## Lycan Queen

## Chapter 6: Missing Puzzle Piece

Anders walks into the lounge wearing that expression that he's clearly up to something. "Um excuse me, I didn't know I sent Luca and Soph on a break," he says looking between Luca and Soph.

"Oh hey sweet face," Soph says as she gets up and walks over to him, putting her arms around his neck and gives him a sweet kiss.

She knew it would get her out of trouble. It used to give me a twinge of jealousy seeing how in love they were. Over the years I've gotten used to it. They gave me something to look forward to when I found my mate. To be honest it hasn't always been easy. I spent many nights in my office as a crazed workaholic fighting insomnia to avoid the loneliness in my bed. I would just keep telling myself, it won't always be like this. Being lonely every night was always better than having to tell my mate I had been with another woman. Now the waiting and loneliness are over, at this very moment I am sitting on the same couch as my mate. I'm really trying not to creep her out by constantly staring at her but I just couldn't help myself.

"Hey babe, I see you're taking a break from the bar," Anders said with a playful smile on his face.

"Yea I had to come up here and rescue these wimps from pipsqueak over there," Soph said, throwing a thumb over her shoulder toward Blake.

"Hey, I was doing just fine until you decided to Powerslam me onto the couch." Blake shot back acting like she was offended.

"Yea I still can't believe that left hook you landed on the jerk. I haven't seen one that pretty in a long time." Luca excitedly pointed out.

"Oh, so she's the famous Rocky I've been hearing about all night?" Anders teased with a light laugh.

"Oh my god, land a few punches on some dude and it's town gossip," Blake says as we all laugh.

She was obviously embarrassed by being the center of attention. This moment feels so natural like it has always been like this. Blake fits like the missing piece to a puzzle. After the laughter dies down, Anders tells Luca to get his ass back at the front door. After a quick slap on the butt sends Soph back to the bar.

Anders came and sat on the coffee table in front of Blake, giving me a reason to slide down so I could sit closer to her. I was so caught off guard by how serious Anders was acting that without thinking, I slid my arm along the back on the couch behind Blake as I lowered myself onto the couch next to her. It wasn't until I felt her hair gently moving across my arm, that I realized what I had done. She glanced over at me when she realized how close I was, I just kept looking forward at Anders like I hadn't done anything unusual. I was hoping she wouldn't feel

uncomfortable and shift herself away from me. I was relieved when she didn't move and just looked back at Anders.

"I hate to do this, but the gentleman you hit is stating he is going to press charges and will drag the bar into it. I need to ask some questions to protect us and you. Did you start it?" Anders asked in his very respectful business voice.

I really wasn't happy about this but I understand he has a business to think about. Blake looked down at her hands in her lap picking at one of her fingernails nervously. I didn't like seeing her like this. I lightly touched her back with the hand that was behind her, causing her to look up at me.

"Blake there's no reason to feel nervous or unsafe when you're with Anders and I." I said softly while giving her a reassuring smile.

After a few moments, she gave me a quick nod and looked over at Anders.

"Anders I am so sorry for what happened tonight, I should have handled that situation a hell of a lot better. Blake says letting out a sigh.

"Have either of you ever heard of Cooper Attorney at Law?"

"Yeah, I have seen their commercial on tv a few times."

"The guy I decided to go all shade of crazy on is Robbie Cooper. His dad is Robert Cooper, I have no doubt in my mind they will do something legal."

After a few moments, the sound of Blake's voice breaks the silence.

"FUCK!" Blake whisper yells as she puts her elbows on her knees dropping her head in her hands.

Though it was muffled, to our Lycan ears Anders and I caught every word.

"Dammit! He's coming after me too, what the hell am I going to do?"

Anders reached forward, laying his hand on the side of Blake's knee to bring her attention back to us. Unable to control it, jealousy ripped through me so fast I couldn't stop the growl rumbling deep in my chest. Anders quickly moved his hand from Blake and snapped his head at me with a chill the hell outlook.

"Well don't touch her" I mind linked him with a laugh.

Blake leans back looking over at me with a questioning stare. "What are you getting all growly about, they aren't going to come after you."

"Feisty, I like it. Finally, someone who can help me keep you in line." Anders says through our link.

"Blake, Con owns the security company that installed all

the club's camera system and alarms. He can help us fight this if it comes to it. Now I know my attorney can step in for the club. Do you have an attorney that can help you through this?"

