

## Chapter 2- Mate

Emma POV

Today is my eighteenth birthday and it is the day that I should be able to find my mate. Many my age would be jumping around for joy, excited to meet their other half but I am not. I would be happy not to meet my mate, I just want to live my life and do what I want. My brother and father support me on this one, but my mother and sister have taken to bullying me over it. Not that they needed another excuse.

I stand in front of the mirror; I am currently in a navy-blue strapless dress. It is heart shaped at the top, showing off my assets but looking smart at the same time. The top of the dress is adorned with silver gems and goes to my waist, where the dress is made of chiffon and goes to the ground.

I have on a diamond necklace and bracelet with tear drop silver earrings. My hair is half up and half down, showing off all of my piercings on my ears much to my mother's chagrin. But I refuse to not show who I am. After all, it may be a pack party to welcome Alpha Inga and his associates, but it is also my birthday and I want to do me.

Hello Emma. Happy birthday girl! I hear a voice in my head, one I have never heard before. Confusion fills my brain before realisation it's me.

Oh my god! Oh my god! You're my wolf, aren't you? Hello, it is lovely to meet you. I am Emma, and I will try to do my best for you.

Hello Emma, I am Ruby. And from what I have seen you already are.

What do you mean? I am nothing but a warrior's daughter.

You are kind-hearted, always lending a hand and don't let others actions of hate towards you taint your own heart. We will get along just fine.

I smile, thinking that I have the kindest and best wolf in the history of werewolves.

A knock on the door pulls me from my thoughts.

"Come in." I say.

The door opens and Matt enters, a smile on his face.

"Hey sis, looking lovely today. That dress is stunning on you."

"Oh brother, you jest. I just look ordinary. You look smart in your tuxedo." I say, smiling. Matt looks really smart; I am sure his mate made him dress up like that.

"Ha-ha, thanks sis, that means a lot. And you looks stunning, I am sure you will be the belle of the ball." He says, pulling me into a hug.

"Oh yeah, before I forget. Happy birthday sis!" Matt passes me a small parcel.

I open the parcel, inside is a golden locket on a thin chain. I take it out and put it on, it sits perfectly. It's not too big and not too small, it looks gorgeous.

I turn and jump on my brother, he ends up stepping back from the impact but quickly regains himself. His arms wrap around me.

"Thank you so much." I say, my head laying on his shoulder.

"Nothing is too good for my little sister on her special day. Now come one, time to head down stairs." Matt puts me down and pulls me out of the room, knowing I have been delaying this moment. Being the centre of attention never appealed to me, actually I hate it. That's why I didn't want a big party or anything for my birthday, the fact that this party for Alpha Inga and his men is today was just a coincidence but it gave my brother and father a reason to spoil me in the party wear department.

"Oh, here comes the trash of the family. Just stay away from me at the party, lth." Melanie spits at me as soon as I enter the living room, turning on her heel and storming out of the house.

"Just ignore her, Alpha hasn't been available all day and that's made her angry." Dad says, putting a hand on my shoulder.

"Why?" I ask.

"Because he has been ignoring her." Matt says, coming to stand on the other side of me.

"Come on Em, lets go." Dad says, handing me a jacket.

"Thanks pops but I am going to stay here a while. My friends are due any minute as they wanted to walk in with me today." I say, smiling.

Matt and dad smile at me.

"See you at the party." They say and walk off, closing the door behind them.

Not long after Jacki and Luke turn up and we head out to the great hall.

I walk into the hall with Jacki and Luke, Jerry and Kyo already being at the party as they were there as guards in training earlier. When we enter the party is in full swing.

"You look gorgeous." A man says as he passes by, stopping to bow and take my hand in his and give it a kiss, making me feel like a princess.

"Why thank you sir." I say smiling, curtsying in jest.

"Anything for a pretty lady." He says before bowing again and walking away.

"Who was that?" I ask, I have never seen the man before in my life and I would definitely remember such a handsome man. He was tall, dressed in a dark green suit with a white shirt. His blue eyes sparkled like diamonds and his raven black hair complimented his angelic face.

"That was Alpha Inga." Jerry says, coming over to join us. "You look beautiful Emma."

"Thank you, no way was that Alpha Inga. I heard he was frightening, but he was really charming." I say.

"He was more frightening this morning, I can tell you. Even Kyo was scared, and he isn't scared of anyone." Jerry comments.

We all head onto the dance floor, Jerry and Jacki dance together and Luke and I dance together. I am sure that Jacki and Jerry will be mates, it's the way they have both had a crush on each other since year dot, and the way they look at each other. The moon goddess would be blind not to match them.

As we dance around the room I keep getting a faint whiff of a lovely scent. Then all of a sudden the scent hits me strong when we go near the buffet table.

I look around, the scent of pine and chocolates filling my nose and making a foreign feeling creep into my body. I look around, trying to find the source of the scent.

MATE! MATE! Ruby says, prancing around in my head like an excited puppy. I quickly walk over to the group of people where the smell is coming from. I am shocked to see that it is Alpha Inga, Beta Edward, Melanie and Alpha Eric with some of Alpha Inga's men. But who the scent was coming from was the most surprising of all.

"Mate" Alpha Eric says, turning and looking at me. The moment of happiness is short lived. Before I can do anything, the words no one wants to hear are spoken.

"I, Alpha Eric Zanner, hereby reject Emma Belle Locke as my mate and Luna." Alpha Eric says, looking me right in the eye. I can see the pain start to take effect as he stumbles from the pain, but I cannot feel anything.

I am taking the pain. Reject him now Ruby says to me. He is not worthy of us. She growls.

"I, Emma Belle Locke, reject you...." But before I can accept the rejection Alpha Eric slaps me across the face.

"I alpha order you NOT to accept my rejection." He snarls at me.

"What? Why would you be so cruel?" I ask, tears forming from my eyes while Melanie simply looks on, smirking at me.

"Because I need an heir, and that is what you will give me. You will become my personal breeder, be happy w\*\*\*e. I am promoting you from slut to breeder, you should be happy." Alpha Eric says to me, grabbing my face and digging his claws into it.

"But I am a virgin!" I shriek.

"Yeah right! Melanie has told me all about your escapades with the local men, never getting enough of them. You disgust me, why the moon goddess saw fit to mate me with you I will never know." Alpha Eric snarls.

"Kneel b\*\*\*h! You are nothing but a w\*\*\*e, a breeding machine for our great alpha. Hell, he might even let you pleasure the men. After all that is your favourite past time." Melanie sneers at me, glee evident in her eyes.

"Is that really necessary? In front of your guests?" Alpha Inga asks, looking at me with such sadness.

"She is my pack member and I will do with her how I see fit Alpha Inga." Alpha Eric growls.

"I will not be part of this. This is disgusting. She has not even done anything to you Alpha Eric other than be your mate. The accusations you have thrown her way are ridiculous, and if an outsider such as myself can tell that then I worry about the future of your pack. I will not have an alliance with you." Alpha Inga holds his hands up and takes a step back, mouthing 'sorry' as he and his men walk away.

I wish Alpha Inga could take me away with him. But I know to do so would mean war, and Alpha Inga is right to leave. If I was in his shoes, I would do the same.

"Guards, take this trash to the dungeons!" Alpha Eric orders. I don't even fight them, I just stand up and let them take me, leaving my heart and reputation on the floor.