



His She-Wolf Warrior

Wulf's Den

Marisa Chenery

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Blurb

Eli vowed he would never tie himself to one woman. But when he sees a lone werewolf female at Wulf's Den with six large male werewolves at her back, he finds himself instantly attracted to her.

Saskia and her brothers-in-arms have come to Wulf's Den in search of the foretold one, the one they have trained most of their long lives to protect. What she didn't expect was to have one of her visions while there. Or to see that she and the male mortal who

looks at her with hunger in his eyes will eventually end up in bed together.

As Eli and Saskia try to sort through the feelings of an unexpected mating, a new enemy rises to threaten Roxie in her position as the foretold one. An enemy that could end their mating prematurely.

Chapter One

“How about that one? She looks pretty hot.”

Eli York looked over at the woman his sister, Billie, had pointed out from the crowd inside Wulf’s Den. Yes, he found her more than pretty, but that would be a given since the woman in question was a werewolf. The species as a whole were known for their exceptional good looks.

He shook his head. “No. Not interested.”

Billie narrowed her eyes at him. “Why do I get the impression you’re just saying that to blow me off? You’ve said no to every woman Jocelyn and I have pointed out, werewolf and mortal alike.”

Finn, who sat next to Eli, chuckled. “That’s because he *is* trying to blow you off, Billie. Eli is still holding strong to his decision not to be tied to any one woman.”

“Traitor,” Eli said to Finn. “I thought you, of all people, would at least back me up.” Seeing as how Finn and he were identical twins, they were extremely close. They looked so much alike they were mirror images of each other with their matching grey-blue eyes, longish straight black hair and muscular build. Personality wise, they were the same as well. The only difference between them now was Finn had chosen to become a werewolf after he had taken Jocelyn, a female werewolf, as his mate.

“You know I’ll back you up anytime you need me to, but in this case, I have to side with Billie and Jocelyn. It’s about time you settled down.” Finn sat back in his chair and wrapped his arm around Jocelyn’s shoulders who sat in the chair next to his. “Being mated does have its benefits, if you know what I mean.”

From the heated look Finn gave Jocelyn, Eli knew exactly what his twin meant. The sex was frequent and mind-blowing, or so Finn had told him more than once. Eli turned to look at Royce, Billie’s mate. “What about you, Royce? Do you think I should shackle myself to one woman?”

Royce smiled. “All I can say is nothing compares to being mated. To find that someone who makes you feel whole, complete. Your sister does that for me. I can’t begrudge her that if she wants the same for you.”

Eli shook his head. “Man, I have to stop hanging around you guys. If I don’t watch it I’ll start spouting that romantic crap as well. Ow!” He reached down to rub the shin Billie’s foot had connected with under the table.

Billie glared at him. “Watch it, buster. There’s nothing wrong with a man being able to express how he feels.” She turned to Royce and brought his head down for a quick kiss. “It makes me hot when Royce talks like that.”

Eli pretended to heave. “I think I just threw up in my mouth. Can you please keep comments like that to yourself? I really don’t need to know what turns my baby sister on.” Billie flipped him off. “Nice.”

As she stood up, Jocelyn shook her head and laughed. “Poor, Eli. They do like to pick on you. Break time is over. I’d better get back to work.”

Finn got up and kissed her soundly before she left to take an order from one of the tables she served drinks to earlier. Eli had to wonder how much longer Finn would want Jocelyn working at Wulf’s Den serving tables. He knew it drove his twin nuts just

thinking about his mate being around all the single male werewolves that frequented the nightclub.

Eli sometimes found it hard being around the two mated werewolf couples. The hot looks they at times gave each other made him feel as if he bordered on voyeurism. Thankfully, he didn't live with any of them. Finn had moved out of the apartment they had shared shortly after he had taken Jocelyn as his mate. Listening while Finn had hot monkey sex, or in his twin's case hot wolf sex, all night long, Eli could easily live without ever experiencing again.

Picking up his beer, Eli took a swig from the bottle then just about choked on it two seconds later when he spotted the small group near the bar. "Holy shit."

"What?" Billie asked.

"Over by the bar. Those guys have to be werewolves. They're huge."

Billie gave him a knowing smile after she glanced over at the newcomers. "I don't think it's just the men that have snagged your attention, Eli. I think the woman with them has made a part of you stand up and take notice. Your scent just gave you away."

