

Chapter 11 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Reese POV

As I approach my father's office, I hear sounds no son wants to hear from his parents. I immediately turn intending to head to the training field and talk to him later. I swing by the kitchen to grab something light to eat and stop in my tracks when I see my mother speaking to the head omega.

When she notices me, she smiles giving me a gentle wave. He wouldn't, maybe he was by himself. That makes me want to gag too. Why the hell would he do that in his office? Besides, my mother wouldn't be standing here talking without a care in the world if he was cheating on her. She would be feeling the same pain I would have caused Rosie had I marked her. When she finishes talking, she walks toward me.

"Reese, you look like you saw a ghost. Are you alright? Did something happen?" I manage to pull myself together enough to offer her a fake smile. "No, I'm fine. I'm just missing Rosie, that's all." Sympathy flashes in her eyes and I wonder how much she knows about all that's happened. "I understand being away from her must be difficult. I used to hate when your father and Cain would take their trips to visit other packs. I would miss him terribly while he was gone," she said.

"How are you feeling mom? I'm sure you are missing Miranda." "I'm great, you don't have to worry about me, Reese. I'm keeping myself busy. Besides, soon you'll be taking over for your father and Bryce will take over for Cain. Then we will all be able to travel like we always wanted. I'll probably get sick of spending so much time with your father," she says with a laugh. "Who will you get sick of my love," my father's voice asks from behind me.

I turn to see him walking toward my mother, followed by Cain. "I was talking about you Robert when we finally get to travel. Miranda and I will need a break from the two of you." She turns to a man she considers her friend and I feel sick to my stomach. I know in my soul I'm right, but I wish I wasn't.

"Cain you look terrible. Why didn't you make the trip with Miranda? I'm sure her cousin could have convinced the Alpha to let you visit despite us not having an alliance with the pack," my mother asks. So that's the bulls*t story they are feeding my mother. "It's alright Maureen, I want her to enjoy her time with her family. She'll be home soon" he says, but his words are hollow.

My mother doesn't seem to notice. "Reese, son, I was just about to check in with the trackers if you would like to join us" my father says, but I can't meet his eyes. "No, I'm going to the training field. You can update me if they have found anything useful," I say curtly, leaving the three of them standing in the kitchen.

I feel my father trying to link me the minute I step out of the pack house, but I refuse to speak with him. I wondered why he was so understanding when I told him about me and Bryce. I thought it was about my happiness, but instead it was about his own f*cked up relationship with Cain. He's been betraying my mother all these years, but I don't understand how. When I reach the training field, I notice Logan and Bryce are both here.

Bryce smiles at me, but I don't return it. My mind is still reeling about finding out my father is a ch**tng pr*ck. I know I'm not innocent, but I'm at least willing to make amends to Rosie. I didn't mark her and keep f**king Bryce. If my father was any other Alpha, he would have kicked my a** for betraying Rosie, but instead he encouraged me to keep both.

"An Alpha should be able to claim his mate or mates as he sees fit" he said. Now I understand why he was so supportive. "Reese, are you going to join us for sparring," Bryce asks, and Fallon growls. Bryce isn't thinking clearly. He knows how angry Fallon is with both of us. If he took control, he could easily snap Bryce's neck. The part of me that will always love Bryce doesn't want to see him hurt.

"No, Beta. I'm here to simply observe. Continue with training as if I wasn't here." Hurt flashes in Bryce's eyes, but he continues to have the warriors break off in pairs. I watch Logan as he fights against a more seasoned warrior. He holds his own, landing some solid punches to his opponent's face and stomach. Ultimately, the warrior gets the better of him, but I'm impressed. It makes sense that he would be strong and a good fighter. He was meant to be the Beta of the pack by Bryce's side.

Cain POV

As soon as we leave the kitchen, we head back to Robert's office. The door closes and Robert starts to pace. "What the hell was that about with Reese, and now he isn't responding to my link?" "I don't know Robert, but everything is a f**king mess. I've lost my mate and my family because you begged me to agree to your idea of Bryce and Rosie sharing a mate. I've lost everything because I wanted to please you."

He walks toward me, placing his hand on my back. "I promise you we will bring Miranda and the kids home. We will make her understand that you were concerned about Bryce's happiness. We will make sure that Bryce treats Rosie with the respect and love she deserves." I shake his hand off me and stand to my feet. "You can't promise me that. I should have protected my daughter instead of giving into what you, Bryce, and Reese wanted. I was wrong, and now I'm paying for it. Not only that, but Arol is paying for it."

"Cain, I know your upset, but you're not alone. We still have each other. If Miranda is too selfish to trust you are doing what is right for both your pups, then she doesn't deserve you" he says, and

I can feel Arol at the surface. "Do not speak about my mate like that again. Had my human thought about her and our pups, none of this would have happened. I respect you as our Alpha, but you will not speak badly about my mate," Arol says, taking control. I know he won't attack Robert, so I don't fight against him.

"Arol, I apologize for talking badly about Miranda, but she is hurting Cain. She is hurting you. Mates are meant to love unconditionally, and she left without speaking to Cain. She gave us no opportunity to make things right." Robert starts to move toward me but stops abruptly. His eyes glaze over, and I realize that he is linking with someone.

"Cain, I have to go. Maureen is looking for me and she sounds upset. We will continue this conversation later, but know I will do everything in my power to bring your family home," he says. I nod and watch him leave the office. After a few minutes sitting alone in his office, I head out of the pack house without stopping to speak to anyone.

When I reach the house and step inside, I want to cry. Arol and I are both weak, suffering from our broken bond. I look around this place that has held so much happiness, and it is nothing more than an empty shell. A shell I've created by putting my own wants and needs above my family, above my mate. I head upstairs to the room I have shared with Miranda all these years and slide into our bed. Pulling her pillow into my arms, I press my nose against it, taking in her scent that clings to it.

Goddess, I wish I could go back and do things differently. I can't live without Miranda. Hearing my pup say she hated me nearly gutted me. The thought of never holding Miranda again is worse than death. If we ever find her, I will do whatever I have to gain her forgiveness and trust. I'll leave this pack, my title, and Robert behind for her.

12 A Little Every Day

Chapter 12 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Reese POV

As soon as training is over, I link my father. As much as I don't even want to look at him right now, I need answers. "I'm with your mom right now Reese. She is hearing rumors and is upset." "Rumors about what I've done or what you've done." There is a long silence before he finally speaks again. "Meet me in my office" he says, cutting the link. As I make my way across the field Bryce steps in front of me.

"Bryce, I don't have time to talk right now." He looks around before he drops his voice to a whisper. "Reese, I'm still here. She left you, and you're treating me like the enemy. Please, I need you," he starts to say, but I cut him off. "Bryce, you and I are the reason she left. It's our fault and I intend to make things right with her." I move past him without another word.

When I reach my father's office, I take in a deep breath before I push the door open. I'm glad to see Cain isn't with him. I want answers and, though I know I will control myself when it comes to my father, I can't say the same for Cain. "Have a seat, Reese," he says, pointing to the chair in front of his desk. I recognize his stance of authority as he stares at me.

