

MY BESTFRIEND SLIPPED INSIDE ME

Chapter 191

Avery's pov

Xade's eyes widen in surprise and then he throws his head back and lets out a laugh that makes my insides warm. "You little vixen," he teased, eyes narrowing on my face when he sobered up, a grin dancing on his mouth.

"You knew all along and decided to torture me," his accusing tone was playful, making me grin at him all flustered.

"Did you think you were the only one in love with the other?" I smile, offering him the perfectly roasted marshmallow. He pulls it off the stick and tells me to open my mouth for a bite.

I do, biting into the gooey treat and sucking in a breath when Xade leaned forward to bite the other half, our lips brushing. He hums, and I moan at the feeling of his breath against my lips. He kisses me, softly and slowly, the taste of him and the marshmallow a burst of flavor on my tongue.

So sweet and delicious.

"God I love you," He breathe on my lips when he pulls away, staring at me with a glint of the love he shows me. I smile, my heart beating for him.

Do you remember that song you were obsessed with?" he suddenly ask, making my brows furrow as I try to rake through my brain for that song he was referring to. When it comes into mind, I flush, remembering the many times I forced him to play it and sing it along with me.

Now the words of the song couldn't feel more than what I would describe as our relationship. It was like it was meant for us.

I nod. "In case you didn't know by Brett Young,"

His eyes twinkled and he pulls out his phone from his pocket and swaps his thumb over the surface. I groaned when the song starts to blare through the phone. Xade chuckles, resting the phone on the blanket and rising to his feet.

He outstretches his hand and I look up at him. "What are you doing?" I ask, my stomach fluttering with little wild butterflies. "Asking my girl for a dance," his eyes twinkle with happiness and mischief.

My pulse races and I place my hand in his. He grips me firmly, his heat making my palms tingle as he gently pulls me to my feet. The music thrums in the air, and I gasp when he pulls me flush against him.

“In case you didn’t know,” his eyes brighten as he sings to me, making me giggle. “Baby I’m crazy ’bout you.”

I felt a shiver run down my spine. Even though these were the lyrics of the song, somehow it felt as if he were saying those words with all the meaning from his soul. And as he stares at me deeply I am even more convinced.

His arm wrap around my waist, his hand on my spine setting me on fire. I set my hands around his neck and let him sway me to the music as he continues.” And I would be lying if I said,” he rest his forehead against mine, our breaths mingling into one.

“Even though, I don’t tell you all the time,” he whispers, holding me tighter, letting me feel the beat of his heart against me. My eyes soften on his face, watching all the emotions play in his eyes.

You had my heart a long, long time ago,” he rubs the tip of his nose against mine, making my heart flutter. I joined him in singing and he smiles warmly, his eyes lighting with adoration.

“You’ve got all of me,” he turns me around and I giggle, my laughter blending with the music and Xade’s voice. “I belong to you,” he says truthfully, turning me back around to face him. As our eyes connect, something passes between us. Call it magic, but it was something so out of this world, we both felt it.

“Yeah, you’re my everything,” He whisper, pulling back and surprise me when he got on one knee. ” And I want all of you,”

I gasp, my heart pounding in my chest as he reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small velvet box. The world around us, even the forest seems to pause and watch us, holding their own breath.

Chapter 192

Xade’s pov

I had planned out everything in my mind when I ran through the woods to get back here. But as I stare at her teary eyes, everything I recited in my head plenty of times disappears.

She looks so beautiful, like a siren. My own little siren.

She deserves all the right words, she deserves everything I felt in my heart. My throat is scratchy and throbbing as I get emotional. She had dreamt of this, told me about it years ago. Always prayed for the right guy.

And as I go back down memory lane, I can see her with the windows down in my car, the wind blowing as the sunset light gleams behind her, making her blonde hair look so gold. An angel. I can remember that look in her eyes when she smiled and said she couldn't wait to get married to the love of her life while listening to this very song.

My heart had clenched painfully, pained that the love of her life would not have been me.

But now as I re-picture her eyes, I can see it now. I can see it. I can fucking see it. She had hoped it would be me. She wanted it to be just as bad as I wanted it to be me.

And tonight.

I am making it me.

My hands tremble slightly as I clutch the tiny velvet box, the nerves building in my body. My wolf yapped for me to hurry and please our mate, but I wanted this to be special enough to steady my racing nervous thoughts.