Damn werewolves and their damn sense of smell. He could no longer hide how he felt from Finn and Billie. Of course Billie would have to be the one to point out that he'd gotten an instant hard-on the moment his eyes had landed on the woman who stood with the six very large, very muscular men.

Unable to tear his eyes away, Eli let his gaze take in the woman's long, straight, almost white blonde hair and slim build. Even though she was tall, she had to be five foot eleven, the men dwarfed her. He sucked in a sharp breath as she turned and looked directly at him. His cock jerked as their gazes locked. The rest of the world seemed to disappear.

The sound of Finn loudly clearing his throat brought Eli back to his surroundings. "Hmm, don't look now, but I think they're headed this way."

Royce sat up straighter in his chair. "Where the hell is Beowulf? They're most definitely werewolves. I have no idea who they are. They're not from any packs I know."

Eli ignored the others and Royce as his brother-in-law craned his neck around to search the nightclub. With eyes only for the female werewolf that walked closer to the table where he sat, Eli felt his heart beat faster in anticipation.

* * * *

Saskia paused near the bar as she did a quick scan of Wulf's Den. She couldn't see the one she sought. The men stood stiffly at her back. Most of them weren't comfortable in a setting such as this. Generally they made it a practice not to have any interactions with mortals when at all possible. Having to come to a place where mortals and werewolves rubbed elbows made most of them a bit edgy.

Dirk nudged her. "Are you sure this is the place?"

Saskia nodded. "Yes. She's here."

Jager snorted. "The big question is *where* exactly."

"This place is jam-packed," Kye said in a disgusted tone. "How are we supposed to find her in this crowd when we don't even know her name?"

"And it's not as if I want to spend the rest of the night here looking for her," Skylar added.

Leif, the only one of them that didn't mind being this close to mortals, chuckled.

“Quit your complaining. Look at it as an opportunity. With all these females around, I’m sure one of you can find a woman to make the night more enjoyable.”

“Unlike you,” said Jager, “we don’t use our dicks to do most of our thinking.”

Saskia rolled her eyes. Most of the time she could take the men’s good natured ribbing of one another, but they were here for a purpose. “Knock it off. Focus.”

She looked around the crowded nightclub. As her gaze swept the occupied tables, she found her eyes drawn to one table in particular where a couple and two identical looking men sat. When one of the twins looked in her direction, Saskia stiffened as a vision slammed into her. She gasped as images of the two of them naked in bed as he rode her filled her head.

Pulled to him because of her vision, Saskia slowly made her way to the man’s table. Her men followed behind. As she wound her way around the other tables, she kept her gaze on the man. She definitely liked what she saw. His grey-blue eyes followed her, sweeping up and down her body as she walked. When his gaze landed on her breasts, she felt her nipples pebble beneath her long sleeved t-shirt. He wanted her. She could see the look of longing in his eyes even from this distance.

Just before she reached his table, Saskia took a deep breath. The smell of aroused male filled her nostrils with each breath she took. Her pussy clenched in response. An ache began to build as wetness pooled between her legs. She took another deep breath. Her brows drew together in confusion. Now that she had reached the man’s table his scent was stronger. Feeling even more confused, Saskia looked from the man who would be her lover to the man who sat next to him. They were identical twins, but their scents didn’t match. The man from her vision smelled like a mortal while his twin smelled like a werewolf. *How was that possible?* It also made her question her vision, something she rarely did. She’d never taken a mortal as a lover before. Not that she didn’t like them, she just preferred to sleep with the males of her species.

Saskia looked at the others who sat at the table as her men moved to stand on either side of her. The male werewolf that sat next to the only female werewolf at the table stood up. This was no young male, but a man in his prime.

“We’re looking for a woman.” As she spoke, Saskia watched the mortal out of the corner of her eye. He still gazed at her with longing as his scent washed over her—a heady mix of man and desire. She had to lick her suddenly dry lips.

“You’ll have to be a little more specific than that. As you can see, there’s quite a few here.” The male’s gaze flicked over her men before he looked back at her. “I’m Royce. You would be?”

She could tell her men made Royce uneasy as he moved to stand closer to his mate. Six unmated male werewolves tended to make any mated male leery. “I’m Saskia,” she pointed to her men, “and these are my brothers.”

Royce’s mate chuckled. “And here I thought I had it bad having to grow up with four older brothers. I feel for you. I’m Billie by the way. And these two over here are my brothers. Just so you can tell them apart, Finn is sitting next to me and next to him is Eli.”

