

26. Family Brunch

When we head down stairs I can faintly smell mu ins and co ee. We get to the bottom floor and I can now strongly smell all of the food. We head into the dining room where I see an older couple talking to Dave and Hazel and a girl around my age at the food counter. ²⁵

When she turns around I see the baby bump and estimate her at about 2 months. Werewolves I have learned, are only pregnant for 3-4 months. 3 if you are an alpha since your baby grows faster. One a ernoon Hazel was telling me all about her and Dave and how they got together and how quickly they had Callie. I didn't understand at first but she explain more in depth mating, and children and marriage and stu . ²⁶

When she looks up and sees us in the doorway she squeals and runs over and hugs James when I take a step behind him unsure of what to exect, ²⁷

"James! It's so nice to see you! It's been so long and I can't believe I come back to visit to find you have a mate! This is just wonderful," she looks over at me, "Hi I'm Aria JAmes' younger sister" she smiles at me and I give her a small smile back. ²⁸

She doesn't move to hug me and I think James may have warned his family not to come too close because not even a minute later, the older couple come over and introduce themselves as his parents. They also stay at least two feet away. ²⁹

His mother's name is Isabella and his dad is William. James and William look so much alike that aside from his dad looking older, they could have been close to twins. I notice Aria has a mix of William's and Isabella's features. ³⁰

I look up at James to see him studying my carefully. I smile back up at him and grab his hand in mine. When I look back up his mom is looking at us with a smile going across her whole face, ³¹

"Alright then lets sit down and eat, shall we?" ³²
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About an half an hour later everybody is sitting down and eating and drinking co ee and tea. When I only picked up one mu in, JAmes took my plate and began filling it with fruits and other assortments from the table and said I had to ear at least half of it. I sighed and reluctantly nodded knowing I probably needed it. ³⁴

We made small talk for a bit and nobody asked me things other than yes or no questions, it was going over well so far.

"So Aria, where is your mate? He couldn't make it this trip?" James asks, ³⁵

"No he had some things to take care of, although he sent me with an army of guards until I got to the pack house. I sent them all back home a er that and said I would call when I was ready to go back home" she chuckled. ³⁶

She looked over at me and I was curious who her mate was and why he would have so much work to do, was he an alpha of another pack? She must have seen the curiosity in my eyes because she began explaining. And I will never forget what came out of her mouth next. ³⁷

"Yes I have an alpha mate, Our territory is just about an hour or two from here so I still get to visit here as o en as I want," she chuckles at that and I give a small smile, she looks at James and hesitates before continuing, "I don't know if you have ever heard of them before but he is the alpha of the Silver Crescent pack? His name is Dante Saliva" At that name my throat starts to swell up and I choke on my food. ³⁸

"Grace? Grace are you okay?!" James begins tapping my back trying to help. Once I am done choking I go to stand up staring at Aria, no they can't be, they are only an hour away?! They were that close this whole time?! ³⁹

I start shaking my head and backing out of the dining room. My heart pounding like crazy and my breathing coming out quick. It feels as though the walls are caving in on me and it becomes hard to breathe as I panic. ⁴⁰

She can't be his mate. He can't be that close. ⁴¹

It's not possible. ⁴²

She can't be that close. ⁴³

I can numbly hear James and Hazel calling my name but I can't make out what they are saying as I turn and high tail it out of there looking for the front door. I need to get outside.

I need to be farther away. ⁴⁴

I have to run farther away, she can't get me again. ⁴⁵

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