

DOVE VALLEY WOLF SHIFTERS



RESCUED WOLF

SMALL TOWN WOLF SHIFTER ROMANCE

JEAN STOKES

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RESCUED WOLF

DOVE VALLEY WOLF SHIFTERS

BOOK 4

JEAN STOKES

PREFACE

New from bestselling romance author Jean Stokes...

What do you do when the wolf you've been searching for has been in your midst the entire time?

Corporation giant Mynopharm has been operating without restraint for years. Under the ruthless yet driven leadership of Linda, the company has grown vile and corrupt. Too bad that's just the beginning. Linda is a driven woman who will stop at nothing to get what she has always wanted. Even if it means tearing the throats out of those who stand in her way.

When **Olivia** decides to stay in Dove Valley she knows it is the chance she has been waiting for. A fresh start in a new town with friends she truly cares about, and Andrew. His charm and easy demeanor melt her heart, making her feel more at home than she has ever been. Helping him take down Mynopharm is the icing on the cake.

Until she is kidnapped, tortured, and thrown in a cell to rot. **Andrew** must summon his courage and his friends in order to rescue the woman he loves from the worst monster of all. Even then he fears he lacks the strength to do so.

It all comes crashing to a head for the people of Dove Valley and the greedy corporation threatening them all.

AUTHOR NOTE

Be prepared for a standalone steamy wolf shifter romance with an independent heroine, a hunky alpha, a dash of humor, no cheating and a guaranteed happily ever after! You will love it!

Steam & language alert 18+ only: I don't want your angry vigilante mama after me! If you aren't eighteen then go read Harry Potter, mind your language and eat your broccoli!

If you're looking for contemporary steamy romance with military veterans or paranormal alphas, then you've found your new favorite author!

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- To get '*Hero Of The Heart*' (*Witmer Book 1*) & '*Fire Rekindled*' (*Borden Falls Book 1*) completely **FREE** instantly (both are \$2.99 on Amazon!), please **subscribe to my free VIP Newsletter at JeanStokes.com!**
- Be prepared for steamy passion in small Western towns, smokin' hot alphas and feisty heroines! Standalone romances with steamy scenes, a dash of humour, no cheating and a guaranteed happily ever after! You will love them!
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EPILOGUE

CHAPTER 1

Olivia

Olivia tip-toed as she followed the trail of blood she could see on the ground. Her heart hammered in her chest as she got closer to the door of the testing facility where she could no longer see any sign of the red droplets. She was aware that she wasn't allowed in this area of the lab but her curiosity still fueled her forward. She saw the door slightly ajar and winced as it made a squeaky noise.

The lab was completely dark and Olivia removed her phone from her lab coat and increased her phone's brightness to illuminate her path. She moved her phone around the room and let out a tiny scream as she saw a ferocious looking werewolf staring right back at her. She quietly backed away, scared that the beast could attack her, and bumped against one of the metal cages. Olivia turned and then came face to face with two men bound in chains who growled at her like rabid dogs.

Olivia hurriedly ran toward the door. Her hands shook and her phone slipped from her hand before she could get to the door. Surrounded by darkness, Olivia dropped to her knees as she looked for her phone. Her hands hit the cold tiles as she searched for her phone. She smiled as she finally hit something that wasn't the ground. She picked up her phone and turned on the flashlight. Her eyes grew wide as red alarm lights began to go off in the lab and a blaring siren sound echoed around the room.

She ran to the door and saw armed men walking to the door. She looked at the men carrying guns with masks covering their faces and looked back at the beasts in the room. She weighed her options quickly and ran back into the room. With sweat dripping down her back, Olivia hid under the dissecting table. She heard the door open with a loud bang and she could hear her loud breathing.

“Search every inch of this place!” one of the men barked.

The beast growled louder as the men searched the place and Olivia knew she was either going to be eaten or shot at this rate.

“Shut up, you dumb animal,” another man yelled as he fired his gun.

Olivia let out a scream at the sound of the gun and covered her mouth hurriedly hoping no one had heard her.

“What was that?”

Olivia remained frozen on the spot as tears began to roll down her cheeks. She closed her eyes as she felt a hand grip her lab coat and drag her out of her hiding spot.

“Look who we have here,” the man said as he pressed his gun to her neck. Olivia couldn’t risk opening her eyes, she wasn’t ready to look into the eyes of her killer. She cursed her curiosity at this moment as she prayed that her death would be swift and painless.

“What are we going to do to her?”

“Kill her, obviously.”

“You will do no such thing!” a loud voice commanded. Olivia was tempted to take a peek to see who had spoken but her eyes had a mind of their own as they remained closed.

“She needs to be taught a lesson first for not knowing her place.”

Olivia heard the slap before she felt the sting. Her eyes immediately watered as they flew open.

She noticed that the man who had hit her was also wearing a black mask but had on a different outfit from the others. He had on a perfectly ironed suit with pleated pants and shiny loafers.

“Can you tell me what you are doing here, Olivia?” the masked man said as he glanced at her lab coat.

Olivia looked at her feet as she spoke quietly. “It’s Dr. Olivia.”

The whole room went silent and Olivia knew she should have kept her mouth shut.

She closed her eyes again, quite certain that the masked man in a suit was going to put a bullet through her chest this time.

Olivia was surprised to hear him laugh instead. If her life wasn’t in danger she would have joined in the laughter because he had a very contagious laugh. The masked man in the suit stopped laughing and silenced the rest of the men with his fist. He reminded Olivia of a music conductor and she chuckled.

“Looks like we have a smart one on our hands boys,” the masked man in the suit said as he grabbed a handful of her hair and pulled her up with it. “Let me show you what we do to smarty pants like yourself.”

Olivia saw her life flash before her eyes as she saw blows descend on her. She was beaten to a pulp and she could taste her own blood. Her eyes were so swollen that she could barely see clearly. Olivia was dragged like a lifeless doll into an empty cage and locked in.

Olivia saw two men in masks remove a man tied in ropes from a sack. "The new specimen is ready."

"Excellent. You should see this, Dr. Olivia," the masked man in the suit said as he removed a yellow serum Olivia was very familiar with and injected the man, who wiggled like an earthworm on the ground. Seconds passed and Olivia wondered what new thing she was expected to see since the serum was only expected to start taking effect a year after.

She was starting to lose consciousness and all she wanted to do was close her eyes and sleep forever. The sound of bone cracking had Olivia move further into her cage as she heard the tied man begin to scream in pain as his bones broke. All the masked men left the room hurriedly and locked the door behind them. Olivia could see the fear and confusion on the face of the man before his eyes became glazed and he turned into a werewolf.

The werewolf flew to Olivia's cage and tore open her cage in one swift motion. Olivia screamed as the wolf launched at her.

Andrew

Andrew grumbled as he tossed and turned on his couch. He kicked his duvet off his body angrily as he sat upright. His body ached a lot and he missed his bed. It had been four days

since he rescued the battered woman from Mynopharm and Andrew had still not been able to come up with a reason for his heroic act. His friends had assumed he knew the woman since he had been very adamant about saving her but Andrew had only seen her for the first time that day.

Andrew couldn't explain what had happened that night. One minute they were rejoicing over completing their mission of destroying the pipes that were corrupting their lake and the next minute his wolf was threatening to take over. He had tried so hard to suppress his wolf for the fear of jeopardizing their mission but the more he tried to keep his wolf in, the more he hurt.

He had been left with no choice but to shift and let his wolf take the reins. Andrew's wolf had taken him into the enemy territory and he had broken into Mynopharm with no plan of attack and a boldness he still couldn't comprehend. His wolf had been ambushed by men with large guns and it had not been scared of death. With the help of his friends who had been indirectly dragged into a battle they had not planned for, Andrew's wolf had seen the opportunity to run into a lab and had stopped a mutant wolf from attacking the woman.

His wolf had become calm after he had the woman on his back and they were far away from Mynopharm. The sound of someone screaming had him jumping to his feet and running towards the direction of the sound. He hit his leg on a small stool and he cursed inwardly. Andrew swung the door open with a loud bang, expecting to see an intruder inside his house, but instead a pair of gray eyes stared back at him. Andrew had not been expecting to see her up since his friend Kiel, the

town's doctor, had told him it would take days before she woke up.

Now she was awake and pointing a pair of scissors at him.

"You're awake," Andrew said as he walked towards her.

The woman waved the scissors around dangerously and Andrew raised his hands in surrender.

"Who are you and what do you want from me?"

Andrew had not been expecting her voice to sound that way. Her small petite face didn't match her deep voice and he was tempted to laugh at his poor judgment. He was tempted to tell her that he was the only one allowed to ask questions since he was the sheriff, but he decided to play nice.

"My name is Andrew, the chief deputy sheriff here in Dove Valley. I rescued you from the hands of a mutant wolf in Mynopharm."

Andrew watched the expression on her face change as she remembered her near death experience and he readied himself for her show of gratitude.

The woman dropped the scissors on the bed and looked at him squarely. "I didn't ask you to do that."

Andrew felt his jaw drop as he stared at the woman in shock. He thought he had misheard her and still waited for her to say something else, but she looked at him from head to toe instead and shook her head at his appearance.

"You would rather have died?" Andrew said angrily as he stood in front of her. He soon realized moving close to her had been a mistake as her smell seemed to make his wolf excited.

He had the sudden itch to touch her short brown hair and he tightened his jaw before taking a step back.

“Yes, it is only proper that I die by the thing I created,” the woman said as she sat on the bed and looked at the floor sadly.

Andrew felt confused; his brain tried to process the information he was hearing but he did not like the output.

“You made the mutant... wolf?” Andrew asked in fear as he wondered if he had made a mistake by rescuing the enemy.

The woman looked insulted by his question and she quickly stood up from the bed like it burnt her.

“I obviously didn’t make that beast. My name is Doctor Olivia, I am a renowned scientist...”

“Never heard of you,” Andrew said without thinking.

“You look like a man who hasn’t heard of much.”

Andrew snickered at her sharp mouth.

Olivia gave him a pointed look before she continued talking.

“Try not to interrupt me this time. For over a year now, I have been working on a longevity serum for people who suffer from terminal illnesses. The main idea for this serum was for it to be a sort of health boost for people so they could live longer than their expected age. I recently had a successful experiment on my sick guinea pigs and I couldn’t wait to start testing on humans.”

“I don’t see how the mutant wolves come in here?” Andrew said impatiently as he interrupted Olivia’s story again.

Olivia gave him a look that could melt gold and Andrew knew it would be in his best interest to keep quiet.

“Before I got the longevity serum, I had done several experiments that had not been very successful. One of such cases was when my lab assistant mixed up my chemicals and I accidentally added polychlorinated biphenyls into my mixture. The result had been disastrous as it had changed the biological compounds in the lab rat and had turned it into a large mutant rat with six legs.”

Andrew shivered as he imagined how disturbing the rat must have looked. “That sounds creepy.”

“It was scary. Two people died because of my carelessness that day...” Andrew noticed Olivia’s eyes tear up and he was about to tell her to take a break from her tale, but she dabbed her eyes with her thumb and continued talking.

“Someone must have salvaged the mixture when I dumped it into the bin. My mistake was not setting it on fire.”

“Do you know who could have done this?”

“It could be anyone,” Olivia said absent mindedly.

Andrew had many questions swimming around his head that he wanted to ask. He was, however, interrupted by the sound of his work phone ringing. He was tempted to ignore it but he remembered that people only called him on that number when there was an emergency.

“Please excuse me.”

Andrew ran to his phone and answered the call. He became pale as he heard the tragic news that had befallen one of their own. Linda, aunt to their Alpha Diarus, had been kidnapped. According to the phone call he had just received, the last place

anyone saw her was at the bakery and now she was nowhere to be found.

Andrew had known that there would be repercussions for breaking into Mynopharm and he had remained vigilant ever since he broke into the place. He could not imagine the fear and sadness that must be spreading around since Linda was loved by everyone in town.

He ran into his room and hurriedly grabbed his uniform from his wardrobe.

“Is something wrong?”

Andrew had forgotten someone else was in the room with him and he gave Olivia a small smile before grabbing his boots. “I need you to stay here. I will be back soon.”

He did not wait to hear her response as he dashed into his living room, grabbed his car keys, and dashed out of the house.

He could tell he was going to have a long day ahead of him.

CHAPTER 2

Olivia

Who does he think he is? Olivia said to the empty room as she stared at the closed door. She found it funny that Andrew expected her to wait in his house until he was back. If she had not seen his sheriff uniform, Olivia knew she would not have believed the man was a sheriff. He didn't have that serious face that she associated with law enforcement officers. His voice was also deep and melodious, which she had found to be very distracting as her imagination had begun to run wild.

Olivia walked out of the room and into a big corridor that led to a beautifully decorated spacious living room with a vintage fireplace. There were medals and trophies in a display case. *What a show off*, Olivia thought to herself as she rolled her eyes and walked away.

She noticed that the house was very neat, which she liked. Olivia walked to the glass center table to admire herself and screamed in fear as she saw her reflection. One of her eyes was still swollen and her nose looked like it had bent. She could not believe this was how she looked. Olivia also noticed that she was dressed in a large shirt with a bull on it and bit her tongue in anger. The thought of Andrew seeing her naked body in this state turned her on and made her angry.

Olivia continued her tour of Andrew's house and noticed a small work space. There were numerous files piled on the table and a desktop computer. Olivia smiled in victory as she stared at the computer. This was going to be her way out of here. She turned on the computer and sat down on the brown

leather chair. She tried to log into her work email as soon as the computer was turned on but noticed her email had been deactivated.

She decided to see if she could log into Mynopharm's portal using her access code but was denied entry. Olivia groaned in frustration as she looked at the computer screen. She checked her personal email and noticed an email from her parents. Olivia found this odd as she was not on speaking terms with her parents. The last time she had spoken to them was when they had decided to give up on their careers and go backpacking around Europe instead.

Olivia still felt hurt at their betrayal. She always boasted to her friends at a young age that her parents were the next Albert Einsteins. They were amazing scientists who had won several awards and had received recognition from the president of the United States himself. It had been a shock to her when she heard them say they were retiring when they had been so close to winning the Nobel Prize once their research was published and authenticated.

Olivia had made up her mind not to end up like her parents once they left. She became more determined to avoid distractions and lived each day according to plan. Olivia wondered if they were mailing her about her twin brother Greg who she had not heard from in months now. Sometimes she wondered how her parents' DNA had produced her brother since he was nothing like her.

Greg was a social butterfly and could combust if he was kept in a room alone. Olivia was always thankful that they were not identical twins since he was always fond of getting into

trouble. She hovered the mouse around her parents' email and she clicked it. Olivia found it difficult to close her mouth as she stared at the computer screen. Her parents had sent her a picture of herself in the news. She was currently wanted by the police for creating a dangerous drug that had the potential to kill people.

Olivia could not believe someone had weaved such a dangerous narrative about her and her own parents were asking if it was true. *Do they really think I am that crazy?* Olivia thought to herself as she continued to stare at the unflattering image that had been used in the wanted poster.

She was tempted to start weeping as she could imagine the damage this news was going to do to her career. *This was not part of the plan, Olivia*, she scolded herself as she began to think of solutions. She had to clear her name and bring down Mynopharm. They were the real enemy and not her. Olivia slowly came to the realization that the only way she could do that was to find all the documentation she had kept from the start of her research for the longevity serum and show the world that her research had been for good.

Her only problem now was that she had to go back to Mynopharm undetected. The location on her computer showed that she was in a small town called Dove Valley, a place she had never heard of. Olivia began to do her research on how to get to Mynopharm from Dove Valley and saw that it was a bit of a distance. She tried to see if she could access her money but noticed her account was frozen. Olivia pulled at her hair as she screamed at the computer. She got up from the chair and paced around the house.

While she paced, Olivia noticed a dirt bike in Andrew's driveway. She had never driven one before, but she knew she was always up for a challenge. Olivia borrowed Andrew's pants and a cap from his wardrobe. She felt intoxicated by his smell and she hoped it wouldn't distract her from her mission. She found a small sticky note on his table and a pen and apologized for taking his dirt bike.

She stepped out of the house ready to do the impossible.

Andrew

Andrew would have assumed someone died if he wasn't privy to what was going on. He got out of his car and walked towards the crowd of people hanging around the bakery. He met two of his subordinates there and waved them over.

"We got here as soon as we heard," Daniel said as soon as he got to where Andrew stood.

"This is a crime scene and there shouldn't be so many people here. I need you two to clear out this place. I only want us to talk to the people that work here and those who saw her last."

"Yes sir," his officers yelled, before walking away.

Andrew waited for the crowd to reduce before walking inside. He saw Becky crying hysterically while being comforted by Kiel, her husband. There was more wailing coming from the kitchen but he knew he would get to that part later on. He wasn't a fan of tears and sucked at comforting people.

"Can I speak to Becky alone please?"

"Would you be okay alone?" Kiel said as he looked at Andrew with a curious expression on his face before facing his wife.

Becky nodded her head before speaking. “Yes, I need him to find the person that did this to Linda. Why would anyone do something this evil?”

“I promise to get to the bottom of this. All I need you to do is to answer a few questions for me. Can you do that?”

“Yes,” Becky replied as she pushed back her tears.

“I will be waiting in the kitchen if you need me,” Kiel announced before walking away.

Andrew gave his friend a snide look before sitting on a chair opposite Becky.

“When was the last time you saw Linda?”

“6 pm, yesterday. We closed late because we had to bake a new batch of chocolate chip cookies for today. Linda told everyone to go home once the cookies were out of the oven because she had kept us in too late. She had been surprised I had stayed behind since it wasn’t my turn to close up the bakery and had tried to convince me to leave earlier than others. I was the last person to see her...what... if... she... is...dead?” Becky hiccupped as a fresh wave of tears descended down her cheeks.

Andrew pushed the tissue box closer to her as he moved about uncomfortably in his chair. He suddenly wished he had told Kiel to stay behind instead.

“I don’t think Linda is someone that can be killed off that easily,” Andrew said reassuringly. He had seen Linda’s wolf once and had been scared at how deadly her wolf had looked. He knew she wouldn’t go out without a fight.

“Did you notice anything suspicious yesterday? Maybe someone following Linda or anything out of the ordinary?”

“There was nothing like that. Yesterday was a busy day in the bakery. No one fought or argued and our customers were patient enough with us when we ran out of any baked goods. Honestly, it was just like every other normal day and we didn’t feel we had anything to worry about.”

Andrew stared at the notes he had taken. This was all pointing to one thing, whoever had kidnapped her had waited for her to be alone. Which meant the person must have been spying on them and had chosen the best moment to strike.

“How often do you guys stay to bake late?”

“Not so often. Linda tries to avoid it as much as she can but yesterday a customer came in and bought about ten boxes at once and said he was going to need more by this morning.”

Jackpot, Andrew thought to himself as he stood up and pushed the chair aside.

“Is this person a male or a female?”

“A male.”

“Can you describe this person for me? Has the person come to collect his order yet?”

Becky suddenly stopped crying as she heard his questions.

“Do you think he might be the one?”

“I am not sure,” Andrew said with a sad smile, not ready to raise her hopes up.

“I didn’t work the counter when he came around. Linda did. I know he was a man because she mentioned it.”

Andrew drummed his fingers on the table as he thought of what to do next. A description of who the man was would have helped him greatly in his investigation but nevertheless, he knew he still had to carry on with the little he had.

“Thank you for your help, Becky. I’ll send Kiel over.”

Becky held his hand as he turned to leave. He looked at her tear stained eyes and waited for her to speak. “Please find her.”

“I will do everything in my power to ensure Linda returns to Dove Valley safely.”

Andrew didn’t know if he was jumping the gun by making promises to Becky and hoped that Linda was safe wherever she was.

He walked to the kitchen and saw another set of crying women in there. Diarus was trying to console his sister, Sarah, who was the closest to Linda. Sarah had taken Linda as a second mother ever since her own mom died and Linda had filled the shoes so well. He could not imagine what she must be going through and his heart broke to see the ever-so-brave and strong Sarah in that state.

Kiel saw him and walked toward him.

“Did she say anything that could help?”

“Yes, she did. We have a lead now, but we still need a face description to go with the person. She didn’t get a look at the customer who made the order.”

Andrew felt Kiel’s hand on his shoulder before he spoke. “I am always here if you need me. We need to catch this fucker and bring Linda home.”

It was very unusual to hear Kiel swear and he remembered that Linda meant so much to a lot of people here in Dove Valley. Andrew observed the room and when he saw nothing suspicious, he walked out of the room and decided to survey the premises. He could still see his officers trying to disperse the crowd and he shook his head at how sluggish they were being.

Andrew checked every inch of the building and even went as far as checking the trash cans. He was about to give up when he saw something suspicious on the fire extinguisher at the kitchen door exit. Andrew removed the fire extinguisher which was hung to the wall and examined it. His eyes went wide with shock as he read the note.

He wasted no time in running back into the store and calling his friends' attention. He hated that he was pulling them away from the people that needed them but his discovery was for their own good.

"What did you find?" Diarus asked as soon as they were gathered together in a corner.

Andrew gave Diarus the note. "This note."

Kiel stood beside Diarus as he read the note out loud. "You've got one of ours so we took one of yours."

Diarus and Kiel looked at him and he knew they were both thinking about the same thing.

"They are doing this because of Olivia."

"Olivia?"

Andrew realized he had not gotten the chance to brief his friends about Olivia's involvement in Mynopharm. He decided

to do a quick summary of what she had told him and watched their reactions closely.

“If they have Linda, then we need to use her to get Linda back,” Diarus announced, breaking the silence.

Andrew didn’t understand why his wolf felt angry at the thought of using Olivia as bait. He tried to calm his wolf down to avoid drawing suspicion to himself.

“How do you suggest we do this?” Andrew asked simply.

“We pretend to have Olivia with us and we ask that they show us Linda before we release Olivia. We make them think only two people came for the exchange and once we have sight of Linda, those of us who are hidden will sneak up on them and get to Linda before they realize what is going on.”

Andrew was impressed with the plan. It looked like one that could work, as long as Olivia cooperates.

“You look worried. You don’t think it can work?” Kiel asked as he looked at Andrew expectantly.

Andrew gave his friends a small smile. “I think it could work. When do you want us to go?”

“Tonight,” Diarus said in a tone that indicated he was not to be argued with.

“I guess I should go home and let Olivia know.”

“Yes, please do that. Let her know she has no choice here. She has to come with us and I promise to do my best to keep her safe.”

Andrew nodded at Diarus’s words as he made his way to his car. The drive home was short and he began to feel uneasy as

soon as he pulled into his driveway. Andrew noticed that his dirt bike was gone and dashed into his house. He noticed that the keys to his dirt bike were missing and slammed his fist on his chair angrily. He saw that his computer was blinking a green light which showed that it was on and he went to check it. Andrew could already tell where Olivia had gone off to before finishing the article and could only hope that she would not be dead before he got to her.

He sent a text to Diarus explaining the situation and ran back to his car. He sped as he drove, raising dust in his wake.

CHAPTER 3

Olivia

Knowledge is power. This was a philosophy Olivia had always believed in ever since she was a little girl. Her knowledgeable mind was finally paying off now as she snuck past Mynopharm security on foot and ran into the back door that led to the kitchen. She would have gloated at her ability to achieve such a great feat if she didn't have to be discreet.

Olivia knew the kitchen door would be open. This was not her first time sneaking in here as she had stolen five packs of sugar from the kitchen store during her second year as a scientist in Mynophram. She had found it incredulous when she heard that they were only allowed one cube of sugar for their coffee or tea and didn't understand why sugar was being rationed. As someone who had a sweet tooth, Olivia had come up with a brilliant plan to get more sugar after one month of surveying the kitchen and she had done so without being caught.

She knew the kitchen was going to be empty by this time since it was time for lunch and every kitchen staff would be busy distributing lunch to the researchers and marketers. Olivia grabbed a kitchen uniform and changed into that. The uniform was a little bit too big and Olivia used a rope she found near the trash can to serve as a belt on the uniform. Olivia wore the hair net and removed a face mask from the box and put it on. She looked at her reflection on the cover of a pot and winked knowing she looked the part.

Olivia carried an empty tray of food and placed it on a trolley before pushing it out of the kitchen. She had been expecting to see posters of herself all over the wall and was surprised to see everyone going on about their activities like everything was normal. Olivia locked eyes with a guard and she quickly averted her gaze as she walked briskly to the elevator. She kept her head down all through the ride up to the elevator and walked out when she got to the floor of her office.

She was about to walk toward her office when she felt a strong hand on her shoulder. Olivia didn't dare to look up as she tried to remain calm. She could see the green boots on the man's feet and she knew it was one of the security officers that guarded the doors whenever they were carrying out any experiment.