Saskia let her gaze settle on Eli before she focused back on Billie. She could see the family resemblance between the three siblings. She still found it confusing that two of them were werewolves and one wasn’t. “Actually they aren’t my real brothers. They’re my brothers-in-arms—Dirk, Leif, Kye, Roan, Skylar and Jager.” Each man nodded when she said their name.

“Now that we have the introductions over,” Royce broke in, “why don’t you tell us who you’re looking for?”

“We don’t know her name. We just know she is the foretold one. The one who rules over all the packs. Do you know her?”

He knew her all right. Royce went on the defensive as his upper lip pulled back and he growled low in his throat. “What do you want with my granddaughter?”

Saskia held up her hand to keep her men back as they crowded closer. She looked around the nightclub. Their exchange had started to draw the stares of the others around them. “I must speak with her. Away from prying eyes.”

*

Eli looked from Saskia to Royce and back to her again. The tension in the air was thick enough to cut with a knife. He still had a lot to learn about werewolf society, but it didn’t take much guessing on his part to realize that Saskia asking to talk to Roxie privately with six large male werewolves at her back would raise more than one hackle. Christ, he wouldn’t want to be the focus of attention of any of those guys. They each stood an inch or two taller than Royce, who already stood more than a few inches taller than himself.

He studied each of Saskia’s brothers-in-arms as they and Royce sized each other up. Dirk, who stood on Saskia’s right, had dark brown hair with blonde highlights running through it and fell past his shoulders. His dark green eyes were locked on Royce. Leif, who stood next to him, had short auburn hair and blue eyes, which flicked back and forth between Royce and the women around him. Kye, who stood on Saskia’s other side, had dark blond hair that just touched the tops of his shoulders. His brown eyes didn’t seem to miss anything as his gaze settled on each of them. Roan, Skylar and Jagar looked similar enough to be brothers. They each had light brown hair and light blue eyes that verged on the color of turquoise. Roan wore his hair shoulder length whereas Skylar and Jagar had their long hair pulled back into ponytails. Their overall impression left Eli with one thought—you sure as hell didn’t want to get on their bad side if you wanted to keep breathing. Surprisingly, even though she was much smaller than them, Saskia was able to keep them in line with just a flick of her hand.

Royce shook his head. “If you want to talk to Roxie, you’ll have to clear it with her mate, Beowulf, first. He’s our pack leader and is very protective of Roxie.”

“Which is to be expected. We’re not here to do her harm. We’re here to look out for her safety as well.”

“I’ll see what Beowulf says.”

Royce grabbed Billie’s arm and pulled her to stand next to him. Billie gave Saskia an apologetic look then glared daggers at Royce as he forced her to leave with him. Finn shot to his feet and without a word left the table to stand near his mate. *Well, aren’t I the special one?* Eli wouldn’t have minded being left alone if he just had Saskia to worry about. Obviously the others thought his being mortal would somehow keep him under the radar of the six male werewolves who had now zeroed in on him. Just what he didn’t want.

Deciding to ignore the men, Eli focused his attention on Saskia. He pulled out the chair next to his. “Why don’t you take a seat until Beowulf comes?”

He sucked in a sharp breath as Saskia turned her violet-eyed gaze his way. The tip of her tongue came out to wet her lips. Eli resisted the urge to reach down and adjust the

front of his pants to make room for his erection. As if she knew what it did to him, she licked her lips once more. He bit back a moan as he thought of how it would feel to have her use her tongue on the part of him that throbbed, begging for attention. Before Saskia could answer, Beowulf arrived.

“Royce tells me you wish to see Roxie.”

Saskia turned to face Beowulf. “Yes.”

“Well, this isn’t the time or place. We like to keep pack business out of the nightclub.”

“Then where can we meet?”

Beowulf handed Saskia a piece of paper. “Here’s my cell phone number. Call tomorrow afternoon and we’ll arrange a time for you to talk to Roxie.”

Saskia nodded. “Fine.”

Eli watched as Beowulf walked away while Saskia and her brothers-in-arms made their way to the nightclub’s exit. He wasn’t ready to let Saskia leave. He wanted a chance to get to know her better, but with the six men at her back, he didn’t know if they would let him anywhere near her. Deciding he would be an idiot to just let her walk away, Eli got up and rushed after Saskia.

