

## Chapter 11

"I freaking told you dragons were real!" Fiona screamed eagerly.

"I can see that!"

"And this proves that you are connected to the moon shard." She seemed more excited than terrified, and I, for one, was scared out of my damn mind.

"We can talk about that later when we actually survive. Now, run for your life and the life of your unborn child, as well as the life of everyone in this pack because if a dragon kills you, Leonardo will massacre the entire pack."

"Good point," she mumbled as we dashed behind a tree, but we hit sudden break as another abomination came into view. We turned to go in the other direction, but we were cornered. Suddenly, another one emerged until we were completely surrounded.

With no escape.

\*Earlier That Day...\*

The pack was beautiful. We had been touring all morning, and we had just visited the last place of importance.

I got to see their packhouse. It was huge, as I suspected. But what I found weird but oddly impressive was that some wolves lived separately from the packhouse in their own homes.

At Armor Pack, everyone lived in the packhouse, except for us who lived in the Alpha House, and the packhouse had more than enough room for everyone. Each child still got their own rooms, and mates got their privacy just the same.

Perhaps living in my brother's shadow all my life made me always wish to be alone with my mate someday. I simply believe that some people would be more comfortable on their own.

The rest of the pack was just as interesting. I saw their town, parks, and schools, and we even went shopping. I got some new clothes and general girl stuff that I'd need but forgot to pack, like my hairbrush and scrunches.

I didn't miss the odd looks I got, though, especially when we went to eat. First, their noses would twitch, then they would start searching for the intruder. But when they saw me with Fiona, they became extremely nice and calm, and some, more than others, curious.

However, Fiona didn't tell them who I was. If I was introduced to anyone, she didn't mention anything about Maxim or Lukas, which I was grateful for. I was more thankful that they respected her as their Beta female. As far as I saw, no one called for Lukas or Maxim because of mistrust.

They seemed like wonderful wolves. I always thought that Primal pack wolves were like the Alphas. I've heard stories that they were mean and serious, so naturally, I thought the pack members were the same. It was good to know that they weren't, though. They oddly even gravitated to me.

Perhaps I would like it here more than I thought. Only time will tell.

"So? What did you think?" Fiona asked as we sat at the pack border at the edge of a scary-looking cliff. According to Fiona, only the high-ranking wolves were allowed to come this far, and it was a great hang-out area.

I shrugged. "It was surprisingly awesome. And it got my mind off, you know who."

"Who?" she questioned in genuine uncertainty until her face lit in realization. "Ooh, right."

I chuckled. She was so sweet and cute, and it was safe to say that I trusted her. The hours we've been together gave me a deeper glimpse of who she was, and I already loved her. She was protective. Perhaps it was her newly motherly instincts that caused it. She was also hilarious but sarcastic and completely oblivious. It would take a few seconds for her to actually pick up on a hidden joke or something.

We sent our bags back to the house and drove out here. We had just finished our third meal for the day and now swung empty milkshake cups in our hands.

"Well, I'm glad," she said. "To admit, the reason I insisted on taking you to tour the pack was that I feared you'd hate it if Lukas took you instead because he's so boring." She chuckled lightly, and I did too. "I wanted to make it interesting so you wouldn't demand to leave. I know it's stupid."

I resisted the urge to gush. "For what it's worth, you have been the only highlight of coming here. My first friend." Her face broke out in a massive smile as we shared a small hug.

We stayed like that for a while, as the light breeze brushed our hair all about. Then, out of nowhere, Fiona's face fell, and she jumped to her feet. I got cautious.

"What is it?" I asked urgently.

"Don't you smell that?" she asked with her face scrunched in disgust. "Like smoke."

I took a while to sniff around, and surely, there was a faint smell of smoke but no fire.

"What is that?" I questioned, peering down the deep cliff.

Fiona shook her head and pulled at my hand. "I don't know, but let's go."

I didn't protest as she pulled me. Her long legs were going so fast that I had to jog to keep up with her. I was relieved when we neared the car, but something was wrong with it.

"Wait," I said, halting Fiona's running. "Something is wrong." The scent became oddly more potent the closer we got to the car, and it wasn't until I stopped that Fiona noticed too.

"You're right-" She was barely able to finish because a huge, scaly monster jumped from behind the car with ripped clothes across his neck.

I could barely hear my scream as I pulled Fiona in the opposite direction. He followed us, making a roaring sound from his throat as he chased us. The good thing was that he moved slowly on wings, but I was too terrified to even celebrate.

To run back to the Alpha house would be suicide, and we knew it.

I pumped my legs faster.

"I freaking told you dragons were real!" Fiona screamed eagerly.

"I can see that!" I pointed out as I pulled her along.

"And this proves that you are connected to the moon shard." She seemed more excited than terrified, and I, for one, was scared out of my freaking mind. I was convinced there and then that she was crazy.

"We can talk about that later when we actually survive. Now, run for your life and the life of your unborn child, as well as the life of everyone in this pack because if a dragon kills you, Leonardo will massacre the entire pack!"

"Good point," she mumbled as we dashed behind a tree, but we hit sudden break as another abomination

came into view. We turned to go in the other direction, but we were cornered. Suddenly, another one emerged until we were completely surrounded.

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Their orange eyes peered at us, and their long, red tongues flickered out now and then like snakes. Their claws were longer than my pinky finger, and their tails were thick like tree limbs.

I gulped.

If Fiona was correct, they'd probably want to take me alive if they believed I was indeed connected to this moon shard. But her? They'll kill her.

I wouldn't let that happen.

It seemed like she caught on as well, as her eyes were now teary and her knees buckled in fear.