“What are you doing on this floor?”

Olivia tried to make her voice deeper. “Dr. Tony wants his lunch early.”

The security officer removed his hand from her shoulders and Olivia felt her heart start to beat properly again. Olivia could feel his eyes on her and she made her way down the corridor and toward her colleague's office. She waited until she was sure he could no longer see her before changing her direction and going to her office.

Olivia typed in her security code and released a sigh of relief when the door swung open. She snuck inside and began to look for all the records she had kept but could not find any of them. Her desk had been ransacked and she began to wonder if someone had gotten to them before her. She decided to check under her shelves as she was always fond of keeping

confidential documents there since it was the last place anyone would look.

She was about to bend to check if the folder was there when she felt a metallic object press against the skin on her neck. Olivia froze as she heard the safety of the gun being turned off.

“Who are you and what are you looking for in this office?”

“I was here to give Dr. Olivia food until I saw a rat running around. I would have caught it if you hadn’t startled me.”

“Dr. Olivia no longer works here. Who sent you here? Are you new?”

Olivia discovered that she could not remember the names of the kitchen staff and decided to put her self-defense class to use. She turned around and sent a kick to the man’s groin. She heard the man howl in pain as she ran away. Olivia did not stop to take the trolley as she knew more people would be coming after her in a few seconds.

She was halfway to the kitchen when she saw several masked men running towards her. Olivia picked up her speed and ran into the kitchen, knocking over everything in her way. She spilled hot boiling soup on her legs as she tried to hide behind the pantry. The men opened fire in the kitchen and she knew that she didn’t have time on her side. Olivia piled bags of flour together and climbed on each one to get into the vent.

The door to the pantry swung open the moment she climbed into the vent and Olivia began to make her way towards the exit. The vent was hot and boiling and she struggled to breathe

properly. The sting from the boiling soup that had poured on her legs hurt like hell and made her movements slow.

The men started shooting at the ceiling and a bullet grazed her but she didn't stop to pay any attention to it. She swallowed the pain as she continued to make her way toward the exit. Olivia braced herself to see more armed men waiting for her at the exit and was surprised to jump out and see all of them dead.

Olivia looked around her in shock and saw Andrew staring at her angrily.

“Get into the car now!”

Olivia looked at him and then at the dead men. She knew the best thing for her to do at this moment was to do as he said. She began to walk toward Andrew's car when she saw him push her to the ground. He zoomed past her like the Flash and was back at her side like he never left. Olivia did not understand why he was looking at her worriedly. She tried to give him a small smile and was about to apologize for sneaking out of his house when she saw him remove his shirt and place it on her chest.

Olivia followed his hand and saw his shirt slowly turn red. The amount of blood coming from her chest scared her and she closed her eyes. She could hear the sounds of more shooting and she could feel herself being lifted off the ground. Olivia closed her eyes as she let the darkness consume her.

Andrew

The last time Andrew had seen anybody bleed that much had been when his partner had gotten shot and died a few years ago. He could still remember that day like it was yesterday and his heart beat faster at the thought of Olivia dying. It had been two hours of surgery and he hated the waiting part of the whole ordeal. He had tried to convince Kiel to let him come into the theater with him but his friend had simply ignored him.

Andrew looked at his nails which were almost gone. In the little time he had spent pacing around the hospital corridor he had picked up his old habit of biting his nails. He resumed pacing around the corridor, as he rehearsed all the things he would like to say to Olivia once she woke up.

“What are you still doing here? Why have you not gone to see her?” Kiel said startling Andrew who turned around swiftly that he almost gave himself a whiplash.

Andrew looked at his friend in confusion. Kiel looked exhausted and he could not blame him. He was one of the best doctors in Dove Valley and always had a truck load of people to attend to everyday.

“What are you talking about?”

“Olivia was transferred to her room immediately and her operation was successful. Her nurse just reported to me that she is awake now.”

Andrew stood frozen as he listened to Kiel, he didn't know if he should bite his head off for not telling him or carry him up in glee.

“No one told me.”

Kiel looked at him guiltily. “I am sorry, I thought I did. There was a kid who fell from a swing and I had to rush to the ER once I was done with Olivia.”

Andrew gave his friend a pat on the back to show him that he didn't have to explain himself.

“I am going to see her now.”

“Room 26,” Kiel yelled.

He couldn't help but feel ridiculous at the amount of joy he felt in his heart. He felt like a balloon whose air had been let out as the fear and worry he had felt earlier on left his body.

Andrew knocked on the door twice before pushing it open. He saw Olivia struggling with the remote the moment he walked in and couldn't help the tiny smile that crept around the edges of his mouth.

“Are you trying to break the remote control?”

“This stupid thing wouldn't work and I cannot stand all these romantic telenovelas.”

“You have a problem with romance?”

Andrew caught the look of sadness that flashed across her face before it was replaced with disgust.

“Romance is for losers.”

“I think I know a few people who would say what you just said is horse shit.”

Olivia chuckled at his statement which made him smile a little. He took the remote from her and stood close to the television before switching the channel.

“I don’t think the remote likes you.”

“I’m starting to think so too.”

“What channel would you like to see?”

Olivia tried to shrug her shoulders but cried out in pain.

Andrew flew to her side without thinking. “Does your shoulder hurt? Do you need me to call the nurse?”

Olivia looked at him like he had grown an extra head before she began to laugh.

“What’s so funny?” Andrew asked curiously.

“You remind me of my gym teacher.”

“Hmmm...okay,” Andrew said, still not seeing how that could have made her laugh.

“She was a woman and her nickname was mother hen because she always fussed over us.”

Andrew smirked as he realized that he had indeed acted like a mother hen. “She sounds like a nice woman.”

“She was,” Olivia replied as she stared outside the window.

“I’m sorry.”

“Sorry?” Andrew asked as he looked at her. He knew what she was sorry for but he wasn’t about to let her off the hook like that.

“For taking your dirt bike and not staying put in your house like you instructed me to.”

“That was a very dangerous thing to do, and where did you learn how to ride a dirt bike anyway?” Andrew had been unable to wrap his head around the fact that she had actually

ridden his dirt bike. It was a scary looking thing that even his friends stayed away from.

“It was just like riding a bicycle,” Olivia replied nonchalantly.

“Well, you are forbidden from ever touching it again or leaving the house when I tell you not to.”

Andrew watched Olivia stand up from the bed angrily with her one bandaged arm. He had been too stunned by her sudden movement that he was now backed up against the wall. He watched her walk towards him like a lion about to attack its prey. He could tell that she was angry but he had no clue as to what could have made her angry.

“I know my rights and I can move about as I please. I can leave this place if I want to...”

“And go where?” Andrew said, interrupting her. He knew Mynopharm wanted her dead or alive and they were bound to catch her if she stepped out of Dove Valley again.

His question seemed to have hit a nerve as she returned back to the bed and remained mute. Andrew knew he couldn't take back what he had said and decided to apologize instead. “I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that.”

“It's fine. You're right. This really is the end for me. I am going to end up dying as the killer scientist and I will be remembered as the scientist who everyone feared,” Olivia said in a broken voice as a tear slid down her cheek.

Andrew walked to her bed and held her hand in his. He could feel jolts of electricity at the touch and tried to ignore that as he looked into her beautiful gray eyes.

“You have done nothing wrong and everyone will remember you as the amazing woman who found a way to give people a second chance at having wonderful health. You will be praised for your good work. I can promise you that.”

Time seemed to stand still as they stared into each other’s eyes. Andrew felt a magnetic pull between them and he leaned in closer to her until their lips were inches apart. He could hear her heart beating fast as he brushed his lips against hers.

The sound of someone coughing had Andrew jumping away from Olivia like he had been shocked by electricity. He looked to the door and saw Owen smirking at him as he walked into the room. Owen was one of his childhood friends who was a very good fisherman and co-owned a beautiful restaurant with his girlfriend Rose.

“I am sorry to interrupt. My name is Owen, a friend to this guy right here.”

Andrew could not tell if Olivia was as embarrassed as he was since she barely looked at his face.

“My name is Olivia.”

“It’s nice to meet you Olivia. I sadly need to borrow this young man here for a few minutes. I will return him back to you shortly.”

Olivia gave Owen a smile as he walked out of the room.

“I’ll be right back,” Andrew said before joining his friend outside.

Owen gave him a familiar look once he got outside.

“I will explain later. What’s going on?”

“Diarus found another note on a dead deer,” Owen explained as they walked toward Diarus.

Andrew could see the stress lines in his friend’s face as soon as they got to him. He looked like he had fought a war all by himself and Andrew wished that their town could go back to the peaceful way it was.

“What does the note say?”

“It’s a warning for us to watch our backs.”

“I won’t let Olivia out of my sight again,” Andrew said apologetically. He felt like all this was his fault since the whole threat to their town had become worse ever since he rescued Olivia.

“You don’t have to blame yourself for this. We already stepped on their toes when we destroyed their pipes.”

“Owen is right. The best thing we can do for now is to find a way to double our security. Dove Valley will no longer accept tourists and we will limit the way people leave the town. Everyone must become security conscious while we also think of a way to rescue Linda.”

Andrew remembered the last time security had been heightened in town. Fear had spread like wildfire among the residents of Dove Valley and people had been scared to leave their houses. He could only hope for the best this time and the safety of everyone too. Andrew thought about the warning note he had read as he walked back to Olivia’s room. He felt troubled at the knowledge that the threat of danger was so close to them that he could smell it in the air.

CHAPTER 4

OLIVIA

It had taken a little convincing for Olivia to get Kiel to let her go home with Andrew. He had been surprised at how fast she had recovered since she lost a lot of blood. Olivia was prone to excessive bleeding and when the bullet had grazed her she had bled until she had passed out. She had gotten a few stitches on her leg, although she still wasn't sure how she had come about those injuries.

Olivia smiled at the discharge card Kiel had given her a few minutes ago as she waited for Andrew to return with her drugs. He was treating her like she was precious cargo, which she found weird. She knew if she let him, he would hold her hand to the bathroom. Olivia had yet to figure out what type of man Andrew was and that bothered her. Her face became flushed as she remembered the way his lips had felt when it brushed hers. She was sure if they had not been interrupted, their kiss could have turned into something more passionate.

"I've got the drugs," Andrew announced as he walked into the room.

"If someone heard you say that from outside, they would have assumed you were a druggie."

Andrew laughed and Olivia found it interesting that she could make someone else laugh. Her brother would probably pee his pants if he watched their interaction since he always called her a stuck up princess. She remembered that she had not responded to her parent's email yet and decided to push that

activity for later. It was not like they could do anything for her from Europe.

Andrew waved his hand in front of her face to bring her back to the present. She had forgotten she was buried in her own thoughts and had not heard him speak. “I said, I am not sure if I told you this yet, but nice sweatpants.”

Olivia looked at the gray sweatpants she was wearing and she shook her head. She had forgotten that she was still dressed in his clothes, although they felt very good and they were comfortable.

“Thanks. I tried my best to pull it off,” Olivia said teasingly. “Is there a store where I could get new clothes? All of my clothes are in my apartment in Mynopharm.”

“You lived there?”

“Yes, a lot of people live there. It was the best option for me since my job doesn’t really have a closing time. Sometimes I could be in the lab for hours and not leave the building until late at night.”

“When do you get any sleep?” Andrew asked in shock.

“Sleeping is for those who have accomplished a lot in their life.”

Andrew began to laugh and he stopped when he noticed she was not laughing along. “Wait, you aren’t joking? I thought that was a joke.”

“It isn’t,” Olivia said, wondering if his sense of humor was twisted.

“I did a little bit of digging up on you while you were getting stitched up and I saw how much you have accomplished at such a young age. You went to Harvard at the age of thirteen. I don’t know how many people can boast about that. You have two PhDs.”

“It’s three,” Olivia said as she interrupted him. She hated that people still assumed that she had two PhDs since Wikipedia failed to update her information after she got the third one.

Andrew smiled at her correction. “You see, you are already pretty amazing.”

Olivia blushed at his compliment. She had received several compliments about her brilliance from so many people and it never held as much importance as Andrew’s own did to her.

“Thanks, can we go now?”

“Yes we can, and I could get you clothes from the clothing store now that I know your size.”

Olivia didn’t know what to make of his statement and kept mute as she followed him outside the hospital. She could identify Andrew’s car the moment they got to the parking lot since his car was the only one that had lights on the top. It felt exciting to ride in a police car and she had been tempted to ask him to put on his siren on their way to his house.

Andrew parked his car in the driveway and helped her inside the house despite her refusal to be helped.

“Have I been sleeping in your bed?” Oliva asked, feeling guilty as she remembered that she had only seen one room during her tour of his house.

“Yes, you have, but it’s fine. I have been making do with my lovely couch here.”

“No, it’s not. Your couch is tiny and you’re twice its size. We should share the bed.”

Andrew looked at her like she had lost her mind. “You really think we can share a bed together?”

“Sure, I don’t see why not.”

“It can’t work out. I’ll take the couch,” Andrew said as he moved past her and made his way toward the room.

Olivia followed him as she spoke. “Why are you being stubborn? I don’t see anything wrong with two adults sharing a bed. We could create a wall if you are scared of something happening.”

Andrew dumped her drugs on the bed before turning to look at her with an evil smile on his face. “I am not scared of something happening...” He held her gaze captive as he traced her collar bone with his finger. “If I get into that bed with you, I am definitely going to make something happen.”

Olivia felt a shiver run through her body at his words. Andrew winked at her and walked toward the door.

“I’m going to fix something for us to eat. Do you have any preference?”

“Anything without meat in it,” she replied in a low voice.

“You don’t eat meat?” Andrew asked in disbelief.

“Yes, I only eat fish. No poultry animals either.”

“Who doesn’t eat meat and chicken? I can only imagine how boring your life must be.”

“My life is just fine. I don’t think anyone I know has had this many near death experiences yet.”

Andrew smiled a little at her statement. “You make a very good point. Get some rest, I will let you know when the food is ready.”

Olivia waited for him to leave before falling on the bed and exhaling loudly. She still felt flustered and decided to take a shower to cool herself down. Olivia wrapped the transparent nylon gauze she had been given in the hospital around her stitches and bandage before going into the bathroom. She soon began to feel better when she felt the coolness of the water on her body.

She came out of the room to dry herself when she saw that the whole room was smoky. Olivia quickly dressed up before moving to the living room which was filled with a thick smoke that now looked like a fog. She began to cough repeatedly and she covered her nose before walking into the kitchen where she saw Andrew trying to salvage a burnt pot of rice.

He gave her a cheeky grin as he turned the burnt content in the pot into the trash can.

“How did you manage to do this?”

“I don’t know. One minute I was dicing the vegetables while the rice cooked and the next minute I was seeing smoke everywhere.”

“Did you add enough water to it?”

Andrew looked at her shyly and she could already guess where the problem had come from.

“Is this your first time making rice?”

“No, but I don’t think I have made it in years,” Andrew said as he looked at the burnt pot which was now being soaked with water. “Now that the rice is gone, I think it is best if we go out to eat. I hope you have no issues with cakes and pastries?”

“They are my weakness,” Olivia said excitedly.

“Excellent. I heard the bakery is running again so we can get something to eat there.”

“Why was it closed?” Olivia asked as she followed Andrew out of the house.

“The owner was kidnapped as a retaliation for me saving you.”

It took her a few seconds to understand what Andrew had said, and she began to feel bad knowing that someone else was being held captive while she ran free.

“I can’t go to her bakery. That would be like pouring salt on a fresh wound,” Olivia said as she stood in front of Andrew’s car and crossed her arms.

“No one knows you are the reason she was taken. Well, apart from my friends, and I don’t think you will be seeing them at the bakery so please get in the car.”

Olivia didn’t know if this was a risk she was willing to take. She no longer felt hungry as guilt filled her up. Olivia continued to think about the innocent woman all through their drive to the bakery and paid little attention to Andrew, who glanced at her worriedly.

“We are here,” Andrew announced as he parked in front of a beautiful bakery. Olivia sat frozen in her seat as she looked at the bakery. Her chest hurt and all she wanted to do was to beg

Andrew to take her back to his house. She would rather starve than walk inside the bakery.

Olivia was about to tell Andrew that she could not go in when his phone rang and he had to answer the call. She saw his expression go from cheerful to pale and fearful in a second.

“What’s wrong?” Olivia asked the moment the call ended.

“I... errrm... I have to go... I will let you know what we find out... you have to go in without me.”

Olivia looked at him in confusion but decided against pressing further. She could tell that he was in no mood to talk and she stepped out of the car. The moment she closed the door behind her, Andrew started his car engine and waved her goodbye before speeding away.

Andrew

Andrew found it hard to believe what he heard on the phone. He knew he was going over the speed limit at this point but decided to give himself a break. He was on his way to the training center which was almost at the outskirts of Dove Valley. The training center had been built for teenagers who needed guidance during their first shift as a werewolf. The training center was also a place that helped the younger generation connect more with their wolf.

Andrew parked his car when he got close to the lake and shifted into his wolf. His bones cracked and the skin on his body changed as he shifted. The fleeting moment of pain soon passed as he began to run in the woods. Andrew knew that being in his wolf was the fastest way for him to get to the

training center; his wolf lunged forward as he zoomed past the trees in the woods.

His ears began to twitch and he slowed his pace listening closely to every sound in the woods. He saw Kiel's wolf zoom past him and he increased his pace to catch up with his friend who was also in a hurry. Andrew remained in his wolf form as soon as he got to the training center. He could hear a lot of screaming and howling coming from inside and raced inside to see his friends holding down two teenage wolves who were trying to break free from the chains they were bound in. He quickly shifted back to his human form and changed into his clothes before going to meet his friends.

Andrew felt pain in his heart as he watched the two teenage boys twist and growl in pain. Kiel applied pressure to a large wound on the leg of one of the teenage boys and Andrew held the young boy's legs with his hand.

"Who are they?"

Owen looked at the wolves and shrugged.

"Darcy's twin boys, Tim and Tom," Diarus answered as he pointed to each boy. "She said that they had gone into the woods to chase squirrels and had become worried when they had not returned for lunch. We met them like this in the woods."

Kiel brought a long syringe from his bag and flicked it. "They have several wounds around their body which means that they attacked each other."

Andrew immediately noticed the sudden change in Tim's wolf on the left and he jumped from where he had been standing to

avoid being clawed by the wolf whose chains were almost broken.

“Tim, I need you to listen to me,” Diarus said in his Alpha voice and Andrew watched as Tim’s wolf paused for a second before he continued to struggle against the chains. “Tim, I know you are in there. Dr. Kiel is only going to give you that injection to make you calm. You need to stop struggling.”

Andrew held Tom’s wolf down as Kiel moved to Tim, whose struggle against the chains had gotten worse. The more Tom’s wolf struggled, Andrew noticed that the chains were cutting into the young boy’s hands. He knew he could not suggest that the chains be removed since they knew what wolves in such a state could do. It still puzzled Andrew to see young wolves in this form. They looked like they were hungry for blood and he could tell that they were almost going rogue.

Andrew felt his eardrum almost explode as Tim’s wolf howled loudly the moment he was injected. Kiel passed a syringe to him and he injected Tom’s wolf who didn’t howl as loud as his brother. They all watched as both wolves stopped struggling against the chains and became calm.

“I can’t guarantee that it will hold them longer than six hours,” Kiel announced as he grabbed a big bottle of antiseptic from his hospital bag.

“Do you think they will change back?” Andrew asked, remembering his conversation with Diarus over the phone.

“I don’t know. I can only hope they do. I have never seen anything like this.”

Andrew became more worried at Kiel's statement. If Tim and Tom never changed back to their human form, they would be made to leave the pack since they would be a threat to the younger ones who have not shifted yet. The state he had met them in also made him scared for the young boys who were slowly losing control of their human self.

Diarus smashed the wall with his fist and Andrew could smell his blood before he saw it trickle down his arm. He could see how frustrated his friend was and he collected a huge ball of cotton wool before walking over to Diarus who had his hands on his head.

"We will find a solution to this," Andrew said as he gave Diarus the cotton wool.

Diarus collected it sadly and wiped his injured knuckles. Andrew patted his shoulder reassuringly before walking toward the sleeping wolf. He examined their wrist closely and beckoned to Kiel who was cleaning up a nasty wound on Tom's paw.

"Do you think it is safe to have these cuffs removed? I have a feeling that it must have cut into their hand."

Kiel nodded his head and gave Andrew the key. He could feel his heart beating as he removed the chains and cuffs from their hands. He was scared that they were going to wake up at any minute. Andrew noticed that the cuffs had indeed eaten into the flesh of the two young boys during their struggle. He called Kiel's attention to it before he continued to examine them. His gut told him that every bad thing happening in Dove Valley was in one way connected to each other, but he couldn't just figure out how to connect them together.

“Olivia is the key,” Andrew said out loud in victory.

CHAPTER 5

Olivia

Olivia glanced around the parking area of the bakery nervously. She was still rooted to the same spot that Andrew had left her a few minutes ago. *You can do this, Olie*, Olivia chanted to herself as she walked slowly towards the entrance of the bakery. The sound of someone crying by the car caught her attention. She decided to change her direction as she walked toward the sobbing sounds. Olivia saw a very tall woman blowing her nose by the trash cans.

She could tell that the woman had been crying for a long time as her eyes were red and swollen. Olivia didn't know if she was in the best place to interfere since she had already brought harm to the town.

“Did you know that some reports show that men cry longer than women?” Olivia said nervously.

The woman looked surprised to see Olivia standing there as she dried her face with her sleeve.

“I am sorry. My name is Olivia, and I like to say random unknown facts when I am nervous.”

“My name is Sarah. How long have you been standing there?” Sarah asked curiously as she observed Olivia.

“Long enough to know you have been crying,” Olivia replied without hesitation.

“I...”

Olivia could tell Sarah was trying to deny that she had been crying and gave her a look that told her not to bother denying

it.

“Yes, I was crying. I am just scared something disastrous might have happened to my aunt. I feel if she was still alive, she would have come back home.”

Olivia noticed dark marks around Sarah’s eyes that were not covered completely by the makeup she was wearing as she spoke. She had seen victims of domestic violence before to know the signs to look out for. She had volunteered in an organization that educated women about the dangers of staying in abusive relationships and also taught them how to stand up for themselves. She noticed Sarah was still talking and realized she had zoned out.

“I think you should leave him if he beats you.”

“Err...what are you talking about?”

“Your face. I can see the dark marks.”

Sarah touched her face sadly before breaking down into tears.

“I am sorry if I upset you,” Olivia admitted guiltily.

“It’s fine. He has never done this before. I don’t know what came over him. Although I was very distracted while making his food. I probably should never have told him that I could cook in that state.”

Olivia didn’t really understand everything Sarah was saying but she could sense that she still blamed herself for causing the black eye. “No man should ever put his hands on you. No matter what your offense might be and in your own case, it sounds like it was about food. Once a man starts to hit you, he is bound to continue.”

“I don’t think he would ever try to do this again.”

Olivia was surprised at how confident Sarah sounded while saying those words. It almost looked like someone had flipped a switch and a new person now stood in front of Olivia.

“I am not always a mess like this. My aunt being gone has really shaken me up. Now I have to help her run her bakery with the hope that she will return back to Dove Valley soon.”

Olivia tried to mask her shock with a cough as she realized that Sarah was the bakery owner’s niece.

“Can you wait here while I touch up my makeup? I don’t want the others to know I have been crying when we go inside.”

Olivia gave Sarah a small smile as she watched her go into a green car. She felt the universe was against her and she thought of a way to get out of going into the bakery. Olivia spent the few seconds Sarah was away retouching her makeup to think of a plan. She thought about making up an excuse and running away until she realized she had no means of transportation. She also owed it to Andrew to remain in the same place that he had left her since he had risked his life trying to save her more than once.

“I’m done,” Sarah yelled from her car as she pointed in the direction of the entrance.

Olivia knew that she could only hope no one found out about her burning secret. She put on a nervous smile as Sarah pushed the door open and they walked in.

The sight of a beautifully decorated red velvet cake distracted Olivia from the stares that followed her the moment she

walked into the door. She could already taste the cake by just looking at it and she felt her mouth begin to water.

“Olivia. Over here,” Sarah said as she urged her to come forward.

Olivia noticed that there were three other beautiful women seated in a circle around the table. She felt underdressed compared to them and tried her best to look confident as she approached them.