Outside, he spotted her walking down the sidewalk toward the nightclub’s parking lot. He called out to her. “Saskia, wait.”

She stopped and signaled for her men to go on without her. Eli quickened his pace until he stood in front of her. Her violet eyes swept down his body, lingering on the bulge in his pants before she looked him in the eyes. “Do you want something?”

Oh, he wanted something all right. He wanted her naked beneath him as he sank his aching cock in her wet pussy. He wanted to taste and stroke every inch of her. “I was wondering if you had some free time, if you’d like to go out for dinner sometime.”

Saskia gave him a half smile. “Are you asking me out on a date?”

“Yes. Isn’t that how it’s usually done when a man wants to get to know a woman better?”

“Not where I come from. No offense, but I don’t usually go out on dates with mortal males.”

“Why not?”

“Because I just don’t.”

Eli took a step closer to Saskia. Her eyes dilated as she drew in a deep breath of air. “What kind of answer is that? You have to have some reason. We’re really no different from a male werewolf.” He shifted even closer so they stood toe-to-toe. Saskia’s eyes glowed mutedly, telling him more than anything else would that she could be more than a little interested in him.

Saskia swallowed. “I find I’m not attracted to mortals.”

“Well, maybe you just haven’t met the right mortal.”

“Let me guess. You think you’re the mortal to help change my mind?”

“Of course.” Eli focused on her lips. Her tongue came out to wet them. His cock jerked at the sight of her pink tongue running along her kissable lips. With a groan, he said, “The hell with it.”

Taking a page out of Billie’s book, Eli pulled Saskia to him as he took her lips in a kiss. Threading his fingers through the hair at the back of her head, he angled his mouth against hers. Much to his pleasure Saskia didn’t push him away. Instead she opened her

mouth and sucked his tongue inside. Eli moaned as he dragged her closer and ground his erection against her hip. A second later he gasped as Saskia threaded her fingers through his hair and pushed him until his back slammed up against a brick wall. She then started to kiss him for all she was worth. Lost in a sexual haze, Eli forgot where they were until a deep voice called Saskia's name. Reluctantly they pulled apart.

Jagar stood a foot away with his arms crossed over his broad chest. He shook his head. "Saskia, if you're done checking the mortal's tonsils, we'd like to leave."

Stepping out of Eli's embrace, Saskia nodded. "I'm coming."

Jagar snorted. "Yeah, I could see you were well on your way."

Saskia glared at him before she turned back to Eli. "I have to go."

As she moved to walk away, Eli stopped her. "When can I see you again?"

"I don't know."

"Can I at least have your phone number?" When she hesitated, he said, "Okay, I won't push, but if you change your mind, you can find me most days at my family's gym, York Fitness."

"See you around, Eli." With that, Saskia disappeared around the corner.

Eli blew out a deep breath. That had gone well. Not. He'd sounded like a desperate teenager begging the girl he liked to go out with him. He usually didn't make such an ass of himself around women. Pulling the ends of his dress shirt out of his slacks to try and hide the raging hard-on he sported, Eli turned to go back inside Wulf's Den. He needed a couple more drinks before the night was through if he planned on getting any sleep. With the taste of Saskia still in his mouth, he doubted he'd be able to sleep without her filling his dreams.

Chapter Two

Eli arrived at the gym the next morning grumpy and feeling a little out of sorts from lack of sleep. For most of the night he'd dreamed about Saskia. Some of the dreams had been so erotic he'd woken up on the verge of coming all over himself. He'd also woken up with another erection. Since meeting Saskia last night, he seemed to be in a perpetual state of arousal. The cold shower he had taken before coming to work had helped some with that problem, but not by much.

After throwing himself in the chair behind his desk, Eli opened his schedule book. He had a few clients booked for training sessions that day. With an hour to kill before his first client showed up, Eli decided a cup of coffee was in order.

Hayes, his younger brother, and Keegan, the eldest York sibling, were standing by the coffee maker waiting for a fresh pot to finish brewing. They both looked over at him as he went to grab one of the clean mugs off the counter. Eli covered his mouth with his hand as he yawned.

"Another sleepless night?" Hayes asked with a snicker. "Let me guess. It was a brunette who kept you awake."

"No."

"A red head?"

"No."

"A blonde then?"

Eli shouldered Hayes out of the way as the last of the coffee dripped through the coffee maker. He picked up the pot and filled his mug. "Shut up, Hayes."

