

Lycan Queen

Chapter 17: Everly

We are riding in Conrad's black Tahoe. He is driving and holding my hand as I sit in the passenger seat. Anders and Soph are in the back seat quietly talking to each other.

"You okay baby girl?"

"Yeah the Advil and bacon was the cure. I am a little nervous about meeting your parents though."

"Don't be, it will be fine, they will more than likely embarrass me more than anything."

I give his hand a light squeeze and giggle as he rolls his eyes. We had been driving for about 25 minutes.

"Look out your window."

I turn my head and see two Lycans running alongside the SUV just off the road. A few moments later two more join them, I look over at Conrad and see there's also four on his side of the car.

"What are they doing?"

I see another wave of Lycans have joined the groups.

"They are escorting their Luna as she finally comes home. It's tradition to do an escort. They are all very happy I have finally met my mate, and very excited to meet their new Luna."

I look back out the window and there looks to be an easy 25 Lycans on just my side.

"It's beautiful."

The sight of all those Lycans escorting me to their, no, to our home gave me such a humbling and amazing feeling. The support they're showing me made all my nervous feelings just fade away. It gave me such a sense of pride to see Conrad and my pack's dedication to us as their Alpha's. I look over at Conrad, he takes my hand and kisses the back of it.

"I feel it too baby girl, our pack makes me very proud to be their Alpha too."

Conrad turns down a two lane road that is thick with trees on either side. After some winding turns and a few hills the trees on the side of the road stopped revealing acres and acres of property. With how heavy the trees had been, I wasn't able to see the Lycan escort, but once we were in the clearing they came pouring out from the tree line. We pull up to a huge light grey house with walnut colored wooden shutters with a big front porch full of people.

Conrad puts the SUV in park and turns it off. He looks over at me, kisses the back of my hand one more time.

"Stay right there."

He and Anders get out of the Tahoe, walk around and open mine and Soph's door. Conrad takes my hand and leads me over to the porch.

"Dad, Mom, this is Blakely, Blakely this is my dad Alaric and my mom Julia."

I step forward and offer my hand to his dad, "It's really great to finally meet you."

His dad looks at my hand, then back at me, then my hand again with a very unreadable expression. He gets a big smile on his face as he quickly steps forward, bear-hugs me and spins around. Now I know where Conrad got this from.

"You don't know how long we have waited for the day Con met his mate. We are over the moon that you have come to finally meet us."

"I'm very honored to be here and meet everyone."

"Jules come look at her! She is cute as a button." Alaric yells over his shoulder.

"Well I would have if you hadn't dragged her halfway across the yard. Hey baby." Julia says as she gives Conrad a peck on the cheek.

"Hey mom" Conrad said as he gave her a peck on the cheek as well.

Julia walks over and gives me a tight hug.

"It's wonderful to finally meet you. You make our son very happy." Julia says with her hands on my shoulders.

"It's great meeting you as well." I tell Julia, giving her a big smile.

Alaric walks over to Conrad giving him a hug. "Hey son"

"Hey pops"

"It's good to see you," Alaric says with a big smile.

"Anders it's good to see you too son." Alaric tells Anders as he hugs him as well.

Soph walks over to where Julia and I are standing.

"Hey momma." Soph says as she gives Julia a hug.

"Hey sweet girl" Julia says, giving Soph a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

"Alright girls, I have to go check on how lunch is coming along. I will see you two beauties a little later."

Soph and I both give her a smile and a goodbye. As I stand there with Soph I look out and see all those Lycans who escorted us home, just watching as we say our hellos. I don't want them to feel like I'm ignoring them or, ungrateful for what they did for Conrad and I a few

moments ago. It's not just about Conrad's parents, it's about all of them as well. I feel Conrad come up beside me and wrap his arm around my waist. Soph, who hasn't stopped staring at me since I looked over at all the Lycans before me, puts her hand on my arm.

I look over at her "Follow your heart, if it feels right do it, you'll be a great Luna for it."

I give her a small smile. "Love you Soph"

"You too Bitsy." Soph gives me a wink and walks away.

I put my arm around Conrad. "Will you come with me?"

"I'll follow you anywhere you go baby girl."

I smile up at him and we make our way to stand in front of the Lycans filling the clearing. We stop about 8 yards away from them.

"Can they hear me?" I asked Conrad looking up at him.

"Yeah they can hear you just fine."