I opened the box, revealing the ring I just bought not too long ago. Her eyes fell to it and they teared up even more.

"Xade," she whispers, a lone tear slipping from her eye and I am itching to wipe it away and pull her in my arms.

I took in a deep breath, my tongue growing heavy with fright that I would say all the wrong things, but then I realize, this was Avery. The woman I love, the woman who I grew up with and even though I kept the secret of being a werewolf from her, she was still my Avery.

All I need to do is tell her everything from my heart.

I swallowed and then began to speak. "From the moment my eyes fell on you for the first time years ago I knew you would be in my life forever. At that time I didn't know how much and didn't know the depth of how much one can love another so deeply at such a young age,"

I watch her eyes glisten with more tears, a shaky breath leaving her throat, The sparkling glow of the fire brightens her face and my breath hitches. Perfect. She was absolutely perfect.

“But you surprised me Avery,” I continue, now not even sure where to go about this but letting my heart speak for me.” You surprised me with how much I can love you,” I swallow. “So much that I could not see my life without you. I could not even breathe if I ever thought of you leaving me.”

Her lower lip trembles just as my voice trembles. “My heart belonged to you. From our first encounter, our first kiss, our first time, until now, and until even more. You will always have my heart. I love you Avery,”

She hiccups as she cries silently, stepping closer as she stares at me with so much emotion in her eyes, that I almost forgot how to speak. I try to catch my breath. ” With everything in me. I love you.”

Avery,” my voice breaks with emotion as my throat tightens. marry me and make me the happiest werewolf alive?”

Will you

Tears stream down her face, as she nods eagerly. “Yes! Oh yes!” She pushes out her hand, giggling as I enthusiastically place the ring on her finger, laughing happily and rising to pull her flush against me and lift her feet off the ground. She laughs heartily.

“With everything in me I love you too Xade,” she breathe and smashes her lips on mine.

Chapter 193

Avery’s pov

As we kissed, Xade moves us to the music, holding me flush against him where I could feel his heart pace as quick as mine. I sighed, pulling away when I was out of breath and rest my head on his shoulder.

Since when did you get so smooth?” I decided to tease him, smiling like a love-sick puppy. And honestly, I am practically one since I am changing.

If you hadn’t already had me, those words are definitely a panty dropper.”

Xade snorts. “I had always been smooth,” he argued playfully and I giggle, nodding in agreement.

“I can’t believe we are engaged. It feels like only yesterday I snuck into your dorm and crawled on top of you,” I whisper. That night, everything changed between us and I wished it had happened sooner.

Xade chuckles. "Best night of my life, getting groped by you," he joked. Really went right for my cock that night," he snorted.

I pull away to swat his chest, flushing. "You liked it," I pointed out and his lips spread into a smirk.

"I loved it, enjoyed it," he admits. "Maybe we can recreate that night on our wedding night," he winks, making the flush on my skin get darker.

"Shut up," I grumble, resting my head back on his shoulder. When the song ends, Xade goes to sit back down and pulls me with him, planting me right on his lap. I snuggle against him, breathing in his scent.

It was just us two tonight and everything was perfect.

I had them put some raw meat there for you," he chuckle, squeezing me lightly. "Since you crave it and all, I wanted to make sure you have it here."

I pull away from his chest to look at him, cupping his cheek, brushing my thumb over the light stubble. "Why did we wait so long to be together? We could have been this happy long ago," I whisper, remembering how I wasted my time with Kyan.

Thank God he was expelled and I have never seen him ever since. I hope it stays that way. Bastard.

His eyes soften and he leans more into my touch, tilting his mouth to plant a kiss on my palm. "I should be the one to be blamed for that. I didn't want this life and what can happen to scare you,"

My eyes soften, my thumb brushing his bottom lip. "I didn't want you to get hurt or," his voice broke. "Die,"

My stomach rolls recalling the intense pain I was in not even a full day ago. I grin, trying to ease the tension I had created. "It's a good thing you creamed me that night," I joked, referring to that night I snuck into the dorm.

Xade's eyes twinkle with amusement and laughter and a soft guttural chuckle slips past his lips. "I guess it was huh," he joked, one of his hands stroking my stomach. "Never got to thank you for creaming all over me that night too," he teased, now stroking under my breasts. "Or thank you for accepting my cream-

Xade," I push his face away playfully, scrunching up my nose. "Gosh, you're so blunt and crude,"

He laughed, falling back and causing me to fall on top of him. His chest vibrates and I giggle. "You started it!" he argues, circling his arm around me to hug me to him.