“Everyone, this is Olivia. Olivia, meet Michelle, she is married to my brother Diarus. By her side is Becky, she is married to Kiel and this is Rose, Owen’s girlfriend. I am sure you will meet their husbands very soon. They are always everywhere and nowhere at the same time,” Sarah said as she took her seat after the introduction.

Olivia hoped she would remember all their names after today as she was very bad at remembering names. It was one of the little flaws she knew she had.

“It’s so lovely to finally meet you, Olivia. We were going to properly welcome you to Dove Valley once you were out of the hospital.”

Sarah looked shocked as she stared at the other ladies. “You guys know her?”

“Yes, Andrew rescued her a few days ago from Mynopharm.”

Olivia felt her blood run cold. If they knew who she was, did it also mean they knew that she was the reason someone was kidnapped?

“Omg! I didn’t know that was you,” Sarah said as she gave Olivia a side hug. “I hope you feel better now?”

“Yes, thanks for asking.”

Becky stood up the moment a customer walked in. “Excuse me. I need to attend to that customer. Would you like something to eat, Olivia?”

“Yes, please.”

“Do you have anything in mind?”

Olivia didn’t want to be too forward by suggesting the red velvet cake she had seen the moment she walked in. “No, anything is fine by me.”

“Did Diarus say anything about Linda?” Sarah asked Michelle.

“He sadly doesn’t have any new information. We can only hope that they find her soon or that she will be released back home safely.”

Olivia could tell from their conversation that they were talking about the store owner who was apparently named Linda.

“Do you know why she was kidnapped?”

“Not at all,” Rose replied with tears in her eyes. “I don’t see why anyone would want to harm such a sweet old lady. I am sure whoever took her is not from around here. Everyone who knew Linda loved her.”

Rose’s statement only confirmed what Andrew had told her. She really was the reason why Linda had been kidnapped. She had been hoping to hear that the woman had a few enemies, but that wasn’t the case.

Becky interrupted her self-loathing as she dropped a plate of lemon pie in front of her and a tall glass of iced tea. Olivia could feel her stomach rumble in anticipation as she stared at

the food. She picked up her cutlery and began to eat. She could not help the smile that covered her face as she continued to eat the delicious lemon pie. Olivia didn't think she had ever tasted any lemon pie this good, and she had been to some of the best bakeries in L.A.

"Olivia was just asking about Linda," Rose said as soon as Becky sat down. "I am sure she would have been happy to see you enjoy her famous lemon pie."

Olivia gave them a small smile. She had been too engrossed in her food and had forgotten where she was.

"I am sure she will still get to see Olivia. I have a feeling she will be back soon," Becky said confidently.

Sarah looked at her with intrigue. "Why do you think so?"

"I have worked with Linda for several months now and I can boldly say that she is one tough woman. Whoever kidnapped her is probably getting the beat down of their lives right now."

Everyone at the table laughed and Olivia hoped what Becky was saying was the truth.

"Do you think it might be Elsa?" Sarah asked.

They all began to nod their head and Olivia looked lost. Sarah noticed her lost expression and decided to explain. "Elsa is a baker who used to live in Dove Valley many years ago. She also worked in this bakery and was one of the first staff Linda ever hired. She was an amazing baker but always liked to be in front with the customers. Not because she had great interpersonal skills but because she liked to inform the customers that she baked what they were eating..."

“I am still so glad that I never met her,” Becky said, interrupting Sarah. “Sorry, please go on.”

“Linda tried to talk her out of doing that every time a customer came to the shop as it wasn’t a piece of information they needed to know all the time. Elsa didn’t stop and began to complain about everything. She felt she was not being recognized enough and no matter what Linda did to please her, she was never satisfied. Linda fired Elsa when she left a client’s wedding cake order in the oven so she could tell everyone that she was an amazing baker too. The wedding cake burnt and Linda had disappointed the client. Elsa swore to get her revenge but no one has heard from her ever since she left Dove Valley.”

“So you think she might be the one behind Linda’s kidnapping?” Olivia asked as she ate the last bite of her lemon pie.

“It’s a possibility,” Michelle answered. “She is the only one that we know that had such a huge vendetta against Linda.”

Sarah’s phone rang and she excused herself from the table.

“I used to work in Mynopharm,” Becky said to Olivia. “I was one of their marketers and I had to run for my life the day I witnessed them turn a man into a wolf. My husband didn’t tell me much about you, but I know it was unfair for them to keep you locked up in a cage.”

Olivia stared at Becky in shock. She wondered how long Mynophram had been conducting these experiments and turning innocent humans into wolves. It felt refreshing to hear that Becky had escaped from Mynopharm and was still living safely in Dove Valley. It gave her hope that she too could one

day regain her freedom, although she had no plans of remaining in a small town like this.

Sarah returned back to the table with a worried expression on her face. “Andrew needs you. He said it’s urgent and we need to leave now.”

Olivia immediately felt panicked by her statement. She waited for Sarah to say more and when she didn’t, Olivia stood up from her chair and followed Sarah out. Andrew looked like someone that could take care of himself in a fight and knowing he needed her help made Olivia think something terrible must have happened to him.

Andrew

Andrew had spoken to his friends about bringing Olivia over to the training center. He knew it meant exposing their identity as werewolves, but it was a risk they had all agreed to take. Olivia was the only one that could help them proffer a solution to their current predicament since she had worked with Mynopharm the longest and had also been the one to mistakenly create the serum that turned humans into werewolves. He could only hope that she could come up with an antidote for the twins before their time ran out.

Andrew heard Sarah’s car approaching and he walked out of the training center to meet them. He couldn’t deny that he felt nervous; telling Olivia that he was a werewolf could send her running the other direction. He had not been able to explore his feelings for her as much as he would have loved to and wished they had met under different circumstances.

He could see the confusion on their faces as they approached him. They were holding each other's hands and Andrew wondered how they had gotten to be close friends already.

"What's wrong?" Sarah asked worriedly.

"Diarus will explain better. He is inside." Andrew noticed Olivia was about to follow Sarah inside and stopped her. "I need to speak to you before going inside."

Olivia looked at him suspiciously as Sarah walked inside.

"Okay, you are making me feel scared. What's wrong?"

Andrew felt his heart begin to beat loudly. "You have to promise not to freak out when I tell you what I am about to say."

"I am already freaking out from your silence, so please talk. I hate suspense."

"I am going to try and make this history lesson very quick. Thousands of years ago, the moon goddess became disappointed at humans and the countless wars that kept happening on earth. She cursed some humans with different spells that would exist all through their bloodline. This curse led to the existence of our kind... werewolves."

Andrew paused his tale as he waited for Olivia's reaction, but she just stared at him blankly. He decided to continue knowing time wasn't on his side. "Our forefathers decided to live in secret and made an oath to never reveal our existence to mankind. Dove Valley was a hidden town until a few years ago when Michelle came into town and became the first human to ever get married to an Alpha wolf. Diarus welcomed

humans into town following his marriage to Michelle, but no visitor ever gets to know what we are.”

Olivia burst into laughter before he could tell her about the twins. She slapped her hands on her lap and held her stomach as she laughed. If their current situation wasn't so serious, he would have admired her unique laughter.

“I am serious here, Olivia.”

Her laughter slowly subsided and she stared at him for a few seconds. “Are you trying to tell me that you are a werewolf?”

“Yes, I am.”

Olivia looked at him from head to toe as she studied him like he was a new toy she had just acquired. “Is everyone in this town a werewolf?”

“Not everyone. Diarus and Kiel are married to humans. Owen's girlfriend is also human and we occasionally have humans come here to visit, but we are not allowing any visitors into our town for now.”

“Interesting. I am guessing there is more to this, right?”

“Yes, there is. There are two teenagers who are inside right now that need your help. They are currently in their wolf form but have been sedated. We know something is wrong with them since their wolves have absolute control of their bodies and we fear they might turn rogue at any moment.”

“Can I see them?”

Andrew was surprised at how well she was taking everything. He led her to the entrance of the training center and slid the door open for her. He watched her observe the whole room

and saw the expression of shock that took over her face when she saw the sleeping wolves. He could tell that she was afraid and he held her hands.

“The guys are over there. Kiel is in the best position to explain everything better to you.”

Andrew nodded his head the moment he got to his friends. They immediately got what the nod meant and he saw them relax. Andrew watched as Kiel took Olivia to the wolves and explained his own observation. If they had been alone he knew he would have given Olivia a hug with how brave she was being. She had even gone as far as touching Tom’s wolf as she examined his eyes. They drew out blood samples from each wolf before walking back to them.

“Olivia needs to test the blood samples at the lab again and look for any irregularities. Andrew, you will take her to the lab and let me know what she needs for the cure.”

“Do you think you can cure them?” Sarah asked hopefully.

“I can’t make any promises, but it is something I believe I can work on once I find out what is wrong.”

“Let’s get moving then,” Andrew said as he led Olivia back to the door.

“I don’t see your car around.”

Andrew suddenly remembered that he had parked his car by the lake and had run to the training center.

“I ran here. Can you wait here while I get the car?”

“Sure, but please hurry. The earlier I get these samples tested, the easier it will be for me to know what is wrong and think of

a solution.”

Andrew nodded and jogged into the woods. He ensured he had jogged a distance from Olivia before shifting into his wolf and running in the direction of the lake. He shifted back to his human form when he got to the lake and drove like a crazy person to the training center.

The drive to the lab was different. Andrew could tell that Olivia had a few things to say to him since she kept turning to look at him and opening her mouth without saying anything. He knew she must have more questions to ask him and was probably only keeping mute because they had work to do. Andrew said hello to a few familiar faces he saw in the lab and allowed Tracy to lead Olivia to the room where she could test the blood samples. He stood outside the door and waited for a few minutes before he saw Olivia running toward him. She was panting by the time she stood in front of him.

“It’s bad... It’s really bad.”

“Steady breaths, please. What’s wrong?”

“Come with me.”

Andrew followed Olivia to the lab and she instructed him to look into a microscope where he saw tiny black dots moving around.

“What exactly am I meant to look out for?” Andrew asked in confusion.

“Those tiny black dots are not meant to be in their blood. The last time I saw something like this was when I made that mutant rat.”

“Do you think someone injected them with that same serum here in Dove Valley?” Andrew asked, unable to imagine such a possibility.

“I don’t know. Their blood test results show that their blood has been infected. According to what I am seeing, the infection is spreading fast and their heart might stop beating anytime now.”

“Do you think you can stop the spread?”

“I can, but I need time. A lot of time, and I don’t think we have that right now.”

Andrew wanted to scream out loud in frustration. He hated feeling helpless and wished there was something he could do.

“Can I have your phone? I want to type in the list of chemicals I need to make the antidote. You can send them to Kiel when I am done.”

Andrew felt his phone vibrate in his pocket the moment Olivia was done talking. He looked at the caller ID and saw that it was Kiel.

He picked up the call and listened to his friend tell him the news he had been dreading all day. Andrew sat on the floor and rubbed his face with his hand. He was doing his best to hold back his tears but his heart was bleeding.

“Andrew, what’s wrong? What did Kiel say?” Olivia asked as she looked at him worriedly.

“The twins... they... it killed them.”

Saying those words felt like he was stepping on broken glass. Andrew could feel Olivia embrace him and he allowed himself

to be vulnerable by clinging to her. Memories of the last time he had seen the boys came rushing to him. Tom and Tim were exceptional pranksters and they had pranked almost every one of their friends. Their pranks were always harmless and most of the time Andrew had allowed them to get away with it. They were also very polite and respectful. The last time he had seen them, they had begged to ride in his car so they could pretend to be sheriffs. He had obliged them and had seen how happy they were.

Andrew thought about their mom and how heartbroken she would be when she heard that her only boys were dead. He knew he had to be brave since he would be expected to accompany Diarus to break the news. He buried his head in Olivia's neck as he struggled with the pain he was feeling.

CHAPTER 6

Olivia

Olivia looked at the files and books stacked on the table. She cracked her knuckles, ready to begin her research, even though that meant reading reports dating as far back as fifty years ago. Olivia had a feeling that the twins were not the only ones who had been infected with the serum and she couldn't imagine letting another person die again. Seeing Andrew in that weak state made her realize how much she cared for him. She had wished she could take his pain away and it scared her that someone she had only just met was eliciting such strong feelings from her.

Olivia blamed it on her hormones since it had been so long since she had been with a man. She focused her attention back on the files on the table and began to read them like she was preparing for an exam. She still felt she was living in a fairytale land, but the more she read, the more she realized that werewolves, witches, vampires, and fairies were all creatures that existed on earth.

Most of them didn't live among humans and they all tried to keep their identity a secret by forming a council of elders that protected their kind. Olivia could not remember the last time she felt this pumped over reading. She wanted to know more about the werewolves as she knew understanding their unique biology would be an amazing way to know how their body worked. Olivia spent the next six hours going through books and record files of werewolves in Dove Valley.

She nodded off in the middle of her research and she woke up to something tickling her nose. Olivia stood up from her chair in fright and hit something hard. She rubbed her eyes with her hand and discovered that she had run into Andrew who was holding a cup of coffee with a brown bag.

“I am so sorry. I didn’t see you there.”

“I know. You looked so at peace while you were sleeping. My plan was to drop these on the table and leave the room quietly but that paper had other plans,” Andrew said as he pointed to a small piece of paper that was stuck on her nose.

She suddenly felt embarrassed as she removed the paper from her nose. Olivia noticed that Andrew looked more relaxed and refreshed than he did the last time she had seen him. He was wearing a casual outfit, and Olivia felt herself blush as she looked at him a little too long.

“That’s Diarus’s dad,” Andrew said as he picked up a picture of a large wolf. “He still remains one of the strongest wolves I have known.”

Olivia had heard about the tragic way Diarus’s parents had died. The Luna had been an amazing person who had tried to open her town to humans but she had ended up being betrayed by the people she had tried to welcome.

“How long have you been studying all these?”

Olivia looked at the mess she had created on the floor and shrugged her shoulders. “A couple of hours. I am quite surprised that I fell asleep.”

“I’m not. Your body needs rest and sleep is the only way it can get that. For someone who has been through all that has

happened to you these past few days, I think you deserve all the sleep that you can get.”

Olivia knew Andrew had a point but she felt terrible knowing that she had been sleeping instead of thinking of how to help.

“She didn’t handle the news well. She is currently in the hospital,” Andrew said, filling the silence in the room.

Olivia knew who Andrew was talking about and her heart broke for the woman who was going to bury her children. “I’m sorry,” she said to Andrew, who looked gloomy.

“We will all be there for her.”

She knew without a doubt that the whole community would indeed be there for the mourning mother. From the little she had seen in the coffee shop, she could tell that Dove Valley is a town where everyone looks out for each other.

“I brought more lemon pie for you and coffee. Sarah said you had them earlier on in the bakery and you seemed to like them.”

Olivia collected the brown bag and disposable coffee cup from Andrew. She inhaled the sweet aroma of the lemon pie which still felt warm and pulled out two stools for them to sit on.

“We have to share it. I think I might get addicted if I eat this alone.”

“That doesn’t sound terrible.”

Olivia gave him a small smile knowing that she could not stay in a small town like this. The big city was where she needed to be so that her name could be recognized globally. She however kept such thoughts to herself as she took a sip of her coffee.

Her tense shoulders suddenly felt relaxed as she felt the coffee go down her throat. She never thought there was anyone who could make coffee as good as Jerry but here she was tasting the delicious goodness of the best coffee she had ever tasted.

“This is really good.”

“We grow our own coffee beans here and that gives it a unique rich flavor.”

Olivia was amazed by that information, she could now understand why the coffee was so delicious. She removed the lemon pie from its small box and brought out a fork from the brown bag. She took a bite and felt the pie melt in her mouth. She closed her eyes as she savored the delicious tang of the lemon zest. She knew this was something she would not mind eating every day.

“Is it that good?” Andrew asked curiously. “I have never tried the lemon pie before. I like to stick to the plain ones.”

“You have to try this. It is divine.” Olivia scooped a small piece of pie onto her fork and put it close to his mouth. Andrew looked a little bit hesitant at first before he opened his mouth and accepted the pie. Olivia watched him lick his lips and she found it hard to tear her gaze away from his lips. She knew the pie would taste extra delicious on his mouth.

C'mon Olivia, get a hold of yourself. Olivia drank her coffee in a rush. She could feel her tongue burn but she did not mind. She needed to get her head set right.

“It wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be. I expected it to be sour because of the lemon, but it tasted very nice.”

Olivia winked at him. “I have great taste.”

Olivia and Andrew shared the pie together and once they were done, he helped her with her research. They spent hours going through books and pictures and Andrew was able to show her important things in their genealogy that she had missed earlier on. Olivia made an excellent discovery while talking to Andrew as she realized that the poisonous serum had only taken effect on the twins because they shifted.

“Are you saying that if they never shifted, they would still be alive today?”

“I am not 100% certain, but I would like to think that being in their wolf form made the poison work faster.”

“This isn’t good. If the twins weren’t the only ones infected by the poison, does this mean we might have a pandemic on our hands if the full moon comes and everyone shifts?”

“I don’t think you would have a pandemic on your hands,” Olivia said confidently.

“Why do you say so? Because the image I have in my head isn’t all that pretty.”

“For every poison or disease, there is a cure, and I know I can find it before then. When is the next full moon?”

“In two weeks,” Andrew answered sadly.

“I can get it done by then. It just takes extra dedication and no sleep.”

Andrew began to shake his head. “I can’t ask that of you.”

“You are not asking. This is why I chose this field and I want to help out,” Olivia said smiling.

“There is nothing I am going to say that would change your mind right?”

“Nope.”

Olivia noticed Andrew staring at her like she was a piece of a puzzle he couldn't understand. She was about to look away from him when she felt his fingers on her face as he pulled her close to him.

“You have a crumb of pie here,” Andrew said as he traced his finger on her bottom lip, showed her and licked it.

Their eyes locked as Olivia stared at the flawlessness of his skin. She could see small specks of golden chest hair sticking out from his shirt now that she was close to him.

“You are killing me here Olivia. I want to do things to your body that aren't all that nice.”

Olivia felt her mouth turn dry at Andrew's confession. The magnetic pull between them was driving her insane and all she wanted to do was kiss him.

“I am going to kiss you now because that is all I can think of doing when I see those beautiful lips of yours.”

Olivia closed her eyes as she felt his lips on hers. She had always dreamt of having a kiss that would light her whole body up and here she was feeling like she was walking on a cloud. She deepened the kiss and heard him moan loudly as their tongues found each other. Olivia could feel her heart beating so fast and she feared it was going to jump out of her chest.

She wanted to tear his shirt off his body and have wild passionate sex with him. She didn't know where those

animalistic thoughts of hers were coming from and she slowly pulled away in fear that her self-control would slip away soon.

“Wow, that was unexpected,” Andrew said as he ran his fingers through his hair.

Olivia looked at him shyly. “In a good way or a bad way?”

“Definitely good. I don’t think I have had any girl kiss me like that with so much passion.”

Olivia knew he just gave her a compliment but she couldn’t deny the jealousy she felt at the thought of another girl kissing Andrew.

“What’s going on in this head of yours?”

“Let’s have sex.”

Andrew

Andrew remained mute as he stared at Olivia. He wasn’t sure if he had heard her correctly.

“What did you say?” Andrew asked in a low voice.

“I said we should have sex. I know you can feel the pull between us, and I know sex would help us figure out what is really going on between us. You can call it a scientific experiment.”

Andrew didn’t want to call it a scientific experiment. He also didn’t understand his attraction to her either, but he wanted to mean more than a scientific experiment.

“We don’t have to do it if you don’t want to,” Olivia said as she walked toward the other side of the room.

Andrew flew out of his seat immediately and dragged her to his chest. He placed her palm on his chest so she could feel his beating heart.

“Can you feel that? That is how much I want you.”

Andrew watched as Olivia snuck her tiny hands into his shirt and placed them on his chest. She traced his chest with her fingers and looked at him shyly. He placed a kiss on her hair softly and he lifted her up from the floor. Andrew carried her out of the lab and took her to a room which had an air mattress in it. He had been to the lab several times and had noticed this special room during one of his visits. He had noticed that it was unoccupied when he had first come in with the coffee, but he had not been expecting them to use it for anything other than sleeping. He gently placed Olivia on the bed

“I wish we had one of these in Mynopharm, then I would never have been forced to leave my lab.”

He gave her a small smile, and promised himself that he would stop forgetting that she used to work for Mynopharm. Olivia reached out to him and pulled him to the bed. She gently caressed his cheeks and kissed him slowly. He could still taste the lemon flavor of the pie on her lips and he kissed her deeper as he ran his fingers through her beautiful short hair.

“Have I told you how beautiful your hair is?”

She looked surprised by his compliment and fluffed her hair with her free hand that wasn't on his chest. Andrew pecked her hair and chuckled when she did the same to his hair too.

“You are cute.”

Andrew brushed his lips on hers and kissed her passionately. His hands found their way into her shirt and he unhooked her bra with his left hand. He kissed her collarbone as he gently removed her bra and felt the bulge in his pants struggle for space when he touched her breasts.

They were full and perky. He pinched one of them and he heard her moan softly. He buried his face in them as he let his fingers trace her ribs. He allowed his hands to roam freely on her body as he enjoyed watching her moan. He gently squeezed her ass as he continued to kiss her.

Andrew squeezed her ass tighter as he held her close to him. He slid his hands down to her abdomen and he traced circles on her stomach. He removed the sweatpants she was wearing and dumped them where his clothes had been flung to. He felt her shiver as he slid his hands between her thighs. He spread her legs open, giving his fingers access inside her. Andrew dipped one of his fingers inside her and watched her mouth open as he went deeper. She was so wet for him and he continued to dip his fingers in and out of her.

As his fingers worked their magic on her clit, his mouth captured her breast and he sucked it, flicking her nipple with his tongue as he did so. He began to feel her pussy tightening around his fingers and he changed the rhythm of his fingers.

“Oh, please....”

Andrew held her tight as she orgasmed. Her body shook and he kissed her passionately. He didn't let her catch her breath as he used his tongue to finish what he had started. He wanted tonight to be a night she would never forget. He spread her legs wide and began to work his tongue around her clit. Her

eyes looked dazed and he could tell that she was about to climax again.

“Andrew.... don’t stop... please...” he heard her scream into the night as she climaxed again. Her body went limp in his hands and he kissed her forehead continuously.

“Are you trying to kill me?” Olivia asked in a shaky voice as she looked at him.

“Just trying to make this night a night to remember.”

“I don’t think I have...”

“Hey, what were you going to say?” Andrew asked as he tilted her face to his but she looked away shyly.

“Nothing...”

Andrew spanked her ass playfully and she giggled in excitement.

“Are you going to talk now?” Andrew asked as he drummed his fingers on his ass playfully.

“It’s been so long since I... err... had sex.”

He looked at her face which she had buried in his neck again.

“How long?”

“It’s embarrassing.”

“I don’t think it is. I could tell you when last I had sex if that would make you want to talk.”

“I am sure it can’t be that long. You look like a man every girl would want to do it with.”

Andrew chuckled at her statement. She wasn’t completely wrong since he had a lot of girls who fawned over him while

he was younger, and they still did though, but he hardly ever had time for women anymore.

“The last time I had sex was eight months ago. Between trying to keep the town safe from the countless attacks that we have been subjected to, I have not had time to properly woo a lady into my bed.”

Olivia giggled and he raised his eyebrows up. “Is my lack of sexual activity funny to you?”

“Not at all. I was laughing because you said woo. You sounded so Victorian,” Olivia said with a smile on her face.

“Okay, it’s your turn now. Let’s hear it.”

“It’s been seven years.”

Andrew found it hard to close his mouth as he stared at Olivia. He could tell she was not joking since she looked embarrassed.

“I have been so focused on my career. I don’t ever go out and so I never have time to engage in sex.”

“What about the men in your office? Are they blind?”

Olivia blushed. “They are like me too. Everyone is focused on becoming the best in their field. Our work is our life.”

“Wow, I think we need to change that.”

Olivia screamed in glee as his lips found hers. Seven years was a long time and he couldn’t imagine himself being celibate for that long. He was about to change his position when his phone started ringing. He stopped kissing her as he waited for his phone to stop ringing. When it stopped, he took her lips in his again and had to break away from the kiss when his phone began to ring again.

“I think I should get that,” Andrew said in a sad voice as he untangled himself from Olivia and walked towards his pants which housed his phone.

Andrew saw that it was Diarus that had been calling and immediately called him back.

Diarus picked up on the first ring. His hands began to shake as he listened to his friend speak. He walked toward the bed and looked at Olivia.