I drop my arm from behind Conrad and take a few steps forward.

"Lycans, thank you so much for that beautiful escort to our home. It was such a humbling and amazing thing to experience. I am extremely proud to be your Luna and can only hope that my servitude to this pack will one day make you proud of me."

As I stood there looking out at this sea of Lycans. They erupted in beautiful howling. Conrad and everyone on the porch started howling too. I turn to face Conrad as he stops howling and lowers his face to look at me.

"You have no idea what you just did, do you?"

"I followed my heart and did what I thought was right."

"You just made Lycan history baby girl, no Luna has ever addressed a pack like you just did. A human Luna is already rare but to openly address a pack accepting your role as Luna before you have had your Luna Ceremony is unheard of."

I look up at Conrad "Why not? This is now my home, my family, my pack and they need to know they matter to their Alphas and they are not forgotten about."

Another eruption of howls sound all around us.

"You are right Blake, they do matter and we will never forget nor take any of them for granted. We will serve and protect them"

I step closer to Conrad "We will respect them and provide a safe haven for them."

Conrad steps forward bringing his body flush with mine. He takes my face into his hands.

"I promise to be the best Alpha I can be to our pack and

the best mate I can be to my Luna."

"I promise to be the best Luna I can be to our pack and the best mate I can be to my Alpha."

"I love you baby girl"

"I love you too handsome." Conrad leans down and kisses me as howling erupts once again all around us.

It felt so natural sitting around the big table eating lunch with Conrad, his parents, Anders, Soph and Luca. It showed me just how close all of them grew up.

"So who is the oldest of the four of y'all?" I ask pointing around to Con, Anders Soph and Luca.

"It goes Anderson, almost two weeks later was Conrad, then 3 months later came our girl Sophie and then my baby boy Luca was 2 years after that." Julia said pointing them out as she said their names.

"Those three were always in trouble, we had a very big dinner for the top pack's Alphas and Betas. I had special outfits made for each one of them to wear for that dinner." Conrad, Anders and Soph were already trying to hold back their laughter. "Those three went missing about 10 minutes after I had them all dressed and ready. Alaric is in the middle of his welcome speech, him and I are standing in front of all these alphas and betas and here comes these three running in squealing with excitement right up to me. They were covered in mud from head to toe carrying the biggest frogs I had ever

seen in my life, I wanted the floor to swallow me whole." Julia says, giving them a laugh and a loving smile.

"Now my sweet Luca on the other hand... he was something else. We couldn't keep clothes on him, from the time he could walk, no matter what we did to try and keep clothes on him it never worked. He just became known as our nudist Lyke."

Everyone laughed, Luca just shrugged "What? I liked the breeze."

Earning him another laugh from everyone.

"I don't know how but Soph had some kind of control over these boys. She could convince them to do anything. She found her mom and Jules make up, she convinced these three knuckleheads to let her do makeovers. She had that stuff on their faces so thick it took three days before all of it came off." Alaric said, shaking his head with a smile.

"I bet you looked so handsome after your makeover." I said to Conrad placing my hand on top of his.

"I made that red lipstick on my eyes look good."

I just roll my eyes at him as everyone laughs.

"We used to call him Alpha Rainbow Glitter Sparkles." Luca says dying laughing.

"Awe come on man why do you have to go there?"

Luca and Soph are laughing so hard they can't even speak.

"Con's middle name is Jasper, like the sparkly vampire from that movie Twilight. So after the movie came out showing how they sparkle in the sun, Con became Alpha Rainbow Glitter Sparkles." Anders tells me as Soph is crying next to me, Luca just snorted he's laughing so hard.

Conrad's cheeks are a nice shade of red, as he shakes his head back and forth trying to hold back a smile. "Man y'all put me through shit growing up."

"We put you through shit? Who's the one who woke up naked and tied to a tree after we went out drinking one night?"

"LUCA" all four of them said in unison.

I couldn't help myself. I bust out laughing. "So that's what you meant this morning about Luca hangovers are gross."

"Yeah he ends up in random places naked just like when he was a toddler." Con says.

"But it was a lot cuter when he was a toddler." Julia says pointing her fork in Luca's direction with a playful smile.

"So Blakely any embarrassing stories of you as a kid?" Alaric asks with a teasing smile.

