

Chapter One

It has been one year to the very day of being banished. I lay on the warm stone, listening to the sounds of the water owing around me. I could hear the sounds of the surrounding forest alive with life. I heard the squirrels chattering, the birds were singing their songs, the leaves crunched under the paws of the animals walking around on them. I swear everything around me was happy with the way their lives were going. I, however, was not. I was pretty miserable inside and it showed.

I missed talking to people, my people. I miss my family. Goddess, did I miss them so very much, it hurt thinking that I would never be able to tell the ones who were murdered by my unknown hands, goodbye. My brother and sister-in-law wouldn't have anything to do with me. Matter of fact, they made sure that they stayed inside the borders of the territories. This way, they wouldn't have to see me or talk to me in the forty-ve years of being banished.

Some days were better than others. Some days I would be challenged by a rogue wolf and, of course, they would meet their end. Not a soul stepped outside the border protection though, unless, of course, they were running from something, possibly someone, or they were rogues. I roamed this banished wasteland, day in and day out. It was hot and humid in the summer and in the winter it was freezing cold. Luckily for me, I stumbled upon a cave and took it away from a bear. Shelter and food all in one day.

"I need to run." I heard my Lycan begging.

"No. It is not time." I responded.

"Pfft." He grumbled and sulked into the back of my mind.

Truth is, I don't really like letting him out. He was strong and wild. He wanted his revenge on being banished. He didn't understand fully that it had to be this way. People, our people, needed time to grieve and time to get closure. I also needed to heal. The Twins completely ruined everything.

I needed a drink, a ght, and something wet to dive into. I didn't mean the water either. Maybe the human city nearby could offer a nice distraction from two out of the three things I needed. I felt my Lycan roll his eyes.

"You can't get into a ght with a human, you'll kill them." My Lycan warned me.

"Well, I guess we had best nd someone's bed to warm tonight," I countered.

"If it isn't a mate, I don't want any part in it." I could feel his disapproval.

"Good thing you are not invited then. Enjoy the view through my eyes." I turned the connection between us off. I didn't want to feel him disapproving as he watched in the back of my mind.

I walked back to the cave I had turned into my now home. It wasn't much, but it offered what I needed. The cave stayed at a consistent temperature all year long and was super comfortable in the heat of summer and the cold of winter. I had lighting set up by old oil lamps and candles I purchased from the human town. Luckily, Everest and Avalynn set me up with some of my family's money, so I wouldn't need anything.

Honestly, I could have afforded to purchase a house in the human world, for cash, but I didn't feel like I even deserved it at this time. Healing for me would happen in the wild. Taking it back to square one and to the basics. If I could survive out here the next few years, then maybe I'd think about building a home out here.

I picked out an out that consisted of ripped designer jeans, black moto boots, and a black t-shirt. I sprayed myself with some cologne and slicked my hair back. I looked in a mirror that I had leaning up against the wall of the cave in approval. The shirt was snug and made my muscles look irresistible to the human females in the city. I was condent that no matter where I went to, I would end up in someone else's bed tonight. I smirked at myself.

I left the cave and made my way into the city. The lights were bright and the sounds coming from the bars made it seem like every bar would be offering anyone that entered the best time. I walked into the rst bar, looked around the room. Sure, the females were attractive. Done up, dancing and ocking to me. Some even offered to buy me a drink. I declined because I didn't want a desperate for attention woman tonight. I wanted someone who wasn't phased by my looks. Who presented a bit more of a challenge. I wanted someone worthy of my time tonight.

"Ha, when did that change?" My Lycan forced himself through when I wasn't expecting it.

"Now. Now go away." I pushed him back.

I left the rst bar and made my through a couple of others. I would leave one after another disappointed and empty handed. Maybe I was expecting for too much. I decided to go into another bar that was off of the main street of bars. When I walked in I looked around the room when my eyes locked with a woman. She had dark hair that was long and wavy with curls, she was curvy with a nice backside as well as full breasts, she wasn't wearing a full face of make up, but it was enough to be elegant looking. She looked me up and down and then redirected her eyes back to her friends. Her friends were all whispering about me. They didn't realize that I could hear them.

"Ohh, who is this?" The blonde asked.

"Who? Ohh, my." Another blonde's mouth dropped.

"He is handsome, turn and take a look Kayla." The red head told the dark haired one.

That's when she turned and looked at me. We made eye contact for a moment and she raised her right brow before turning away to her friends. "Ass." Was all she said to them, almost making me smile. She was right, I was an ass.

"Who cares. Look at him. He could be an ass and f**k me right in the..." The rst blonde said with lust in her eyes before she was cut off by Kayla.

"Stop right there Jess! Down girl." Kayla told her.

I walked up to the side of the bar that they were closest to and ordered a scotch on the rocks. I took a sip and turned around to the crowd. Men gave me hateful looks of jealousy, women gazed on. I ignored it and looked up at the television that had sports playing on it. Humans called this one football, I believe.

"Come on, after Todd, don't you want some hot meaningless s*x?" The red head asked her.

"Well, yeah I guess. He is way out of my league, though." Kayla answered,

I was looking at her, studying her backside. I didn't realize the other girls in the group were watching me, watching her. "Well, he hasn't taken his eyes off of you." Jess told her.

"Well, good for him," Kayla told them.

I downed the rest of my scotch as I turned around and pulled out my phone. I decided right then and there to book a hotel room. I would give her the opportunity to come to me. I waved down the bartender who approached me with a smile.

"Another?" He asked.

I nodded my head. "Yes, and do you have a pen and clean napkin by chance?"

"Sure, give me a moment." The bartender left and came back with what I asked for, along with another beverage.

I wrote down my name, cell number, and the hotel I had just booked. I downed the scotch and sat the glass down, paid my tab, and left the bar. I looked at my napkin, conrming everything was correct, before I made my way to their table.

"He's coming over here. s**t, he's coming over here." Jess muttered in a whisper.

I could smell all of their excitement and their hearts all began to beat faster. I stopped behind Kayla. I took in her scent. It was a light oral smell that wasn't overwhelming and just pleasant. I cleared my throat and I saw her tremble. She slowly turned around, and I could tell I startled her by being as close as I was to her. I ashed my bright white smile at her and noticed the corner of her lips turned up in a small smile.

"How can we help you?" She asked me in a at, almost uninterested tone.

"Well, I don't think they can help me, but you could." I grinned at her. I heard a small gasp of air from one of her friends. I held the napkin out to her.

"What is this?" She looked at the napkin in her hands, reading it.

"Where I am staying and my number. The ball is in your court. My name is Dex. If you decide to join me tonight, call me, and I'll be sure to meet you in the lobby. You can share this information with your friends too. That way they know where you are," I turned and began to walk away. I stopped and turned back to look at her, "By the way. I am only in the city for tonight. I hope to see you later." I left the bar and began to walk in the direction of the upscale hotel.