Chapter Seven: So Many Questions

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Phera POV

I rocked back and forth on the veranda swing, looking out to the dense forest at the back of our house. After I recovered from the shock of Newmara and Adam being fated mates, I congratulated them and sat with the rest of my family for a bit till I made an excuse and came here. Josh and Nate had hit it off, seeing they were both future betas and pack allies, which made me less guilty for abandoning him back there with my family. The awkwardness between him and me was instantly gone after what had happened, but it still didn't make the guilt any less thinking back to his sullen face on our walk here. I wasn't sure what was going to happen now. I wasn't going to accept the triplets and be putty in their hands, especially after the fact that they knew I was their mate and they cuddled up with my sister. Then there was Newmara; she had always known of my feelings for the triplets, and despite that, she always made sure I was reminded how they would never go for someone like me. The thought of her knowing that I was their mate and still doing what she did was another question I wanted to know badly but wasn't sure how to ask. It wasn't like we were close anymore, despite her trying. It was almost as if she was guilty, but why would she be? She made her bed and

decided to sleep on it when she did what she did.

I had lost so much because of these four; it was as if I was chased out of my pack and forgotten; never once did the triplets reach out to me, nor did Newmara talk about that day or apologize. I always felt she knew I was there watching that night, almost like she wanted me to see it. We're werewolves, for goddess' sake; they would've smelt me a mile away. I knew triplets could since they knew I was their mate, but even Newmara could if I was close enough since we were siblings. Another question lurking in my mind was whether the triplets would cause problems when I left to go back to California in a week because there was no chance I would miss my final exams and skip the interview I had landed. If I didn't get a job in one of three corporations owned by a pack, I would be forced to move back to the wolf multiverse. I hadn't worked so hard and guarded my heart for this long of a time to have it broken all over again because I didn't believe that triplets actually cared for me; they were claiming me out of their instinct and possessiveness because if they genuinely did care, they would have at least tried reaching out to my on my eighteenth birthday or hell just even talked to me before I left eight years ago. 3

"Mind if I sit with you?" A voice broke me out of my thoughts.

Looking toward the voice, I see Adam standing with a slight smile on his face. I also gave him a small smile and moved over to the left so he could sit next to me. I looked at him as he sat; he looked so much like his older brothers. Even though they were just some months apart, they could easily pass as quadruplets look-wise, that is, since the triplets were a bit taller and bulkier than him, which probably came with the territory of being such ruthless alphas.

"Watch it, sister-in-law; next thing I know, my brothers are beating my ass because their girl is admiring me." Said Adam, winking.

His words had me scowling. Adam was handsome, no doubt, but boyish handsome, whereas the triplet were pure alpha males roguishly handsome. Not that I would ever tell them that. I scoffed and rolled my eyes before answering Adam.

"As if. They're probably busy balls deep in some other shewolf." I said.

My heart broke at the thought of that statement, even though I knew it wasn't true. I would've felt them being unfaithful since the bond had been established, but I wouldn't put past them if they did. They weren't faithful when I was in front of them. What's stopping them behind my back? I saw the jest in Adam's eye disappear, and what looked like sympathy or guilt shone. I hated that look. Nate had given me that look multiple times over the years; I didn't get why he did. I knew he worried for me, but the guilt I never understood.

"Chipmunk, you know they would never do that; you would

## feel it." Said, Adam

Yeah, I knew that! But it didn't mean it hurt any less thinking of all the times back when I would do anything for their attention, and they only looked at me as a baby sister as they paraded around she-wolf after she-wolf. Adam's nickname for me had me smiling a bit. Adam was always sweet to me whenever I went to the packhouse in hopes of finding the triplets. If they were busy, he would always give me company, now come to think of it, he had always asked about Newmara and did everything he could to play with her. Newmara was undoubtedly a lucky girl in the mate department, and I truly envied her.

"Hey, look at me..." Adam said, pulling me by the with the utmost gentleness making me look at him as he smiled at me.

"...I heard what happened, and I know that you four have a lot of issues to solve but trust me when I say this, Phera, you are everything they've ever wanted, and you being their mate and Luna means so much to them. I know you have questions and loads of them, but instead of hiding and avoiding them, you need to face reality. And your reality is that you're going to be the Luna to this pack and are their mate. You can't hide from your responsibility because the Phera I knew was never like that. Plus, from what I've heard, she's become the epitome of strength and power. Take my advice, chipmunk, and don't fight because the goddesses will always win in the end." Adam said.

His eyes took a faraway look as if he had first-hand experience. I wanted to ask him, but his words about me and the triplet had my mind going in circles. I wasn't hiding, I was scared, and I wasn't sure how much he knew, but they had butchered my heart in more ways than one and claiming me now won't make me look past all that. If they were happy to know I was their mate, they should've come for me when I turned eighteen before I started university, but they didn't. I had so much to say, but I stayed quiet. I wasn't going to dump my emotional trauma on Adam, it wasn't fair to him. Plus, he was their brother, and they were his alphas'. His loyalty would always be more toward them than me. The thought that everyone's loyalty would always lie with them had a sense of dread going through me. No one would force me to stay when I leave, right? And would I have anyone on my side if push came to shove?

"Stop, Phera! I can practically see the gears turning in your head." Said Adam, shaking me a little.

I wanted to voice my thoughts but kept quiet. He sighed and gave me a side hug, holding onto me as he said.

"Take it easy, chipmunk! You don't have to worry about anything for now. You came for your siblings; focus on that for now. Be there for them on their special days. My brothers can occupy your mind after that."

His words made me smile genuinely this time as I nodded. He squeezed my shoulder and went in, leaving me to