"I'd prefer to stand" I say making no move to follow his order. I can see he doesn't like my refusal to follow his orders, but he doesn't force the issue. "Reese, I'm not sure what rumors you're talking about. I've done nothing to warrant rumors being spread throughout the pack about me, however your mother has gotten wind that Rosie rejected you, and she wants answers," he says.

"Tell me how you did it, dad. Tell me how you have cheated on your mate for twenty years and haven't been caught. How hasn't she felt the pain of your betrayal?" My father growls in warning. "Reese, you need to tread very carefully right now. I love your mother. I have made mistakes, but that has never changed. I have given her a good life, and she is happy."

I throw my head back and laugh. "They do say ignorance is bliss. I guess I'm as f**ked up as you wanting more than the goddess gifted me. The difference is, I'm sorry dad, are you?" "Reese" he starts to say, but I cut him off. "I want to know how you did it. How the two of you kept this from your mates all these years."

My father's shoulders sag, and he sits down in his chair. "You have to understand that Cain and I grew up together. We both knew we were attracted to women and each other from a young age. I never touched another woman, but after time, desire won out between us. Your grandfather was a ba**ard, and he would never accept Cain as my chosen mate. He made me travel to find my fated one. He even threatened to kill Cain if I didn't."

"I prayed each time I went to another pack to come back empty-handed, but then I found your mother. She was so beautiful, and I knew I would never love anyone, even Cain, as much as I loved her, but I couldn't turn off my feelings for him. When we returned, he was devastated, and we didn't speak for almost six months."

"The night of our ceremony, my father called me in and sat me down in this office. He was never faithful to my mother, but he would f**k anyone. It didn't matter how much it hurt my mother until one day she was going to reject him for his philandering ways. He groveled and swore to the goddess he would never touch another woman again. She forgave him, and she never felt the pain of infidelity again."

My father takes a deep breath and I can see the pain and regret in his eyes. "My father had many friends that weren't exactly what we would refer to as savory people. One of them told my father there was a way to continue to cheat but keep his mate from feeling it. So on the night of my

marking ceremony he sat me down and explained how he had dosed my mother with a tiny dose of wolfsbane every day."

"It was not enough to do any real damage, but just enough to dull her wolf's senses. She would feel what would be equivalent to a stomach ache or indigestion, but after time she wouldn't feel anything at all as long as the wolfsbane was used every day."

I'm across the office before I can even think and pinning my father to the wall. "You and that ba**ard have been poisoning your mates just so you two could f**k. How could you do that to mom?" "Reese, I would never hurt your mom and this was a way to ensure that I never did. She is perfectly healthy. What do you think would have happened if she felt it the first time Cain and I gave into our desire for each other," he says, like it makes perfect sense.

"You wouldn't be here, Reese, and neither would Addie. I have been a good mate to your mother and I love her. I'm the one that carries the guilt, but the pain doesn't touch her" he says. I release him and run my hands through my hair. "Reese, you can never tell your mother, I'm begging you. She doesn't deserve to live with the pain of what I've done," he pleads.

"So you want to continue to basically drug and cheat on my mother, and you want me to keep it a secret from her. From the woman who gave life to me and has taken care of me." "Reese, please" he says. "No, you either stop doing everything or I'll tell her. We were both wrong about what we have done. I may never have the chance to have my mate and that's on me. You have a choice to make, and it's mom or Cain. I won't keep your disgusting secret," I say. I don't give him a chance to respond because I can't continue to look at this man that I have idolized all my life.

Beckham POV

I knock lightly on the door of the apartment. It takes a few moments before the door swings open and a beautiful woman who is very much a wolf smiles at me. She is around my mother's age. "Can I help you" she asks. "Miranda, I'm Beckham Forester. I'm sorry about our meeting yesterday and I wanted to stop by and introduce myself." She moves to the side and I step inside. "Can I get you anything to drink?" "No, thank you, I can't stay long. I need to pick Lily up from daycare."

"Daughters are very special. How old is Lily," she asks. "She is three, but she has a birthday coming up." "I miss having little ones. My three are all grown up." Something flashes in her eyes but it's gone as quickly as it came. "Stacey mentioned that you had a daughter and a son. I didn't realize you had another child."

"My oldest son stayed with his father. We separated and it was a bit messy." "I'm sorry to hear that. If there is anything you need, please don't hesitate to give me a call." "I will, thank you. I wish that Rosalyn and Emmett were here to meet you, but unfortunately, Rosalyn started her new job today and Emmett is out searching for one." Rosalyn, Gideon says her name in my head over and over like it's a Mantra. I put up a block making a note to ask him what the hell is going on with him lately.

"Well, I really should get going. It was nice to meet you in person, Miranda." As I reach the door I think about Stacey and how hard it must be for her not to see Emmett. I turn to Miranda and smile. "I'm always looking for workers for construction if your son is interested, have him give me a call." A genuine smile spreads across her face and, despite my fear of wolves just appearing in town, I'm not worried. "Thank you, I'll let him know Mr. Forester." "Just call me Beck."

13 Lily Bear

Chapter 13 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Rosalyn POV

Heading to my first day of work I won't lie and say I'm not nervous. I've never spent much time around humans, and I'm afraid I'll slip and say something I shouldn't. I push open the back door to the bakery and a man I've never met is kneading dough. He is handsome and looks to be in his early thirties. He looks up when he hears the door and offers me a warm smile. "You must be Rosalyn" he says, extending his dough-covered hand.

We both laugh as he pulls his hand back. "Please call me Rose." "It's a pleasure to meet you Rose. My name is Charlie. I'm Holly's cousin. She isn't here this morning, but she told me you would be coming." "It's nice to meet you, Charlie. Well, I guess I'm yours to teach the ways of the bake goods." He chuckles, and I head to the sink to wash my hands.

"I like him," Zora says and I smile. He does seem like a really nice guy. We spend the morning making muffins, Danish, and cookies. Once the cases in the front of the store are full, we make two dozen cupcakes. He leaves me to decorate them while he helps customers. I never realized how much I would enjoy baking. Once I put the finishing touches on the last cupcake, I grab the tray and carry it to the front of the shop.

Charlie smiles when he sees me. "You made them look like unicorns. Lily is going to lose her mind if Beck brings her in today. Unicorns are her favorite. I thought you said you had never done this kind of work before. They look like a professional decorated them," Charlie says. "I swear I haven't. I used to help my mom when she would bake for the" I catch myself before I say pack. "She would bake for big parties."

"Well, she must be one hell of a baker because they are amazing" he says, and I smile. The bell dings above the door and Holly strolls inside. She walks over as I'm placing the cupcakes in the case. "Charlie, these are so cute. I saw Beck this morning and told him to bring Lily in. If I can get the brat to like me, then maybe I'll get a shot at her hot father." Zora growls and I cough to cover the sound.