I look down at him, my hair curtaining around us and I smile. It had really always been us. We were fated.

Chapter 194

Avery's pov

The first rumble made me stir, then the second made me grasp for the warm arm around my waist, holding me protectively to a strong body. My head is on his chest and I can feel the steady rise and fall as he breathes.

Then a tear of rain drops on my cheek, and then another grazes just beside my mouth. I lazily open my eyes and blink away the tired gleam of sleep, yawning as I scan around the area.

The fire has since died out. I lift my head from Xade's chest gently so as to not wake him. He looks so peaceful in his sleep, so boyish and free. Happy.

I smile softly and unable to resist, I reach up to gently stroke across his jawline. He stirs, and blinks, peeling his eyes open. Fire coarse through me with a single look from his eyes and my stomach tightens.

He grins wolfishly. "Good morning Mrs. Archer."

My smile broadens. "Morning Mr. Archer," I kissed his jaw and he grunts. "On the lips is a much better way to do it."

I roll my eyes and softly brush my lips against his. He tightens his hold against me, deepening the kiss. I pull away before it gets too extreme. He pouts, frowning adorably. "For a big bad wolf, you're easily a softie," I joked, pinching his cheek playfully.

He chuckles, trying to playfully bite my finger. "Only for you."

I grinned and he stares up at me in awe. He reaches for my hair and threads his fingers through the strands. "You're incredibly beautiful," he whispers. "I can't wait to wake up like this with you every single day now."

I blush, feeling the warmth from his words caress me. Another rumble of thunder made him squint and look up at the sky behind him. "Looks like rain is approaching," just as he says that, a drop falls on his forehead, then another until it is full on pouring.

I yelp, lifting off him, giggling as we get soaked in seconds. He grabs my hand and we made a dash to the house, laughing and stopping to dance in the rain every now and then. As he spins me around, I lift my head to the sky, laughing happily.

Baby I'm crazy 'bout you," he started to sing once more, and I opened my arms, letting the raindrops fall on my face as his words caress me lovely.

"And I would be lying if I said that I could live this life without you," I joined in, looking down at him and resting my hands on his shoulders. He grinned up at me fondly, his eyes warm and loving on my face.

He spins me one last time, letting me giggle before placing me down on my feet once more, interlocking our fingers and run for the door. We burst through the door, dripping wet on the floor.

We laughed and Xade shakes his hair purposely in my face to get me wet.

Bad puppy," I scold teasingly.

He roars in laughter and pulls me flush against him where I can feel every hard contour of his body and heat. We were soaking wet but his temperature was so warm and cozy that I never want to peel away from him.

I'm your bad puppy," he teases, nuzzling his nose on my cheek before he tilts his head to kiss me softly. I wrap my arms around his neck, sighing and melting into him.

I didn't want this to end. I didn't want to go back to the threats that loom around us. I just want to spend more time with him where it is just us two. Only us.

Chapter 195

Avery's pov

It was so early in the morning that I didn't think anyone was awake yet. Xade and I race to the shower, both of us slipping and sliding across the floors but I managed to win. Though I had a feeling he let me win.

Xade dresses me in his clothes once more, being careful and delicate as if I were some kind of precious ornament. My brows are raised as I look at him with a 'what the heck' look. "I won't break you know," I snorted as he gently put the oversized hoodie over my head.

His eyes are soft and warm on me, every flicker sending warmth in me. You're my delicate flower," he utters. "Let me take care of you. I love taking care of you."

I rolled my eyes, yet they soften as I smile at his tender words. " Just this once,"

His eyes stare into mine deeply. "Every single day,"

I let out a puff of air through my lips, already knowing arguing with him would get me nowhere. He was an Archer after all and he always got what he wants. "Let's go downstairs so I can make some breakfast for you and our little one," he gently rubs my stomach lovingly.

My heart melted. I didn't think it was possible to fall in love with Xade any more than I did before. It's like every single day I fall deeper in love with this man.

I lift my hands up, pouting playfully. "Piggyback?"

Xade eyes twinkle and he turns around and bends down a little so I can crawl on his back. I wrap my arms around his neck and he holds me up with his arms. "Hold on tight baby," he teases as he fakes falling.