"Um I'm sure I can think of something. When I was a toddler my words didn't always come out the way they were supposed to sound. First time I pointed out a helicopter to my dad. I told him, look dad, it's a helicocker."

Conrad and Anders got a good laugh out of that one.

"Oh I'm so using that one" Luca said with a laugh rubbing his hands together like an evil scientist.

"One time my mom got me and my twin sister Bethany matching pink dresses for family pictures, as a kid I absolutely hated pink and I was so mad at my mom for making me wear pink. So after I was dressed I went into my room, grabbed a purple marker and started coloring my dress so it would be purple not pink anymore. Oh my god my mom was so mad at me..."

"Conrad so you two do have something in common, you can mess up some clothes with a quickness." Julia said with a giggle.

"This isn't really considered embarrassing as it was just an awful experience. I was playing in a flag football game when I was around 15 years old. It had rained bad the night before and early that morning. It was a tournament so we had to play the games no matter what. So both teams are out there in this mud up to our ankles and it smelled horrible. The longer we were out there the worse the mud got, our feet kept getting stuck so it made it hard to move at all. Well I attempted to run out for a

pass and I needed to dive out to try and get it. I push with my feet to go out to get the ball, my cleats didn't budge at all from the mud, I go straight down belly flop right into the muddy ground. When I finally got up the front of my jersey was completely black, I had mud up my nose, in my mouth guard my dad had to hose me down and buy me a new mouth guard before I could go back into the game."

"Gross Lover! I bet you stank for days." Soph has a look of disgust, all the guys are dying laughing and Julia is covering her mouth with her napkin so food doesn't fly out.

"Best part of the whole thing, on the way home in our rental car I had to sneeze and I couldn't get a napkin in time mud boogers went flying all over the dash, It was AMAZING!"

"Good thing it was in a rental" Alaric says laughing to tears.

Conrad is still laughing as he leans over and kisses the top of my head. "You said you have a twin sister, Bethany right?" Julia asks me.

"She's a bitch" all five of us say at the same time.

"Alright, twin sister is a sore subject" Alaric says laughing.

We continued on with our meal and stories when a lady walked in carrying a very upset baby.

"Alpha, Elders, I'm so sorry to interrupt your meal." She says with a bow of her head.

"It's okay Doc what's going on?" Conrad asks as he stands up.

The lady comes and stands next to Conrad but near my chair. I'm looking at the baby and it looked to be only days old.

"Her mom passed during delivery and her father passed during one of the last battles."

The lady kept talking to Conrad but I stood up asking Soph to come with me. I go to the nearest couch and grab the throw blanket off of it. Alaric, Luca, Anders and Soph all had their eyes on me. Conrad and Julia were focused on the lady. I turn so my back is facing Soph with the blanket flat across my chest.

"Soph take that and flip it over my shoulder. Yup, now take those and tie them kind of right behind me. Thanks."

Once Soph helped me make a moby wrap type thing I walked over to the lady. Conrad looks down at me with a questioning look at my new clothing item.

"Here let me take her." I say to the lady, not waiting for an answer wrapping my hands around the baby so I can hold them.

"Are you sure Luna?" The lady asks, looking nervous.

I pull the neck of my vneck tshirt out just enough that I can put the baby just inside so we are doing skin to skin. Then I adjust the wrap so we are snuggled in tight.

"Is it a boy or girl?" I ask never taking my eyes off the baby.

I start bouncing and patting its butt.

"It's a girl"

"Does she have a name?"

Now I'm pacing, as I bounce and pat still not looking up from the screaming Lyke in my arms.

"No we don't know what her mother had picked out."

All eyes were following my every move and hanging on to my every word.

"Soph what is your middle name?"

"Everly"

I look up at the lady staring right into her eyes.

"Her name is Everly Rose Michaelson. She will stay with us until further notice."

"Luna, I..."

In a very calm voice I cut the lady's sentence short. "I've made my decision, and that's final. Is that everything you needed to discuss with the Alpha?"

"Yes... yes it was Luna." The lady responded with a smile.

I moved on bouncing and patting as it seemed to be calming her down. There was silence after that lady left.

"Continue on" I say over my shoulder as I throw my hand up motioning for them to go back to talking.