"Are you alright, Rosie," Holly asks. "Yes, I'm fine. Please just call me Rose, Holly. I'm glad you like the cupcakes." Holly looks between us. "You made these" she asks, pointing at me. "Yes, I did." "They're cute but don't forget you work for me. You need to ask permission before you do things like that. It worked out this time, but if things don't sell that I haven't approved, the cost will come out of your check."

I bite my cheek hard enough to draw blood and nod. "Holly, there is no reason to be a b**ch. You know as well as I do those cupcakes are amazing." She glares at Charlie before she heads to the back of the store. "Don't let her bother you Rose. She's hot for Beckham Forester, and he won't give her the time of day."

"If she ever tries to pull that bulls*t about docking your pay you let me know. The shop is three quarters mine. She doesn't have that kind of power," he says. "As far as Beckham goes, he doesn't give any woman in town a second look. I've often wondered if he played for the other team. Not that there is anything wrong with that. Then I saw Stacey and figured they were in a relationship but Holly insists they aren't," Charlie says.

"I met Stacey when she showed us apartments. She seems lovely" I say trying to keep the ire out of my voice. What the hell is wrong with me? I don't know the man and Stacey really does seem nice, but thinking about him with her upsets me.

The afternoon is spent refilling the cases twice with more cupcakes and muffins. When there are only three of the cupcakes left in the case, the bell above the door dings again. A beautiful little girl comes bounding in, followed by Stacey. She has long dark hair and big green eyes. She offers me a smile which I return. "Hi, Rosalyn. It's good to see you again."

"It's good to see you too, Stacey." "How are you enjoying working here," she asks. "It's great, I'm really enjoying it." "Who is the pretty lady auntie" the little girl asks, and I can't help the smile that spreads across my face. "Lily bear, this is Rosalyn. Her family just moved here" Stacey says. "Hi Rosalyn" she tries to say. "You and your auntie can just call me Rose, like the flower. Do you like cupcakes, Lily?" "You can call me Lily bear, like auntie and daddy do."

Something flashes in Stacey's eyes before I hear the door open behind me. I turn to see Holly stepping behind the counter, her face marred with disappointment when she sees Stacey. "Hey Holly, Beck said you had the pink cupcakes that Lily would like. He asked me to bring her by to pick out one." "Why couldn't he bring her" she asks rudely.

Gosh, she really is a b**ch. "He is busy Holly. He's also not interested," she says bluntly. Holly huffs before she turns, heading to the back. Charlie bursts out laughing as soon as she is gone. "Sorry, I'm not usually so harsh but nothing else seems to get through to her" Stacey says to me. "Can I get my cupcake now," Lily asks, effectively stopping the conversation about Holly's attitude.

"How would you like a unicorn cupcake, Lily bear." Her eyes light up, and I pull one of the cupcakes from the case to show her. She is practically bouncing up and down like I was offering her a million dollars. "Those are awesome. Did you make these, Rose," Stacey asks. "I did,

Charlie thought she would like them." "Like them, she loves them. They look amazing. Can you box up three of them?" "Absolutely," I say and set to work.

Once they are boxed up, I hand them to Stacey. "What do we say Lily bear?" "Thank you, Rose. Rose, can we be friends?" "I would love to be friends" I say. "Auntie, can we invite my new friend over for dinner" she asks, batting her big eyes at Stacey. I stifle my chuckle at the little girls' antics. Stacey looks between us. "I think that's a great idea, Lily bear. Can you come over around five tonight, Rose? It will give you a chance to meet Beck," she asks.

"I'm not sure if that's a good idea. We don't really know each other that well," I start to say, but Lily cuts me off. "You said we're friends and friends go to each other's houses. Please, Rose" she says, and I swear I can't say no as she bats her eyes at me. "I want to go. I think we should go. I want to spend time with the pup," Zora says.

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"They are so you can write your address down for me." "If you give me your number I can just text the address to you" she says. "I lost my phone. I haven't had time to get a new one." She writes the address down, handing the paper and pen back to me. "We will see you later Rose," she says, before they leave the bakery.

No sooner are they gone than Holly steps out of the office and walks toward me. "Rose, I like you and I would hate to have to fire you if you do something stupid like go after Beckham Forester."

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[15 The Past and the Pain](#)

Chapter 16 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Beckham POV

"What the hell is wrong with you" Gideon growls at me as I speed away from the house. "Gideon, I really don't want to do this right now." "Well, to f**king bad. You hurt our mate. You need to go back and make things right." "I can't, Gideon. Don't you think it killed me to see the pain in her eyes, because it did? We can't have another mate. Have you forgotten everything that happened?"

"I have always been proud to be your wolf, but right now I'm not. You don't get to be a coward because of some misguided guilt or loyalty to our first mate," he says. "Losing Deborah almost killed us, and we have Lily to think about. She is more important than any chance we have at happiness with a new mate. We failed to protect our mate. Is that what you want for Rosalyn?"

"Bullsh*t" he growls, and I bristle at his gruffness. "I loved Deborah and Aurora as much as you did. They will always hold a place in our hearts, but Rosalyn is our mate now. You need to make peace with the fact that you can't change the past," he says. I pull onto a dirt road that leads to a large lake. I park and make my way over to a large rock that overlooks the water. Gideon is silent, but I know he is far from done. My mind wanders back to the day I lost Deborah.

Flashback

I kiss my very pregnant mate on the forehead, telling her how much I love her, before I leave our room to meet with my father. I've been avoiding him like the plague since I marked Deborah. He wasn't happy that I accepted an omega as my mate and future Luna. I am in line to become the next Alpha of the Blue Crescent Pack, but my father is being ridiculous about my mate being too weak to stand by my side.

I knock on the office door. "Come in," he says, and I push the door open. My step falters when I notice my father isn't alone. Corey, my father's Beta, is seated next to his daughter Corrine. "Have a seat, Beckham. We have a lot to discuss." I take the open seat that faces my father and I don't spare Corrine another glance.

"Now, Corey and I have discussed the situation with the omega, and we believe we have come up with a solution that will make everyone happy." I growl at his disrespect toward my mate. "Watch how you speak about my mate, father." "Beckham, you are to be the next Alpha of the pack. You cannot have a mate that is of such a low rank. Corrine is willing to become your chosen mate and Luna. She is even willing to allow you to keep the omega as a mistress."

This time my growl shakes the walls. "How dare you even suggest such a disgusting thing. Deborah is my mate and the future Luna of this pack. She was chosen by the goddess herself. Are you suggesting you people know better than our creator?" "Enough, Beckham, I will not allow an omega to become Luna of this pack" he says.

A hand on my forearm draws my attention away from my father. "Beck, I will be a good mate and Luna. We will have strong pups. I can give you an heir that is worthy of becoming the next Alpha of the pack. I will even allow you to visit the omega weekly to satisfy your wolf as long as she knows her place," Corrine says. I pull my arm away from her with disgust.

I'm just about to tell them they can stick the title and solution up their a**es when Deborah's panicked voice has me on my feet and heading for the door. "Beck, my water broke" she says. I ignore my father as he calls after me. As soon as I reach our room, I scoop Deborah up in my arms and take off toward the pack hospital.