I clutch him tighter, yelping. He pretends to choke. "You're about to choke me before our wedding night," he jokes.

I loosen my hold around his neck and giggle. We make our way downstairs and Xade gently sets me down on the stool. "What do you want for breakfast princess? Raw meat? Eggs? I can whip up anything," he leans to plant a kiss on the tip of my nose.

Not feeling for raw meat today," I laughed. "But I am feeling for tons of bacon and pancakes, with syrup, blueberries, lots of cottage cheese, and some hot Cheetos."

He raised a brow in amusement. "Hot Cheetos?"

I nod eagerly, my mouth salivating at just the thought and my stomach grumbles.

Xade's eyes dance with happiness and laughter. "Your cravings are crazy," he jokes and he goes to the pantry. "Mom likes hot Cheetos so I'm sure she has some in here,"

I watch him rummage through the pantry in looks for the hot Cheetos, his expression hard and serious. It makes me smile that he's going through all this trouble to please me. Once he found it, he lift it up in triumph, a sweet grin on his face. "Aha! Found it!"

It's a huge bag and my mouth waters and I resist the urge to clap my hands like a child when he brings it to me.

"Now I'll get to work on your breakfast," he kisses my lips softly and goes to work. I watch him move around the kitchen while I eat the Cheetos, my heart squeezing with more love for him. Seeing him like this was a sight and I couldn't wait to see him do this for our little one.

"Here you go princess," he set the plate of pancakes in front of me. It was piled high with bacon, blueberries, and cottage cheese with some maple syrup.

I dug into the food immediately. "Thank you Xade," I say with a mouth full and even dip some Cheetos in the cottage cheese and syrup. He laughs and I playfully glare at him. "This is your kid's fault by the way."

He grins proudly.

Chapter 196

Avery's pov

I should have known that the little peace and happiness between Xade and I would not have lasted longer than I had hoped for since the threat of everything was still looming above our heads.

As everyone woke up and Xadeon enters the kitchen, he gave us some news that would either make things worse or throw water over the boiling situation.

I contacted Alister last night," Xadeon announced.

The entire room goes quiet. Everyone was up, including Kaylee who was seated beside Xaden on a stool. Hearing Alister's name from Xadeon's mouth made her grow stiff as a rock. I look at her in worry.

"Good for you," Xade said bluntly under his breath and took my hand in his, lifting the hand with the ring. It gleams as the morning light strikes against it. "I proposed to Avery last night and she said yes,"

Xade whoops in joy and Kaylee congratulated us. Henry lifts his mug of coffee in cheers and Eloise rushes over to hug me tightly, kissing my head. Xadeon however looks frustrated. "Xade, you were playing stupid human games while I was putting out my neck to fix what you have created."

Xade's hold on my hand gets more firm and harder while his eyes narrow angrily on his father. "Stupid human games?" his lips curled in a nasty scowl. "Proposing to the love of my life is not stupid father,"

Xadeon gaze softens and he steps further into the room. "I worded that wrong and I am sorry for that. However, this could have waited," he exhales. "I am not saying your engagement is not important, I am happy for you both but while you were having a blast last night I had to be in a serious conversation with the council leader to fix what you caused."

He looks around the room. "In case you forgot, we have a huge threat looming over us all."

The room curled into a tense silence. The last thing I want is to be the center of an argument between Xade and his dad.

Eloise step towards him and press a comforting hand on his shoulder. Xadeon just wants to make sure this threat is taken care of quickly so we can all go back to how things were,”

Xadeon nods and Xade asks stiffly. “What did he say? Alister, what did he tell you?” man.

Xadeon winces as if recollecting the conversation he had with this Alister

What did he not tell him?” Henry snorted and took a good sip of his coffee. ” We all are bloody fucked anyway, and though I like to do the fucking, I guess I deserve that one for going behind his back.”

Xadeon sent Henry an unimpressed scowl. “We could have told it to him better, you went straight to the point,”

Henry shrugged. ” It’s better to than to wait and get fucked by hunters. I barely came out alive,” he pointed at his forehead where the scare had been. It’s closed up now and looks healed. It’s amazing how werewolves can heal so quickly.

Xaden chimes in. ” Soooo, who will end up killing us? Alister or the hunters?”

Xadeon’s eyes narrowed on his son. “No one will die. Alister has promised to hear us out. Besides, since Milian is the one behind us, no one wants to capture the bastard more than Alister himself. His priority is Milian and how he can capture him finally.