Finally they all started talking again but I could tell it was surface level stuff, so I just kept focused on Everly in the open living room area just off from the dining room. I was close enough to be involved with the conversation at the table if I wanted but had room to move around with the Lyke. She had finally calmed down. She stretched, a little arm straight up and out of the wrap as she curved her back leaning her head back. I cupped my free hand behind her head as she was leaning back and she relaxed her head slightly in my hand as she looked up at me with the biggest hazel eyes I have ever seen. I rub my thumb across the chocolate brown silky fuzz of hair that covers a good amount of her head. I start trying to think of some song to sing to her but I'm drawing a complete blank on all the nursery style songs. So I started to sing the only song I could think of at this moment.

"Just got paid, Friday night

Party hopping, feeling right

Booties shaking, all around

Pump that jam, while I'm gettin' down"

I'm singing and dancing to the beat in my head. I've totally forgotten anyone is even around. After a few minutes someone starts singing behind me.

"Now I know you thought you had me played

Check is in the mail I got it made

And if you'll notice my smile is like Kool-Aid

'Cause I just got paid!"

I turn to see Luca with the biggest smile on his face as he's singing and dancing now too. I see Soph coming over spinning and dancing as she's now singing too. All three of us are now all dancing and singing as we are looking down at Everly, who by the way is staring back at us like we've lost our flippen minds. Our song and dance is starting to die down. Luca and Soph are just as smitten by Everly as I am, as they stand there looking at her and cooing.

"Luca never took you as the *NSYNC type." I say with a teasing smile.

"*NSYNC is my jam Queen B, you're not the only music lover around here!" Luca says with a big smile on his

face.

Me and Soph just bust out laughing. I feel Conrad come up behind me and wrap his arms around my waist just under the wrap I'm wearing.

"I liked that booty shaking you were doing." Conrad chuckles as he kisses my cheek.

He rests his chin on my shoulder and looks down at Everly. He takes one of his fingers and softly rubs it up the arm she had stretched out of the wrap that lay on my chest near my collarbone. The tip of his finger was almost as wide as her arm. He rubbed it over the tiny fist she had rolled her hand in when she stretched. He carefully lifted her fist with that same finger.

"She's so tiny," he whispers.

Everly opens her hand and grabs onto his finger.

"Her fingers barely reach halfway around your finger." Anders said as he had come to stand with Soph.

"Conrad, Anders what happens to Lykes if they end up in this type of situation?"

When there was a long silence I looked up at them. They were looking at each other, both wearing very guilty expressions.

"One of you going to actually speak to me or just mindlink between the two of you?" I ask slightly

annoyed.

"We have an orphanage on the territory." Anders said as he tried to hide in Soph's hair a little to evade my stare.

"Okay thanks for that very vague answer."

I hear Conrad sigh as his arms tighten around me. "We have one on the territory, but neither of us can remember the last time we went and looked in on them to check how it's operating."

I give a sharp nod and look back down at Everly. We all stand there huddled around just staring and watching sweet little Everly.

"Soph I'm not sure who I need to talk to but we need formula, diapers, adorable clothes and headbands with bows the size of her head on them."

"On it Bitsy."

We all make our way back to the table. Few moments later a different lady than earlier walks in with a bottle, a white smock dress that had ruffled cap sleeves with big light purple roses splattered all over it. There were also the cutest little matching bloomers and a white headband with a big light purple bow on it.

"Thank you so much." I told the lady that brought me the stuff I needed.

"Luna I also have a packet of diapers and other things

you will need. Where would you like me to put them?"

"You can just put them on the couch over there and I'll take them up to our room a little later for her." Conrad said to the lady with a smile on his face.

I got up to walk with the lady to the couch so I could change Everly and put her dress on her. To my surprise Conrad was right behind me. I pulled her out of the wrap and laid her down on the couch. Quickly slipping the wrap off of me. Conrad sits down on the floor right next to the couch as he lets Everly hold onto his finger again. I change her diaper.

"What are those?" Conrad asked with a very lost expression on his face.

"They are called bloomers, they go under the dress to cover up their diaper. We can't have our girl showing her little diaper off to everyone." I say looking at Everly in a little teasing baby voice.

"No we can't have that, now can we." Conrad says smiling.

I put her little dress on and slip the headband on her head.

"Tehehe that's so freakin cute!" I say with a slight silly sounding laugh.

"Yeah she is pretty stinkin cute. You're so natural at this, I wouldn't even know where to start if someone handed me a Lyke." Conrad said with a chuckle.