Keegan elbowed Hayes. "I think you hit it with that one. It must have been a blonde."

Eli scowled at his brothers. "Would the two of you get a life already? Don't you have anything better to do than to speculate about my sex life?"

Hayes shook his head. "No, not really. This one must have been special. It has never bothered you before when we've asked who your babe du jour is."

"Who said it was a woman that kept me awake all night? Maybe I just had a hard time falling asleep."

Keegan snorted. "Yeah, right. We know you went with Finn and Billie to Wulf's Den last night. You can't tell us you didn't try to pick up a woman. And it's not as if the women ever turn you down." When Eli scowled even more at him, Keegan started to laugh. "Well, what do you know? The great lady's man got shot down for once."

Not in the mood for his brothers' ribbing, Eli walked back to his desk. Of course Keegan and Hayes followed him.

"Come on, Eli," Hayes said as he sat down on the edge of Eli's desk. "You can tell us. Did she shoot you down right away? Or did she play you a long for a bit then shoot you down?"

Hoping if he ignored his brothers they would just go away and leave him alone, Eli sipped on his coffee. They weren't helping his ego any. Considering he hadn't been able to get Saskia's phone number, or even a promise for her to come see him at the gym, Hayes had hit on a sore spot.

“Was she pretty?” Hayes asked. He lowered his voice. “Was she a werewolf? She must have been drop-dead gorgeous.”

Before Eli could tell Hayes to shut the hell up, Billie came over to his desk. She pegged both Keegan and Hayes with a hard look. “What are the two of you bugging Eli about now?”

Hayes stood up. “We think a blonde turned him down last night at Wulf’s Den, but Eli isn’t talking.”

Billie looked down at Eli. “So that’s where you went last night. You went outside to hit on Saskia after she left the nightclub. I knew you were interested in her.”

“Now we’re getting somewhere,” Keegan said. “So her name was Saskia.”

Crossing her arms over her chest, Billie shook her head. “You two are pathetic. For your information, I’m surprised Eli managed to even talk to her alone without her men being around.”

“What men?”

“Saskia’s brothers-in-arms.” Billie smiled. “I think Saskia is one tough female werewolf. She had those six huge male werewolves under her control. She must be their leader or something. And the men seemed to respect her.”

“Brothers-in-arms?” Hayes asked. “Do you mean as brothers who carry swords and fight by her side type thing?”

Billie nodded. “Even though Saskia never said exactly, Royce seems to think that’s what they are. And for some reason they wanted to see Roxie.”

Eli sat back in his chair and listened with half an ear as Billie told Keegan and Hayes about Saskia and her men’s visit to Wulf’s Den the night before. He felt in hell. Just the mention of Saskia’s name had him remembering all the hot, sweaty, sex dreams he’d had of her during the night. He still remembered what she had tasted like and he ached to taste her again. Thinking of how good it would be to have her in his arms, her body pressed to his, made his blood flow to his groin. He gritted his teeth as his cock lengthened and hardened. *What the hell is wrong with me?* Eli never obsessed over women, but here he was obsessing over the one woman he probably would never see again. How sad was that?

When Finn and Jocelyn arrived, and Royce a few minutes later, the topic of Saskia and her men didn’t seem to end any time soon. Eli decided he’d had enough. He stood up and moved around the others.

Billie stopped him before he got very far. “Eli, where are you going?”

He turned around to face her, but kept walking backwards. “I promised Dad I’d check and see what supplies we need to order for the gym. I have some time to kill before my first client shows up so I might as well get started.”

Not wanting to give anyone else a chance to stop him, Eli turned back around and hurried away. Pulling his keys out the pocket of his sweat pants, he unlocked the supply room door. As he shut the door behind him, he leaned back against it and took a deep breath. It was going to be a long day.

* * * *

Saskia looked up at the big sign that hung above the glass doors of the building she stood in front of it. The sign read York Fitness in big, bold letters. She didn’t know why she had come here. Actually that wasn’t true. She did know. She just didn’t know why

she couldn't stay away. Saskia had told herself more than once after she left Wulf's Den last night that she would not come and seek Eli out. It didn't matter that in her vision she had seen them together making love. It couldn't be. He was a mortal and she was a werewolf. A werewolf that had more important things to do with her time than finding the man she desperately wanted to have sex with.

