



Chapter 0193

There was a low murmur of voices in the private sitting room on the first floor, but the doors were still open to the hallway, letting the sound carry out for anyone to hear.

"You saw something, didn't you? Your aura has changed since the mountains. What did you see, my dear?" My mother's voice was low but easy to pick up with my wolf hearing. She sounded very concerned but firm. It was interesting how she voiced her words in a way that sounded like a question but was delivered as if she were demanding a response.

As we rounded the corner, both women looked our way. Joselin seemed almost relieved to have us join them. I wanted to ask what they were talking about, what Joselin saw that had been bothering her. But the man standing by the fireplace immediately had my interest. He stepped toward us as he stared at me, and I felt myself moving closer to Killian as we entered the room.

Joselin glanced from us to the man with a raised eyebrow of curiosity, but I had no idea where to start. Seeing him drop into a bow was the last thing I expected, and an uncomfortable laugh was forced from my lips.

"Natalie, how are you feeling?" My mother asked, standing

from her seat next to Joselin. She rushed toward me, her long black hair swaying as she approached and pulled me in for a hug.

I was stunned by the unexpected show of affection, and Joselin smirked at me over my mother's shoulder in a 'now you know how I felt' look. I stuck my tongue out at her, happy to see it made her smile, but I quickly collected myself when the man moved forward again. My arms wrapped around my mother, and she held me tighter for a minute before letting me go.

"I am fine. I should be asking you that." I said, holding her elbows as she pulled away and scanning her over. Her injuries seemed to be gone, but maybe she was just really good at hiding them.

"I am as good as new." She said before turning and gesturing toward the couches for us all to sit together.

The sound of footsteps coming down the hallway made me pause, and I bit back a groan when Rona appeared. "Oh! I'm so sorry! I didn't realize anyone would be in here."

I glanced over my shoulder with a forced smile as she narrowed her eyes at Joselin. "We are having a private family discussion, but you are free to use the room when we are done."

The redhead turned to me, dipping her head slightly before turning back to Joselin.

"Not a problem. Joselin and I will just be on our way then."
Rona turned until her body was perpendicular to the door, raising her eyebrows challengingly at my friend.

"Nonsense," my mother chimed in. "This is a family discussion; she is family, so she will stay. Please close the door on your way out, dear."

I pressed my lips together as I could hear Rona grinding her teeth before she turned and stormed out, closing the doors harder than necessary behind her.

"I hope you don't mind," Aurora said, sending me a small smile over her shoulder. "That girl just rubs me the wrong way."

I shook my head, too distracted by the man still staring at me to respond. In this lighting, his hair was undoubtedly the same shade as mine.

"Henry, welcome," Killian said, extending his hand and stunning the Alpha, who promptly shook it. "I don't believe you have met my mate, Queen Natalie Amery."

The man turned to me, his pale green eyes boring into mine as he smiled widely. Water lined his lids, and he cleared his throat before responding. "No, but your mother has told me a lot about you over the past few days. I really look forward to getting to know you."

Chapter 0194

Natalie's P.O.V.

My mother nodded subtly as I turned to look at her, answering my unspoken question of whether he knew who I was to him. She managed to look more terrified than I felt, which only made me even more anxious.

"Henry," I tested the name, unsure how to address him. I still avoided calling Aurora by her name when I spoke to her. I didn't want to offend her by calling her Aurora instead of mom or mom instead of her name since she hadn't been in my life for more than a few months. "It is nice to meet you. Please, have a seat."

I gestured with my hand toward the couch and armchairs by the fireplace, and he nodded before taking a seat in one of the individual chairs.

Joselin was openly examining him with her head tilted to the side. Her back was straight, and her legs were crossed, looking every bit as beautiful and poised as she was terrifying.

"I'm under the impression that you know why you're here, so I'm just going to come out and say it to clear the air." I swallowed hard, stalling as I moved to take my own seat. Killian stood at my side as I sat back on the couch, his arms crossed. I was speaking to Henry, but my eyes traveled to

Aurora as my statement came out sounding more like a question. "You're my birth father."

It had been up to me to decide if I wanted to meet him. But then he recognized me as Aurora's daughter. If that wasn't the giveaway based on my age tang their history together, our matching features could have done it. Once he knew, it was no longer my choice. It was his. He chose to come back when he could have just returned home. He could have pretended that I never existed, and it would have been the end of it.

He made a choked noise before clearing his throat at my words, and I bit my lip. "You're an Alpha?"

The bitter irony that I had been treated like an omega in my last pack made me want to laugh, but there was no point. I had already won when they discovered that I was the daughter of the Descendant and was crowned their queen. I was no longer the runt of the pack.

"Yes, and you are a queen. Your brothers will be so jealous when they find out." He said offhandedly, and I felt my breathing stop. He hadn't said his other children or his sons ... he said my "brothers."

"I have brothers?"

Joselin shifted in her seat, and I glanced over to see a stunned look on her face, realizing this was the first time she was learning about my father as well.

"Yes," He laughed, his voice thick with emotion. "Two."

"And you are planning on telling them about me?" It almost hurt to ask for confirmation. But I feared that I was going to be cast aside again. Everything seemed too good to be true, and I was waiting for the color to fade and the shadow men to drag me away, waking me from my dream life.

"Of course! I have no doubt that they will want to know you too." He nodded.

"What about your mate? I don't think she will be happy with me." I shifted, my pinky touching the side of Killian's thigh for comfort where he was leaning against the arm of the couch. "I won't take it personally if you want to keep this a secret... me a secret. I have to imagine she won't like knowing about me."

Henry's gaze moved to where I was touching Killian, and the look in his eyes was a deep, soul-crushing pain. "I'm sure it would have, but my mate passed when our boys were little."

"I'm sorry to hear that."

There was a tense and awkward silence as we tried to figure out what to say to each other, but he broke it when he rubbed his palms on his pants and leaned forward to place his elbows on his knees. "I understand you were raised by another couple. Did they come with you when you moved here?"