When we reach the hospital, the pack doctor rushes over to us. "Alpha" he says. "My mate is in labor." He directs me to lay her on the gurney, and they start to wheel her through a set of double doors. "Alpha, stay here until we get the Luna comfortable. Then one of the nurses will come get you" he says. "She is not the future Luna of this pack," my father says from behind me. I turn and face the man that has been my only parent since I was ten years old.

"The doctor and nurses will take care of the omega and her pup, Beckham. We need to finish our discussion," he says. "Our discussion is over, father. I would rather be a rogue with my fated mate than an Alpha with a chosen one. Gideon and I will never have another mate. We choose Deborah and nothing you say will change our minds."

Before he could speak again, a nurse comes out to lead me to my mate's room. "How are you, my love," I say as I take the chair next to her bed. "I'm better now that you're here. I'm scared and excited, Beck." "Me too, my love, but I know the goddess is watching over you and our pup." I'm not sure how much time passes when our beautiful daughter comes into the world screaming like a banshee.

Watching my mate feed our pup makes warmth spread throughout my chest. A half an hour later, the door pushes open and Stacey pokes her head inside. "Is it alright for me to see my niece" she asks with a smile. "Of course, come in sissy and meet Lily, your niece," Deborah says. We sit around just enjoying spending time with my pup until a firm knock interrupts the moment. My father steps inside, followed by Corrine.

I'm on my feet and standing in front of my mate and daughter. "Leave, you aren't welcome here" I say. "Watch how you speak to me boy. I am the Alpha of this pack. I've given you time to spend with the pup and your mistress. Now you need to reject the omega so we can arrange your ceremony with Corrine." Two growls from behind me make me smile.

"How can you stand there and be such a ba**ard? My mother would be ashamed of the man that you have become. My daughter is your first grandpup. You either accept my mate and pup or we will break all ties with the pack, and you can make Jayden the next Alpha."

I watch my father's eyes darken and Gideon pushes forward. "No matter what happens, Beck, protect our daughter and know I will always love you," Deborah says through our link before all hell breaks loose. My father lunges toward me. We are evenly matched, but my need to protect

my mate and pup gives me the upper hand. I'm able to force him back, and he falls on his a**. "Stacey get Lily out of here," I link her.

Movement to my left distracts me, giving my father an opportunity to land a punch to my jaw. I'm able to stay on my feet, but I turn just in time to see Corrine attack Deborah. I grab for her, but my father wraps his arm around my neck, cutting off my air supply. I watch helplessly as Corrine grabs Deborah by the throat. I begin to shift but it's too late. I watch the light leave my mate's eyes and feel the bond snap.

My father releases me and I fall to my knees. "I know your upset son, but it had to be done. The pup will be placed in the orphanage. Corrine will give you more pups, and she will make you forget the omega." This time I give over control to Gideon and watch as he grabs that heartless b**ch by the neck. One swift movement and we drop her lifeless body to the ground before I whirl on my father.

"Beckham, what have you done?" "What have I done? What have you done?" "I did what was necessary for the pack. You were too weak to see what was best for the pack's future." "You killed my mate." I take steps toward him. "If you kill me Beckham, the pack will never stop hunting you. Corey and your brothers will make you pay for what you have done here today."

I extend the claws of my left hand and grab my father by the throat. "I pray the goddess gives you exactly what you deserve" I say before I rip his throat out. His hands grab at his throat trying to stop the bleeding, but it's no use. I drop him to the floor and turn to Deborah.

I walk over and fight the urge to lay down next to her and let the broken bond consume me. If it wasn't for Lily I probably would. I press a kiss on her forehead. "I'm sorry I couldn't protect you, my love. I will always love you and no one will ever replace you in my heart."

Flashback Ends

The tears flow down my cheeks as I let myself feel the pain that I often bury inside me. How can the goddess expect me to accept another mate when Deborah never had a chance to live or care for Lily? I drop my head into my hands and the pain in Rosalyn's eyes haunts me. I at least owe her an explanation. I may not be able to be her mate, but she needs to understand that it's not about her. She is perfect. Hopefully, the goddess will give her a second chance with someone that isn't so broken.

16 Not Interested

Chapter 17 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Rosalyn POV

The alarm on my nightstand wakes me from sleep. I know my mom checked on me last night at some point, but I was so exhausted after everything that happened with Beck, I barely responded. Unlike my normal nightmares of walking in on Reese and Bryce, my dreams were plagued by Beck. His beautiful blue eyes were looking at me with disgust. My second chance mate doesn't want me. "Don't you dare," Zora says.

"Zora, you saw his reaction last night. I wasn't enough for Reese and now my second chance at having a mate ran out of his house like his a** was on fire when he realized who I was to him." "First, Reese was an idiot who didn't deserve you. I'm glad you rejected him. He wasn't worthy of being our mate. Second, I know that Beck hurt us last night, but I think there is more that we don't know. The fact that he and Stacey are hiding their wolves has to mean something," she says.

"Zora, I don't know if I have it in me to give him a chance to explain or even if he wants to. My heart feels like its shattered Zora. I feel like I can't breathe without the ache in my chest. Maybe it's better to just reject him and move on. Find love the way the humans do. It may not be what the goddess had planned, but I'm sure at this point she will forgive me, since both men meant to love me have done nothing but cause me pain."

"Rose, I still think we should talk to Beck, but I will support whatever decision you make. I know you want our mate as much as I do, but it will always be you and me, Rose. No matter what you decide, you will never be alone." "Thank you, Zora. Right now, I just want to get ready for work and not think about Reese or Beck." I throw the blankets off and grab my uniform off the chair that sits in the corner of my room.

I smile at the shirt that looks like a baseball jersey with a cupcake on the left breast. I step into the bathroom and strip out of my clothes from yesterday. I step under the hot spray and let the wash the tension from my muscles. Once I'm dressed, I grab my purse and make my way out to the kitchen. "Good morning, sweetie. How was your dinner last night" my mom asks. "It was fine. I loved spending time with Lily. She is a sweet little girl," I say which is true.

I'm not ready to tell her about Beck. I grab an apple and Emmett looks at me like I'm crazy as he stuffs a forkful of pancakes in his mouth. "That can't be all you're having for breakfast. Do you feel alright" he asks, and I smile. "I'm fine, just figured I would grab a muffin at work. Besides, not all of us need to eat their weight at every meal." He throws his napkin at me acting offended, and my mother laughs.

"I'm a growing boy. I also start work today for Beckham Forester. I'm sure I'll need all the fuel I can get because construction is hard work. I have to meet with Stacey this morning," he says. I hug my mother and kiss Emmett on the cheek before I head out of the apartment. Once I'm outside, I make the left that will lead me to the bakery.

As I make my way down the street, I feel like I'm being watched. My heart starts to race with fear that they have found us. It doesn't make sense, but could it be true? Could it be Reese or Bryce? Did they send Cain? Will they force me back to the pack in front of humans?