"Guys, I'm just an intern at Channel 6 news. I don't have the money to have an attorney on call."

"Okay, I will speak with my attorney and see if he can represent us both. If for some reason there's a conflict of interest we can figu..."

"I will take care of it, you will not go into this unprotected," I said quickly to cut Anders off, I could have been a lot smoother about my offer. I just couldn't hold back my need to protect her.

"Why are you guys so willing to help me?"

"Because we take care of our own," Anders says with a shrug.

"I just met y'all, you don't know anything about me. Well other than I have a bad temper. So how am I considered one of your own?"

"That's enough for me, Soph said you kicked ass tonight. Whoever can bring Conrad down is a good friend of mine." He said laughing.

Rolling my eyes I shift more towards Blake.

"Look what Anders is trying to say is, you stood up for

what was right. We aren't going to leave you high and dry to fight this by yourself. Anyone of us would have done the same thing you did. You just beat us to the punch... literally." I tell her with a smile.

She just gave me a smile rolling her eyes.

"Alright, I'm going to go call my attorney and get things rolling. It was great to meet you, Blake." Anders said as he stood up.

"Is there anything I can get either of you?"

"Water would be nice," Blake said.

"Make that two," I said, giving Anders a nod.

It was then that I realized we were now sitting all alone in the lounge.

As we sat there in silence for a few minutes, I could tell she was deep in thought causing a line to form on her forehead. It was such a struggle not to wrap my arms around her letting her know everything would be ok. Right now all I could do to help her was to get her to stop thinking about it. I look over at her noticing a flashy ring on her left-hand ring finger.

"That's a nice ring you got there." She looked down at her hand and gave a little smile.

"Thanks a lot of blood, sweat, and tears went into getting this beauty." "Oh yea, what did you do to get it?" she absent-mindedly started twisting it with her right hand and seemed to be recalling a memory.

She turned towards me lifting the hair that was falling diagonally across covering some of her forehead and right eyebrow.

"See this" pointing at a healing cut right at her hairline with what looked like four stitches in it, "and I'm sure you can see my fancy shinner."

I leaned forward like I was getting a better view, and lightly touched along her forehead and down along her temple. With my Lycan eyes I could see it just fine from where I was sitting, I just really needed to touch her. As I ran my fingertips over her skin, though it was the lightest of touches, it sent tingles of electricity radiating up my arm. After looking at the cut I moved my eyes to look down at her blackeye she was already gazing at me.

Only holding eye contact for a split second, I shifted my eyes to focus on the bruise around her beautiful right eye. Just as my fingertips passed by her temple, I slid them into her hair. I very carefully curved my hand so that I was holding her cheek in the palm of my hand slowly and softly ran the pad of my thumb along with the bruise under her eye. For just a sweet moment she slowly closed her eyes, leaning ever so slightly into my touch and released a sigh as though she had been unknowingly holding her breath. The moment ended way too soon for me, but it was more than anything I could have hoped for

tonight. My heart was beating so fast I thought it was going to explode out of my chest. I wanted to hold her beautiful face for a lot longer, but I knew I had to take this slow. As a human, she doesn't feel the mate pull as I do, so I need to be careful to not freak her out by being so forward. So I let my hand fall slowly, letting it move down her shoulder and arm till it rested back on the back of the couch behind her.

She softly clears her throat looking down to the side trying to hide the smile growing on her face.

"Um, It's... Um, I played flag football for UGA and I got this when we won our last game."

She held up her hand to show me the ring. I lifted the hand I had resting on my leg, slid my hand palm up under her hand, slowly rubbed my thumb over her fingers. I took a quick look at the ring, but I was too distracted by how small her hand looked compared to mine. It reminded me just how careful I had to be with her, so I didn't seriously hurt her. I lowered her hand letting go as she placed her hand back on her lap. I looked at her waiting for her to continue talking but she didn't say anything else.

"Well are you going to tell me about this game or are you just going to make me guess how it went down?"

She busted out laughing giving me a flirty side look. "You really want to know about a silly Girls College flag football game?"

"Absolutely! Spare no detail, I want to hear everything" I told her with a playful smile.

She giggled, rolled her eyes at me "Okay, fine if you insist." She said as she slipped her feet out of her shoes, turning to fully face me.