CHAPTER 7

OLIVIA

Olivia had been too engrossed in her own fantasies of what was going to happen tonight that she had not paid attention to Andrew when he received the call. She was surprised to see him frozen on the bed. She immediately rushed to his side and shook his body. She hoped that he had not received another bad news as she knew there was a limit to how much bad news a person could take in a day.

“They found her,” Andrew said, turning to her.

She looked at him in confusion and he smiled at her. Olivia suddenly felt relieved despite not knowing who had been found. She was so glad that it was not another bad news.

“They found Linda,” he said excitedly.

She could tell he was still surprised as she watched the emotions on his face change. Olivia was also excited because she knew how much joy Linda’s return would bring to the people of Dove Valley. She was also happy because she felt less guilty now. She couldn’t wait to go back to the bakery and try that red velvet cake.

“We should go and see her. Diarus said she is in the hospital.”

“Is she hurt?”

“No, they didn’t hurt her. Kiel worries too much and I am sure he is just checking to see if she is alright.”

Olivia smiled as she remembered how the young doctor had fussed over her too before she had been discharged. She put on her clothes and held his hand as they both made their way to

his car. She could feel Andrew's excitement as he whistled throughout the drive.

"Did Diarus say where she was found?" Olivia asked as she looked at Andrew.

"No, he didn't. I guess we would know more once we get to the hospital. I really didn't expect them to let her go."

Olivia felt the same way too. She had been kept in a cage for discovering their secret and had also been tortured. It felt suspicious that Linda had been released without any bodily harm. She wondered what they were up to. Olivia did not mention her suspicion to Andrew as she didn't want to ruin his happy mood.

She matched his pace as they made their way into the hospital. Olivia was shocked to see the number of people in the waiting room. She glanced at the time and noticed it was 4 am.

"Did all these people come to see Linda?" she asked in disbelief.

"I don't think everyone is here for Linda. But I can see that all her staff are present."

Olivia followed Andrew as they made their way to the front of the crowd. She saw Sarah waving to her and Olivia waved back with a smile on her face. Sarah looked happier than the last time she had seen her. Diarus requested Andrew's presence and he had to leave her to talk to his Alpha. Olivia realized the rush of the past 24 hours had not really given her time to process that Andrew was a werewolf. She knew her life had taken an unusual turn ever since she had been rescued from Mynopharm, but never in a million years would she have

imagined that she would one day be attracted to a man who could shift into a werewolf.

If her brother had told her something like this had happened to him, she wouldn't have been surprised since his life was very unpredictable.

"Hey, I thought you were going to come over and say hello," Sarah said as she stood in front of Olivia.

"Sorry, I don't do so well in crowds and I don't know Linda either."

"I can't wait for you to get to know her. We are throwing a party for her return this evening and you have to be there. My brother thinks it is unnecessary but I had Michelle back me up on it, and so it is happening."

Olivia wondered what it must have been like for Sarah to lose her parents at such a young age. She didn't know how Diarus and Sarah were able to cope, because Olivia knew that despite her refusal to talk to her parents currently, she still owed most of her success to them. They had provided her with everything she needed and she had never lacked anything while growing up. She had the best tutors who had given her as many assignments as she requested and they had come to almost all the competitions that she had participated in. She knew she would have to talk to them one day and promised to do that soon.

"Count me in," Olivia said with a smile on her face. "I hope I am not being too intrusive but do you know how Linda was found?"

“Sure. She walked to my doorstep and rang the bell. She was dehydrated so I gave her water and allowed her to rest on my couch before calling my brother. She mentioned that they were about to move those that they held hostage to another location. They removed their cuffs when they moved them into a van since they had not been expecting anyone to escape once they were in transit. Linda said she had waited for the perfect opportunity when the guards had been distracted before she had jumped out of the van, she ensured it was a bushy area so she could shift into her wolf form and had run deep into the woods. They had chased after her but she had been able to lose them with her speed.”

Olivia was amazed by what she was hearing. It sounded like something out of a movie as she could imagine Linda being chased by lots of armed men.

“I am glad she made it to Dove Valley safe and sound. She is a very brave woman.”

“Yes, she is. I also didn’t get to thank you for your help yesterday. I broke up with my boyfriend because he didn’t see the need to apologize for what he did. He felt I deserved to be beaten and called me a lot of derogatory names when all I asked for was an apology. I packed all my stuff that was in his place and moved them back to my house. I told him I wasn’t going to report him to my brother as I noticed that was what he was more worried about.”

“I am happy for you and I know you will find a guy who would love and respect you.”

“Speaking of a guy who would love you, is that a hickey I see on your neck?” Sarah said as she examined Olivia’s neck.

Olivia raised her hand to her neck as she covered it shyly.

“I must have scratched myself or something.”

“Oh, please, don’t be coy with me. I have had thousands of hickeys to know what one looks like.”

Sarah glanced over her shoulders and Olivia noticed Andrew and Diarus approaching them.

“This conversation is not over. My brother is still mad at me about the party so I have to run now,” Sarah said as she winked at Olivia before running towards the opposite direction.

Olivia could not stop herself from blushing as Andrew stood beside her. The memory of what they had been about to do before his phone rang had her face turning red and she hoped Diarus or Andrew didn’t notice. Diarus complained about Sarah a little before he went home to his family. Once Diarus left, Olivia felt Andrews hot breath on her neck as he whispered into her ears. “I can’t stop thinking about it too, and I promise to finish what I started.”

She looked at him in shock and he winked at her. Olivia knew she was going to be counting down to the moment they had their alone time again.

Andrew

Andrew hummed his favorite song in the shower. He had a smile on his face and he felt like the happiest man in the world. Yesterday had not gone as he had hoped it would but he was happy with how it had ended. Linda had escaped from Mynopharm, which still felt like a miracle to him, although he

knew that they would have to increase the security around the borders of Dove Valley since they would try to come after Linda again.

Olivia had also invited him to share the bed with her yesterday night when they got home. They had cuddled together and had fallen asleep that way since they were both exhausted from the stress that had been through. Waking up to Olivia in his arms reminded him why he never allowed girls to sleep over in his bed. He believed it was the fastest way to fall in love with a woman and staring at Olivia's sleeping face had made him begin to imagine a life where she sleeps in his bed every night and he wakes up to her beautiful face every morning.

He had carefully removed her body from his and had come into the bathroom to take a cold shower and clear his mind. Andrew knew he felt at peace this morning and he only hoped his day could continue this way. He stepped out of the shower and began to get dressed. He put on his uniform and slipped on his boots without waking Olivia, who still slept soundly on the bed. Andrew decided to write her a note so she wouldn't worry about him when she woke up and didn't see him.

He was about to get his pen from his wardrobe when her voice startled him.

"Are you going somewhere?" Olivia asked with a sleepy voice.

"Yes, I have to go to the station. I have not been there for two days now and I already dread the chaos that must have ensued while I was away."

"Okay, I am coming with you."

Andrew noticed Olivia standing up from the bed and he blocked her path before she could move to the bathroom.

“Nope, you are staying here until it is time for the party.”

“That’s not fair. What do you expect me to do in this boring house?”

Andrew put his hand on his chest and gasped dramatically.

“Did you just call my house boring?”

Olivia looked at him apologetically and he began to tickle her.

She laughed so hard and they both fell on the bed together.

Andrew did not mind that his uniform had gotten a little rumpled during his tickling session with Olivia. He was just glad that he had been able to see her smile before he left for work.

“Don’t worry, I will be back before you know it,” Andrew said as he kissed her nose.

Olivia rolled her eyes at him. “I am going to eat all the food in your fridge before you come back.”

Andrew chuckled as he remembered that he had a lot of meat in his fridge. “Please, be my guest.”

He blew her a kiss before walking to his living room and grabbing his car keys. As he closed the door, he knew he could only hope that Olivia would still be in the house by the time he came back home. Andrew knew he couldn’t lock her in since she wasn’t a prisoner. He looked at his house one more time before getting into his car and driving away.

The first thing that Andrew noticed when he got to work was how empty the parking lot was. There were no cars around,

which could only mean that his officers were not around yet. He looked at his watch and noticed that it was almost 9 am which was past their resumption time. He closed his car door in anger and marched towards Kelly the receptionist who was drinking coffee from a big mug. His presence must have startled her, as he noticed that she had spilled a little coffee on the register.

“Good morning sir, I’ll clean this up now,” Kelly said as she began to dab the register with a paper towel.

Kelly had started working with him ever since her father had retired. Her father had been one of Andrew’s mentors and he had not been able to reject Kelly’s application despite her being underqualified for the role she had applied for. She had initially applied to be their accountant but had not lasted a week on the job when most of the funds allocated to some departments had been mismanaged. Andrew had finally found a role that suited her best when their receptionist left.

She had good interpersonal skills and she was the best person to handle people who came into the station to report a crime or turn in a criminal. Her father had believed that such a role was beneath his daughter initially, but had eventually come around when he had seen how well she did.

Andrew waited until she was done drying up the register before he spoke. He also tried to speak to her calmly as he could see that she was nervous because he looked angry.

“Kelly, can you tell me where everyone is? It is already 9 am. Are they hiding somewhere in the office ready to shout surprise because it is my birthday?”

“I didn’t know it was your birthday sir. I didn’t get you a gift and I don’t think anyone in the office knows it is your birthday.”

Andrew wanted to laugh at Kelly but he held his laughter back as he could see that she was very distraught over not getting him a present.

“It’s not my birthday, Kelly. I was only being sarcastic.”

She looked a little bit relieved to hear him say that.

“Everyone has been in the office since 8 am.” Kelly pointed to the register to show him the time stamp of each officer. “They all decided to start coming early ever since you posted the notice that security around Dove Valley has to be tightened. Damien and Fren were on night border patrol and they clocked in this morning.”

Andrew was beyond impressed that everyone had taken the notice he had posted very seriously. It made him happy to know that they all cared about the safety of Dove Valley as much as he did.

“Is there anything important I meant to do today?” Andrew asked Kelly as he began his walk to his office.

“You fixed a staff meeting by 5 pm and instructed the junior officers to send in their reports for you to take home to read. You also asked me to remind you about putting a rock on Micheal’s grave.” Micheal was Andrew’s partner who had died years ago. He had made it a yearly ritual to always go to the cemetery to put a rock on his late friend’s grave. Micheal had been a rock collector. He had always tried to get Andrew

to go with him to look for rocks, but he had found the activity to be very childish and never went with him.

It was one of his regrets to date as he realized he never spent any extra time with Micheal outside work. Andrew felt bad for forgetting about his friend's remembrance and he thanked Kelly for reminding him before he walked into his office. He tried to push the guilt away as he picked up a rock he had found months ago just for this occasion. He made a few calls before getting up from his seat and leaving his office.

Andrew let Kelly know that he was going to the cemetery before leaving the station. He decided to drive instead of shifting into his wolf form. As he drove, he decided to play Micheal's favorite playlist which he had always played whenever they were on patrol together. It was not a genre of music Andrew liked but he had come around to liking it before his friend had passed away.

His mood changed the moment he got to the cemetery. He held onto the small rock like it was a precious stone as he made his way to his friend's tombstone. Andrew gave his friend a little smile as he squatted down to drop the rock. He rearranged the ones he had dropped the previous years which had been blown away by the wind and arranged them according to their properties.

"I found this one in the strangest of places. I knew it was special the moment I saw it. I think I now understand what you meant when you said you felt they had a personality. I feel bad for laughing because I can tell how ignorant I was now. This one is feisty because it almost fell me down twice. I had to

keep it locked up in my desk to avoid me tripping on it continuously.” Andrew smiled as he played with the rock.

“I wish you were here. A lot has been happening in our quiet town that you would not believe. I am a little bit scared because I can sense something bad is about to happen.” Andrew laughed as a gust of wind blew past his face. “If that is your way of telling me to stop being scared then it is working. I am going to do the best I can do in protecting this town. That is what we swore an oath to do and I promise to do a good job.”

Andrew sighed heavily as he dusted his hands on his pants. “I miss you a lot, dear friend. Life really is not the same without you and I hope you are having a blast, wherever you are.” Andrew saluted his friend before turning to leave.

On his way back to the office he played something cheerful as he remembered his promise to his friend to always honor him with smiles and laughter. He stopped by the bakery to pick up some cupcakes and doughnuts for his officers. Andrew noticed that the preparation for Linda’s party was in full swing as the table and chairs were being rearranged. He greeted a few people and helped move a few chairs before leaving the bakery with what he had come to buy.

He had received extra for helping out, and he kept them for Olivia. Thinking about her made him smile, and he found himself unable to wipe the grin away from his face as he went back to work. Andrew counted the hours until the time went by. He briefed his officers on the seriousness of Mynopharms’s threat during the meeting, and he shared the pastries he had gotten among them once the meeting was over. He noticed that

they were excited about their reward, and he decided that he would reward them more often.

Andrew decided that he would relieve Damian and Fred of their night duties the next day since they had done it for a whole week. He put his name in the roster for two days and knew he had to see if Olivia could stay with Sarah for those days since he had noticed they were close. He couldn't trust Olivia to stay at home alone as memories of her last adventure to Mynopharm were still on his mind. He knew anything could trigger her and make her leave and that wasn't a risk he was willing to take.

He left the office once he was done for the day. He realized he was so excited to see Olivia that he was almost leaping for joy as he walked to his car. Andrew knew he had to talk to his close friends about his feelings for her. He knew they would be the best people to give him some advice since they had been in his shoes at one point.

CHAPTER 8

OLIVIA

Olivia could not remember the last time she had stayed at home doing nothing. It still felt like an alien concept to her, and she knew if she ever had another day like this, she would combust into flames or fall sick. She had spent the whole day reading every single magazine or paper that she could find but had still felt bored. Olivia had also gotten around to replying to her parents' email. She had let them know that she was fine and had tried to be polite in letting them know that she didn't need their help.

She knew she was capable of dragging herself out of the mess she had created and hoped that she didn't end up digging herself into more mess before that day arrived. Olivia had also been able to stop herself from checking out the internet for more news about herself. She knew whatever news was out there would not be pleasant and had logged out of Andrew's computer the moment she had sent her parents the email.

Sarah's visit had also been one of the highlights of her day, as she had been contemplating taking a stroll around town when Sarah had come knocking on the door. Olivia had been surprised to see Sarah, who looked like she had not slept a wink. She had come around to give Olivia a dress to wear for Linda's return party and had left before Olivia could protest.

Olivia was starting to think that the people of Dove Valley really liked to throw parties since it felt very unusual to see such an elaborate party being thrown in honor of someone's

return. She didn't understand small towns, so she kept the dress on the bed without trying it on.

The sound of a car engine pulling up to the driveway caught Olivia's attention. She jumped up from the chair she had been sitting on and peeked outside the window to see who it was. Olivia saw Andrew getting out of his car. She debated giving him the silent treatment for leaving her at home, but when she saw Linda's bakery logo on the brown bag that he was holding, she threw her plans of giving him the silent treatment away.

She returned to the chair that she had been sitting on and pretended to be reading one of his magazines when he walked in.

"I saw you peeking outside the window," Andrew said as he kissed her forehead.

Olivia cursed his ability to be very observant as she looked at him. She admired how neat he still looked in his uniform, and she soon began to picture them having sex in his uniform. She felt very embarrassed by her thoughts, and she averted her eyes while he unbuttoned his shirt.

"Can't you do that in your room?" Olivia argued as she gave him a pointed look.

"Not when I am trying to seduce you."

Olivia could not believe his bluntness. She hit his arm playfully before going into his room. Andrew followed closely behind her with the brown bag.

"I got you something from the bakery."

Olivia collected the bag from him with a smile on her face. She peeked inside and almost started weeping for joy when she saw the red velvet cupcake that she had been looking at the previous day.

“I don’t think I am going to fit into that dress once I am done eating all these,” Olivia said as she brought out the cupcake and some doughnuts from the bag.

“You bought a dress?”

“No, I didn’t. Sarah came around with it this afternoon.”

Olivia took a bite from the doughnut as she watched Andrew examine the dress on the bed.

“I didn’t know you needed a dress. I would have gotten you one if I knew you wanted one.”

“I don’t need a dress. I was quite surprised when Sarah came with one. I also didn’t realize this was going to be an elaborate party. Are you going to be wearing a tux too?”

Andrew chuckled. “Certainly not. I hate those things, especially the tie-wearing part.”

“I think you would look hot in one,” Olivia blurted out without thinking. She stuffed the remaining doughnut into her mouth to hide her embarrassment.

“I am almost tempted to wear one but I think my jeans and t-shirt would have to do for now. We should get changed soon though. The party starts in an hour, and if there is one thing about this town, everyone keeps to time.”

Olivia nodded her head at Andrew’s statement. This was going to be another thing she would love about this place. She

hated tardy people, and she also disliked going to events that never began on time.

“I am not going to eat this yet,” Olivia said as she held her cupcake in her hands like it was a precious piece of art.

“You don’t like it?”

“Red velvet is my favorite type of cake. I want to save this for some other time when we aren’t in a rush and I can savor the taste properly.”

“You know I could always get you another one some other time,” Andrew said, putting air quotes when he said “some other time.”

Olivia knew he was right, and she unwrapped the cupcake and bit into it. The buttery goodness of the red velvet cake hit her taste buds, and she moaned happily.

“I think you are the only one that can pull off eating a cupcake seductively,” Andrew said as he watched her finish the cupcake.

Olivia patted her stomach once she was done. She had ensured she did not let any crumbs go to waste.

She decided to try on the dress when Andrew was in the shower. It was a purple mini-dress that had a little bit of embroidery on the neckline. Olivia unzipped the dress and put it over her head to wear it. She looked into the mirror and noticed that the dress hugged her curves and made her look pretty. She had never been a fan of wearing short dresses since she believed it only called for unwanted attention, but this dress was perfect. Olivia was quite surprised that the dress fit her like a glove, and she made a mental note to ask Sarah

where she bought it from. She knew it wouldn't hurt to have short dresses like this in her closet once she was back in L.A. Since she didn't have any makeup with her, Olivia spent time styling her hair. She tried using Andrew's hair gel to make it sleek but it only made her look like a porcupine when her hair started standing up in spikes. Olivia finally found the perfect style that went with the outfit she had on. She knew if her hair was still long she would have looked like a runway model. Looking at herself in the mirror, Olivia decided that maybe it was time for her to start growing her hair.

The only reason she cut it in the first place was that she knew her job would not give her the opportunity to visit the salon as often as she should. Now that she was sure she was never going to work in Mynopharm again, she figured regular salon visits wouldn't be so bad.

Olivia looked away from the mirror and saw Andrew staring at her with lust in his eyes. She felt her face turn red again as she adjusted the length of the dress. She stared at his towel which hung so low in his waist that she could outline what was hidden behind the towel. His posture made him look like a god and she itched to touch his chiseled chest.

"You look beautiful," Andrew said as he walked towards her.

Olivia took a step back as he approached her. She wasn't sure she could keep her hands to herself if he came any closer.

"Would you look at the time! You should get dressed so we don't arrive late," she said as she looked at the small wall clock in his room.

"We are going to continue this when we get back," Andrew replied confidently as he walked to his wardrobe to pick out an

outfit to wear.

Olivia ran out of the room because she knew he would not mind getting dressed in front of her. She ate the last doughnut while waiting for Andrew to finish dressing. He came out seconds later dressed in jeans and a tight shirt that put his muscles on full display. A sudden possessiveness came over her as she began to imagine herself fighting off the swarm of women who wanted to have a bite of him.

“I think I must have picked the right outfit if you can’t stop staring at me,” Andrew said cheekily.

“I was just helping you look for stains. I don’t want you to embarrass yourself.”

Andrew chuckled as they made their way outside and into his car.

The ride today was different as Olivia allowed herself to admire the beauty of Dove Valley. She had not realized how green the town was, as there were trees planted in almost every location. The trees beautified the town and made the air in the atmosphere feel clean.

The venue of the party was the bakery, and Olivia could see that the whole place was already full by the time they got there. Andrew had grumbled as he parked his car a few meters away from the bakery, and Olivia had teased him about being too lazy to walk. They had bantered with each other as they made their way inside.

The bakery had been transformed, and Olivia was really starting to believe that werewolves might have a little bit of magical powers in them. She didn’t understand how anyone

could have pulled off a party like this in such a short time. There was a disco ball in a small corner of the room where people danced. There were twinkling stars on the ceiling, and the whole interior had been transformed to look like they were outside.

“This... how...?” Olivia didn’t know how to phrase her question, and she just looked at Andrew in astonishment.

“Don’t worry. You’ll soon get used to things like this.”

Olivia smiled at him as they looked for a place to sit. Olivia was soon pulled away from Andrew by Sarah, who wanted more details about what was going on between her and Andrew. She had been able to distract Sarah by asking questions about how she pulled the party off, and soon Becky, Michelle, and Rose joined in on the conversation.

Linda was as nice and pleasant as they said she was. She had embraced Olivia in a very big hug, making her feel like they had been long-lost sisters. Linda had also been willing to share her lemon pie recipe with Olivia, which made her very emotional. She also got to mingle with other guests while eating the delicious finger foods prepared by Rose and drinking a lot of alcohol that was starting to make her tipsy.

Olivia was on her way to tell Andrew how much she wanted him when a sudden commotion broke out beside her. She saw Sarah and a drunken man arguing, and she stood as she listened to their conversation. Olivia soon began to make sense of what was happening, and she realized the person arguing with Sarah was her ex-boyfriend.

“How dare you get jealous over her dancing with someone else?” Olivia asked as she put herself in the middle of their

conversation.

“Who is sheeeee meant to beee?”

Olivia noticed that he was dragging his speech and could smell the strong stench of alcohol on his breath.

“She is a friend of mine, and I don’t have to explain myself to you anymore, Dan. We are over and I want you to understand that.”

Olivia loved how Sarah was standing up to Dan. She was tempted to cheer her on when she saw Dan pouting as Sarah spoke.

“What are you smiling about?” Dan asked angrily as he turned to Olivia.

“Nothing...” Olivia answered shakily. She knew how scary drunk guys could be, and her eyes began to search the crowd for Andrew.

Dan held her hand and Olivia flinched, afraid that he was going to hit her. She was, however, surprised to see Dan flying across the room and Andrew standing in front of her.

“Did he hurt you?” Andrew asked worriedly.

Everyone at the party had stopped what they were doing to see what was going on. Andrew was oblivious to all the eyes that were on them, but Olivia felt like entering the ground.

Sarah, as if sensing her discomfort, turned the little act into a joke, and she found a way to divert everyone’s attention to a special surprise that was expected to come on soon.

“We could leave soon. The party is almost over. I just need Owen to do his thing, then we can go home.”

Olivia swayed as she held his hand.

“Are you drunk?”

“I am not!” Olivia yelled into his ears.

“Are you trying to make me deaf?” Andrew said as he chuckled.

Olivia knew she was not drunk. She could still see everything that was going on, and she could hear Andrew clearly.

“Is Owen a musician?”

Andrew laughed at her statement. He cleaned some invisible tears before answering her question. “Owen is definitely not a singer. He would probably rather eat all his fish bait than for him to sing...”

All the lights in the bakery went off and Olivia held onto Andrew’s hand like her life depended on it.

“Don’t be scared. This is part of Owen’s presentation.”

Whitney Huston’s *I Will Always Love You* began playing from the speaker and Owen led a confused-looking Rose to the center of the room.

A slideshow of the two of them began playing on a projector that Olivia had not noticed was in the room. Olivia smiled as she watched the beautiful montage of the two couples and gasped alongside Rose as Owen got down on one knee. He brought out a beautiful ring box that was shaped like a treasure chest and professed his love for Rose. Olivia could already feel tears rolling down her cheeks as Rose said yes and the two love birds kissed.

She wiped the tears with her thumb while praying that Andrew couldn't see her in the dark. She didn't know when she had become this emotional. Olivia had always prided herself as someone who was never moved by romance or any mushy act. She felt things like that were too cheesy and were only a distraction. Right now she was beginning to feel differently and she blamed the man standing next to her who was slowly changing her ideology about a lot of things.

The lights came on once Owen was done with his proposal. Everyone went to congratulate the newly engaged couple, and Olivia did the same too before leaving the venue. Rose's happiness was very infectious, and Olivia found herself wondering what it would be like to have someone who could love her this way.

Andrew held her hand all through the drive home, and Olivia could not help but smile at how cute his actions were.

Andrew

Andrew had tried his best to stay away from Olivia all through the party because he didn't trust himself to keep his hands away from her. Seeing that dress on her drove him nuts. The way her ass swayed in it as she moved and the fact that he knew she was not wearing any panties underneath was just too much for him to bear. When he had seen Dan grab Olivia's hand forcefully, all his senses had flown out of his head as he gave the other man a punch.

