## Chapter 0034

"Wait, what? No way! Didn't I just say I wasn't running to anyone for help?"

"Not for help. You don't have to give me details, I want to know so I can help you heal quickly. You won't let anyone step in, but you at least let Delta Kyle give you stuff to treat the really bad injuries. Let me be a part of that, but I want to know immediately. The first time I see a new cut or bruise or whatever and you haven't told me. I'm going to the guys."

My eyes widened in shock. "You wouldn't?"

"I would. Starting with your brother." She crosses her arms and stands to her full 5'7" height. Daring me to object.

I roll my eyes, she knows I'm caught now, I can't do anything but accept. If I don't she'll just go to the guys anyway. " Fine." I grumble out.

"Fine what?" She raises her eyebrows not wavering from her demanding stance.

"Fine. I will tell you anytime bullying happens so you can help me heal."

"Great!" She chirps, her mood changing instantly and wraps me in a tight hug. "I, sort of, understand why you are doing this, but you really don't have to be alone, okay? And we need to get the guys on board with opening their minds and observation skills. They really do suck at noticing things happening right under their noses."

I just nod and let her hold me while I force the tears down. I will not cry here, not at school, not when anyone could be watching. They will not get to me. I only have a little bit more time here and then hopefully we can all grow up.

## \*\*\*

This is how the rest of my freshman year goes. The winter was brutal, but kept to the same training schedule I always did, no matter the weather or how much my frineds complained. Sierra, finally, convinces me that it is okay to let the guys in a little bit as friends, but I keep it to training and school as much as possible. No matter how many times they invited me to parties and to the diner again, I always found a way to get out of it.

I may be a little crazy for allowing the bullying to continue, but I'm not suic\*dal. I am not trying to earn jealousy punishments too. Other girls give me dirty looks when I am with the guys, they just don't go to the extremes that Kaley and he friends do.

As the school year goes on, more and more rumors start flying about Kaley being the next Luna and no matter what Cam and Kota say or do to squash them, the rumors just keep coming. I'm sure most of it has to do with Kaley cornering one or both of the twins at every possible chance in and out of school with hands all over them. Social media

pictures have started popping up too. From what the guys say, the Alpha isn't going to do anything right now since everyone is underage and it's 'harmless teenagers practicing marking their territory.'

She also shoots any girl who looks their way a death glare, giving the universal girl sign for back the 'F' up off my men. I don't know how much of her crazy behavior the guys see though. She can turn it on and off like a switch. I'm sure the rumors are all started by her through Marnie and Jeanie.

At least hanging out with all five guys together, she couldn't really accuse me of going after the ones she wants and what is she going to say about me hanging out with my brother? We are less than a year apart in age, making us almost as close as Cam and Kota.

I was true to my word and went to Sierra every time an injury happened. She did a decent job of holding in her anger and never asked me questions, but she was right, I wasn't alone and her knowledge of healing solutions, powders and creams was seemingly endless. I recovered in no time with her help and my wolf didn't have to work so hard to help me heal, allowing me to get stronger. I was also becoming more comfortable in the crazy ass clothing she is trying to get me into. I'm no longer allowed to wear all baggy long clothing that allows me to hide. According to her, I have to show off the figure I have earned with all my over training.

## Chapter 0035

Crap really hits the fan in the spring when our annual mating ball happens. It was originally designed for any wolves who are 18 or older, who are unmated, to try and find their mate if they are in the pack. We can't find our mate until the first full moon following our 18th birthday so if your mate is older or younger you just have to wait to find out. About a decade ago or so, the school council decided that any of the highschoolers could attend the ball too. This basically took the place of our spring dance. I think it was a way for them to get out of having to host and chaperone a high school dance, but that's just me. Elther way, it has become THE event of the year and come April, was all the girls could talk about.

I honestly could care less. I never had any friends to go to things like this with and I really didn't like dressing up. I have my dad to thank for that. Any time we had to dress up for some event he was required to take both Mateo and I. He would have me dress a little closer to the queen of England on a business trip than a young girl. The skirt suit felt like a straight jacket and was not comfortable in any form. So now when I hear 'formal' that is all I can think of.

Since I wanted nothing to do with it, naturally my best friend was obsessed. Sierra had drawings upon drawings of dresses she imagined for this dance. It didn't even matter,

we couldn't find our mates yet anyway. She did not like or care for my logic and ignored my lack of enthusiasm at the idea of dressing to impress.

One day at advanced training she threw me under the bus with Luna Ava, hoping to get an ally. "What color do you think would look best on Sky, Luna?" All the women had been casually taking about past mating balls and regalling us with their stories. The question was innocent enough, but it shocked me and I froze, allowing the female warrior I was sparring with to take me down.

At least the Alpha finally made these training session private. No one saw me take the distracted hit or could eavesdrop on this conversation.

"She could actually get away with several colors, I think. Blue in any shade would bring out her eyes and make her hair glow. But deep jewel tones would look amazing on her skin tone. What were you thinking?" Luna AVa throws over without bslowing her movements down. Like to conversation was a part of the sparring she was doing.

"I'm not sure, really. She refuses to dress shop with me and says she isn't going to the dance, leaving me all alone with these crazy boys. And we have to go, this will be my only year here. I leave this summer to go back home and we can't miss the 'biggest event of the year.'" She air quotes the overused tagline. Making a pathetic pouty face to go right along with it. I close my eyes and take a deep breath through my nose, adjusting the shoulder that took the brunt

of the hit.

Luna Ava stops to look at me now. "Oh, sweetheart, you have to go. You will have so much fun, we have so many things planned. I normally wouldn't push a freshman to go, but you can't miss going with your best friend and who would keep the boys out of trouble?" Her pout matches Sierra's.

"Let's get something straight, No one keeps the boys out of trouble." All the females on our end of the training arena laugh loudly. "And I don't really see the point in prancing around in uncomfortable clothes and shoes like a slave for auction when I can't even sense my mate, therefore getting nothing out of the torture."

Luna Ava and the other females just laugh again, they know I'm not wrong, but at the same time, I'm wavering. They are right too, I can't miss Sierra's only dance here in the pack. Ugh, I can't believe I am considering this. I rub my temples with my fingertips.

"It's not all bad and depending on the dress there are some remarkably comfortable undergarments that help you feel like you're wearing regular clothes. How do you think I got through all the formal events with the Alpha? If you don't want to buy a new dress, I'm sure I or any of the ladies here have several things you could look at and we can have them altered. We could always do a dress day at the packhouse, it would be so much fun!" She claps her hands and is getting far too excited. I can see the wheels turning. Oh Goddess