She told herself to walk away. To get back on her motorcycle and leave before she did something stupid like go and molest the man while he worked. But of course her body didn't listen. Just the thought of Eli being somewhere on the other side of the glass doors made her heart beat faster. Her pussy clenched as she remembered the kiss they had shared the night before. The man sure knew how to kiss. And that he had just grabbed her and pulled her to him had only made her want him more. Saskia had no tolerance for timid men. She liked her men to be assertive, able to show her exactly what they wanted. Not surprising considering she'd spent most of her adult life around six men who had enough testosterone between them to choke out everything else in a room.

Saskia knew there would be no point in fighting this. Grabbing the handle of one of the glass doors, she yanked it open and stepped inside the gym. She took a deep breath in as she made her way over to the front desk. She easily filtered out Eli's scent from the many that hung in the air. Her nose also picked up the scent of the four werewolves in Eli's family. Stopping next to the front desk, she waited for the girl who stood behind it to get off the phone.

"Well, this is a nice surprise."

Saskia turned to find Billie heading toward her. "Hey, Billie. Is Eli around?"

Billie smiled as she looked behind Saskia. "No brothers today?"

She shook her head. "No. I left them at home."

"You left without telling them where you were going, didn't you?"

"I may have neglected to say exactly where I would be."

Billie laughed. "I've been known a time or two to do the same thing to my brothers." She motioned for Saskia to follow her. "I'll take you to Eli. I think you may have just made his day."

Following behind Billie, Saskia took a quick look around. In the large open space to her left, a number of mortals worked out on the various weight machines and free weights. From the outside she hadn't thought the gym so large. She stopped walking when Billie pointed to a door that had a sign with the word Supplies painted on it.

"Eli is in there. I'll make sure no one comes to bother the two of you." Billie gave her a wink before she walked away.

Saskia slowly opened the supply room door. Her gaze latched onto Eli who stood in the back of the room seemingly counting items that sat on one of the metal shelves that lined the wall. Stepping inside, she quietly closed the door behind her.

With her back to the door, Saskia watched Eli. Today he wore a pair of black sweat pants with a grey t-shirt that stretched nicely across his wide back. She let her gaze drift lower to his muscled ass. The sweats he wore were tight enough to give her a good view of it. She bet he'd look good in a pair of fitted jeans.

On silent feet, Saskia crossed the short distance between them. Her nipples grew taut as she drew Eli's scent into her lungs. She fought to keep back the growl of need that rose up inside her. The smell of his arousal caused an ache to throb between her legs as wetness pooled. Obviously Eli hadn't been unaffected by their encounter from the night

before. At least she hoped the hard-on he had going on was for her. Coming up behind Eli, Saskia pressed her front to his back and wrapped her arms around his waist. Eli jumped as she skimmed her lips along the side of his neck.

He turned his head to look over his shoulder. "Saskia? I thought you..." Eli's words fell away as she trailed one of her hands down his lower stomach to the impressive bulge in his pants. He moaned as she stroked his cock through his sweats.

She nudged his longish black hair aside and kissed the back of his neck. "Never mind what I said. Right now all I can think about is touching you. I haven't been able to get you out of my head even though I know I should forget about you."

Eli groaned as she gave his hard cock a squeeze. "Do you know how many times I dreamed of you touching me like this last night?" His hips jerked against her hand. "This may not be such a good idea."

Saskia rubbed herself against his ass as she let go of him and shoved her hand down the front of his sweats. She smiled when she found Eli had gone commando. Wrapping her hand around his cock, she slowly pumped it up and down his full length. "I think this is a very good idea."

A loud moan escaped Eli's lips as he grabbed the metal shelf in front of him with both hands. "Oh, this is a very, very bad idea. If you keep this up I'm going to come."

"That's the whole point. Enough talking."

She nipped and licked a trail down the side of his neck to where it met his shoulder. With a firm grasp on his thick shaft, she continued to work him. Saskia growled low in her throat as his cock grew even harder. Feeling how big and hard Eli was, she ached to have him buried deep inside her pussy, but not right now. For now, she'd settle for this. Later, preferably in a bed, she'd take him inside her body.

The smell of their arousal filled the small room. Saskia squeezed his cock harder as she pumped her hand faster up and down his shaft. Eli's hips bucked and his head fell forward onto his chest as his breaths came in rapid pants. The muscles in his arms bulged as he gripped the shelf harder.