The jealousy he had felt at that moment was not something he had ever felt before. He knew he had to find a way to deal with his feelings for her before they became destructive. Andrew opened the door for Olivia and held her hand as they walked in

together. He could tell that she liked holding his hands and caressed her fingers slowly while he turned on the light switch.

He stared at her beautiful face as he kissed the back of her palm. Olivia wrapped her arms around his neck and brushed her lips against his. Andrew saw that as the invitation that he had been waiting for all night. He carried her and kissed her passionately as he walked to the room. He placed her gently on the bed without breaking the kiss. Andrew put his hands on her thigh, and just as he had predicted, he felt no underwear blocking his way.

“I want to make love to you,” Andrew whispered into her ears, and he smiled as she nodded repeatedly.

He walked to his drawer and brought out a condom.

“I need you to take off that dress slowly.”

Andrew sat on the bed as he watched Olivia take off her dress. Her nipples were hard for him and he couldn't wait to have them in his mouth.

“Can you put this on for me?” Andrew asked as he dangled the condom in his hand.

Olivia took the condom from him and tore the packet slowly. She knelt down on the floor and undid his zip. She tried to bring his dick out without removing his jeans, and he felt more turned on by her eagerness.

He removed his jeans, and he let her put the condom on him. Andrew carried her to the bed and kissed her belly button down to her clit. He could already see her body start to shake, and he put a finger in to be sure she was ready for him. Her

pussy was so wet for him and he spread her legs wider so he could see her well.

He kissed her thighs as he looked at her face. “Are you sure this is what you want?”

“Do I look like I am not ready?” Olivia cried out pleadingly.

Andrew knew how important consent was, and he always preferred to ask so he could be sure that his sexual partner wanted it as much as he did.

He dipped two of his fingers inside her and maintained a slow rhythm before putting his dick into her slowly. Her pussy was so warm and tight, and he ensured he started off slowly; and he could feel her pussy stretch as he went in. She dug her fingers into his back as he went in deeper and deeper while moaning his name loudly.

Andrew could feel his wolf threaten to come out so he could mark her as his, but he held onto his self control and pushed back. He could hear the sound of his own heartbeat as he looked into Olivia’s bright eyes. He held her tight as he continued to fuck her, this time harder and faster. The sound of his name coming from her mouth made him thrust harder, he stopped midway when he could feel his body about to give way to the pleasure. He wasn’t ready to climax yet, and so he kissed her lovely breast while changing their position.

He placed her on his belly, and she adjusted herself so that she was sitting on his dick. Andrew could feel every inch of her in this position, and he swore repeatedly as she bounced on his dick.

Her eyes were shut as she dug her nails into his flesh. He could tell she was enjoying it as her pussy became wetter. She moved her hips around, and he closed his eyes, unable to take in the amount of pleasure he was feeling. Andrew felt like he was going to die of pleasure at this rate. He could feel her pussy begin to squeeze his dick, and she screamed his name as her body went limp from pleasure. Andrew thrust in harder as he could feel himself about to cum too. He squeezed her ass so tight as he felt the pleasure that had been building up inside him find its release into the condom.

Andrew held Olivia tight as she caught her breath. He traced her back with his fingers as her breathing returned to normal.

“Are you good?”

Olivia nodded as she rolled off him and made herself into a small ball beside him.

“I don’t think I have ever had it that way before,” Olivia said breathlessly. “I thought I was going to explode at some point. There were so many parts of my body that I didn’t realize were that sensitive until now.”

Andrew smiled proudly as he looked at his dick that was slowly getting hard again.

“I should clean up.”

“Do you want me to help you out?”

“I don’t think I would be getting cleaned up if you come in there with me,” Andrew said with a wink as he walked into the shower. He rinsed off his body before walking back to the room in his towel.

He wrapped his arm around Olivia as they both spooned each other.

“Are you the only child?” Andrew asked, breaking the silence in the room.

“No, I am not, why do you ask?”

“I am an only child, and you give off the only child aura.”

Olivia chuckled. “Is that even a thing?”

“It is. How many siblings do you have?”

“Just one, my twin brother.”

Andrew could not believe his ears. “You are a twin?”

“Is it that surprising?”

“Yes, it is. It should have been part of your introductory speech. Please don’t tell me your twin brother still works at Mynopharm?”

Andrew stared at her as he waited for her response. He really hoped he wasn’t going to be dealing with an evil twin situation.

“I don’t know where my brother is, but he is certainly not at Mynopharm. We are completely different, and I don’t think he has ever had a real job in his life. Well, only if you count the paper he had to sell in junior high for his school project or the number of scam businesses he has invested my parents’ money in.”

“He sounds interesting.”

“Interesting doesn’t really capture what he is.”

“I take it you two aren’t close? I always assumed all twins were close since they had to share a womb.”

“Not at all. We have always been different, even from birth. According to my mum, he came out laughing like he had just heard the most hilarious joke on the planet, while I came out with a frown on my face like I was angry with the world. We don’t look alike so it made it easy for us to pretend like we didn’t know each other while we were in school. I also finished high school at a very young age and so we didn’t really see much of each other when I went to college for my Masters and PhDs.”

“I always wanted a sibling, but my mom had an accident when I was two and her uterus was removed,” Andrew admitted to Olivia sadly. He had never told anyone this before, not even his close friends.

“Wow, that must have been very heartbreaking for her.”

“It was; she told me she always wanted a big family.”

“Is she in Dove Valley?”

“No, she died a few years ago. My dad died during the attack on Dove Valley by the rogue wolf, and my mom tried her best to stay strong for me. She found it hard to live without her mate and she slowly became a shadow of herself. I know they are probably happier now that they have each other.”

“I am sorry about your loss. I am not so close to my parents at the moment, but I can’t imagine a world without them in it. I fell in love with science because of them.”

“I am sure they must be super proud of you.”

Olivia shrugged her shoulders, and Andrew decided it was best to change the topic. They ended up talking about their favorite things in the world and he shared stories about Dove Valley with her. Olivia fell asleep in the middle of one of his stories, and he kissed her on the forehead before falling asleep too.

CHAPTER 9

Olivia

Olivia stood in the middle of the room, dressed in a white, flowing gown. She looked in the mirror and saw that she had a veil on her head. Her hands shook as she touched the veil and removed it. She wondered what she was doing in the room dressed like that and walked out of the room to look for Andrew. She was surprised to see Andrew dressed in a tux; he was wearing a black tie, and he looked handsome. She didn't understand what was going on, and as she walked toward Andrew, the wedding march song began to play.

She gave Andrew a questioning glance, and he smiled at her, urging her forward. His smile should have put her mind at ease, but Olivia had a feeling that something was terribly wrong. She didn't understand why she was in a wedding gown, and she couldn't remember ever being proposed to. Olivia knew she didn't want to get married yet, this wasn't part of her ten year plan. She slowly backed away from where she stood and was about to open the door to the room when she saw Andrew in front of her.

Olivia jumped in fright as his smiling face changed into a devious one. She saw him shift in front of her, and she began to run away. She had no idea where she was going and kept on running. She could hear a lot of wolves howling as she ran, and she increased her speed. Olivia saw herself in front of Linda's bakery and tried to get in. She could see people inside drinking coffee and eating cakes. She hit the glass to call anyone's attention, but they remained oblivious to her cry.

She hit the glass harder this time, and she saw a man look at her. Olivia felt relieved as the man walked to her. He turned the handle of the door, and when Olivia expected the door to open, she saw people in the bakery start to change to wolves too. She let out a sob as she ran into the woods. She could hear them chant that she was the one who did this to them, but she didn't understand what she could have done.

Their accusing voices followed her into the woods, and Olivia could feel her feet begin to hurt terribly. She removed the shoe she was wearing and saw blisters on her feet. She heard the rustling of trees and abandoned her shoes as she continued to run. Olivia saw a stream of water and tried to jump over it, but instead, she got stuck. She discovered she could not move in the water and was frozen like ice.

Olivia began to struggle to break free, and the more she struggled the more frozen she became. Olivia saw several wolves slowly circle around her, she cried to them to please let her go, but they snarled at her with each plea she made. A larger and more ferocious looking wolf with red eyes lunged at her.

She screamed at the top of her lungs.

Olivia panted heavily as she opened her eyes. She looked to her left and saw that Andrew was not on the bed with her. Her heart was still racing as she stood up from the bed to confirm that she was not dressed in a wedding gown. Olivia exhaled loudly as she saw that she was wearing one of Andrew's shirts. She sat on the bed confused by the strange dream she had just had. Olivia was not a dreamer. While her brother had a series

of nightmares when they watched scary movies as children, Olivia never dreamt of anything.

She stepped out of the room, still unsure what to make of the dream she had just had. She tried to remember the last thing she had thought of before falling asleep, as she knew that dreams are always a reflection of what people see, think, or hear before they go to bed. Olivia remembered that Andrew had been telling her stories about Dove Valley, and he had told her more about the rogue attack that had happened.

Olivia could see that as a reason for her dream, but it still didn't explain why she was in a wedding dress. She went to the kitchen to get a glass of water and saw a note from Andrew stuck to the fridge. He apologized for not being there when she woke and told her to check the fridge for something special.

She opened the fridge and saw a box of red velvet cupcakes in it. Olivia squealed in delight, forgetting about the dream she had. She opened the box and saw that each cupcake had different types of frosting on it. She picked one with chocolate frosting out of the box and admired it before taking a bite.

The richness of the chocolate frosting made the cupcake sweeter, and Olivia took her seat in the living room so she could be comfortable as she ate. The sound of a phone ringing had Olivia throwing her cupcake away in fright. She put her hand to her chest as she tried to ensure she was breathing normally. The ringing stopped but continued almost immediately, and she stood up from her chair to hear where the sound could be coming from.

The sound got louder as she got to Andrew's workstation, and she noticed it was a landline which was ringing. She had not

known it was still working and hesitated before picking it up. Olivia was surprised to hear Kiel's voice the moment she picked up. He sounded very faint, and she could hardly hear what he was saying. She tried to let him know that she could not hear him, but he hung up on her before she could finish her sentence.

Olivia went back to the couch to continue with her cupcake. She hoped whatever it was that Kiel needed could be relayed to Andrew. She decided to just eat three of the cupcakes and keep the rest for later in the fridge.

Once she was done with the cupcakes, she took a shower and began to look for activities she could do that would keep her busy until Andrew came back. Olivia wished she had asked him to take her to the lab so she could continue her research and start working on the antidote instead of being distracted by his sexiness. She knew the antidote would not only save those who might have been infected in Dove Valley but would also save those innocent people held captive in Mynopharm.

The sound of someone knocking on the door brought her attention back to the present. Olivia knew she had not locked the door, and she couldn't remember Andrew ever knocking on the door since she started living with him. She cracked the door open a bit to see who it was. She saw a woman dressed in nurse's scrubs with the name *Dove Valley Hospital* inscribed on it smiling at her.

"Hi," Olivia said nervously as she opened the door wider.

"I am Wendy. Doctor Kiel told me you were expecting me. I am sorry I kept you waiting. I had a patient who refused to take his meds."

Olivia didn't know the best way to tell the woman that she didn't have to apologize since she had not heard Kiel clearly on the phone.

"Are you ready to go now?"

She knew she couldn't keep pretending that she knew what was going on. "I am sorry but can you tell me where we are going? I didn't hear a word Kiel said on the phone. I think the reception here is terrible."

"That's fine. A mutant wolf was caught this morning, and he said it might be something you might be interested in checking out."

Olivia wanted to scream out loud for joy. This was like an answer to her prayer, as she knew she would be able to carry out proper experimentation on it. She had to stop herself from smiling when she noticed Wendy was looking at her weirdly. Olivia also realized that people might have gotten hurt before the mutant wolf was captured.

"I hope no one was injured?"

"No one was injured. The mutant wolf looked more lost than harmful, according to what I heard."

Olivia found that strange. The wolf she had seen at Mynopharm looked like it was ready to kill her.

"Is the mutant wolf still alive?"

"I don't think so," Wendy said as she looked at the watch in her hand.

Olivia could tell that she was wasting Wendy's time by asking questions when she could see the wolf herself.

“I guess we can leave now. I wasn’t really doing anything in there.”

Wendy smiled at her. “That sounds good.”

Olivia closed the door behind her as she followed Wendy to her car. She noticed that they were not on the path to the hospital and looked at Wendy curiously.

“I thought we were going to the hospital.”

“Oh, not at all. The mutant wolf is at the lab. People would have begun to panic if a mutant wolf was wheeled in at a time like this.”

Olivia nodded her head in understanding as they continued the drive. After a few minutes had passed, Wendy stopped the car in front of the training center. She greeted two uniformed men at the door and introduced them to Olivia before going inside. Olivia noticed that a few things had changed since she last came there. Some instruments from the lab had been transferred here, and the place smelled of bleach.

She saw the mutant wolf on the left side of the room. It was on a long trolley and looked like it was asleep. The uniformed men had said the wolf was dead, but she still found it difficult to move near it.

“You don’t have to be scared of it. Dead wolves do not resurrect,” Wendy said reassuringly.

Olivia gave her a nervous smile. She could feel her palms become sweaty as she took slow steps towards it. Seeing Wendy examine the wolf’s ear gave her the confidence she needed to go closer to the wolf. It was still shocking to her that beneath all of this fur was a human. She stared at the wolf in

awe; it was different from the twins' wolf and looked a little bit malnourished. Olivia also noticed that there were blood stains on its claws, which meant that it had already killed before it was captured.

"I have to go back to the hospital now," Wendy said as she interrupted her observations. "If you encounter any problem or need anything, just talk to the men outside. Andrew sent the best men to watch over you, so you are in safe hands."

Wendy spoke briefly to the men outside before driving off. Olivia decided to embrace all the courage she needed as she set to work. She continued to observe the wolf before she drew a blood sample from it, and she screamed when she saw it move.

Andrew

Today felt like the busiest morning of his entire existence. He had woken up with plans of spending the whole day with Olivia and had also hoped that they could continue from where they stopped the previous night. He should have known not to plan things, as most of his plans are always ruined by work emergencies. Andrew had received more than twenty missed calls from the two officers who were on duty. They had spotted an abandoned, suspicious blue truck along the border, and they wanted to know if they could bring the truck into town for inspection.

Andrew had been forced to get up from bed and join them so he could inspect the truck himself before they brought it in. He had dismissed the officers after checking that the car was good to be taken in and had resumed the morning shift alongside Officer Oscar. He had tried to see if he could track the scent of

the human the truck belonged to because he had noticed that the engine was still running when he got there.

His search for the human had led him to discover the mutant wolf, who was about to attack Oscar. Andrew had been fast enough to distract the wolf by throwing a stone at it. When he had gotten the wolf's attention, he had shifted immediately before the wolf lunged at him. After fighting off several of them, he knew the best way to kill them was by snapping their necks .

He had noticed something different about this particular wolf before he killed it. He tried to blame it on the little sleep he got the previous night, but he had seen a glimpse of fear in the wolf's eyes. A part of him had felt bad after killing the wolf but he was aware that these mutant wolves were created to kill before they think. Oscar could have been dead today, and he was glad it was the wolf he didn't know rather than Oscar.

The next few hours after the attack were busy for him. He had first contacted Diarus before he found a way to move the dead wolf to the training center so that Olivia could carry out any experiment she needed on it, and hopefully create an antidote from her findings. He also had a meeting with Diarus concerning the security in Dove Valley, and he told him of the measures he had put in place.

Andrew couldn't wait to go back home and sleep in his bed. All his muscles hurt from driving around town, and he felt like he could use a break. Oscar was still shaken since that was his first time seeing a mutant wolf, and Andrew had asked him to stay back. He was currently leaning on the tree and observing his surroundings when his ears picked up the sound of

someone screaming. He followed the sound, his ears twitching as he jogged.

The sound led him deeper into the woods, where he saw a man bound by ropes struggling to break free. The man had his mouth sealed with a tape, and Andrew assessed how dangerous the man could be before walking toward him. His arms were covered in tattoos, and he had short brown hair that reminded him of Olivia. As Andrew drew closer to the man, he noticed that he was wearing a jacket with a Mynopharm logo on it and had a note stuck to his chest saying, “We know where you are.”

He was wary of the man now that he had seen the Mynopharm logo, and he brought out his taser, ready to inflict pain if the man made any funny moves. Andrew first removed the note stuck to the man’s jacket and put it in his pocket. He proceeded to remove the tape from the man’s mouth, causing him to scream like a little girl.

“You didn’t have to yank it off like that!” the man yelled at Andrew.

Andrew was tempted to fix the tape back on the man’s mouth since he was ungrateful.

“What do you people want from us?”

The man looked at Andrew like he had lost his marbles. “Can you get me out of these ropes and show me how to get back to California? I knew coming to L.A. was a mistake.”

Andrew watched the man ramble about the terrible wine he had been forced to drink in L.A. and was starting to wonder if

he was in one of those city prank shows he had seen on the television.

“Do you work for Mynopharm?” Andrew asked, although he could already guess the answer to his question.

“Obviously not. Those crazy people took me in thinking I was Olivia, when I went to her house. I always knew there was something about her job that wasn’t right. Those people turned her into a robot.”

Hearing Olivia’s name on the man’s lips piqued Andrew’s curiosity. He wondered who he was to her. Olivia had said she lived in one of the apartments in Mynopharm and yet this man had said he was in L.A. He was starting to get confused by the moment.

“What is your name, and how did you end up here?”

“Can you loosen me up first before I answer any of your questions? These ropes are killing me, and a glass of water would really help my parched lips. It feels like I have been out here for days.”

Andrew knew he wasn’t going to get any reasonable answer if he didn’t listen to his demands, and his wolf was currently pouting in jealousy.

“Here is what we are going to do, I will untie those ropes and get you the water you need once we get to my office. But first I need to know your name so I can know what to refer to you by.”

The man looked at Andrew for a moment, and he began to think he wasn’t going to give him his name until he finally spoke. “My name is Greg.”

Andrew cut the rope that bound the man's feet together and held him so he wouldn't make a run for it.

"Okay Greg, let's get you some water."

Andrew was surprised that Greg didn't try to fight him or run after he loosened the rope on his feet. He had also not protested when he entered the back seat of his car and had dozed off during the car ride to the station.

"We are here!" Andrew announced as he parked his car. Greg did not move, and Andrew began to wonder if the man had died in his car. He got down from the driver's seat, opened the door to the back seat, and put one of his fingers close to Greg's nose to be sure that he was still breathing. When he felt the warm air on his hand, he tapped Greg whose eyes fluttered before he closed them back again. Andrew poked him again, and he grumbled as he opened his eyes.

"I was just getting to the good part of my dream."

Andrew stared at him, unable to understand how anyone could be sleeping in such a situation like this.

"Sorry to cut your dreams short, but I have some questions I need you to answer for me."

Andrew helped Greg come out of the car and decided it was safe to loosen the ropes since he could always call for backup. He removed the cuffs hanging from one of his belt holes and cuffed Greg's hands before cutting off the ropes.

"How am I supposed to drink water with this?" Greg complained bitterly and began to drag his feet on the floor like a child.

"You will get a straw with your water."

Andrew had never seen such a man baby before, and he couldn't wait to ship him off to wherever he came from.

"Kelly, can you get this man a cup of water and bring it to my office. Please add a straw to it."

"Nice top, Kelly." Greg said, surprising both Andrew and Kelly.

Andrew watched Kelly's face turn pink, and he could not believe Greg was already flirting with his receptionist. He instructed Greg to take the seat opposite him while he got comfortable in his chair.

"You don't have an air conditioner in your office."

Andrew rolled his eyes and waited for the water. He wasn't ready to engage in any form of small talk with Greg.

Kelly walked into the office with a glass of water and a straw. She placed it in front of Greg who asked if she could feed him the water. Andrew had been too stunned to speak but he had been glad Kelly had only laughed and taken her leave.

"How do you know Olivia?" Andrew asked the moment Greg was done with his drink. It was one question he was dying to get an answer to.

"She is my sister, duuuuh..."

Andrew knew his mouth was open, but he could not close it.

"Like her twin brother?"

"Yes, is she really here? Those guys from her workplace said she would be here, but I don't see how my sister could end up living here."

He wanted to punch Greg for making Dove Valley sound like it was a shithole, but he had to restrain himself now that he knew who Greg was. He spent the next few minutes finding out if Greg was really who he said he was and was forced to listen to stories about his nightlife.

CHAPTER 10

Olivia

Olivia could feel the muscles in her legs begin to cramp up. She had been seated in one position for so long that she wasn't sure her blood had been flowing towards her leg. After her earlier scare with the mutant wolf, Olivia maintained a large distance between her and the wolf as she worked. She had taken some hair samples and its blood. She had discovered through its gene that the wolf had been a male before his gene had been altered and had also made a wonderful breakthrough despite her limited resources.

She had seen that the major cause of the mutation was exposure of the longevity serum to ultraviolet radiation and doubling all the measurements of the active ingredients. Olivia knew that if she could work on making the longevity serum again, she could use that to alter the genes of the humans who had been infected with the poisonous serum. Her breakthrough made her feel ten times lighter. She was happy she was able to figure this out before the next full moon and felt quite bad that the twins had died a painful death when all they needed to do was ensure they were placed in a very hot room where the effect of the poison would wear out.

Olivia stopped her rejoicing when she remembered that Dove Valley was a small town that did not have access to the chemicals she needed. She also knew that she could not go back to Mynopharm, since that would be a huge risk to her life. Olivia knew that the only solution right now was to drive to L.A. and get the supplies she needed. She decided to go outside and talk to the officers about her current predicament.

She turned to the one that looked a lot less mean and read the name tag on his uniform before speaking. “I am sorry to bother you Jake, but I need a few chemicals for my work and I was hoping you could call Andrew so he could drive me down to get it.”

Jake looked at her suspiciously before bringing out his phone and dialing Andrew’s number. He called Andrew repeatedly, but he did not answer.

“He is not answering,” Jake said.

“Can one of you take me instead? You see, I really need these chemicals to make the antidote and the earlier I get them, the faster I get to produce the antidote.”

Jack looked like he was contemplating the idea, while the other officer looked like he would never agree to drive her anywhere.

“Where do you need to get them from?”

“A pharmaceutical warehouse in L.A.”

“Are you serious? Do you really think I can take you to L.A. without the permission of my boss, knowing that such a journey would take a day.” Jake said

“I would not be asking you to do this if it wasn’t so important, and we can always keep on calling Andrew while we are on our way.” Olivia showed Jake the items she wanted to get, and he took an image of the paper.

“I’m sending this to him.”

“I am not going to get involved in this with you,” Fren said as he looked at Jake.

Olivia could already guess that he would never agree to take her, and that was why she had spoken to Jake first. Fren had been her backup plan.

“If this antidote can do something about the mutant wolves that attack the town and also ensure that we do not have another death like the twins’, then I will happily take you,” Jake announced before going to whisper a few things into Fren’s ear.

“Fren is going to remain here, and he will let the Sheriff know where we have gone. If he does not approve of this trip, then we will have to turn back.”

Olivia nodded her head in agreement to his terms. She went back into the training center and took the piece of paper on which she had written down all the chemicals she was going to need.

Jake had already pulled the car around and was waiting for her at the entrance of the training center. She gave Fren a small smile, and he barely glanced at her in return. She could tell that he did not like her plan, and she could only hope he would not say anything negative to Andrew when he was giving his report.

The car ride to L.A. was very silent. Olivia had tried to convince Jake to let her play music, but he had vehemently refused. He also did not allow her to make any stop to get something to eat, and he reminded her that she had spoken about the urgency of getting the chemicals.

Olivia decided to take a nap when she found looking at trees boring. She was soon awoken by the sound of the car engine

sputtering. Olivia opened her eyes and saw smoke coming out from the hood of the car.

“What’s wrong?” Olivia asked in alarm.

“I think the engine must have overheated,” Jake replied calmly as he popped open the hood before stepping out of the car.

Olivia joined him outside the car after a few seconds. She noticed that it was raining, and she began to shake from the cold.

“You can go inside, I think the problem is fixed now.”

She happily ran back into the car and turned the car heater on to keep herself warm. Olivia hated rainy seasons because it always meant that her nostrils were going to get blocked while she endured terrible headaches.

They continued their journey in silence, and her eyes began to slowly close again. The screeching of the tires made her sit upright as she noticed that Jake had lost control of the car and they were heading toward a tree. Olivia screamed as their car collided with a tree, and she felt her face connect with the dashboard of the car. Olivia opened her eyes and saw Jack bleeding beside her. There was a shard of glass stuck in his forehead.