I pick Everly up and sit on the floor next to Conrad as he puts his arm on the couch behind me. I cradle Everly in my arms as he hands me the bottle I had sat on the couch before changing Everly. As she starts eating I look over at Conrad.

"I don't know just something inside of me just clicked and I knew what I had to do." I say with a small smile.

Conrad takes his hand that's behind me, lays it on the side of my head pulling me slightly towards him as he kisses my head. I look up at him and he gives me a soft kiss on the lips.

"I can't wait to see you holding our little Lyke one day baby girl."

"I can't wait either, handsome."

We sat there watching her eat. After about half the bottle was gone, I lift her up and pat her back. She lets out the biggest burp I think I've ever heard.

"Yeah! That's our girl!" I heard Anders' comment from the dining room.

"Whoa, sweet pea that was something." Conrad says, we both laugh.

I keep rubbing her back trying to wake her up enough to finish eating. Conrad takes his knuckles and gently rubs them on my cheek.

"Baby girl, why did you give her the last name Michaelson instead of Alexander?" Conrad asked with a slightly pained look.

"She deserved a proper name. I hadn't asked beforehand if it was okay with you to use your last name. Plus I don't know how the whole status thing works in the Lycan world. So I didn't want to give her a name that was of higher status that wasn't my place to give." I looked down from his face "I didn't want to screw anything up for our first born son. I was scared she would be seen as your next heir over our first born Lyke. I didn't want to take that away from you, because I know how important that is to you and your family. Ugh, That makes me such a horrible and selfish person to only want to think of our lykes when she has no other family. I should have ju..."

"Whoa, whoa calm down baby girl, it's fine you did an amazing thing today. You just gave this little sweet pea a huge family."

"Yeah B, we are all here for little Everly." I hear Anders say behind me. I turn around to see all five of them have gotten up from the table and are standing behind the couch, smiling and nodding their heads agreeing to what Anders said. I look down at Everly.

"You have no idea what you just got yourself into little lady." I say as everyone chuckles around me.

Conrad

"Alright give her up it's my turn." I hear my mom say to Soph after she's got to hold little Everly.

Just like Blake, that little girl came blazing into our lives and we instantly knew we would never be the same. I walk around to sit behind my desk. Everyone followed Blake with Everly so everyone is now scattered all around my office passing her around. I see Blake get up, and make her way over to where I'm sitting. I slid my chair back a little making room for her to sit down on my lap. She sits down giving me a smile.

"Hey baby girl"

"Hey handsome" she softly says as she looks back in the direction of my mom holding Everly.

I could tell she was thinking about something. "What's on that beautiful mind of yours?"

"I'm just not sure who to ask me to help me with something."

"Well you can ask anyone in this room."

"I want to go see the orphanage. I want to see all their record books, accounting books, budgets, everything I want it brought..." She looked around my office for a place to go through all of this stuff.

"Anders we are going to need a desk in here for Blake. Go ahead and put one in your office for Soph."

"Got it, I'll get one in here within the hour."

"This is now our office," I say to her.

She gives me a big smile, wraps her arms around my neck and gives me a tender kiss.

"Come on let's go check it out." I say as I give her another kiss.

"Julia, are you okay watching Everly for a little while, as we go check out the orphanage?"

"First of all Ms. Blakely you either call me Ma, Mom or Momma not Julia. Second, me and our little sweet pea here have a nursery we need to go decorate." Mom said with a big smile on her face.

"There's that room between your room and Anderson's room that we've been using for just storage. I already have it being cleared out. They are going to make a door coming from your room so you can access her room easier."

"Ma, can you go ahead and make a door on our side as well?" Anders asked.

"I'm moving into the room across the hall from her room." Luca chimes in as well.

Blake looks at me with tear filled eyes and a big smile on her face.

"Alright are we doing this guys, Everly Rose will not be going into foster care and we are all going to raise her up?" I ask looking around at all of them.

"I'm all in" Blake says raising her hand.

"I'm all in" Soph says raising her hand.

"I'm all in," Anders says, raising his hand.

"Hell yeah I'm all in!" Luca says, raising both his hands.

"I'm all in," I say raising my hand.

"I'm all in" I hear my mom say.

We all look over at her and she's raising Everly's tiny hand up in the air. We all laugh.

"Okay it's decided she's ours. Anders, Luca and Soph y'all come with us. Let's go check this adoption system out.