training or when I was stressed and today was one of those days where I felt both. I walked into my bathroom and started the hot water and threw in some bubbles.

I stripped down and sank into the hot water. It was heavenly on my body. I had been pushing myself since getting accepted to the academy and it was paying off.

"Jade, what do you think my dad wants?"

"I don't know, but my guess is nothing good."

"I know, and that is what scares me."

"Don't let him bully you into anything again. Last time about killed us and it did our mate."

Every time I thought about that horrible day, I cried. I know that Mateo's mom suspects that her son was murdered, but has no way of proving anything. They were told it was a rogue attack.

I stayed in the bath until the water turned cold. I nally got out and wrapped a towel around me and went to just lay on my bed for a while. I must have been tired because I woke up to my dad mind linking me, wanting to know where I was.

"Sorry, I will be right there."

I threw on some leggings and a sports bra and a tank over that. I left my room and ran down the stairs towards my brother's oce. Even though he had handed the pack over to my brother, he didn't really give my brother any control. My dad just ran it from behind the scenes.

I got to his oce and knocked on the door and when my dad nally said, "come in", I opened the door and walked in. My mom and Luna Aubrey were sitting at the table that was set up in there.

"What do you all need?" I asked in an icy tone.

"Alexa, please sit down. We have something to discuss with you." My dad said.

I walked over to the table and sat down and looked around at everyone. They were all good at hiding emotions. I wasn't the best at it, but I could when I had to. My mom just looked annoyed that she had to be here. My dad looked pleased, and my brother and Luna Aubrey looked a little sad.

"Alexa, we need to form an alliance with the Full Moon Pack. He is willing, but let's just say we haven't always gotten along, and he wants some reassurance that we aren't trying to play him."

"OK, so what does that have to do with me?"

"Well, he wants you as his chosen mate."

"HAHAHA, you're funny. You are not choosing a mate for me, and you are not forcing me into something I don't want again."

"I am your father and your Alpha, and you will do as you're told. He will be here tomorrow to sign the alliance and to get you. He said to be ready by four pm."

"Dad, I leave in two weeks for the academy. I will not go with him."

My brother stood up, and I knew what he was going to do. He was going to Alpha command me to stay. What he didn't know was that they usually didn't work on me. I just assumed it was because he was my brother.

"Alexa, you will mate and mark with Alpha Colter, and you will go with him tomorrow and be his Luna." My brother said and, like I thought, he put an Alpha command with it.

"Now that this is taken care, we will leave and Alexa, you need to go pack."

I got up and ran back to my room. I was on the verge of crying. This Alpha was known as being a little ruthless and his pack was rumored to be afraid of him. I had never met him, but had heard stories about him.

"Jade, what are we going to do? We can't go with him tomorrow."

"You need to run. If you don't leave now, your dad will control you for the rest of your life. I don't know what this other Alpha wants, but he will not be getting it from us. I am sorry, but you can't go to the academy. That is the rst place they will look for you."

"OK, we will leave in the middle of the night."

I started to pack my bag. I was going to have to sneak out. Maybe I could get Sloane to go to dinner with me and then leave her. I couldn't tell her what I was doing because she could be Alpha commanded to tell the truth and I can't put her in danger, but if we were just going to dinner and I left her there. They couldn't hurt her.

"Sloane, meet me in my room. We need to talk."

"What's up Lex? You, ok?"

"No, just come to my room and I will explain."

A few minutes later, she showed up in my room and she could tell that I had been crying. She came right up to me and wrapped me in a hug. It really was what I needed right now. She was the only person to care for me.

"What is wrong?" she nally asked.

I went and sat down on my bed and just stared at my hands. I didn't know how to tell her. I nally took a big breath and began.

"My dad has basically sold me off to Alpha Colter. He is to be here tomorrow, and I am to leave with him. I am to be his chosen mate and his Luna."

"WHAT?" she screamed.

"Ya, my dad wants an alliance with him and in order for him to sign it, he wanted me in return. He said he wanted assurance that our pack would hold up their end of the bargain."

"I am so sorry. What are you going to do?"

"The only thing I can do. I am going to go with him."

"You can't. You leave in two weeks for the academy."

"That dream is now gone."

"I am so sorry. What can I do to help?"

"Let's just go to dinner tonight, please? Just the two of us."

"Anything. Let me help you pack."

She helped me clean up my room and pack up my belongings. She didn't know that I had a bag hidden in the back of my closet for tonight. I had to get to town before her so I could empty my account. My parents may never have loved me, but they made sure I always had whatever I wanted and always made sure my bank account had plenty in it. I would empty it today and take everything that I had in my room. I would pawn off any jewelry I had, and I would use that until I could get a job and a place to live.

"Meet me at the mall at seven pm. I want to have our favorite there."

She just nodded at me and gave me another hug before she left my room. She knew what I was going to do, but if I never actually told her, she couldn't be Alpha commanded to say it.

"Jade, are we making the right choice by running?"

"Yes, we have to get away from these horrible people and when the time is right, we will come back and get justice for Mateo and every other horrible thing your father has done."