I look around, and I don't notice anything out of place. I take some deep breaths trying to get my nerves under control. The door to the bakery is just a few yards away when I notice a truck with a familiar logo on it pull up next to the sidewalk.

My eyes meet Beck's for a brief moment before I turn away from him. I make my way to the back entrance of the bakery and I don't stop even when I hear him call my name. I push open the door, quickly closing it behind me. Charlie looks startled when he sees me. He moves toward me like he's approaching a wounded animal. "Rose, what happened? Are you alright" he says, looking me over.

"Sorry, I'm fine. I didn't mean to scare you." I can see he wants to press the issue, but I'm grateful when he doesn't. A few minutes later, Holly steps into the room and she looks pissed. "Rosalyn, Beckham Forester just walked in. He is asking to speak with you. This is a place of business, not a place for you to socialize with customers."

"I'm not sure why you're saying that to me. I didn't ask him to come here nor do I want to speak with him. I know this is a job and that's what I am here for, so you are welcome to tell him I won't be speaking with him today or any other day," I say.

"Good, I'll let him know you are busy and that you aren't interested," she says. I resist the urge to roll my eyes. She turns leaving me and Charlie alone. "He wouldn't have anything to do with how panicked you looked when you got here earlier, would he?"

"No, I swear I'm fine Charlie. I think I'm going to make the cupcakes into dogs today." "Nice try to change the subject. I'll let it go for now, but if you need to talk, I'm here. I think the customers will love dog cupcakes," he says with a warm smile. I pick up the piping bag and start to swirl brown icing on the cupcakes.

I try to focus on what I'm doing, but my mind keeps wandering back to what Beck wanted. Did he come here to reject me? Does he want to apologize? Does he want to be mates? As much as I wish the latter was true, I'm sure it's not. I can't keep doing this to myself. The more I think about it, the more I think rejecting the bond and finding someone that I love and that loves me is what I need to do.

Beckham POV

I watch her step out of the apartment building and my breath catches in my throat. She is so beautiful. I follow her at a distance and notice her looking around. Does she know I'm watching her? Can she feel me like I can feel her? I need to talk to her. I need her to understand that she is perfect. I am not able to be the mate she deserves. Pain blooms in my chest at the thought of another man touching her, loving her.

"That's because she is meant to be ours. You are going to be sorry if you don't get your head on straight," Gideon says with a growl. I pull up to the sidewalk and her head turns in my direction. Our eyes meet, and I feel like I can't breathe. She is suffering because of me. As soon as she starts to rush toward the bakery, I jump out of the truck and call her name. She doesn't even turn to acknowledge me before she ducks inside the back door.

I debate knocking on the back door, but decide to head through the front and ask to speak with her. When I step inside, I hold back a curse when I see Holly standing behind the counter. Her face lights up when she sees me. "Beck, what a pleasant surprise. What can I do for you," she asks. "Hi Holly, I was wondering if I could speak with Rosalyn?" Her smile quickly fades, and she looks like she sucked on a lemon.

She heads to the back but returns quickly. "Sorry, Beck, she is busy and doesn't want to speak with you. Just between us, I think she has the hots for my cousin, so you're out of luck if you're interested in her, but I'm very interested in you." Gideon is ready to lose his sh*t, and I'm not far behind him. No f**king way will she be with Charlie. She is ours. Gideon sits back on his haunches and I swear he is smirking. "She is ours. Now the question is what are you going to do about it," he says smugly.

17 She's Late

Chapter 18 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Stacey POV

Watching Beck's reaction to Rosalyn's touch, I know immediately that she is his second chance mate. I have prayed to the goddess every day since we escaped that awful f**king pack that he would find peace and happiness. That the goddess would bless him with a second chance to love and be loved. I know that is what Debbie would have wanted. She would never want him to feel guilty about sharing the mating bond with Rose.

Best gifts for your loved ones

The day that Beck claimed Debbie was the happiest day of her life. Despite the a**holes in our pack Beck never wavered in his love for her. Watching my sister love and be loved is a gift that I wouldn't change for anything. Seeing her with Lily for those few fleeting moments was worth the pain of losing her. She always dreamed of having her mate and a pup when we were little girls.

That day in the hospital before I ran with Lily, she made me promise to make sure Beck didn't let the loss consume him. She knew she wasn't going to make it out of that room alive. It killed me to hide but I had promised her that I would protect Lily. I know my sister and she has been watching over the three of us since the day she went to meet the goddess.

Hell, if I know her, she probably picked Rosalyn for Beck. "Auntie is daddy mad? Why did Rose leave? Did I do something wrong?" Lily's questions bring me out of my thoughts. I stare across the table at my beautiful niece. "No sweet girl, daddy isn't mad. Rose just wasn't feeling well. You didn't do anything wrong."

"Let's get you cleaned up and auntie will read you two books." I lead Lily to the bathroom and set her on the counter. While the tub fills with warm water I pull my phone from my pocket. I dial Beck but the call goes right to voicemail. Despite my irritation I don't leave him a message. I pour the lavender bubble bath in the tub and help Lily out of her clothes. "Auntie I really like Rose. Do you think she will come play with me again" she asks and my chest aches.

Lily doesn't realize it but if Rosalyn is Beck's second chance, she is meant to be Lily's mother. That doesn't take anything away from Debbie but Lily deserves to have love from both the woman the goddess chose to be in her life. "I hope so Lily. Now let's get you in your unicorn pajamas so I can read you those stories."

Once she is dressed, I tuck her into her princess bed and lay down beside her. She snuggles into my side as I read about unicorns and happily ever after's. I smile when she only makes it half way through the second book. I slide out of her bed and press a kiss on her forehead. Once I'm in the hallway I try to call Beck again but it goes right to voicemail. When he doesn't answer again, I say a silent pray to the goddess that Beck doesn't do anything that can't be undone.

The Next Day

Emmett POV

After breakfast I make my way out of the apartment and down to the car. Thankfully Rose can walk to the Bakery because the job for the Forester company is ten miles from the center of town. I pull into the parking lot of a small brick building where I'm supposed to meet Stacey to fill out paperwork. Not that I would ever act on it but I feel drawn to Stacey. Even Brayer wants to be around her which is strange because we have only spent a little time with her.

I promised myself after my father taught us about mates before I got my wolf that I would save all my firsts for my mate. I think that's why it destroyed me when my mother told me what my father had done to Rosalyn. He was my hero all my life and he destroyed that by supporting my idiot brother and Reese. I knew I would never hold the Beta title because of Bryce but I was proud to be his son and a warrior before all this happened. I lost all respect I had for the man that put his title before his daughter.

I push thoughts of my father and Bryce out of my mind as I make my way up the stairs. I step inside the building which has the same decor as the apartment building. A young woman with

blonde hair and a bright red blouse is sitting behind a large wooden desk. As soon as she sees me, she smiles. "Can I help you" she asks twirling a piece of her long blonde hair while looking me up and down.