Henry snorted. “Oh Xadeon, you are gullible. One of us will die,” he set the cup down on the countertop. ” You must have forgotten who Alister is,” he looks around the room with a grim look.

“We have Kaylee who is a rogue and he already wanted her dead,” he shrugs.” Then we have me who betrayed him,” he points at himself. Then you have your son who lied to him about the human girl not being his mate,” he points at Xade.

Then we have you who was trying to keep all of this away from him to protect his family,” he points at Xadeon and then wiggles his finger in a circular motion. “Buckle up everyone, we just got on the wildest ride of our lives.”

Chapter 197

Avery's pov

Xadeon looks irritated. "No one is going to die here," he says stiffly. Alister may be ruthless but we have a common enemy right now. Right now the hunters want Avery desperately, desperate enough to be lured into a trap. Alister's desire to capture Milian is strong, we can bargain."

Henry shakes his head and salutes us. Well, I am off to fuck some women in your pack while you sort this out amongst yourselves. I might die tonight so best I enjoy my little time," he winks and leaves the room.

The tension in the room thickens when Henry leaves and Xadeon looks around the room. "Do not let what Henry said scare any of you. We have a common enemy, Milian and we can use it to our advantage."

"He is right though," Xade utters. "Alister doesn't forgive such things easily," he looks at Kaylee. "You can get a shot at living if you run away."

Xaden stiffens and Kaylee reaches to squeeze his hand reassuringly. "I won't. I'm tired of hiding. He will find me someday."

Xade's jaw ticked and he look back at his father. "When is Alister coming here?"

Xadcon frowns, his lips lining straight." He did not say but I assume he will show up today. He won't risk making us come over to the council in case the hunters tail us and we bring them straight to him."

Xade sighs and runs a hand through his hair. Seeing how frustrated he is, I rub his back. The tension releases from his shoulders and he looks at me gratefully.

"We need to prepare for his arrival," Eloise steps forward. "We can't afford to be caught off guard. We should be on high alert and ready to act on anything.

It feels like we were at the center of everything and cornered by every single threat. Escaping was not an option. "I'll have the warriors around the borders and-

His words are cut off when the door suddenly sounds with a knock. It's faint but it can still be heard. Xadeon stiffens, sniffing the air. "A human,"

Fay," Xade utters, looking at me with furrowed confused brows. My heart leaps. My mom is here? How did she know where I was? Where Xade live?

My mom?" I frowned, my mind muddled on how my mom even got here and what she was doing here in the first place.

Do you want me to take care of this Avery?" Xadeon ask me softly, seeing the confused look in my eyes. I shook my head. "No, I should be the one to talk to her."

Xade squeezed my hand and follow me to the door. I took in a deep breath, trying to steady myself before I saw her. The last time we spoke wasn't the best and she had told me she needed space. Which makes me even more confused about why she was here.

Had she come to tell me she was sorry or perhaps she came here to tell me she no longer wants to see me? The thought made my heart ache.

Xade is right beside me, squeezing my hand reassuringly. whispers.

"It's okay," he

A knock, sharper this time comes from the door and I reach to open it. Mom stood there, her breathing a little staggered, her face ashen. Mom?"

She rushes in. " They found out I am your mother," she lifts her phone. " They called," she looks at Xade, fear in her eyes. " They're coming."

Chapter 198

Avery's pov

The air around us goes from warm to freezing cold. Her wild terrified eyes made my heart drop in my gut and I move to stand before her, taking her shaky hands in my own. Mom," I try to tug her out of her mind, her eyes so lost.

Mom," I called out again, more firm and urgent, tugging her lightly. She is still imprisoned in her mind. "Mom!" I tug her harder and this time I see her soul is pulled from the cages of her mind.

But the terror, the terror remains. " Who?" I whisper. " Who is coming?"

It's not her who responds but Xadeon. "The hunters."

We all turn to him, spotting the grim expression on his face. Mom steps out of my hold and shows Xadeon the number on the screen. "They called me. Told me to bring my daughter in. They know what I was before-

What you were before?" I cut in confused. Her eyes skate over to me then Xade. She looks away embarrassed. "I was born and raised a hunter."

Her words made me stumble back and gasp. "What!?" I looked around and saw that it was only me and Xadeon who were surprised. I looked at Xade, my eyes narrowing in suspicion. "You knew?"