She folded one leg up under her and bent the other in front of her wrapping her arms around her shin. She looked so comfortable, so at ease to be sitting with me. I shifted so I was directly facing her and pulled my left leg up onto the couch as well and shifted forward so my knee was touching the knee of the leg folded under her.

Her face was full of excitement and her eyes sparkled with joy. "So we were playing FSU for the National Title last weekend. Man those girls were ruthless, and they had one thing in mind... taking me out of the game. They had obviously done their homework. They knew Sarah and I are a powerhouse, Sarah is my QB. We have been playing together since little league. When we are on the field it's like we have one mind. We hardly ever have to say a single word because we just know where and what the other is thinking." She looks down, gives a little huff laugh, with a smile on her face looks back up at me.

"Con... I gave FSU absolute hell."

I couldn't help myself. I fell out laughing. That look of joy that she just handed that other team their ass was amazing.

"I bet you did like you did me earlier."

"What?! Do you mean that little breaking of your nose? That was nothing compared to what got left on the field." She said with a teasing laugh and her eyes with that same joyful sparkle.

I motioned with my hand for her to continue on with her story. As I lowered my hand I moved it ever so slightly forward so when it rested on my outside leg I lightly wrapped my hand around her ankle. Without even seeming to notice she let her left arm go slack sliding down her leg and resting her hand on my wrist.

"They were double-teaming me all, trying to get away with illegal hits to physically take me out of the game. It got rather annoying after a while."

This was pure bliss, sitting here listening to her talk and all these small touches are heaven. I can't wait till we get to the point that this is the new normal for us.

We sat there for a couple more hours, just talking back and forth about our lives and what our interests are. There were also more flirty looks and small touches that made this time with her 10 times better than perfection. It wasn't until the house lights came on did we realize it was closing time. I wasn't ready for this time to end. So I gave her a playful smile moving my eyebrows up and down fastly a few times.

"We can stay a while longer. I got an in with the owner." She laughed at me giving me that small flirty smile.

She's been stealing my heart over and over again all night.

"I really should be getting home, it's pretty late." She said but made no movement to get off the couch and bring us out of this little bubble we had been hiding in all night.

As much as it pained me to think about having to tell her goodbye, I didn't want her driving home much later than it already was. Knowing I would more than likely be secretly following her home because I know it would drive me crazy not knowing if she was safe.

"Alright baby girl, we need to get you home before it gets much later. I don't want you driving around with all those dumb drunks out there right now." I said as I stood up taking her hand and helping her up.

After we got our few belongings together, I placed my hand on the small of her back as we made our way to the stairs that led to the dance floor.

Soph skipped and did some silly over-exaggerated hip-shaking that I think she was trying to pass as dancing in our direction meeting Blake and me at the end of the stairs. As we stepped off the last step again without even thinking twice about it, I slid my hand from the middle of Blake's back to fully around her. Blake shifted a little closer to my side, bringing us even closer.

"Wow Soph, sweet moves I didn't know you had it in you," Blake said with a little giggle.

"There's a lot of awesomeness you have yet to learn

about me, pretty lady!" Soph said with a little shimmy of her shoulders.

I just laughed, rolled my eyes, and turned my body more towards Blake and that's when I noticed how I was holding Blake. She was fully tucked under my arm fully against my side. She looked gorgeous standing with my arm wrapped around her. I saw Soph handing Blake a piece of white paper. Blake threw her hand up in sarcastic shock placing it in the middle of her chest.

"What?! Really, you're giving me your number! Ugh, tonight has officially been successful, finally got me a hottie's number."

"Feel free to call me in the middle of the night if you want," Soph said with a playful wiggle of her eyebrows.

"Okay that's enough," I said as I pulled Blake tightly to me with the arm that was around her.

"Dang, my best friend's girlfriend is already trying to steal you... literally out from under me." I said laughing and looking down at Blake.

"Oh! Who said I was yours to even be stolen from you?"

"Oh just give it time baby girl you will be mine, there's no doubt about that."

"Alright, we'll just have to see about that." She said looking up at me as the three of us laughed.

Anders walked up behind Soph putting his head on her shoulder with his nose against her neck obviously breathing in her scent. After giving her a kiss on her neck, he stood up fully looking at Blake and me.

"Did I hear someone say they were trying to steal my girl away?" Anders asked, giving a playful smile looking between Soph and Blake.

"Never know now, she did give me her number."

Anders gave Soph a fake pouty look, to which she just laughed "Oh sweet face I would never leave you" and kissed him on the nose.