I resist the urge to roll my eyes. "Hi, my name is Emmett Myers. I'm here to meet with Stacey." "Hi Emmett, my name is Belinda. Unfortunately, Stacey is running behind because of Lily but she should be here soon. That's why I'm glad I don't have any kids or a boyfriend." I bristle at her comment and ignore her flirting. I take seat on a plush gray couch sitting under a large window. I pick up a magazine hoping she will take the hint and let the conversation end but I'm not that lucky.

"Since your new around here I would love to show you around town," she says. Before I can turn her down the door opens and Stacey steps inside. She smiles when she sees me. "Sorry for being late, Emmett. Come with me and we can get all your paperwork done." I stand and follow her toward a dark blue door.

As I pass Belinda's desk she reaches out and gently grabs my hand. "Call me if you're interested in that tour, Emmett," she says with a wink. I'm startled by a low growl from behind me. I whirl to face Stacey and she reaches for the paper that Belinda pressed into the palm of my hand.

"Belinda, this is a place of business not a club to meet guys. Emmett is going to be a member of the team and doesn't need you hitting on him his first day." She turns without another word and I follow her into a small office. She takes her place behind her desk and begins to shuffle through papers. I can tell she is nervous by the increase in her heart rate. She definitely growled and there is no way I'm letting what I heard go. I can't sense her wolf but I know what an angry wolf sounds like when I hear one. She was pissed at Belinda's flirting.

She pulls a folder off her desk and hands it to me. "Once you fill this out, I will escort you over to the house that Beck wants you to work on first." I set the folder down on the desk without a word and cross my arms over my chest. Her body stiffens but she makes no move to look at me. I take the three steps around her desk until I'm standing directly in front of her. Her eyes darken but it only lasts a few second. I reach out my hand placing two fingers under her chin and immediately pull my hand back when tingles erupt on my fingertips.

"Mate" Brayer says and I can't breathe. When I look in her eyes again, I see fear. "Emmett" she says and I can tell she is afraid. I don't know what has my mate so afraid but I'll be damned if I don't protect her. Without another thought I pull her into my arms. I'm confused I can't scent her but the tingles are unmistakable. "Mate" she whispers and my body relaxes. Now I just need her to tell me why the hell she is hiding herself from other wolves.

Chapter 19 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Stacey POV

I can't believe that I'm standing here wrapped in my mate's arms. I always worried living with the humans, I wouldn't find my mate. I'm not sure how long we hold each other before Emmett finally pulls back to look into my eyes. He reaches his hand up and places it on my cheek. His eyes darken and I can feel Calista pushing to the surface.

"Hello little mate, my name is Brayer. I'm so glad we found you. You are the most beautiful woman we've ever seen," he says. His wolf's rich deep voice washes over us making me shiver. I give Calista control to talk to her wolf mate.

"Hello handsome, my name is Calista. If you are as hot as your human, we are very lucky the goddess chose you as our mates" she says. "Calista" I say in warning. "What, I'm just repaying the compliment. You and I both know our mate is smoking hot. You can't wait to see how he looks out of these clothes as much as I can't." Before she can embarrass me further, I take back control. "You're no fun" she says as she sits back on her haunches. Emmett touches my reddened cheek with his fingertips. He leans in so his mouth is near my ear.

"Don't be embarrassed Stacey. I'm glad that you and Calista think we are hot. Brayer and I are doing all we can to control ourselves around you, beautiful. We want nothing more than to throw you over our shoulder and take you some place private to strip." I place my hand over his mouth before I burst into flame. I can feel his smile under my hand. "Are you going to behave if I move my hand? My wolf doesn't need to be encouraged right now mister. We need to talk before any mating happens."

He chuckles before he finally nods, so I move my hand. I watch something pass over his features and his expression becomes serious. He leads me over to a small loveseat that sits in the corner of my office. I know what's coming and I'm not sure what I'm going to say. "He is our mate. You need to tell him everything" Calista says. "I know Cali, but what about Beck. Shouldn't we talk to him first. It's not only our story." She whimpers because she knows I'm right.

Emmett squeezes my hand bringing my eyes back to meet his. "Emmett, I want to tell you everything about my past but I need to talk to Beck first." His eyes darken and a low growl escapes his lips. "Hey, don't do that. Beck and I are family. There is nothing romantic about our relationship." His eyes return to the beautiful chocolate brown color. "I'm sorry, Stacey. I'm not trying to be a jealous a**," he says.

I smile and squeeze his hand. "I saved myself for you, Emmett. I understand why you would get upset at the thought of me being with Beck. Look how I acted when that b**ch Belinda was propositioning you. We are both jealous and possessive. It's in our nature." He smiles like he just won the lottery. "So, we will be each other's firsts." I swear if this was a cartoon my eyes would be bugging out of my head. Did he just say he has never been with another she-wolf?

Before I can stop myself, I wrap my arms around his neck and press my lips against his. I've never kissed someone, but that doesn't seem to matter as our lips begin to move against each other. He runs his tongue against my bottom lip, and I open for him. His tongue tangles with mine, and I swear I feel heat in my lower belly.

The banging of my office door makes us jump apart. I look toward the door and Beck has the good sense to look embarrassed for barging in. He runs his hand through his hair and rubs the back of his neck. It's his tell when he doesn't know what to say. "Come in and close the door, Beck. We need to talk." "I'm sorry for not knocking" he says. Beck takes the chair across from us and I take Emmett's hand in mine.

Beckham POV

I feel like an a** when I see Stacey and Emmett jump apart. "At least somebody isn't afraid to claim their mate" Gideon says. "You just couldn't resist, could you?" He chuckles before he goes quiet again. "Beck, I want to tell Emmett about our past but I needed to talk to you first since it not just my story" Stacey says. I nod my head and I sit back watching different emotions play out on Emmett's face as Stacey retells the worst day of our lives.

When Stacey finishes Emmett pulls her onto his lap and holds her close. I may never have this with Rosalyn because I let my fear and guilt rule my actions. I'm ready to stand and give them some privacy when Stacey lifts her head and her eyes meet mine. I know what she is silently encouraging me to do. I don't know if talking to her brother before I speak to her is a good idea, but honestly, I might not get the chance to talk to her without his help.

"Emmett, losing Deborah broke me in ways that most wolves can't even imagine. A part of me died with her that day. If it hadn't been for Lily and Stacey, I probably wouldn't have survived the loss of my mate." I see pain and sympathy in his eyes. "I never wanted to have another mate. Part of it was because I felt like I would be betraying Deborah but part of it was I felt like a failure for not protecting her. My own father was the reason that Lily was going to grow up without her mother. I should have been able to protect her" I say fighting back the tears that want to fall.

I take a deep breath. "Emmett, I've met my second chance mate but instead of embracing her for the gift she is, I acted like a coward. I ran away from her." I notice his body language change and I wonder if he has figured out why I'm telling him all of this. "Beck, I'm really hoping that you're not telling me this because my little sister is your mate. Please tell me you didn't reject my sister," he says his voice laced with anger and sadness.