She began to cry as she yelled for help on the deserted road.

Andrew

Andrew thought of the different ways he could reprimand Jake the moment he saw him. He understood that his motive was good, but he did not appreciate the fact that he had not insisted on waiting for his approval before he took Olivia on a very unsafe journey. He had set off to follow them the moment Fren

told him what had happened. Andrew thought of the different attacks that could be waiting for Olivia on the road from Mynopharm, he did not understand why she loved to put herself in danger.

If those people had been able to get her brother in LA, Andrew knew they were possibly waiting to ambush her once she got there. He increased his speed despite the rain that was falling, as he hoped to catch them on time before they got far. As Andrew neared a sharp bend, he immediately sensed danger and had to stop his car abruptly. His wolf suddenly became restless as he picked up Olivia's smell. He ran out of the car as he began to sniff her out.

Andrew was unable to hide his shock when he saw Olivia cradling a bleeding Jack to herself. She put Jack on the floor and limped towards him. She was shaking like a leaf by the time she got to him, and he held her close to him while trying to suppress his anger.

"He...I... there is glass stuck to his head," Olivia said stammering, as she pointed to Jack.

"Are you hurt?" Andrew asked as he walked over to Jack, who was slipping in and out of consciousness.

Olivia shook her head in response, and he carried Jack into his car like he weighed nothing. He placed him in the back seat and he helped Olivia into the front seat. She was still shaking like a leaf by the time he helped her with her seatbelt.

"He is going to be fine," Andrew said as he turned on the ignition of the car and began the drive back home. Jack had survived more serious wounds, and Andrew knew he was

going to pull through, especially with his wolf healing abilities.

The drive to the hospital was very quiet. Andrew didn't say anything to Olivia because he was still very angry with her. When he got to the hospital, he parked his car and turned to Olivia. "I need you to stay in the car while I take Jack into the hospital."

Andrew noticed that she didn't like his idea but he knew he didn't want to receive another lecture from Kiel about him not doing a good job of keeping her safe since she was always finding herself in dangerous situations.

He closed his door and carried Jake who was now completely unconscious. He rushed into the hospital and left Jake in the hands of Dr. James, who assured him that Jake would be fine by tomorrow.

Andrew walked out of the hospital and toward his car. He saw Olivia standing outside the car shivering.

"Can't you follow one simple instruction?" Andrew yelled at Olivia and he watched her flinch at his loud voice. He could see the fear in her eyes as he towered above her and he began to regret his actions. He tried touching her but she moved away from him and entered the car.

"I'm sorry."

Olivia pretended not to have heard him and he started his car wondering how their day had turned into this. He tried talking to her in the car and explaining the reason for his anger but she continued to give him the silent treatment. She did not wait for him to properly park his car before she walked out. Andrew

remembered that he was yet to tell her that her twin brother was in Dove Valley and didn't know if now was a good time to bring it up.

He walked into his house and heard her screaming before breaking down into tears. He didn't know if she was going to push him away if he comforted her and decided to risk it all by opening the door of the room. He saw her curled up like a ball on the ground, her eyes were already puffy from the little crying she had done and his heart broke seeing her like that. Andrew bent down and enveloped her in a hug, his long arms feeling like a blanket around her petite frame.

She began to cry some more and he patted her back soothingly so she could let it all out.

"I thought I was going to die... I don't want to die."

"Shh... Don't worry, nothing is going to happen to you," Andrew said reassuringly as he kissed the top of her head.

They remained like that together for a few seconds before Olivia looked into his eyes. "I don't want to make you mad either, and I am sorry."

"I am sorry for yelling at you. I should never have done that."

Olivia hugged him tightly and surprised him by brushing her lips against his. She pushed her body against his and kissed him. He could feel her breasts against his chest as she kissed him with more urgency.

"Are you sure this is what you want?" Andrew asked as she kissed his neck.

Olivia nodded and he carried her to the bed. He buried his fingers in her hair as they continued to kiss and breathed in her

lovely smell which was strong enough to drive him crazy. She removed her top and he began to kiss her precious skin. She closed her eyes in pleasure as he nibbled on her earlobes while his hands fondled her breasts. She pushed her body from his and helped him remove his pants. He could tell that she wanted to be in control and he decided to give her that. He could always have his moment some other time.

She pulled down his boxers before taking his dick into her hands and putting it in her mouth. She licked the tip with her tongue and took him all the way down her throat. Andrew wondered where she had learned to do this as he fought with the overwhelming pleasure that was building up within him. She continued to bob her head as she moaned.

“I need a condom,” Andrew said as he stopped her mid way.

He wanted to be inside her and not in her mouth, despite the amazing feeling he was getting. He took out the last condom from the pack he had bought and made a mental note to buy more. He tore it with his mouth hurriedly, and put it on while Olivia watched. She was sprawled on the bed like a sexy Thanksgiving turkey waiting to be devoured. Andrew held her gaze as he slid his dick inside her. Her mouth formed into a little “O” as he thrust in deeper.

Andrew had to hold himself back as he felt her tightness about to drive him mad. She arched her hips forward in a way that made him feel every inch of her, and he moaned her name as he fucked her slowly.

“You are always so wet for me, babe,” Andrew said as he continued to thrust in and out. He could feel her pussy begin to

contract around his dick and he increased his rhythm. “Come for me, babe.”

Andrew could feel the sensation that he was about to come too, and he buried his face in her hair as they both climaxed together.

Olivia wrapped her hands around his neck as she closed her eyes. He could tell that she had enjoyed it as much as she did since she had a lazy smile on her face.

“Thanks for saving me today,” Olivia whispered as her eyes drifted open a little before she closed them again. He chuckled when he noticed that she had fallen asleep. He gently removed his body from hers without waking her up and went into the bathroom to freshen up. It was while he was showering that Andrew remembered he had still not told Olivia that her brother was around. He promised to do that tomorrow, once they were both awake. He climbed onto the bed, and she snuggled close to him like he was her blanket. Andrew smiled at her action and gave her a peck before closing his eyes himself.

CHAPTER 11

Olivia

Olivia woke up to her body being crushed by Andrew's own. She knew he must have been too deep into his sleep, and forgotten that she was on the bed. She found a way to gently push his muscled body away from hers, and she watched him stir a little before he went back to sleep. She reached out to touch his hair and discovered that she loved how soft it was between her fingers. At least she now understood why he had a lot of hair products in his bathroom.

Her mind flashed back to yesterday, and she had been so sure she was going to die when the car had hit the tree. Everything that she had ever worked for seemed very meaningless at that point. Olivia had been shaken up when she saw a shard of glass in Jake's face, and nothing could have prepared her for the feeling of regret that had washed over her when she thought he was going to die in her arms. She had done her best to drag him out of the car and speak to him as he began to lose consciousness.

She thought about the family that was probably waiting for him at home, and she knew that she wouldn't have been able to live with herself if he had died. Olivia had allowed herself to breathe normally when she had seen Andrew. It was also at that point when he asked her if she was fine, that she realized that she had not checked her body for any injuries since the glass inserted into Jake's face seemed more pressing.

"Do you know that you always have these frown lines on your forehead when you think?" Andrew said as he kissed her

nose. “What are you thinking about so early in the morning?”

“Jake. I want to know if he is alright.”

“Let me put a call through to Dr. James. Hopefully he is on duty this morning,” Andrew said as he stood up and walked to his dresser to retrieve his phone.

Olivia blushed as she stared at him in all his naked glory. She listened to Andrew talk to Dr. James, and she eagerly waited for him to end the call so she could know if she should cut back on the guilt she felt.

“He is okay, he only needed a few stitches but he is good now and will be discharged by afternoon.”

Olivia had not known that she had been holding her breath until she exhaled loudly. It felt like a huge weight had been lifted off her shoulder.

“Dr. James said he also asked about you; he wanted to know if you were okay.”

She smiled happily as she looked at Andrew. Olivia wondered if a niceness gene was given to everyone in Dove Valley.

“There is something that I forgot to tell you,” Andrew said with a serious face, which made her afraid.

Olivia nodded for him to go on while she nervously fiddled with her fingers.

“I met your brother Greg yesterday. Actually, it was more like I found him in the woods. He was apparently captured by Mynopharm when he went to your apartment.”

Olivia looked at Andrew in shock as she processed all that he was saying. Out of all the things she had expected him to say,

finding her twin brother in the woods had not been on the list. A million questions swam in her head as she wondered what Greg had been looking for in her apartment when they had not spoken in months.

“Are you sure it was my twin brother?” Olivia asked.

“Pretty sure he is the one. He was also shocked that you were here and also gave me some tips on how I could make my office stylish.”

Olivia didn't need Andrew to say more. That statement had her brother's name written all over it. She was still in shock, and she tried to remember if they had been cordial the last time they had seen each other. Olivia chuckled as the memory of their last interaction came to her. Greg had come over to her apartment when she still lived in California, pretending to create more sibling bonding moments with her when he had been more interested in seeing how she could lend him some money so he could set up one of his numerous businesses that never stayed afloat.

When she found out his dubious plan, she kicked him out of her house and took the spare key she had given him.

“Where is he?” Olivia asked curiously.

“I left him at the station. I told Kelly to make sure he was comfortable in my office before I left. I have not received any report from my officers, so I am sure he was well behaved.”

“Can we go see him now?”

Andrew looked at the bed and then looked at her. “Err... sure. Let me shower quickly before we go. I need to talk to Diarus about the note that was pinned to the jacket he was wearing.”

“There was a note?” Olivia asked as she wondered why Andrew had left such important information out.

“Yes, there was a note. It’s nothing serious. They were just letting us know that they know where you are.”

Olivia couldn’t believe that he was calling a note like that something not serious, and she wondered what he saw as serious.

“Please don’t start getting worked up over this,” Andrew said as he kissed her forehead before going into the bathroom.

Olivia couldn’t help but worry that she was the one inviting danger to their town. There were so many people in the town that she already cared about, and she didn’t want anything to happen to them. She decided that she would need to come up with a solution that would save the people of Dove Valley from the impending doom that might come upon them if Mynopharm attacked.

“I thought I told you not to get worked up over the note?” Andrew said as he stepped out of the bathroom.

“I was just thinking,” Olivia said with a shrug as she tried to play it calm.

“Yeah right, and dogs can fly.”

Olivia chuckled as she saw Andrew roll his eyes at her. She went into the bathroom to brush her teeth and wash her face. When she came out, Andrew was already dressed, and she checked herself in the mirror to ensure that her brother wasn’t going to have too many things to make fun of about her appearance.

She followed Andrew to his car, and he drove them to the station. Olivia took a few calming breaths by the time they got to the station and Andrew parked his car. She knew she was going to need all the patience in the world if she was going to be dealing with her brother.

“If I didn’t know any better, I would have assumed that you were going to conquer a mighty sea lion.”

Olivia smiled at Andrew, knowing that the emotions running through her mind were pretty similar to what he had described.

The station was bigger than what Olivia had been expecting. It was also clean and didn’t smell like the last one she bailed her brother out of while they were in California. A lot of people stopped by to talk to Andrew, and Olivia felt bad that she had constantly been taking him away from his work. He pointed in the direction of his office so she could go alone and not have to wait for him to talk to her brother.

Olivia could hear the sound of a girl giggling, and she could already tell that her brother must have charmed his way into the heart of an innocent young woman. It was one of the many talents that he had that he actually made use of. She coughed loudly as she pushed the door open and walked in.

The lady who her brother had been flirting with looked at Olivia like she had just been caught doing something really bad. She apologized over and over as she scurried out of the office. Once she was gone, Olivia looked at her brother, who didn’t look any different from the last time she had seen him. He still had his hair cut in the same length as hers, and he still had those dimples that used to make her mad.

Olivia noticed that he had gotten more tattoos on his left hand, and she knew they would have to fix an intervention for him soon.

“It’s about time you got here,” Greg said, giving her a boyish smile as he spread his arms apart for a hug.

She rolled her eyes at his arrogance and looked around Andrew’s office instead. Olivia loved how neat and tidy his office was. She didn’t know if he had done it on purpose, but every item in his office was either white or black.

“I can’t believe you don’t want one of my warm hugs,” Greg whined.

Olivia sighed as she looked at her brother. “The Sheriff said you were in my apartment, can I ask how you knew where I lived?”

“Mom and Dad told me. I can’t believe you work for those psychos, though. I was surprised when they barged into your home, claiming that you were a wanted criminal. I told them they were wrong and they had the wrong house...”

“What were you doing in my house, Greg?” Olivia said, interrupting him.

“Can’t a brother want to see his sister anymore?”

“That is not going to work on me this time.”

Greg touched her hair as he smiled at her. Olivia took a step back away from him.

“I think your hairline is receding,” Greg stated smugly as he stood in front of her.

Olivia touched her hair and stared at him in mock horror. If he wasn't her brother, she would have seduced Andrew into making Greg sleep in jail for a week.

"You don't need to look that way. There is always a cure for everything, and speaking of cures, I heard that you created a deadly drug under the pretense of finding a cure for terminal diseases. Is this true?" Greg asked curiously.

"It is obviously not true. Why would I want to create a deadly drug?"

"To sell it, obviously."

Olivia was saved from replying to her brother as Andrew walked into the room.

"I hope I am not interrupting anything, but I have to be in Diarus's house. I asked officer Fren to drop Greg off at the motel so he can spend the night there. Michelle asked that you stop by Rose's apartment, so Sarah will be picking you up from the motel," Andrew said as he gave her a peck on her forehead.

"Are you fucking my sister?" Greg asked in shock, making Olivia turn red. "I would say I am impressed, Olly. I thought you were going to die a virgin."

Olivia waved Andrew away, afraid that her brother would say more embarrassing things about her.

"Have you been here long?"

"That is none of your business. Let's go meet Fren," Olivia said as she pushed her brother out of the room.

Fren had a scowl on his face the moment he saw her, and she knew she deserved it. Olivia hoped that her brother would try to avoid making him angrier as they entered his car. He did not say anything to them and drove like a robot. She noticed that Greg was planning on commenting on that, so she decided to ask him questions about the last trip he had gone on. Olivia had been expecting the drive to the motel to be as short as possible, but they had been on the road for almost forty five minutes and they were still yet to get there.

She had listened to Greg talk her ear off about the girls he had been with and all the sights he had seen. Compared to her life, Olivia knew her brother had it better. The car finally came to a stop when they saw a very beautiful building surrounded by trees. Fren parked the car and signaled for them to get out. Olivia had not been able to express her gratitude as he zoomed off the moment they were out of the car.

“Did you dump him for the Sheriff?” Greg asked as he looked at the car.

She didn't dignify his question with a response as she walked towards the entrance of the motel. The place looked like it had been newly renovated, as Olivia could see her face on the marble tiles on the floor. There were pictures of Diarus's parents hanging on the wall alongside everyone else that had died on the day of the attack.

“I don't think I can stay here,” Greg cried out as he stared at the picture of a man who was holding a very large fish that was twice his size.

Olivia ignored her brother as she walked up to the receptionist, who was engrossed in her phone. She tried to get the young

woman's attention but tapping the reception bell didn't seem to be working.

"Let me handle this," Greg said as he waved his hand in front of the receptionist's face.

The young woman was so startled that she toppled over in her chair. Her brother smiled at her proudly, like he had done a good job, and quickly masked his smile with sadness as the receptionist stood up from her fall.

"I hope you didn't injure your beautiful self while you fell," Greg said in a concerned voice as he looked worriedly at the receptionist.

Olivia could now see her name tag properly and noticed that her name was Queen. She decided to divert Queen's attention to the reason for their visit in order to avoid falling victim to her brother's charm.

Queen, however, looked at Olivia in annoyance when she called her name. She didn't spare her another glance as she listened to Greg talk and showed him his room, leaving Olivia staring at them in surprise.

Olivia heard someone calling her name repeatedly and turned to see Sarah at the door of the motel. She looked at the direction her brother had passed through, and she decided that he was big enough to take care of himself. She knew that he would find a way to reach her if he needed anything, and she jogged outside to join Sarah.

She expected to see a happy looking Sarah when she got outside and was shocked when Sarah looked at her sadly.

"Is something wrong?"

“Yes, and it has to do with you.”

Olivia could feel her heart ready to jump out of her chest as she waited for Sarah to talk.

Andrew

Andrew took a shortcut to Philip’s store, where he was expected to meet Diarus for their meeting. Philip owned a male clothing store in Dove Valley and was an amazing fashion designer who made a lot of beautiful outfits tailored to each person’s size. He had been the one who made Diarus and Kiel’s tux for their wedding. He had also been the one who made the only tux Andrew owned, which he had worn a lot of times. Andrew was surprised when he saw Kiel and Owen’s car parked close to the store. He got out of his car and made his way inside.

“I told you it was Andrew we saw on the way,” Kiel said as soon as Andrew walked in.

Andrew greeted his friends before taking his seat on one of the sofas.

“Where is Diarus? He told me to meet him here.”

“He is inside taking his measurements for our new tux,” Owen replied.

Andrew looked at Owen with a confused expression on his face.

“Rose finally picked a date, and it is a week from now,” Owen said excitedly.

“Are you serious?”

“Yes, she found out she was pregnant yesterday. She doesn’t want a baby bump in her wedding picture.”

“Congratulations!” Andrew and Kiel said simultaneously as they each stood up to give Owen a hug.

Andrew couldn’t wipe the smile away from his face as he looked at his friends, who had all made a family of their own. He could remember how they had made a pact when they were still young children that they would stay away from girls because they cried too much. He knew their younger selves would definitely be disappointed in them.

“Wait, do I have to get a tux too?” Andrew asked Owen.

“Yes, you do. I think everyone in Dove Valley is tired of your black tux, and I also want all my best men to wear a deep green tux.”

“Please, tell me he is joking,” Andrew asked Kiel as he turned to him.

“He isn’t,” Philip said, as he walked into the room with a tape measure around his neck.

“You are the only one who hasn’t been measured yet, so get to it,” Diarus said with an evil grin as he cleared the path to Philip’s office for Andrew.

Andrew shook his head at his friends as he stood up to get his own measurement. He decided to occupy himself with thoughts of Olivia as he got his measurements taken.

“You know I am only taking your measurements, right? You can open your eyes, please,” Philip said with a smile on his face.

Andrew had closed his eyes because he wanted to speed up the whole process, and he gave Philip the finger.

Philip placed the measuring tape on his ankle. "Is this length fine for your pants?"

"No one said anything about pants; I thought it was just the tux alone."

"Owen wants everyone to look uniform."

Andrew cursed inwardly as he wondered what had become of his friend. The Owen he knew never cared much about fashion. Andrew had been the one to convince him to go home to change the first time he was to see Rose because he smelled of fish. Now, here he was making all of them wear matching outfits.

"You can go now, Sheriff. The operation is over," Philip said teasingly.

Andrew walked back to where his friends were and took his seat beside Owen. He decided to keep quiet about the pants and categorized his silence as his wedding present to Owen.

"Diarus was just telling us you found a note on Olivia's twin brother," Kiel said the moment Andrew sat down.

"Did you bring it?"

Andrew removed the note which he had folded from his back pocket and gave it to Diarus.

Diarus read the note and passed it to the others.

"Why do you think they want her?" Owen asked curiously.

"My theory is that they must feel she has something that she could use to bring them down, and according to Andrew, she

has a record of almost every experiment that has been carried out in the lab. One of which is the mutant serum that turns humans into mutant wolves,” Diarus replied.

“Yesterday she found a formula that can reverse the genes of the mutant wolves and turn them back to humans. She was going to get the chemicals she needed in preparing the serum when she and Jake had an accident,” Andrew said, briefing his friends on the recent development.

“Is this serum going to be used as a cure for anyone who has been exposed to the poison that killed the twins?”

“The solution to that is slightly easier, as all you have to do to the infected person is put them in a very hot room; too much heat destroys the poison.”

Dairus looked heartbroken as he heard Andrew speak. “So that was it? All they needed was too much heat?”

“We should not beat ourselves up too much. It is a good thing she figured this out early enough before the next full moon. We would have had a pandemic on our hands by then.”

“Andrew, can you pass out this information to every house so that everyone can be prepared. I do not want people panicking and running to the hospital if anything happens.”

“Will do.”

“Did Olivia tell you what kind of chemicals she wanted to get? I have a friend in New York who could get them for me and ship them over,” Kiel said as he scrolled through his contact list. “Yup, found him.”

“I think Jake sent me an image of the list.”

Andrew found the image on his phone and sent it to Kiel, who immediately made the call. They all waited in silence until Kiel was done with his call.

“Okay, so that is settled. He said he would get them here by tomorrow.”

Andrew knew how excited Olivia would be once she got to hear that he had still gone ahead to get the chemicals she needed.

“I really didn’t think your type would be the science-y type,” Kiel said, and his other friends chuckled.

“I don’t know what you are talking about,” Andrew replied innocently.

They all gave him a knowing look, and Andrew knew his friends were the best people he could express himself to since they had all been in his shoes.

“She drives me crazy, and I always have this strong urge to protect her.”

“Have you had sex yet?”

Andrew didn’t know if he wanted to talk to his friends about his sexual activities with Olivia.

“The fact that you are taking so long means yes. You know nobody asked you for explicit details, right,” Diarus said, as if reading his mind. “The sex makes your bond stronger. Trust me, it gets worse when you mark her.”

“That doesn’t sound so encouraging,” Andrew said sadly. He didn’t want to end up being a fool in love since he wasn’t sure about where he stood with Olivia yet.

“You guys should have a serious talk to know where this is all going. I am sure she feels the pull too, and if she picks you, then so be it. Also, don’t end up like Kiel, who decided to mark his mate before talking. It is a reckless move that could have cost him his life.”

Andrew remembered how scared he had been for his friend. Becky had rejected him when she found out that he was a werewolf, and they had all thought that he was going to die of heartbreak since he gradually became a shadow of himself. Just thinking about it made him scared.

“So when is the bachelor’s party?” Andrew said cheerily as he changed the subject.

“I am not sure I want one. Rose is organizing something in the house, so don’t expect Olivia home tonight.”

“If the women are doing something, then we should celebrate too, and as the only non-married friend among us. I say let me do this for you guys.”

Andrew waited for his friends’ responses as they all glanced at each other. He needed to blow off all the stress he had gone through over the past few days and also distract himself from thoughts of Olivia.

“We are in,” Kiel, Owen, and Diarus all said together.

CHAPTER 12

Olivia

Olivia wanted to tackle Sarah to the ground for scaring her like that. Sarah had gone ahead to volunteer Olivia's help for the upcoming nuptials of Rose and Owen. She felt elated that she was finally going to be involved in a wedding, which was something she had never done before. As a child, she was hurt when her aunt had chosen someone else to be the flower girl instead of her. Her brother had been the ring bearer, which had made her very jealous until he misplaced the ring a few minutes before the wedding was expected to start.

They were currently on their way to pick up Rose's bridal shower cake from Linda's bakery, and Olivia had not been able to hide her excitement when she found out that the cake was going to be chocolate and red velvet flavored. She knew it wasn't her cake, but the thought of having that yummy goodness would be worth it.

"Do you want to stay in the car while I get the cake, or will you get it instead?" Sarah asked as she stopped her car close to the bakery. "I don't want to be blocked by another car."

"I will stay here and watch over your car."

Sarah gave her a smile as she left, and Olivia lowered her seat so she could get a little bit of sleep. She had not slept properly the previous night as she had replayed the accident scene in her head over and over again. Having sex with Andrew had helped distract her from how guilty she had been feeling, but when she closed her eyes, those feelings had rushed back like a mighty gust of wind. Olivia closed her eyes, ready to drift

off to sleep, when she heard a voice that sounded oddly familiar.

“You were meant to use him to get her, you dummy... Now he is gone... You can’t do anything right,” Olivia heard the voice say. She peered from the window and saw Linda fuming as she walked to the bakery. She suddenly felt uneasy at the conversation she had just overheard. After a few minutes, Olivia decided to dismiss the feeling when she came to the conclusion that Linda had probably been trying to set up two love birds. She saw Sarah come out of the bakery with a cake in her hand, and she adjusted her seat, knowing that she would have to postpone her sleep time.

“Guess what?” Sarah said excitedly.

“What exactly should I be guessing?” Olivia asked, knowing she always hated the guessing game.

“I don’t know. I don’t think you would have guessed it correctly so let me just spill” Sarah said laughing. “Linda gave us the cake for free!”

“That’s amazing,” Olivia said as she thought back to the conversation she had just overheard. She knew it was going to be on her mind all day, and she decided to see if she could get any information from Sarah.

“Does Linda run matchmaking services?”