Xade eyes swim with shame and he reaches for me, I move out before he can grasp me. "I only found out yesterday when I went to her to ask her permission for your hand."

My anger flares with a mix of betrayal. He notices and looks saddened. "It was her choice to reveal it to you when she was willing Avery."

And I know he was right, but I felt betrayed still. "Avery I left that life a long time ago when I had you," Mom pleaded as she moves closer to me. "I may have been born a hunter and raised as one, but I have never harmed any wolf,"

I look at her, feeling betrayed for being lied to for years. Would she have ever told me about knowing about wolves and her being raised a hunter if I wasn't in trouble right now?

"You knew about werewolves and never told me," I narrowed my eyes in disappointment.

"I tried to protect you from that life Avery," she said softly. "I wanted you to be raised normal. I came here wanting a new start, however, I also knew that one day you'd know about all of this."

Her words crash over me, the lies weighing down. "You should have told me," I whisper shakily. "I deserved to know."

Her gaze drops to the floor. "You did," she agreed and I shook my head, my eyes teary. "I need a breather," I utter, moving past her and outside. She doesn't try to stop me and I am grateful she doesn't.

As soon as I was out, I took in a sharp inhale. The rain had stopped and the scent of the outdoors was comforting. I walk further onto the grass and even remove my shoes so I can bury my toes in the wet mud.

"You should not be out alone,"

I turn back and see Xade approaching. I look away. "Why? Because I am a delicate flower?" I asked sarcastically.

Avery," his voice is low and pleading. I whip and glared at his face. You should have told me. I don't care if it was her secret to say. We are in this together Xade, we can't afford to keep things like this away from each other."

Xade's eyes soften. "You're right," he admits and reaches for me, this time I let him pull me in his arms. He places his finger under my chin and flicks it up so I can crane my neck to look at him. "I'm sorry," he apologizes.

No more secrets," I said softly and he nods, brushing the tips of our noses. "No more secrets," he agrees.

Xade! Avery!" Xaden yells from the house, his voice sounding panicked. "Get here now!"

Chapter 199

Avery's pov

Xade and I exchange a worried glance and hurry back indoors. My feet are muddy but I do not care. We find Xadeon, Xaden, Eloise and Kaylee circled around my mom who had her phone in her trembling hands.

She flicks her eyes over to me when we begin to approach them. "They're calling," she says shakily. "The hunters. They're calling."

I step forward, my heart pounding. "Answer the call and put it on speaker,"

Mom takes a deep breath and nods, sliding her hand over the answer button. The sound on the other end is grainy. "Hello?" Mom's voice strains with tension.

The call suddenly ended and we all looked at each other confused. Xadeon's jaw ticks. "Fucking hunters and their games," he looks at his sons. "It's clear they know where we are, they know where Avery is hiding. We need every warrior wolf at every corner of the borders. We can't let anyone slip in."

What about Alister? Still no idea when he will show up?" Xaden asks and his dad grows stiff. "We all need to be on the lookout and not slack off. Avery stay indoors, your mom can also stay here since they already know she's your mom. If I know Alister, he will come on his own terms. He will surprise us."

Great," Xade grumbles under his breath." We have a fucking asshole of a werewolf council leader on our ass and also the strongest hunter group close behind. And let's not forget the bounty on Avery's head, it's not only hunters that will want her."

Xadeon's brows furrowed. "You're right, we are not dealing with only the hunters. We are dealing with more," Xadeon looks at me. "We need to be ready for anything, including you Avery. You are now part of this world."

Hey," I whirl around to see my mom at the door. Xade, Xaden and Xadeon were in a meeting and I had come here into his room to get away from everything. I needed to be alone for a bit.

Hey," I say softly, my eyes pulling away from her to stare back at the window blankly.

"Can I come in?" her voice is soft and the sound of her footfalls on the floor already tells me she has entered the room without waiting for my response.

Sure," I utter sarcastically just as she closes the door behind her.

Avery," she sighs, nearing. I look down at the mattress, grinding my teeth in frustration. Sooner or later we needed to talk about it. The mattress dips a little as she sits down, the tension in the air suffocating me.

"You have no idea how many times I wanted to tell you about this world," she whispers and I lift my eyes, staring at her and seeing the regret swirl in her irises.

"You know it's funny that you made me grow up with Xade. The very same world you tried to protect me from," my eyes narrowed. "

Sure you don't remember him, but something tells me you knew he was a werewolf."