I drop my gaze to the ground. Before I realize what's happening I'm on my back on the ground and Emmett is looming over me. My eyes meet Stacey's and she looks panicked. I raise my hand

to stop her from interfering. Emmett has my shirt twisted in his fists. "Do you know what she has been through? The pain she has endured? How the f**k could you hurt her after all the pain she has already survived?"

"Who hurt my mate?" I growl even though I know part of the answer is me. Something flashes in his eyes before he finally scrambles off me. He looks between me and Stacey, before he settles on me. "Tell me what happened between you and Rose" he demands. I explain everything that happened at dinner last night and the bakery today. His shoulders relax and a hint of smile crosses his face. "So do you really want my sister as your mate or were you butt hurt another male might be interested," he says.

It's my turn to lose my shit. In two steps I'm in his face. "She is mine. I may have been a coward because of my past but me wanting her was never the problem. She is perfect. She is my mate and I will spend the rest of my life trying to convince her that I'm worthy to stand by her side, if I can get her to forgive me for being an id*ot."

"I can't tell you everything that happened to Rose before we left our pack because it's not my story to tell. I will help you talk to her if you intend to claim her and love her the way she deserves to be loved," he says, Hope blooms in my chest. "You are worthy of this second chance Beck. Rosalyn is meant to be ours, so don't f**k it up again" Gideon says.

19 Where's My BFF

Chapter 20 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Reese POV

I make my way to the dining room after meeting with the trackers. It's like Rosalyn disappeared. They have only been able to determine they headed north and haven't made any stops in nearby packs. We assumed that they would seek asylum in a neighboring pack but none of them have welcomed any new pack members recently.

I know my father is getting desperate because my mother is demanding to speak with Miranda and he is running out of excuses. In his desperation he has contacted my uncle who is part of the Werewolf Council. He is supposed to be her tonight. He has assured my father he has a way to locate her.

I only make it a few feet toward the buffet when I notice Logan and Addie sitting in the far corner. I decide to have lunch in my room since I know Addie is going to demand answers when she sees me. Before I can turn to leave, I notice he motions toward me. Addie's head whips in my

direction. I almost make it out of the dining room before Addie catches up to me. "Don't even try it Reese. I know you're not telling me something about Rose. I want to know what the hell is going on and don't give me some bullsh*t story about her visiting her aunt, I called her," she says.

I notice we are getting looks from other pack members so I lead her out of the dining room and into a large conference room. "Addie, I know you miss Rose. I miss her too but there are things I just can't tell you." "Bullsh*t, I have a right to know what is going on with my best friend. She isn't just your godd*mn mate" her voice is rising with every word.

I hate the pain I see in my sister's eyes. Just another way I have f**ked things up. "You know I've heard things Reese and I didn't want to believe them because you're my brother and I love you but all this secret bullsh*t has me wondering if there isn't some truth to the rumors" she says. I feel bile rise in my throat.

"You know how the pack members love to gossip. What have you heard Addie?" "I heard that you cheated on Rosie with one of the pack skanks and she left because of it. I always respected you because you insisted you were going to wait for your mate. Tell me you wouldn't do that to your mate Reese. Tell me you wouldn't do that to Rosie" she demands. I'm not sure what she sees in my eyes but she turns to leave.

I rush and grab her arm before she can leave the room. "Addie, I never touched one of the pack skanks, I swear to you." Her shoulders sag and I hate myself when I see relief flash in her eyes. She wraps her arms around my middle and I rub my hand in circles on her back. "I knew you would never do such a thing. I'm sorry I even doubted you for a second, Reese" she says. I can't keep lying to her. I know my father is going to be pissed but I can't lie to Addie or my mother anymore.

I have to tell them what I've done and beg their forgiveness. If I have any hope of becoming the man that Rosie deserves, I need to own my mistakes. "Addie," I start to say before the door to the room bangs open. My eyes meet a pissed off Logan's. "You might want to do something with your future Beta. He is sh*tfaced and running his mouth about his sister." What the hell?

Rosalyn POV

I've tried to focus on baking and decorating cupcakes all day, but I can't stop thinking about Beck. Why the hell was he here this morning? If he wants to reject me it wouldn't be smart to do it where humans could hear. We both will suffer from the denied bond. My heart aches thinking about how horrified he looked when he realized I was his destined mate. I'm still not sure why I couldn't sense his wolf until I felt the tingles but there was no mistaking the feeling of connection when our fingers touched.

Why did the goddess choose another man who doesn't want me for their mate? What the hell is wrong with me? "There is not a damn thing wrong with you. It's those two that are the problem. Reese is just a greedy selfish pr*ck who despite being given the perfect mate thought he

deserved more. As far as Beck I have a feeling he is going to realize what an idiot he is soon. When he does Rose, he'll want to make things right with you," Zora says.

Part of me wishes she was right but after everything that's happened, I won't let myself hope. I hate the thought of never knowing what it feels like to be bonded to the other half of our soul. My name being called breaks me out of my thoughts. I turn around and Holly is standing in the doorway, irritation clearly on her face. My first thought is Beck came back to talk to me and she isn't happy. I'm not sure how I feel about that but I don't have time to really decide.

"There is a man who says he's your brother in the front of the store. He said he's here to take you home. I see your done cleaning so I guess it's alright for you to leave," she says. "Holly, its five o'clock. My shift is over and I would never leave a mess." She turns without another word, heading down the hallway toward her office. Goddess, I don't get why she is such a b**ch. "I do she wants our mate" Zora says with a growl.

I grab my things and head out front to meet Emmett. He has a huge smile on his face. I can't help but smile back at him. "I guess you had a good first day at the new job." I'm startled when he pulls me in for a hug. "You could say that" he says when he finally releases me. "You ready to go. I have a surprise for you" he says. "What kind of surprise?" "A good one, now let's go" he says leading me out of the shop.

I slide into the passenger seat of the car. As I buckle my seat belt I notice movement in the review mirror. I almost scream until I realize its' Stacey. "Hi Rose, didn't mean to scare you" she says. Emmett slides in next to me and I look between them. I'm not sure what the hell is happening but I don't want to be rude. Emmett shifts the car into gear and pulls out into traffic.

As he moves away from town, I realize we are traveling in the direction of Beck's house. My heart starts to pound against my chest. I glimpse the mirror and my eyes meet Stacey's. I see a silent plea in her eyes but I'm not sure exactly what she is asking of me. "Emmett, I'm not trying to ruin your plans." Before I can ask him to take me home, he pulls off to the side of the road.

He turns in his seat to face me. "Rose, I found my mate." That was the last thing I expected for him to say. I look between the two of them as he reaches his hand back and takes Stacey's. "Oh, my goddess, you're mates. Is this the surprise because that's amazing."

"Yes, were mates and I'm so happy. The goddess has truly blessed me," he says smiling at Stacey. He turns back to me. "That's not why I brought you out here. I know what happened with Beckham when he realized you were mates" he says and the ache from earlier returns to my chest. I do my best to fight the tears that want to fall. Emmett takes my hand in his.