"So how did the rest of opening night go for you man?" I asked Anders

"It was good, and it ended in the green so that's always a good sign. Just gotta come up with some ideas or promotions to keep them coming back."

"I don't think you have to worry about that too much. This place is really nice, clean, and has great drinks. With this layout, you could even do weekly karaoke nights. Those were my jam in my early college days, good release after that stressful test you've crammed for the night before. You're sitting in a prime location in the heart of where all the college kids hang out." Blake said, throwing the idea out to Anders.

We all looked back and forth between each other thinking about what she said. I was already all about it because Blake is the one that said it, this was Anders' bar so he needed to like it and not just me.

Anders looked at Soph, "What do you think sweetheart?"

"Hey you know me, I'm always down for some karaoke." Anders looked over at me.

"What about you?"

"Bro, this is your bar, not mine but I think it's a good idea, something we could try out a few times to see how it goes. If it doesn't work out then we can stop doing them, no harm no foul. If they are a success then you owe Blake a cut from those nights for using her idea." I tell him with a laugh.

"Oh my god seriously Conrad, you're too much," Blake says as she playfully slaps my chest with her hand which I easily catch in mine and hold it.

Giving her a wink and looking back at Anders. "What do you think man?" I ask him.

"Well, I'm totally into the idea, let's try it out and see what happens. We can try it on Thursday nights and see how it goes" he says, making a final decision.

"Alright chica you better be here on Thursday, don't leave me jamming out here by myself," Soph said pointing at Blake.

"WHAT? Me miss karaoke night?! Please, that is my

scene girl. You know nothing about me and some Karaoke." Blake sassed back at Soph.

"We better get ready Con, we are going to have our handsful with these two girls."

"You got that right, but it will be worth it." I say with a shrug.

"Seriously, I love how y'all keep talking like Con has already won me over, I haven't agreed to be anyone's." Blake playfully sasses at Anders and I as she steps away from me stepping back towards the front door.

She points at Soph, "I'll be calling you in the middle of the night sweet cheeks". She says throwing her a wink.

She turns around walking away, with the sexiest sway in her hips I had ever seen, throwing her hand in the air yelling "Duces boys!"

Soph and Anders just died laughing looking at my shocked expression. Once I got over the shock of how sexy her little ass looked walking away. A playful growl left my mouth, Lycans always do love a good chase. I took off across the dance floor after her, scooping her up into my arms as she let out a little squeal, grabbing my shirt with one hand, throwing the other one around my neck, holding on tight and tucked her head against my chest as we did a quick spin.

"See y'all at home," I yelled over my shoulder to Anders and Soph as I carried Blake out of the bar.

As I was walking out the door, I could hear Blake's heart racing and a giggle coming from her. I couldn't help myself, I probably shouldn't have, but I leaned down and kissed the top of her head. I slowed my jog to a stroll since I just realized I have no clue what kind of car she drives.

"Baby girl, I have no idea what you drive, so I don't know where to take you."

"Oh yeah I guess that would be helpful", she said as she lifted her head looking up at me, causing me to stop walking altogether.

We were so close our noses were almost touching. I was doing so good, fighting the strong urge to kiss her. She started to gently rub her hand along the back of my neck. Her doing this sent so many feelings and sensations shooting through my whole body all at once. I closed my eyes as a moan escaped my lips.

"Oh baby girl you're making it really hard not to kiss you right now," I said as I opened my eyes looking at her beautiful face that was still so close to mine.

Without a moment of hesitation or even blinking looking straight in my eyes, my beautiful mate said "Well why are you trying not to?"

That was it for me, I couldn't resist her a moment longer. I leaned into her, our eyes still locked on each other and I kissed her. It started off sweet and tender. She slowly

closed her eyes, her hand released my shirt, she slid it up my chest and neck stopping it on the side of my chin bone. I felt her other hand twisted into my hair as she pulled herself closer to me deepening the kiss. This little shift in my arms caused my hand to settle on her butt. I couldn't help myself, I gave it a tight squeeze causing her to gasp. I took this moment to slide my tongue into her mouth so I could get even more of her sweet taste on my tongue. She got me back though, she gave a sharp pull with her hand that was gripping my hair, causing me to let out a moan resulting in me losing dominance over us making out. As an Alpha, I'm always in control, but this tiny woman in my arms is in full control of me right now and I'm loving every minute of it.