She looks down at her hands in shame, nodding. "I don't remember him, but I can spot a werewolf from afar. If I had let you be friends with him then I must have not seen him as a threat."

I shook my head. "It feels like I don't even know the real you Mom. It feels like I had been brought up on lies-

"Your dad loved this world despite him only being human," she smiles fondly, cutting into my words. "I left the hunter world for him because I saw how much he was very fond of werewolves. I couldn't see myself hurting them...or it would've hurt him."

She then sighs wearily. "I just-I wanted to protect you from the dangers. I wanted you to have a normal life even though it wouldn't always be possible. That life as a hunter, I was ashamed of it. I didn't want you to know about that part of me. What I had been before."

I played with my fingers, nodding. "And I get that," I whisper. "Is that why you were mad I am pregnant?" I look up and catch her warm gaze filled with regret.

She sighs. "I am sorry for how I reacted. I know the consequences of a werewolf mating a human," she reaches for my hand. "I was scared and panicking about what may come from this," she grasp me hard. "But then I remember who is my daughter and I know if

anyone can do this and adapt to this world, it will be you. You're stronger than I know, stronger than me,"

Her lips curl into a smile. "Xade loves you. I can see that. It was fated and maybe that's why I never stopped you from being friends with him. Maybe I already knew then."

Chapter 200

Avery's pov

Mom and I spoke some more and the tension between us from earlier is slowly but surely slipping away. She smiles, tucking some of my blonde strands behind my ear. You're going to be a mom, I still can't believe it.'

I try to smile back but it comes out a cringe. "A mom with a whole army of threats looming over her head. My baby isn't even fully developed yet and I am already failing," my voice breaks and mom grasps my hand tighter.

Don't say that, don't you ever say that again," she says firmly. "You're already doing everything you can to protect your baby," she smiles at me reassuringly. "You have an entire pack behind you and you have me. You are not in this alone, you have many who love you,"

I needed to hear those words, especially coming from her.

As my gentle smile graces my face a sudden sharp pain pulls on my lower stomach. I hiss, my hand flying to my stomach to cup. Mom's eyes widen in alarm. "Avery what's wrong?!"

I shook my head, unable to understand what was fully happening but I knew it hurt. "I don't know," I gasp as another wave of pain rocks me. "It just hurts."

Her worried eyes stare at me. "I will get Xade," she says urgently, trying to get up but I grasp her hand. "Wait no," I tell her. "He's in an important meeting with his dad and brother and I don't want to disturb-

Before I can even finish that sentence the door bursts open and Xade's worried and anxious eyes fall on me. He rushes over just as Xadeon and Xaden reach the doorway and looks at me with concern.

"What's wrong baby?" Xade asked urgently, kneeling down, grasping my hand and scanning my body for any signs of injuries. "Where are you hurt? What hurts? What's wrong-

My tummy,” I cut in his anxious words. ” It suddenly pains.”

His eyes drop to my stomach in panic and he looks back at his dad. “We need to get her to the pack doctor!”

Xadeon shakes his head. “We can’t risk her being spotted out right now, the pack doctor will come here instead.”

Xade nods. “Fine. Tell him to hurry up and get here urgently,” he hiss and turns back to face me. My brows furrow as I recall how he barged in. How did you know I was unwell? You came in here already worried.”

” I could feel the stress in the bond, the pain you felt,” he stands up to sit down on the bed, lifts me in his arms and pulls me on his lap to hold me gently. “I couldn’t pinpoint where exactly you were having the pain but I knew,” he begins to rub my tummy.

“Oh?” I ask, both confused and surprised. ” You can feel that?”

There seems to be much to learn about the werewolf world, especially being mated to Xade.

His touch is soothing and calming and despite the pain still present, I lean into his touch, comforted by his warmth. ” The bond between us connects us in more ways than one,” he responds softly. “I can sometimes feel your emotions, the stress, even your pain when it’s too intense.”

Oh,” I whisper, wincing as the pain tugs at my lower stomach. “Will I also be able to feel your emotions and stress too?”

Xade nods, kissing my cheek. “Of course, when you fully turn into a werewolf you will be able to even mind link the entire pack.”

A sudden shocked gasp flutters through the air and I look up to see that it’s mom, standing beside the edge of the bed. “You’re turning into a werewolf?” her face pales.