"Believe me, I'm not happy he hurt you. I almost beat the sh*t out of him for it. Now, I would never tell him what happened with Reese but I think you owe it to yourself to hear his story. I think it will help you understand his reaction wasn't about you. In case you didn't know sis men aren't exactly the smartest of our species. I could tell when I talked to him, he regrets hurting you. I won't force you to talk to him Rose. So, you get to decide whether we turn around and go home or if we keep driving. So, what's it going to be?"

Chapter 21 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Reese POV

I rush through the pack house, and follow Bryce's scent to the large living room that is just off the foyer. My body stiffens when I hear Bryce spewing nothing, but hatred for my mate. "My sister is too weak to be the Luna of this pack. She isn't worthy of being with our future Alpha. I'm glad she's gone. She is nothing but a wh*re," he says slurring his words.

I can't imagine how much he must have consumed to be this intoxicated. A small group has gathered to listen to his bullsh*t. I notice several she-wolves who look thrilled to hear the Rose is gone. I wouldn't touch one of them so they can wipe the smug looks right off their faces. In fact, I'll never touch another person that isn't my mate again. "If only you had listened to that advice before you f**ked everything up," Fallon says and blocks me.

I growl and everyone quiets down. Bryce's eyes meet mine and he drops his gaze to the floor. "Beta Myers, I'm not sure what you were thinking but everything you just said is a f**king lie. Rosalyn, is strong and capable. She is going to be an amazing Luna. If anyone isn't worthy of the other it's me. I will do everything in my power to try to be the man that she deserves."

I stalk forward until I'm standing right in front of him as the rage at his words start to boil over. Fallon is clawing to take control after hearing him call Rose a wh*re but I'm able to maintain control. He lifts his gaze and the eyes I once loved to look into make me feel nothing. "If I ever hear you speak in such away about my Luna again, I will strip you of your title. Do I make myself clear, Beta?"

"Of course, Alpha, crystal," he says. "What the f**k is wrong with you Bryce? You've turned into such a pr*ck. You are so jealous that your sister found her mate before you. After the way you've treated Rose, you don't deserve to find your mate at all," Addie screams at him from behind me. Bryce's eyes darken before a sinister smile spreads across his face. "Oh Addie, I'm not jealous of my b**ch of a sister. I have everything that was meant to be hers" he says.

Before he can say anymore, I haul back and punch him square in the face. He stumbles back falling on his ass. Blood pours from his nose. I turn and growl at everyone in the room. "Get out" I say using my Alpha command. Everyone scatters until only Addie and Logan are left. I turn back to Bryce who is holding his nose and glaring at me. "In my office, now." He gets to his feet and moves around me. When he passes Addie and Logan she growls at him.

Her eyes meet mine and I can see disappointment. "I would like you and Logan to come to my office too." Once we are all in my office Addie turns to me. I notice that Bryce is across the

room glaring at Logan. "Reese, tell me what the hell is going on?" "I wasn't exactly honest with you earlier. I hurt Rose. That's why she left the pack."

She raises her hand and I make no attempt to stop her. My cheek stings from the slap. "How could you betray Rose? Which one of the disgusting women in this pack was worth losing your fated mate for? Was getting your dick wet worth that" she screams at me and I flinch. Bryce growls and takes a step toward Addie. Logan immediately steps in front of her. "Back off Bryce. This is between Reese and Addie" Logan says. "F**k you, Logan. I don't even know why your here. You are not even part of this" Bryce says.

"Yes, he is. So, sit the f**k down until I get this out." I'm glad when he listens and I look back at Addie. "Addie, I've never slept with a she-wolf in our pack or otherwise." She looks at me clearly confused. "I really intended to save all my first for my mate, Addie." Realization flashes in her eyes and she looks between me and Bryce. "How could you? How could you with her brother after you found out you two were mates?"

She whirls on Bryce but before she can get close Logan wraps his arm around her waist. "You f**king disgusting pr*ck. You f**ked your sister's mate after they found each other and then treated her like sh*t." She turns back to me. "You need to tell mom and dad what you've done" she says and Bryce laughs. I growl but it doesn't stop his vicious words. "You think your father doesn't know, he does. Hell, he's the real reason Rose left," Bryce says triumphantly.

Addie looks at me with devastation in her eyes. She has always been a daddy's girl. "What is he talking about Reese? What did dad do?" "Addie, it's my fault that Rose left. I love her and I'll do anything to gain her forgiveness." "No more secrets or lies, Reese. What did dad do to, Rosie" she demands. "He insisted that she would share me with Bryce just as twins do." I watch the color drain from her face before she runs for the trash can. She bends purging everything from her stomach.

I make my way over trying to move her hair but she pushes me away. Once she has righted herself, she turns to look at me. "You have till the end of the day to tell mom exactly what happened or I will. I never thought I would be ashamed to be your sister Reese, but I am." She reaches out her hand to Logan and they leave without another word. Bryce starts to speak but I silence him with a growl. "Dad, I need you and Cain to come to my office now."

Rosalyn POV

I know what Zora and Emmett want me to do but what do I want. Am I willing to give him a chance to explain why he was such an a** to me? Am I willing to tell him about Reese? What if I do and he decides he doesn't want me? I don't know if I'll leave through another rejection. "There is no wrong answer, Rose. I know you're scared, but you are the strongest wolf I know. You owe it to yourself to have all the information before you make a decision," Emmett says.

I close my eyes and take a deep breath. When I open my eyes, I look between Stacey and Emmett. "Drive, but the minute I say I'm done Emmett you will come get me and take me home." "Absolutely" he says and presses a kiss on my forehead. I swear my heart is going to beat

out of my chest the closer we get to Beck's house. When Emmett pulls into the driveway, I see Beck is sitting on the steps of the porch. "Are you sure you don't want me to stay with you Rose," Emmett asks. "No, just make sure you answer your phone."

I push open the door, but before I can get out Stacey grabs my hand. "I promise you he knows what an idiot he's been. We are going to get Lily and take her for ice-cream." My heart squeezes in my chest when I think about Lily. She is meant to be mine. I nod and get out. I stand staring at the man that is meant to be my second chance. I feel like I'm rooted to the spot. Like my legs are too heavy to move. After a few seconds he starts to move toward me.

When he's a few feet away he stops. The scent of sandalwood and leather that was faint before is now heavy around me. Zora purrs and my eyes never leave Beck's. "Roselyn, thank you for coming here. I know I don't deserve the chance to apologize for my actions but I would like to. I would also like to spend some time with you. Would you go for a walk with me?"

He offers me his hand but I don't take it. "I agreed to come here because I want to know why you don't want to be mates. I think you owe me that much. I don't think we should touch. It will just reinforce a bond that may never happen." He lowers his hand by his side and I see regret in his eyes. "I'm hoping that after we talk Rosalyn, you'll give me a second chance to show you that I do want to be mates" he says.

My belly flips but I keep my face impassive. I won't allow myself to give into hope until I hear what he has to say. Goddess, I pray that he means what he just said. I don't think my heart can take another rejection.