

Chapter 53: Saying Goodbye

Yara

I look up and see Warren's dark eyes, hot with desire, burning into me.

"What?" I ask, but it comes out more like a squeak.

He turns, focusing on me more intently. I feel heat flushing my cheeks and spreading through my body.

"What did you just say?"

"I didn't say anything," I say, looking around and realizing that Savannah is focusing VERY intently on Harold's arm, her lips twitching, and Harold is smirking at me.

"Oh Luna, you most certainly did say something. I'm beginning to understand what Rebecca meant about your murmurings being funny. Do you really not realize you said that out loud?" Harold asks me.

What had I said? I was listening to Warren who was being the most incredible man I've ever met, acting like a surrogate father to Henry and I'd thought....oh goddess!

I look up at Warren, and I know my eyes are wide. A smile spreads across his face.

"Yeah, that's what I heard."

"I...I..." I'm saved as warriors come pouring in with wounded.



"I have to work!" I squeak, standing up quickly.

"I know," he says standing. It suddenly occurs to me that he's naked and that he must have REALLY liked what I said. The evidence of that is standing up between us.

He steps up to me, his hard length pressing against me as he cups my cheek. "I know I keep saying this, but soon, very fucking soon, my mark will be on your neck." 1

I nod, unable to speak with his warm, naked body so close to mine. His body isn't the only one responding.

He leans in, running his nose over my jaw before coming to my ear. "And then I'll give you as many of those pups as you want," he whispers.

Heat flows south, pooling in my core and soaking my undergarments and pants. I feel him take a deep breath, smelling my arousal.

"I see we're in agreement. Go, do what you do. I'll do what I do, and then we're heading home my mate. It's time."

I nod again as he steps away.

Just then, Beta Franklin rushes in. "SAVANNAH!"

She pops up from where she's sitting on the floor beside Alpha Harold.

"Franklin?" she says.

He sighs in relief then looks around. "Alphas, I have the warriors collecting the dead to burn. I just..." he stops, looking at Savannah.

"You needed to check on your mate, Franklin. We understand that. Savannah, why don't you take a break and reassure your mate that you're okay?" Harold says.

Savannah looks at me and I look at the wound. "Just cover it. It'll be okay for a few minutes."

I turn back, seeing the injured coming in quickly now.

"I'm here, Luna," Rebecca says, coming up to me.

"Okay, let's do this," I say, moving into the organized chaos that is a hospital.

Several injuries were bad enough that they required surgery. After the first one, I saw that Alpha Harold was stitched and bandaged and was walking around talking to his warriors, helping to keep them calm and reassure them that all is well.

After the second surgery, Warren, Henry, and Franklin returned, all having soot on them from burning the dead. I wanted to hug Warren, but I needed to stay as sterile as possible, so after checking to make sure he hadn't sustained any injuries, I went into the third surgery.

When I came out after that surgery, Savannah had nearly cleared out the waiting room and other than a couple of warriors, all that was left was Alpha Harold, a sleeping Henry, Beta Franklin, and Warren.

As he always does when I finish a long, grueling day in the hospital,

he stands and opens his arms to me. I walk into them and let him wrap his strength and love around me.

We stand there a moment, just enjoying each other. Warren lays his head on top of mine and we both just breathe in the others' scents.

"You smell like surgery."

I nod. "I need to shower."

"Go shower. We're heading home."

"But..." I turn, looking at where I've left the patients I've just worked on.

"I know, but Charlie captured Quinton's son and mate. He'll come for them and I need to be there when he does. Besides that, you and I have unfinished business."

I look up at him, for the first time ready to accept my role and place in his life and the life of his pack.

"Yes, we do."

I watch a very possessive, very hungry look darken his eyes, before he leans down and takes my mouth in a passionate kiss full of the promise of what our life will be like.

When he pulls back, I don't shy away from his promise, I embrace it. I am Warren's mate, I will be his Luna, and someday, I will give this incredible man a family.

He growls low in his chest as if he heard my thoughts.



"Did I say that out loud?" I ask.

"No, but I can read it on your face. You've accepted that you're mine," he says, stroking his knuckles over my cheek.

"And you're mine, Alpha. Let's not forget that part," I say. 2

"Never," he says, softly. "Go shower. I'm ready to get home."

There are a wall of showers in this hospital and I walk up to one, turning it on. Savannah comes in as well, also needing to shower.

"Luna, I..."

"You're going to stay with your mate?" I ask her.

"Yes. I haven't had a chance to talk to Alpha Warren yet, but..."

"I'm pretty sure he already knows that we're losing you. I'll leave you instructions for the injured. Once I know more about what's going on with Quinton, I'll make a plan to come back and check on them. If anything serious happens, though, you can always call me, Savannah."

I step away from the shower, wrapping a towel around me. "You're going to be in charge here now. This will be your hospital. Run it the way a hospital should be run and if you have any questions at all, I'm a phone call away," I say, feeling sad at losing my best nurse and someone who was becoming a friend.

She wraps a towel around herself. She must be feeling as sad as I am because she pulls me into a hug. I feel the tears dripping down my

cheeks. "You're going to be fantastic," I whisper to her.

"I have a great mentor," she says.

"Go back to school when you can. Get some surgical education so you can better treat the pack's warriors. Maybe you and I can start our own practical classes."

She hugs me tighter. "Thank you, Luna."

"Thank you, Beta," I say, making her laugh.

"I guess I will be a Beta, won't I?"

"Yes, you will. And you'll be a GREAT Beta."

When we walk out, our mates are waiting for us. I'm not sure if Franklin is just missing Savannah, or if he knew this would be hard for her.

"I've already spoken to Alpha Warren about you staying, Savannah," he tells her.

She nods, looking at Warren.

"You're just what this pack needs, Savannah," Warren says. "But if you ever need anything..." he begins.

"I know. Luna already told me that she'll help me."

We say goodbye and watch as Franklin leads Savannah back to the packhouse. Warren turns to me, running his thumbs over my cheeks as if he were wiping my tears from a few moments ago away.

"Are you okay?"

I nod. I know that growth sometimes means you no longer get to work with the people that you love working with. And that's okay, it's a good thing. But that doesn't make it any less difficult, especially when you have to say goodbye.

"Let's go home, Yara," Warren says, holding out his hand to me.

"Let's go home, Warren."



Cooper  Author

A sad goodbye, but still a good one.

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