

Chapter 0015

"Skylar! It's so nice to see you! Are you joining the boys for their bonfire?" Speak of the devil.

"Hi Luna Ava, how are you? The guys did invite us if that's okay." I was suddenly unsure of how all of this works. I've never been invited to a party and certainly didn't expect the Luna to be sitting on her back patio when we got here. "This is my friend Sierra, she is staying with warriors Robert and Stephanie for the year. She's in the same grade as Mateo and the twins."

Now I can't seem to stop talking, why am I nervous? This woman has been the closest thing to a mom I have ever known.

"Hello Sierra, it's nice to meet you. You must be the one that sparred with our Skylar here this morning. You both are the talk of the warriors today, isn't that right dear?" She looks over her shoulder, with a smile that lets me know she is implying something, but I'm not sure what.

I didn't even realize that the Alpha was out here too, man what happened to my observation skills all of a sudden.

"You got that right" He sits up from his reclined position, his gruff laugh contrasts with his thick eyebrows and natural stern look. "None of my warriors have been able to beat your take down time, including Delta Kyle and Gamma Brett." He

laughed to himself again. "Trust me they tried for a solid three hours, changing up who they each fought and everything. We have a few bruised egos being nursed tonight." He smiles as he relaxes back in his chair like he is savoring the joke.

Sierra laughed next to me. "That is amazing! And thank you again Alpha and Luna for letting me spend the school year here. I really do appreciate it."

"Not a problem dear. Clearly it was the right choice." The Luna winked at us. "You had better be on your way or all the good seats next to the fire will be gone." She wiggled her eyebrows at us and I have no idea what that was supposed to mean, but Sierra clearly did as she grabbed my arm and started to drag me away.

We followed the path of little twinkling lights through the woods and walked about 10 minutes before we could hear voices and see the warm glow of the fire. We walked through a small crowd of people. I'm not sure if it was invite only or just upperclassmen or what, but there were only about 30 people milling about. Maybe it was just early still. I have no idea what to expect or what I am doing, so I just follow Sierra since she seems to have a destination in mind. When we walk a little further around the very large fire I can see where she is leading us. My brother and his friends are posted up on the far side of the clearing guarding what look like coolers. We barely stepped around the fire and as soon as we were visible, Sam shouted. "You made it! Finally, we

have been waiting forever.” The other four guys snapped their heads our way. That earned us some looks from the surrounding crowd. I am for sure out of place here based on the looks we are getting and Sierra either doesn’t notice or doesn’t care. I’m guessing, doesn’t care.

“Hello boys, we are right on time. Don’t be dramatic Sam.” She smiles at him as we walk closer.

“Wow! You both look great! Do you want a drink? We have water, soda, beer, take your pick.” He is far too eager and it’s kind of cute.

“I’ll start with water, Skylar?” Sierra looks back at me. I think she took the safe option for me so I wouldn’t feel so out of place and I am grateful for it. She must know what I’m thinking because she winks at me.

“Water for me too, please.” I look at Sam as he trots away and kicks some kid off the furthest cooler he was using as a seat and grabs two bottles of water. We keep walking towards my brother and his friends, reaching them the same time Sam does with our bottles.

“Seriously though, what took so long? Your car was back the same time we were with supplies.” Neither of you live that far.” Was he pouting again? That little wounded boy look must work for him to keep trying that with us.

We both laugh at him, but Sierra comes in with a great response. She cups his face and runs her thumb along his lower lip. And if he were a cartoon, hearts would be

shooting out of his eyeballs and his tongue would have dropped on the floor and rolled away into the forest. "Tuck that lip in Sugar, save it for girls who fall for it. Perfection like this is not free, nor is it easy. It takes time and cannot be rushed." She looks back at me and winks again, she definitely knows what she is doing. I feel like I should be taking notes.

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Chapter 0016

I giggle with her and take a sip of water, which draws the attention of Cameron and Dakota. "She is right, it was definitely worth the wait." Dakota says not taking his eyes off of me and I'm not sure what to make of that, so I break eye contact only to lock eyes with Cameron who is nodding and then Oliver who is hiding a smile behind his beer bottle. I don't know if I have ever seen him smile, but I don't have time to ponder that as Cameron draws my attention again.

"I don't know if I have ever seen your hair up like that, it looks nice Sky." He says looking puzzled, like he's trying to figure something out.

"Yeah, Tiny, who'd you get all dressed up for?" Dakota winks at me.

"Who are you calling Tiny?" I scoffed at him "I had no control over what I look like, my look is that of a hostage situation by a very demanding friend." I smile over at Sierra who is laughing at something Sam was saying. Before Dakota could reply to me, Sierra jumped in.

"It was not a hostage situation, I was just being a good friend and highlighting all of your amazing assets." I rolled my eyes at her. She wasn't wrong though. She found this amazing blue coat that accentuated the grey of my eyes and the eye make-up she did made my eyes glow almost silver.

She then pulled my blonde hair into a high ponytail and added soft curls to it making me look taller and more confident. I still had my jeans, t-shirt and black combat boots on from school today. She didn't do a lot, but what she did made me look like a different person.

I don't know how long we stood there talking to the guys, but we seemed to have their undivided attention. My brother and even Oliver joined in the conversation after a while. I found out Oliver was actually really smart and took a ton of extra math classes. He and I had a long discussion that went over the heads of everyone else, at least one of them likes school, it makes me feel less weird. Cameron and Dakota were talking about a few of the things their dad wants them to consider since they are becoming co-Alphas and some of the other pressures they had to think about. My brother even talked about the pressure dad put on him to be the best beta. We found out all five of them were into sports and training. They have all tried almost every outdoor sport there is to try, several I would love to join them on. I think Sierra just has that charm about her, it draws you in and if she chooses to pull you in you can't resist. These guys have never had these kinds of conversations around me let alone with me.

Dakota walked by me after getting another beer, stopped right next to me and looked straight down into my face. "You really are tiny, Tiny. What happened? Was Mateo given all the height and nothing was left over for you?" He stood towering over me, his six foot and growing frame required

me to tilt my head all the way back to look at his face. It should have intimidated or frightened me to have him this close, but I didn't feel anything but safe around any of these guys.

"I guess I never realized how small you are, Smalls." Cameron added. My head was so far back, I only had to shift my gaze slightly to notice he was right behind me. Not touching, like Dakota, but close enough to feel the body heat radiating off of them.

Still not intimidated, I responded the only way I could think of, like Sierra. "I guess some of us needed less time to reach perfection. Some of you are still working out the rough edges." They both smiled at me.

"Like a fine wine, Little Bit, we are only getting better with age." Sam chimes in, his arm firmly grasped around Sierra where it's been for the last hour or so since she switched to beer. We all laughed at him.

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