"We'll have to shift and fight and make a run for it. We can outrun them," I whispered, but this only caused her to cry.

"I-I can't shift. Pregnant wolves can't shift," she told me. I completely forgot. "Leo is on his way. He felt my initial fear, and he left instantly. I'll call for backup through my mind link."

I nodded in determination. "Okay, I'll shift and hold them off until then. When I clear the way, run and hide, okay?"

She nodded without hesitation as I summoned my wolf. But suddenly, a blur emerged from the trees and tackled a dragon to the ground. I noticed that it was a large, grey wolf with an oddly familiar scent. He radiated Alpha power, which only confirmed my thoughts even more.

With one bite, he sank his teeth in the dragon's neck, killing it on the spot. The other dragons barely got a chance to blink because our saviour took down the next two in one jump, ripping their throats out one after the other.

Fiona and I held onto each other as we watched the scene unfolding in front of us. The wolf's chest heaved up and down as he turned towards us. His amber eyes found me first, assessing me as if searching for bruises. Luckily, we were unharmed. But if it wasn't for him, then...

"Oh, thank goodness Maxim arrived," Fiona mumbled as she squeezed me tighter. "Leo must've told him, and Maxim is the fastest."

As she spoke, a brown wolf that I assumed was Leonardo from his scent emerged from the trees. He was in attack mode, but he relaxed when his eyes fell on the dead dragons. Fiona let me go, dashed towards him, and hugged him around his neck.

He seemed relieved that she was okay, and so was I.

As I faced Maxim again, I noticed that he was still watching me. His nozzle was bloody. I had no idea what took me over, but I shrugged my jacket off my shoulder and moved towards him. I then dabbed the cloth over the blood, getting rid of as much blood as possible. He closed his eyes at my touch, and I felt peaceful.

Perhaps it was gratitude, but I felt compelled to keep touching him. His wolf was tall. I towered over him by only a few inches, so he was about five feet tall from the ground. He'd probably be about eleven feet if he should stand on his hind legs.

His fur was soft and grey, and his paws were white. I liked his wolf. He was beautiful.

He bent his front legs, so he was shorter, and I noticed that he was telling me to get on. I flickered my eyes

towards the dead dragons then towards Leonardo and Fiona. She was already on his back, ready to go, and so I slowly climbed onto Maxim's back.

As we dashed through the trees, tears ran from my eyes. Obviously, there was more to myself that I didn't know. What Fiona said was true. I was connected to this moon shard, and the dragons came for me on the Sun Dragon's behalf.

My only question was, why didn't they come after me all along? I had been alive for over twenty years, and nothing had attacked me. But I'd been here for one day, and they found me.

I wondered if when my parents disappeared with that blue light as Toya described it, did they somehow leave some sort of spell on Armor Pack that hid me from the dragons? I knew it sounded ridiculous, but I was just attacked by dragons. Anything was possible at this point.

I also hated that they took me off-guard. If I was prepared, I wouldn't be so awestruck, and I'd know what to do. I wasn't prepared, and I hated that.

I hated that someone had to come and save us. I hate whatever this wretched curse is.

Fiona might believe it was a gift, but to me, the moon shard was a curse. It got me shunned all my life, and now it will get me killed. Those dragons will come back, and I have no idea how to stop it.

I felt Maxim slowing down as my tears soaked through his fur. He whined and threw his head up to nudge me with his nose. I knew this was more of his wolf and less of him. I had nothing against Maxim's wolf. Even though we are one with our wolves, the wolf side was more possessive, protective and felt the bond greater. They barely, if ever, influence our mundane decisions. And besides, when we were twelve, Maxim didn't have his wolf yet. So, I had no reason to hate his wolf.

In fact, I felt awful for hurting the wolf side of him. But what can I do? Maxim already rejected me.

I kept my head buried in his fur until he started running again. Lukas was there when we finally arrived at the Alpha house, also shifted and circling the house protectively.

I hopped from Maxim's back and followed Fiona inside as the men shifted.

I held onto her hand to stop her, and it was then that she noticed that I had been crying.

"Oh my gosh, what's wrong?" she asked as she pulled me into a hug.

"Can you... can you not say anything about the moon shard?" I asked.

I knew it seemed stupid to keep it from the Alphas. But I wanted to know more first before I told anyone. And if I was being honest, I was terrified that they'd throw me out for being a magnet for danger to their precious pack.

"What? Why not?"

I shook my head. "Just please, trust me on this. Not yet." Though she seemed reluctant, she nodded nonetheless.

"Okay. But if this happens again, I'm telling, okay?"

"Fair enough." I forced a smile and pulled her into a hug. I needed a long, long nap.

The back door opened, and Maxim and Leonardo entered. Lukas was still scouting, and I saw as he dashed for the forest through the creak of the door.

"What the hell was those things?" Leonardo asked instantly.

"Dragons," I told him.

Maxim kept a reasonable distance away with his face stoic.

Leonardo took a while to register, but he didn't seem as surprised as I expected. It seemed like I was the only one who didn't know the story about the Sun Dragon and Moon Goddess until this morning.

He then turned to Maxim with newfound confusion. "How did you know they were in danger?" Leonardo asked him. This puzzled me. Wasn't Leonardo the one to tell him?

Maxim dropped his gaze and turned his back, and I found it a bit sketchy until he finally answered.

"I felt Melissa's fear and found her," he finally said, which confused me even more.

Didn't he reject me? The bond was supposed to be broken. He shouldn't be able to feel anything related to me. So this only meant one thing.

He didn't really reject me. The bond was not broken.



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