Sarah looked at her curiously before winking. “Do you want her to set you up with someone? I thought you and Andrew were already hitting it off, but not to worry, there are other single men out here in Dove Valley.”

Olivia knew that if she denied what she had with Andrew right now and the news got to him, she would be screwed.

“It’s my twin brother. He just came into Dove Valley and already asked me to hook him up with someone,” Olivia said as she lied through her teeth.

“Hold up. Did you just say you have a twin brother?”

“Yes, he was the reason I was at the motel.”

“Now I wish we had more time so I could meet him. It must be so cool to be a twin.”

Olivia wasn’t ready to get into details about her relationship with her brother so she smiled instead.

“I am sure you would get to see him some other time. I still have to break it to him that I don’t know anyone who can set him up.”

“Linda tried setting me up with a guy before, but the date was terrible. I would not recommend using her services. Although she likes to meddle in relationships, but in a good way. I could help your brother out once I see him.”

“Thanks.”

Olivia felt a little bit relaxed now that she knew that the conversation she had overheard must have been for a couple she was trying to pair up. She joined Sarah in singing some songs on her playlist as they made their way to Rose’s house. Being in the car with Sarah reminded Olivia of what she had been missing all her life. She had always preferred to isolate herself and had kept friends based on their usefulness in her life. She promised herself to do better when she returned to

LA and hoped she could still remain friends with Sarah despite the distance.

Rose and Owen's house reminded her of a literature book she had read while in high school titled *The Cabin by the Lake*, although their cabin looked more modern. Olivia admired the lake as Sarah parked her car. It was a beautiful sight to behold as the blue lake sparkled under the sunlight.

Olivia unbuckled her seatbelt and walked with Sarah to the front of the house. Sarah opened the door without knocking, and Olivia got to hug Michelle and Becky before taking her seat. Michelle was pumping air into a balloon while Becky hung decorations around the house. She saw no sign of Rose and wondered where the person they were expected to be celebrating had gone off to.

"We made Kim take her to the shop to get her wedding dress measured. She doesn't know we are doing any of this; she just thinks we plan to talk about the wedding preparations," Michelle said, as if reading Olivia's mind.

There was something about Michelle that reminded her of her own mother. She had that warmth around her that would make you want to open up. Olivia knew Rose must be very lucky to have such amazing friends.

"Do you want to join me in the kitchen?" Sarah yelled from across the room.

"I am a terrible cook," Olivia replied shyly.

"Don't worry, I won't let you poison us."

Olivia stood up from the couch and joined Sarah in the kitchen. The first thing Olivia noticed when she walked into

the kitchen was how neat and organized it was. There were different containers filled with spices, and different kitchen utensils were hung around the kitchen walls. Three empty bottles of alcohol were placed next to a bowl filled with pink juice. Olivia walked to the bowl and took a peek at the content of the bowl.

“I thought you told me Rose was pregnant.”

“Oh, she is. That is not for her. I made her some lemonade already; it’s in her fridge.”

Sarah picked up the alcohol bottles and trashed them. “These are for us. Well more for you and I than the rest since they can’t party too hard.”

Olivia could feel herself start to get excited over the prospect of tonight. She could already tell that it was going to be a fun night, and she was looking forward to having a little fun in her life.

“What can I help you with?” Olivia asked, as she noticed that Sarah had a lot of things to do. She was currently mixing cookie dough and had flour all over her hair.

“You can start by helping me rinse and cut these vegetables; that’s the one part of cooking that I dislike.”

“You picked the right person for the job because this is one thing I love doing. I actually had to fall in love with this process as a vegetarian.”

Sarah stopped mixing the cookie dough and looked at Olivia in shock. “I would have asked if you were joking, but you don’t look like you are, which is extra scary. How can you not like meat?”

Sarah acted like she was about to faint, and Olivia chuckled before responding. “I guess I saw a cow being slaughtered one day, and I discovered that I kept seeing the cow anytime I was served meat.”

“Why did you watch a cow being slaughtered? Were you forced to do that?”

“No, I wasn’t. It was an excursion to a farm, and I left the group to look for my brother. It was during my search that I stumbled upon what traumatized me for months.”

“Okay, that is so sad. I am glad you spoke up now so we can make more stuff without meat.”

“You don’t have to do that.”

“You are one of us now, and it is only proper we ensure you get what you want.”

Olivia smiled at her statement and soon fell into a rhythm with Sarah as they cooked side by side.

Once they were done, they arranged the food and played a little card game while they waited for Rose. Olivia had tried to tone down her competitive spirit, and she allowed Becky to beat her twice in the game. The sound of Kim’s car pulling up in the driveway had all of them going to their various hiding spots. Sarah turned off the lights, and as soon as Rose walked in, they all yelled “Surprise!” and Sarah turned the lights back on.

Rose became very emotional the moment she saw all that they had planned for her. She cried a lot due to her hormones, and Becky spent a few minutes saying more sweet words to Rose.

Olivia could tell that Becky was the closest to Rose and it did not surprise her when Rose made Becky her maid of honor.

Olivia got to meet Kim, who was currently starting her own fashion line and was also a stylist. Kim had praised her figure and made her feel extra special. The day went by with a lot of eating and drinking. Rose waited until the party was underway before she revealed her own surprise to everyone.

Rose had prepared a special box for each of them, asking them to be her bridesmaids. Olivia had gotten teary when she received her own box, which had her name on it. Receiving the box made her feel very special, and she was starting to feel like she was really one of them.

“Okay ladies. Who here thinks Olivia and Andrew might end up together?” Sarah said as she took a sip of her punch.

Olivia almost choked on her cake as she heard Sarah’s question. She looked around the room and saw all hands raised except Kim’s.

“Wait, I didn’t know they were together,” Kim said in surprise.

“They aren’t, but everyone can feel the sexual tension between them when they are in a room.”

“Sarah is right. Andrew could barely take his eyes off you at Linda’s return party, and the way he punched Greg. Whoosh... talk about possessive,” Rose said, then winked at her.

“I can’t believe I missed all this.” Kim wailed as she poured more drink into her cup.

“It isn’t like they are making it all out to trust me,” Olivia pleaded.

Sarah mouthed the words “*she is lying*” to Kim before she spoke. “But you have feelings for him, right?”

Olivia knew the answer to that without thinking twice. Her feelings for Andrew kept growing day by day, and she was still scared of what their fate would be when she had to move back to L.A.

“Yes, I do.”

“Good. Then I will tell you what I told these young ones when they were hopelessly in love and didn’t know what to do. The answer is simple, take a day away from them and try and flirt with a random stranger.”

Everyone in the room laughed at Sarah’s statement. The night went by with more confessions and laughter. Olivia slept off feeling like she had finally found her home away from home.

Andrew

Andrew didn’t know how he had managed to drop Kiel at home safely. His head felt like someone was pounding his brains, and it was all due to the overflow of alcohol at the bachelor’s party yesterday. Everyone had gotten drunk before it was midnight, and they had a blast in their drunken state. Owen had become a musician, and Andrew remembered that his voice didn’t sound so bad. They had reminisced about their childhood, and Diarus had finally confessed to kissing Mary, who was Andrew’s crush at a party.

He had made Diarus do fifty pushups for breaking the bro code, and it had been hilarious to see a drunken Diarus fall on his face every time he tried to do the pushup. Yesterday had

reminded Andrew how much he missed his friends. Their busy schedules didn't let them hang out as much as they used to, and any opportunity they got to hang out was always used to talk about issues concerning their town. He really couldn't wait for the day Dove Valley would return back to the peaceful way that it was.

Andrew stopped by his apartment to freshen up and change into his uniform before stopping at the hospital, where he was expected to pick up the chemicals Kiel's friend had dropped off. He smiled as he saw Wendy, who had the keys to Kiel's office. She followed him to Kiel's office and let him in.

Andrew was surprised when he saw the huge box in Kiel's office. He had been expecting a small box and wondered how the person who delivered the box had hauled it up the stairs.

"Two men carried it and dropped it here," Wendy said as she looked at the box curiously.

"I guess I should find an extra pair of hands then."

"I'll leave the door unlocked and if you need to return the key, you will find me in room 102."

"Will do." Andrew touched the door handle as he turned to leave. He paused midway as if remembering something and turned to look at Wendy. "Do you think I could find any man who could help me lift this box in this hospital?"

"Everyone I know is currently busy. I would suggest you look for someone outside."

Andrew nodded his head in thanks as he went out of the hospital. He had not gone too far when he began to smell cigarettes. He changed his direction and followed the scent of

the cigarettes, which led him to a dumpster. Andrew had a big smile on his face when he saw three teenagers passing one cigarette amongst themselves.

“Which one of you boys would like to sleep in jail.”

Andrew saw the shock on their faces as they saw him. One of them tried to escape, but he advised him not to try it. The one who had also been holding the cigarette threw it inside the dumpster, where he was sure there were other flammables inside.

“Do you know that you have just committed two separate offenses?” Andrew asked the boys after he had made the one who had thrown the cigarette retrieve it.

They all shook their heads no as they looked at the floor guiltily.

“You have two options now. You could either spend the rest of your day in jail and I will call your parents to come pick you up in the evening, or you can help me move a box.”

“Did you say a box?” the one who had thrown the cigarette in the dumpster asked.

“Yes, a box.”

“We’ll take the box,” the three of them chorused.

Andrew marched them up into the hospital and tried his best to hold his laughter at their facial expression when they had seen the box. The three of them had weighed their options very carefully and had joined him in carrying the box to his car without any complaints. Andrew had let them go with a warning, and they had promised to never smoke again, which

he knew was a lie. He had been a teenager once, and he knew how experimental he was at that age.

On his way to the lab, he received a call from Sarah asking him to come pick up Olivia from her house. Andrew changed his direction and followed a shorter route to Sarah's house, which was almost on the outskirts of town. By the time he got to Sarah's house, he could tell that he needed coffee to recharge, as his eyes felt very tired. He knew he would have made his hangover cure if he had time, but for now, coffee in his system would have to do.

He pressed Sarah's doorbell, and he heard her yell to Olivia to get the door. Andrew couldn't help his smile when he saw that he was not the only one who had drunk a lot last night. She could barely lift up her eyes to see him, and she acted like a vampire who was scared of the sun.

"Did the sun burn your skin?" Andrew said happily, as he made himself comfortable on a chair.

Olivia gave him the middle finger before resting her head on the chair and closing her eyes.

"I think I know something that might help us out. Where is Sarah?"

Olivia pointed to the direction of Sarah's room without saying anything. He walked to her room, remembering what door it was since he and Diarus had helped her install a very tall cabinet in it. He yelled her name, and he heard her curse before she opened the door.

Sarah looked worse than Olivia did, and he told her his plan of making his famous hangover remedy. She recited where all the

ingredients were in her kitchen and reminded him to pick up a blue bag for Olivia before telling him to get lost.

Andrew got busy in the kitchen as he prepared his hangover mixture. He filled three glasses and covered one with a coaster before carrying the other two with him to the living room. He found Olivia sleeping on the couch and tapped her so she could drink it.

“OMG, are you trying to poison me?” Olivia yelled as she looked at the green, floaty mixture in the cup.

“Trust me. It’ll make you feel better once you are done taking it.” Andrew closed his eyes as he emptied all the contents of his glass into his mouth.

Olivia looked at the glass in her hands suspiciously. She closed her eyes and pinched her nose with two of her fingers before drinking half of what was in the glass. She looked like she was about to gag, and Andrew taught her a breathing technique that would keep her from throwing up.

“Do you think we can go home now?”

“Sure. I think your potion is starting to work.”

Andrew held her hand as he walked her to the door. Olivia paused at the doorway and looked at the living room.

“Shouldn’t we let Sarah know we are leaving?”

“Nah, she is sleeping, and you don’t want to wake a hungover Sarah up.”

He helped Olivia open the door to the car and helped her with her seatbelt. She slept all through the ride home and only opened her eyes once he tapped her to let her know that they were home. He could tell that she still needed to rest, as her

legs could barely hold her weight anymore as she wobbled to the door.

Andrew tried to open the door to his house when the thing he had been dreading the most happened to him.

Olivia threw up all over his shirt.

He looked to the sky before taking her inside the house.

CHAPTER 13

Olivia

Olivia woke up with a pounding headache, and she felt a sharp pain on her leg as she tried to sit up. She looked down to her leg and saw Andrew sleeping on it. She paused as memories of the last few hours came rushing back to her. She remembered Rose dropping her and Sarah off but could not remember how she had gotten home after that. She tried to wiggle her toes since she couldn't feel them anymore, and her actions caused Andrew to wake up.

He rubbed his eyes as he looked at her with a smile on his face.

“You should be renamed the sleeping princess.”

“Alcohol and I do not mix well,” Olivia admitted shyly.

“I think my uniform can attest to that.”

Olivia looked at him, confused. “I don't understand?”

“You threw up on me as I tried to open the door.”

Olivia found herself unable to speak as she wished she could disappear from the face of the earth.

“Don't worry. You wouldn't be the first person to do that.”

“Is that meant to make me feel better?” Olivia said as she covered her face with her palm.

“Yes, it is and you have nothing to be embarrassed about. I enjoyed taking care of a drunk Olivia.”

Olivia crossed her heart as she looked at Andrew. “I am never taking alcohol again. I am sure I look like shit right now.”

Olivia had been planning to check herself out in the bathroom mirror, but she was ambushed by Andrew, who hugged her, and kissed her.

“You look beautiful to me.”

Olivia looked at him like he had gone crazy because she could not understand how any sane person would want to kiss her in the state that she was in. She could feel the terrible taste of her bad breath in her mouth, and yet Andrew had kissed her like she was a princess.

Olivia walked into the bathroom and realized that she didn't look as bad as she thought she did. She stepped into the shower and took a cold bath to help her become more alert. She used some of Andrew's hair product in her hair as she washed it. She was scared that her brother was right and her hairline was receding. Olivia figured out that her brother was probably having the time of his life since he had not called her.

“Do you feel less embarrassed now?” Andrew asked with hopeful eyes as he looked at her.

“A bit,” Olivia replied, as she picked up a blue bag from the floor.

“That's from Sarah. I guess she packed some of her clothes for you.”

Olivia pulled out a top from the bag and saw that it still had a tag on it. She checked the bag and saw that all the outfits that had been packed for her still had tags on them, which meant they were new.

“I can't accept this; they are all new.”

“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for Sarah to accept a returned gift. I would advise you to forget that they are new and just wear them.”

Olivia looked at Andrew then back at the clothes before picking out a cute wrap top and jeans that she had seen in the bag.

Andrew whistled as she twirled in front of him after putting on the outfit. “I am glad you picked something comfortable to wear because I have something to show you that might keep you busy.”

Andrew held her hand as they made their way outside to his car. He opened his trunk, and Olivia saw a big, long, rectangular box that took up the whole space. He used his keys to open up the carton, and Olivia squealed happily as she saw that it was the chemicals that she had requested for.

She couldn't wait to get to work, as her body missed the thrill that came with experimenting.

“I can tell from your body language that you would like to get to work, right?”

“Yes, please.”

“No problem. I can drop you off at the lab before heading to work.”

“Sweet!” Olivia clapped her hands like an excited schoolgirl as she waited for Andrew to get dressed.

Andrew got dressed in seconds, and soon they were out of the house. Olivia had asked him for a favor to see if he could call the snobby receptionist so she could know if her brother was

okay. She knew that despite his constant annoyance, he was still her twin, and she had to look out for him.

She had gotten to work the moment Andrew and two other men had helped her set up her work space.

Olivia put up a “do not disturb” sign as she began her mixtures. Her first experiment started off totally wrong, and she almost blew up the lab because of her carelessness. She became more precise, and she made the image of the man turning into a wolf her motivation for ensuring she excelled.

Hours passed until she finally had her breakthrough. She held the beaker up close to the sunlight to be sure that there were no whitish particles in her solution. When she was sure that the color was clear enough, she placed the little mixture she had checked into a test tube before doing a little victory dance. Olivia had to remind herself that she had not tested it yet, and she decided to hold on until she was sure her little experiment worked.

Olivia stretched her legs and arms as she opened the door to the room she was in. Her body collided with something hard, and she looked up to see Andrew holding a veggie wrap and a smoothie.

“Are those for me?” Olivia asked as her stomach finally remembered that she had not eaten all day.

“Yes, they are,” Andrew said as he handed them over. “I was starting to worry that you had fainted when I didn’t see you come out.”

Olivia took a huge bite of her veggie wrap, which had the best sauce, and opened the door for Andrew to enter.

“How long have you been standing there?”

“Let’s say an hour.”

“What? You should have knocked.”

“And break the law by disturbing you when you have a do not disturb sign on your door?”

Olivia tasted her smoothie, which was a blend of strawberries and bananas. Her two favorite fruits. The smoothie had tiny chunks of ice in it that relaxed all of her sore muscles.

“I can see why you are the Sheriff.”

Andrew chuckled. “Any progress so far?”

“Yes, I am done. I just need to test it out on someone to see if the antidote really works.”

“You can test it out on me.”

“I don’t think I can do that. Don’t you have any criminal on a death sentence that we can use.”

“Dove Valley is a small town, remember? The most common type of crime here is petty crime.”

Olivia sighed heavily as she knew that the town would have remained in its peaceful state if she had not been rescued by Andrew.

“My experiments are never a 100% guarantee. What if something goes wrong?”

“Then we will be prepared. Can you tell me things you feel might happen if this antidote is tested on me?”

“The problem isn’t really with the antidote. I have to inject you with the blood I took from the mutant wolf so I can see if

the antidote has any effect on it.”

“What happens if the antidote doesn’t have any effect?”

“You might never turn back to a human,” Olivia said in a whisper.

She had watched Andrew’s face closely and was surprised when she didn’t see him freak out.

“Are you seriously considering this?”

“I am. It is my duty to protect this town, Olivia. I have an idea on how we can make this work, but I need you to be confident in your work that the antidote will work well. Can you do that for me?”

“Sure. What plan do you have?”

Olivia listened to Andrew’s plan on their way to the training center. They had agreed it was the safest place to be if he turned rogue since he could be bound by the chains and wouldn’t be able to break free. He had also called Diarus, who had agreed to be on standby alongside Owen, who was also on his way to the training center.

Andrew had gone over all the safety measures with her, and as she walked into the training center, she realized she was starting to doubt herself. Olivia remained frozen as she stared at Andrew’s back. He turned to look at her and went back to hold her hands.

“Don’t be scared. I trust you.”

Hearing Andrew say those words was all the confidence she needed. Her hands became less sweaty, and she helped

Andrew lock his legs in the chains while he restrained his hands.

She hoped Owen or Diarus would get here before the mutant wolf's blood started taking effect, as she wasn't sure she could handle seeing Andrew go into pain as he shifted.

She brought out the antidote, which was now in a syringe, from a bag and placed it on the table. Her hands started to shake again as she held the mutant wolf's blood, which was in another syringe.

“Remember what I told you, run as fast as you can if things don't go as planned. I am sure Diarus will be here any moment, so you don't have anything to worry about.”

“We could wait for him to come around before I do this,” Olivia said, ready to return the syringe to the bag.

“There is no need for that. He said we can go ahead. He also trusts you, Olivia.”

Andrew gave her a peck on her cheek before turning the other way so he wouldn't have to look at the needle as she injected him.

Olivia ensured her hand was steady as she removed the small cap on the needle. She cleaned a small spot on his wrist with a cotton ball and alcohol before injecting him with the blood. She took four steps away from him as she waited for something to happen. Seconds passed, and she noticed that he only stared at her blankly. Olivia called out his name as she tried to get his attention, and when he did not reply, she walked towards him.

She noticed a change in the color of his eyes and the way he was breathing. Olivia ran back to get the antidote and heard the sound of metals clashing together. She looked back and screamed as she saw that Andrew had already transformed into his wolf and was struggling with the chains. The chains looked like they were about to break with the amount of force he was using, and Olivia grabbed the antidote in her hand and made a beeline for the door.

She ran into the woods, and she could hear the rustling of leaves behind her. Olivia saw Andrew's wolf behind her, and it growled at her like he was ready to devour her. She screamed as it lunged at her with its claws out. Olivia screamed as she closed her eyes, knowing that her body was going to be torn into shreds pretty soon. The sound of another wolf growling caught her attention, and she saw two large wolves wrestling with Andrew's own. One of them was extremely big, with a strength that was unmatched. He tackled Andrew's wolf to the ground, snarling at it as it tried to push back.

Olivia looked at the antidote in her hands. She summoned up all the courage in her and she looked for a window to sneak into their midst and inject Andrew with the antidote. She waited until she was sure Andrew's wolf was firmly pinned to the ground by the two wolves before she ran in with the injection and injected the part of its leg that was exposed.

She dashed away the moment she was sure the needle had entered his skin and watched Andrew's wolf thrash around under the weight of the two wolves. It felt like an eternity to Olivia before his wolf began to quiet down. She remained rooted to the spot as she watched the two other wolves drag him away toward the direction of the training center. She

looked at her hands, which were still shaking, and waited a bit until she was sure her breathing had returned back to normal.

Olivia walked back to the training center, still gripped by fear. She saw Kiel approach the door, and he paused when he saw her.

“I heard you did it,” Kiel said proudly.

Olivia gave him a small smile as she stared at the door. She was still too afraid to go in.

“Don’t worry, he is back to himself. He would never hurt you,” Kiel said as he pushed the door open.

She realized she had not believed Kiel when he told her Andrew was back to himself since she had not moved from the spot she was standing in. She noticed Owen and Diarus in the room, standing beside a pale looking Andrew. She ran to him, forgetting everyone in the room as she wrapped her arms around his neck.

She whispered in his ears. “You scared me.”

“I’m so sorry. Diarus told me I almost killed you.”

Olivia didn’t want to think about that moment, and so she gave him a small smile to show that she was okay.

“I hope you two lovebirds have not forgotten that we are in the room,” Diarus asked as he looked at the two of them with a grin on his face.

Olivia quickly jumped away from Andrew, feeling embarrassed. Andrew held her hand and pulled her to his side as he spoke to his friends. She felt very happy within her as he continued to talk to his friends without letting her go.

“Do you think you can make more of this?” Kiel asked, pointing at the Erlenmeyer flask, which still housed a little antidote.

“Yes, I can.”

“That’s excellent. Kiel can drop you at the lab while Andrew and I go back to his office to talk?”

Andrew pulled her to the side before they dispersed.

“What do you say about me taking you out on a date after work?”

Olivia blushed at his question. “Sounds like a great idea to me.”

“Great. I will come to the lab once I am done with my meeting and wait until you are done before we go.”

Andrew gave her a peck on her cheek before joining Diarus in his car, while she followed Kiel into his car.

Andrew

Andrew and Diarus sat in the common room as they drank a cup of coffee. His body still felt sore from all the transformation that it had gone through. The muscles in his body ached, and he was looking forward to taking some time off work so he could rest.

“I feel relieved now that I know we are making a lot of progress. Do you think this is going to be enough to bring them down?” Diarus asked as he dropped his coffee cup on the table.

“Yes, it is, the antidote can help us cure the mutant wolves without harming them. We can use one of them as evidence so

that the whole world can see what corrupt and evil atrocities happen in Mynopharm. I also think Olivia's record can be used to prove that she had been working on something different before stumbling upon the mutant serum by mistake. That way her name is cleared off from all the charges that are levied against her."

"This is brilliant. I love how you have thought ahead..."

Two of his officers, Fren and Jake, walk into the room, making Diarus pause his sentence midway. They greeted Diarus before turning their attention back to him.

"We just wanted you to know that we have collated all the reports from yesterday's patrol and placed it on your table," Fren said.

"Good work, guys. Ask Damian to take over before you leave."

"Yes sir."

Diarus's phone rang the moment they left the room, and Andrew noticed that he looked worried as he answered the call.

"Is something wrong?" Andrew asked the moment Diarus was done speaking to the other person on the phone.

"It's my son's school. They said he started burning up and was rushed to the hospital."

"Do you want me to come with you?"

"Nah, you don't have to. I am sure he will be fine and you need to prepare for your date," Diarus said as he ran outside.

Andrew could not believe Diarus had used his super hearing abilities as the alpha to listen in on his conversation with Olivia. He shook his head at his friend's sneakiness as he walked toward his office.

He spent the next few hours in his office catching up with the work he had to do and booked a reservation for his dinner date with Olivia at Rose's restaurant. He also called the motel to check up on Greg who had taken a liking to Queen and had no complaints to make.

Once he was done with work. He decided to go home and freshen up before going back to the lab. He wanted to look nice for the date and tried his best to look formal enough. He stopped by the female clothing store to get a dress for Olivia once he left home. Andrew had been relieved when he found out that Kim knew Olivia, and she found it easy to select the perfect dress with a shoe to go with it.

By the time he got back to the lab, it was almost 5 pm. He hoped Olivia was done with her work so they could have an early dinner date so they could go back home to rest. He took the dress he had gotten for Olivia with him as he walked into the lab. The place was almost deserted, and he walked straight to the room he had seen her use the last time. There was no do not disturb sign at the door this time and he opened the door.

He opened his mouth as he stared at the woman before him who looked exceptionally stunning. She had changed out of the outfit he had seen her wear and she was now dressed in a beautiful red gown. Olivia had also gone ahead to apply makeup which only enhanced how beautiful she looked. He found himself unable to close his mouth as he stared at her.

“How do I look?” Olivia asked as she twirled around.

“You look breathtaking. I got these for you,” Andrew held out the dress and shoes Kim had picked out for Olivia.

“Wow... Thank you...” Olivia collected the dress from him as she looked at them. “If I had known you were going to surprise me with this, I wouldn’t have made Sarah bring me one of her dresses. I wanted to look good for our date.”

“You look absolutely stunning, so it doesn’t matter. You can always wear this some other time.”

“Is this your way of letting me know that there will be more dates?”

“Certainly. Are you done here?” Andrew asked as he looked at the room, which was less scattered.

“Yes, I had some extra hands, which made the duplicating process easier. We were done by 3 pm, and I joined everyone in storing them in a fridge.”

“Glad you didn’t have to do everything alone.” Andrew put out his empty arm for her to take. “Shall we?”

Olivia held his hand as they made their way out of the lab.

Andrew knew if he didn’t pay attention to the road, he was going to make them get into an accident. He, however, struggled with focusing on the road since he had someone as beautiful as Olivia in his car. He knew he had to ask her to stay in Dove Valley and be his girlfriend today. He didn’t want to share her with anyone and was ready to support her career in any way that he could.

“Are you taking me to a fish store?” Olivia asked as he parked his car close to Owen’s fish store.

“The restaurant is upstairs.”

Andrew opened the door for her, and they held hands as they walked into the restaurant together. He chuckled when he saw Olivia’s shocked face when they stepped into the restaurant. It was a beautiful sea themed restaurant that had been designed by Rose herself. Andrew remembered how shocked he had been the first time he had seen the place. The building had been destroyed by an explosion, and he had expected it to be condemned, but Rose had transformed it into something magical.

“You guys look so beautiful,” Rose said as she hugged both him and Olivia.

She showed them to their table and gave them their menu, which was shaped like a fish.

Rose smiled at them as she turned to leave. “Someone would be here to take your orders when you are done.”

“What would you recommend?” Olivia asked as she read the menu, like she was preparing for an exam.

“You can have their fried rice with their special sauce. They have tofu, so you can get that, right?”

“Yes, sounds good.”

Andrew signaled for a waiter to come and take their order. Once the waiter left, Olivia began asking questions about how Dove Valley was before they allowed humans into their town. He answered her questions as quickly as possible since he was eager to talk about their relationship. Their food came while he

was still answering her questions, and he decided to push what he had to say until after their meal.

They had her favorite cake for dessert, and Andrew felt it was the best time to talk about his feelings.

“There is something I need to say to you, Olivia,” Andrew said as he held her hand lovingly.

“Did I do something wrong? Did our test affect you wrongly?”

“You did nothing wrong. You have been an absolute delight ever since I met you.”

“Even when I vomited on you?” Olivia asked with a smile.

“Yes. I told you this already. I enjoyed taking care of you, and I don’t mind being the one that pushes your hair away from your face whenever you get drunk, although when I hold your hair you won’t be vomiting on my shirt.”

“Sounds good. But I told you I am swearing off alcohol, so you shouldn’t worry about any of that,” Olivia said confidently. “I feel like I interrupted what you were about to say, please go on.”

“Errm.... yeah. What I was trying to say earlier was that I like you a lot, Olivia. Having you in my home showed me how empty my life has been without you. You filled up a void in my heart that I never knew existed and gave me a reason to do my best. You are a smart and courageous woman, whose beauty continuously blinds me. I love you Olivia, and I want to know if you feel the same way about me.”

A few seconds passed before Olivia opened her mouth to speak, and he felt his heart about to explode during that period.

“I never used to be a fan of romance movies because I always felt the feelings of the characters were always exaggerated. After meeting you, I have come to realize that my school of thought was totally wrong. Knowing you has been one of the greatest gifts I have gotten. You have opened my heart to so many new things I would never have explored. As someone who is very calculative, I would say I am still figuring out my feelings for you. One thing that I know for sure is that I like you a lot, in a very romantic way.”

Andrew’s heart swelled with joy as he stared at her. A sudden calmness descended on him and he decided that it was time to ask her to be his girlfriend.

“Olivia, will you be my girlfriend and move in with me permanently?”

He was expecting her to say yes almost immediately and was surprised when she only stared at him without uttering a word.

“You want me to stay back in Dove Valley?”

“Yes, I do.”

“I think I might need some time to think about that part of your request. The plan I had initially was to go back to L.A. and start up my own company once all this blows away. My dream has always been to develop cures and help the world. I can’t do that here.”

Andrew felt like he was being stabbed by a knife with each word she spoke.

“I thought you developed a cure that is expected to give people with terminal illnesses a chance at a second life?” Andrew said in confusion.

“Yes, I have, but that is just one, and I am still trying to clean up the mess I created while creating.”

“Really Olivia? Anyone that discovers something as amazing as that would not be thinking of doing more almost immediately. You should give yourself a break.”

“Finding these things takes time . Do you know how long it took me to finally rejoice when my longevity serum finally worked? It still needs to be tested on more people before it is distributed. I want my name to be written in history books, and I want to win the Nobel Prize.” Olivia looked at him sadly. “I need time to think all these things through.”

“You should be able to decide now, Olivia, and I don’t understand your obsession with being validated by people for the amazing work you do. Awards and getting recognition are vain, and you can always work here in the lab. I don’t want you to give up on your dreams, but there is no way we can work if you are kilometers away from me.”

“I still need time to think. This is all too much for me, and I feel you are putting me on the spot right now.”

“I am not putting you on the spot. If you really like me like you claim you do, then this wouldn’t be so hard.”

“Are you trying to invalidate my feelings for you?”

“I am not doing that. I just want a fucking answer.”

Olivia looked at him like he had slapped her. She pushed her chair back, and she stood up. “I am not going to sit down and listen to you be unreasonable. Thanks for dinner, but I am going back to the lab.”

“Suit yourself,” Andrew said angrily as she stormed away.

He sat in his chair in silence while weeping inwardly. He had not been expecting tonight to turn out this way. He knew he had pushed too hard, and his desperation for an answer must have made him sound mean, but he just expected her to have been sure about him like he was about her. He knew she couldn't have gone far since she didn't have a car and paid the bill before going out of the restaurant to look for her.

Andrew looked around the building and did not see Olivia there. He became worried and he had to go into one of the shops beside the restaurant if they had seen Olivia stand outside. He had felt a bit relieved when he heard that Linda had picked her up, but he still felt bad knowing that she had indeed left him. He knew he had to fix things between them. He got into his car and drove to the lab, with hopes that she would forgive him when she saw him.

CHAPTER 14

Olivia

Olivia believed Andrew had displayed a side of himself that she had never seen before, and she was still trying to wrap her head around how he had gone from being nice to being demanding. She didn't know if it was his ego at play, but there was no way she could have given him an answer right there on the spot. She had been shocked when he asked her to move in with him and be his girlfriend. Olivia knew she didn't mind being his girlfriend since she was sure she liked him a lot. She was still afraid to say "love" because she didn't want love to get in the way of her career.

Olivia played with her fingers nervously as she thought about what Andrew had said. *Was she obsessed with awards and other people's acknowledgements for her work?* She shook her head, as she knew he was probably just judging her based on what she had told him and not all the goals and plans that she had for her life that would benefit humanity.

"You know, I can pull over and we can talk about what's bothering you so much. I don't think you have said a word ever since you entered this car," Linda said as she looked at her worriedly.

Olivia felt bad that she was making Linda worry. The elderly woman had been nothing but nice to her and had picked her up without any questions asked when she had seen that she was almost on the verge of tears. Olivia knew that it wouldn't hurt to hear someone else's thoughts on her argument with Andrew, especially someone who has lived as long as Linda has.

“I could use your advice on something,” Olivia said quietly.

Linda looked for a quiet place to park the car and then adjusted her car seat to ensure that she could see Olivia properly.

“I am all yours; talk to me.”

Olivia decided to be as honest as possible with Linda.

“Andrew wants me to move in with him and remain in Dove Valley, but that has never been in my plans. I am only in Dove Valley because I ran into some trouble where I used to work before, and my plan is to continue chasing my dreams in L.A. when my work troubles are sorted. Andrew wanted me to give him an answer immediately; he asked and I tried to let him know that I still needed to think about it. He felt like I didn’t like him enough, and that was why I couldn’t make my decision on the spot.”

Linda smiled as she shook her head. “Andrew has always been very quick to act ever since I have known him. He thinks on his feet, and he follows that up with the needed action, which is a brilliant attribute to have. His only problem now is that he expects everyone to be like him. My advice for you is to listen to your heart. What is your heart telling you? Find out what is more important to you and go for what makes you happy.”

Olivia pondered what Linda had said and decided that she would have to do more soul-searching.

“Thanks, Linda, I think I know what to do now.”

“Glad I could help,” Linda said as she started the car engine and continued with the drive to the lab.

Olivia thanked Linda for her advice and help in getting her to the lab as she alighted from her car. Linda wished her good luck in making the right choice before she drove off. Olivia stood in front of the lab wondering why she had asked Linda to drop her there; she had made a stupid decision while she was angry, and all she really wanted to do at the moment was finish their dinner on the amazing high they had started it with.

As she stood outside the lab, Olivia noticed that the door that led to the entrance of the lab was slightly ajar. She did not expect it to be open since she had overheard most of the staff say they were all going to be at a birthday party tonight, which she had also been invited to. Olivia pushed the door open and tried to look for the switch as she walked in.

Olivia screamed as the lights around her came on and she saw the state of the laboratory. There were broken shards of glass everywhere, and she was glad that the soles of her heels could not be easily pierced. She tiptoed around the broken glass as she ran towards the fridge, where all the antidotes had been kept. The moment she saw that the lock had been broken, Olivia could already tell that it had been stolen.

“What happened here?”

Olivia turned around to see Andrew staring at the whole place with wide eyes. He was the last person she had been expecting to see here, and she tried to turn her attention back to the problem at hand.

“I have no idea; the antidote is all gone.”

Andrew looked at the fridge worriedly before he started making some calls.

“Did they take everything?” Andrew asked once he was done with his calls.

“I sent a small batch to Kiel and the little materials we had left for any emergency scenario where we ran out of the batch we made. I am so glad he asked me to do that because we probably would have been forced to start from scratch if he didn’t ensure they were sent to him.”

“For once, I am glad his talent of always thinking of the worst-case scenario had finally been put to good use.”

“I could start working on a new batch if he can send them over. He would probably have to request more of the chemicals that were sent earlier on.”

“You can always do that tomorrow. You should go home to rest. You have had a long day.”

“I need to work now to take my mind off...” Olivia stopped herself from finishing her sentence.

She could see that Andrew had guessed what she was about to say and he looked like he was about to say something but was interrupted by his subordinates, who awaited his instructions.

Olivia could already tell that she was going to have a long night as she walked toward Kiel, who had also stopped by to check the damage.

Andrew

Andrew and Officer Paul surveyed the building to see if they could have any clue to who had stolen the antidotes. The only people who could have known that they were working on the

antidote were the four staff members who had helped her with making them in a large quantity. However, Olivia had lied to them and told them that they were antidotes for rabies, which they couldn't have been interested in. He had questioned them earlier and also found out that they were all at a party during the break-in. Andrew knew that if they didn't do it then someone must have overheard his conversation with Diarus in the break room.

He didn't like where his thoughts were going, but at this point, he couldn't deny the fact anymore, they might have a Mynopharm spy among them. He had seen a bullet shell that couldn't have belonged to anyone in Dove Valley, and he could also tell that the break-in had been done by professionals, as they had not left any fingerprints behind.

His phone rang, interrupting his thought process. He picked it up and heard Michelle's panicked voice. He immediately became concerned because he knew there were not a lot of things that moved her. She told him that the cleaner had come to the motel today and had not met anyone there. She had tried calling Queen, who had never missed a day of work, but Queen's number had been unreachable. Andrew had promised to look into it immediately. He began to wonder if the people who had stolen the antidotes had also kidnapped Greg.

Andrew knew he could not tell Olivia that her brother had gone missing and decided to keep her in the dark; he lied about going to the station to continue his investigations so that she would not be suspicious.

Nothing looked out of the ordinary when Andrew got to the motel. There was no sign of forced entry, and all the rooms

that had no occupants were locked. Greg had been the only one in the motel since they had stopped allowing human tourists into their town, which meant that whoever had kidnapped him was also privy to such information.

“Check the back, and I will check around the woods,” Andrew said to Fren, whom he had brought with him.

He checked the woods that were close to the motel for any footprints and almost shouted for joy when he saw one along a sloping area. He followed the path of the footprints and saw Greg and Queen cuddled up together on a blanket.

“Boo!” Andrew said, and he smirked as he saw Queen jump up to her feet while Greg changed his position.

Queen tapped Greg to wake up, and when he saw Andrew, he smiled. Queen on the other hand looked like she had been caught with her hand in the cookie jar.

She began to stammer. “I... we... nothing happened.”

“I will tell Michelle you were sick. This can never happen again. You know how unsafe everywhere is at the moment.”

“I promise, this will never happen again,” Queen said as she gathered her belongings and ran back to the motel.

Greg stared at Queen’s retreating figure in shock.

“Why did you do that? She promised to make my night special when she wakes up.”

“Queen has never missed a day of work in her life, and yet you make her miss work while putting her life in danger.”

“Don’t you find it crazy that she has never missed a day of work? What sort of person does that? I took it upon myself to

help her out, and she was having a good time before you showed up.”

Andrew rolled his eyes at Greg’s statement. “It’s not safe for you to be outside right now. Those men who kidnapped you could be after you again.”

Greg became pale, and Andrew could tell that the young man didn’t want to end up in the clutches of his kidnappers again. He quietly followed Andrew back to the motel and promised to stay indoors despite it being boring.

Once he was done patrolling the perimeter of the motel, Andrew put a call through to Michelle, who sounded very relieved to hear that Queen was safe. He dropped Fren off at the station before going back to the lab. The whole place had been cleaned up and he spoke to a few people before making his way to the room where Olivia worked.

Andrew felt nervous as he stood in front of the door. He knew he didn’t have the right words to say, but he was ready to grovel at her feet to earn her forgiveness. He pushed the door open and watched her massage her tired neck.

“I’m sorry, Olivia.”

Olivia turned to look at him, and he continued to talk when he had her attention.

“I know I spoke out of line, and I am sorry for that. I’m ready to give you all the time in the world because I know I am asking a lot of you. You mean a lot to me, and I am ready to wait for you until you are ready to be mine.”

Andrew almost tumbled backward as she ran to him and hugged him. He could tell he was forgiven when she wrapped

her arms around his neck and kissed him.

CHAPTER 15

Olivia

Olivia admired the way her bridesmaid dress hugged her body in the mirror before she gave herself a wink. She looked happier and felt like she was being her best self at the moment. She knew it wasn't her wedding today, but she still felt like she was walking on cloud nine. A lot had happened over the week, and her relationship with Andrew had only gotten stronger. Olivia had witnessed her first full moon in Dove Valley, where all the wolves shifted, and she had been able to attend to the wolves that had been infected with the poisonous serum.

She had learned on that day to conquer her fears since she now knew that they were harmless humans just like her. Olivia had also gotten to touch Andrew's wolf for the first time; she had been scared at first, but when his wolf had licked her hand, she had realized that his wolf was just as sweet as he was.

"Will you quit hogging the mirror? You aren't the only one with a man to please," Sarah said as she gently pushed Olivia aside with her hip.

Olivia laughed as she helped Sarah with her zipper. Sarah made them take a lot of pictures before they joined the others. Rose looked extremely beautiful in her gown, and Olivia could already imagine how happy Owen would be once he saw her.

A car came to pick them up and take them to the venue of the wedding, which was on a large field at Owen's parents' house. Olivia discovered that she couldn't sit still during the car ride. She had not seen Andrew for a day now since he had to stay

over at Owen's because of the wedding, and the thought of seeing him today made her feel like she had been pumped up with loads of sugar.

Owen's nieces, who were the flower girls, went into the field first. The bridesmaids went in next, and Olivia could not help the smile that came on her face when she saw Andrew. They held each other's gaze until she was standing across from him; it felt like they were in their own world all through the wedding as Olivia barely listened to anything the minister said.

She cheered alongside everyone when Owen and Rose were pronounced husband and wife.

The newly married couples were about to climb off the stage when all hell broke loose. Olivia saw people at the wedding begin to drop like flies; she ran to Andrew as his body hit the ground and looked around her in confusion. The only people left standing were the humans, and Olivia could tell that something sinister was going on. She was about to tell Michelle, Rose, and Becky that they needed to hide when she saw a familiar group of armed men cover their heads with a sack.

Olivia looked around her and noticed that she was surrounded. She looked to her left and saw Linda coming toward her direction. She yelled to the other woman to run away and stared in confusion as the armed men gave way to Linda as she walked to her. Olivia noticed that she was dressed in an expensive Chanel suit and skirt and had an evil grin on her face.

“What is going on?”

“I need those documents, Olivia. The rule I gave was that all records of experiments should be stored on the computer’s server. I never would have guessed you would have been sneaky enough to keep your own private records. I hate crafty people,” Linda said, smiling sweetly at her.

Olivia felt all the blood drain from her face as she stared at Linda. She had always wondered why Linda’s voice sounded familiar and could now remember that Linda’s voice sounded exactly like the CEO of Mynopharm. Olivia had always wondered why the CEO had remained anonymous all these years, and now the pieces of the puzzle were coming together. She could tell that they were in a bigger mess than she had been anticipating.

“I have always liked you, Olivia. It’s a pity you would have to go this way. Get her into the car.”

“Why are you doing this?” Olivia yelled as she was blindfolded and carried into a moving vehicle.

Andrew

Andrew struggled to open his eyes as he stood up from the ground. He felt like he had been drugged and looked around to see the terrible sight in front of him. Everyone looked weak, and some people were injured. The sound of someone clapping caught everyone’s attention, and they all looked to see Linda holding a battered looking Olivia with a rope. Andrew felt like his brain was on the verge of exploding as he watched Linda kick Olivia like she was a rag doll.

It felt like they were all under a spell as nobody moved to stop her. Andrew didn’t understand what was happening, but he was ready to tear Linda to shreds and ask questions later.

Linda clapped her hands as she looked at all of them. “I thought you all would never wake up.”

“What are you doing, Linda?” Diarus yelled.

Andrew could tell that Diarus was on the verge of losing his temper.

“I would advise you to tread carefully, Alpha,” Linda said mockingly. “I just want what is rightfully mine. For years I have watched you and that disgusting slut you call a mother turn this town into a shithole.”

A loud growl came from Diarus’s mouth, and Linda tightened her hold on Olivia’s neck which made her begin to cough out blood. Andrew held Diarus’s hand as he tried to calm his wolf. He didn’t want the woman he loved to die because his friend couldn’t control his anger.

“She dies if you act stupid, and the other humans will go next.”

Diarus calmed down on hearing this, and Linda continued with her speech.

“Dove Valley was never a place for humans and werewolves to cohabit. I tried to let your father know this, but your stupid mother had him brainwashed. This was why I had to kill them. You see, I was meant to be the next Alpha, but those idiots I sent to kill your parents didn’t kill you. I watched you take the title that belonged to me and I almost let things go, hoping that you wouldn’t follow in your mother’s footsteps, but here we are. You all pushed me here.”

Andrew heard the snapping of bones and saw Diarus shift into his wolf form. A pack of mutant wolves rushed at him the

moment he did this, and Andrew shifted immediately too. The mutant wolves multiplied in their numbers and they soon lost sight of Linda.

“Cover me, I’m going to get the antidote,” Kiel said in his human form.

Andrew fought off all the mutant wolves that tried to attack Kiel as he ran to his car. The moment Kiel zoomed off, Andrew realized that the more they injured the mutant wolves, the more their wounds kept healing quickly.

A few minutes passed, and Andrew was beginning to feel weak. The sound of Kiel’s truck gave him renewed hope and energy. Kiel tossed Andrew a dart gun filled with the antidote, and he shifted into his human form and began to shoot the mutant wolves. Kiel did the same to the other wolves of Dove Valley and they began to get the upper hand when the mutant wolves began to change back.

Kiel and Owen stayed back to continue to fight off the mutant wolves, while Diarus and Andrew went ahead to look for their women.

Linda looked stunned to see them, and she held Olivia close to her body as she let out her claws.

“I didn’t expect to see you boys so soon.”

“Let Olivia go, Linda!” Diarus growled.

“If you take one step closer to me, I promise that she will die.”

Andrew looked at Diarus and tried to communicate what they had to do through hand signals. He felt relieved when Diarus nodded his head in understanding.

Andrew shifted and began to turn in circles. Linda laughed at his stupidity, and she was too distracted that she did not see Diarus charge at her from behind.

Diarus dipped his claws into Linda's back as Andrew dragged Olivia away. He covered her eyes as Diarus beheaded Linda.

Andrew held her to his chest as she sobbed. He could tell that Dove Valley would never be the same after today.

EPILOGUE

Olivia smiled as she saw the box of cupcakes Sarah had hidden in her suitcase. She closed it shut as she rolled her suitcase into the living room. The house was empty since Andrew had said he didn't want to be there when she left. She looked around the room one last time before walking outside the door towards the car her parents had rented for their return home.

Her brother was in the car with a tear stained face. It still felt strange to see her brother cry over a woman, but ever since the attack on Dove Valley, her brother's near death experience had changed his orientation toward life. He had given his heart to Queen and had worked by her side as they managed the motel together.

Olivia looked at him through the window as she realized that he was not the only one that had changed. She had joined the people of Dove Valley to restore their town after the damages despite the numerous attention she had received for her cure. Diarus had also given her credit for bringing down Mynopharm because he didn't want any unnecessary attention to his town. Olivia was a national hero, but she didn't feel like one.

She knocked on the glass, and Greg wound down the window.

"We don't have to leave," Olivia said excitedly.

Greg looked at her in confusion. "What about your Nobel prize, and media rounds?"

“I don’t care about that. Mom and Dad can help me take care of that when they are back from their vacation.”

“If you are serious about this, then I am staying too. I don’t want to be far away from my twin,” Greg said with a wink.

“I need to tell Andrew I love him.”

“I think he would love to hear that.”

Olivia turned back with a smile as she heard Andrew’s voice. She ran to him and flung herself at him in glee.

Andrew twirled her around.

“I love you, Andrew.”

“I love you too, Olivia.”

Olivia kissed him as she melted in his embrace. She was finally home.

The End...but start reading a different Jean Stokes steamy wolf shifter romance in Fire Rekindle, the standalone book 1 of the Borden Falls series!

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♥ *A mother forced to return to town...A firefighter wolf shifter who just can’t move on...A taboo relationship dooming their hopes of a united family...* ♥

⚠ **WARNING:** The Borden Falls Series is addictive! Be prepared to stay up until 3am reading about steamy passion in a small Western town, a tight-knit group of smokin’ hot protective wolf shifter alphas and their feisty heroines! ⚠

Kaitlyn: I thought when I was taking a trip to Borden Falls with my friend, that I was going to have a fun night with some

wolves, make some memories, and then leave it all behind.

Five years later, I have a child who's stuck in shifter form, and getting thrown out on my butt by my purist parents. So, yeah, that's not working out for me.

The only choice I have is to go back, so that my son can be with his own kind. I have no idea if the father still lives there, or what I'm going to do if he finds out, but I've been doing this entire thing by the skin of my teeth, so it's not like anything will change.

Will: Five years ago, I met a human woman and fell in love. But she disappeared and never came back, so I suppose she didn't feel the same way. I shouldn't be surprised.

Humans don't imprint. Wolves do.

I've tried to move on without much success. I have a good life being the leader of my firefighting crew with good friends in this sleepy small town. But I just can't move on, and I can't forget her.

The only thing I can do is wait.

◆◆ Can this bonded couple overcome oppression in their small-town and build a life together for their family? ◆◆



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