"Saskia, I'm going to come," Eli gasped.

"I know. Come for me, Eli."

She dragged her teeth against the spot where his neck and shoulder met once, twice, before she bit him and held on. Eli let out a long moan as he fell over the edge into an orgasm. His cock pulsed as he came in her hand. She didn't stop working his shaft until the last spasm ended.

Eli pulled her hand out of his sweats before he spun around and pulled her to him. "Your turn."

Taking her mouth in a heated kiss, he backed her up against the closed door. He increased the pressure of his mouth as his tongue came out and swept the seam of her lips. Opening for him, Saskia sucked his tongue deep inside her mouth. The taste of him heightened her arousal. Wrapping her arms around Eli's neck, she ground her pussy against the hard thigh between her legs. She growled softly with need. It had been too long since she'd last slept with a man.

Eli cupped one of her breasts in his large hand. Using his thumb and forefinger, he rolled her taut nipple between them. She arched her back and pressed herself closer. Needing more, Saskia took hold of his hand and shoved it under her short sleeved top. He closed his hand over her breast and kneaded it before he yanked her top to her chin. With

a flick of his wrist, Eli undid the front clasp of her bra. Saskia moaned as he released her lips and moved to draw a nipple inside his mouth. His tongue circled her nipple before he sucked on the taut peak.

Unable to stop herself, Saskia rode Eli's thigh. The friction felt good, but it wasn't good enough. Sensing what she needed, he quickly undid the button and zipper of her jeans. She held onto his shoulders for support as Eli cupped her sex through her soaked panties. Lifting his head, he claimed her lips once again. As he kissed her, he slipped his hand inside her panties and ran a finger down the crease of her sex. Saskia moaned in Eli's mouth as one finger and then a second pushed inside her wet pussy. She clamped her inner walls around his fingers as he pumped them in and out of her. His thumb brushed her clit, pushing her even higher toward her release.

Lifting his head, Eli kissed a trail along her jaw to her ear. "God, you're so wet. You're making me hard again."

Saskia threaded her fingers through his hair as she rode his fingers. The feel of his hardening cock pressed against her lower stomach increased the pleasure building inside her. Eli stroked her faster, angling his fingers so they rubbed against her clit. She soon broke apart as her climax claimed her. Her inner walls clamped down around his fingers as she came.

Gasping for breath, she held onto Eli for support as her legs shook. The sound of their heavy breathing filled the room. Before either one of them could say anything, someone pounded on the door. Eli quickly turned the lock on the door, something they had neglected to do earlier.

"What?" Eli barked through the door.

"You'd better get out of there before Dad catches you," Hayes said from the other side. "And don't you have a client soon?"

"Go away, Hayes. I'll be out in a few minutes." Eli groaned and pressed his forehead to hers. "I guess play time is over. Sorry."

"There'll be more time to play later. And we won't have to hide away in a supply room to do it either."

"So there is going to be a later?"

She cupped his face in her hands and kissed him lightly. "I'm not ready to let you go just yet."

Pulling back, Eli smiled down at her. "Good because even though this was nice, I want more. Much more."

Saskia pushed him away. "I think we'd better put some space between us or we'll never get out of here." She quickly did up her pants then fixed her bra and top.

Eli grimaced as he pulled at the front of his sweats. "I'd better go change." He reached around her and unlocked the door.

When they stepped out of the supply room Saskia noticed Billie and Royce stood nearby. Eli moved to stand in front of her so he blocked her from their sight with his back toward them. "I'll see you later this evening," she told him.

Eli nodded. "Do you want me to pick you up?"

"No. I think it would be better if I picked you up here." She thought it best to keep Eli away from her brothers for now.

"Okay. I get off at six. Is that all right?"

"I'll be here."

After a quick, hard kiss, Eli left. Saskia sighed as she watched him walk away. She then took a deep breath knowing there would be no getting past the two werewolves who stood watching her every move.

Chapter Three

Billie gave Saskia a knowing smile. "I guess we'll be seeing more of you around here?"

"Maybe."

"I don't think I've ever seen Eli this hung up on a woman before. I can't see him letting you go that easily."

"Time will tell," Saskia said. She glanced over at Royce. It wasn't too hard to guess he wanted to talk to her, and not about what she and Eli had been doing in the supply room either. "You have something on your mind, Royce?"

"Actually I do. Have you called Beowulf?"

"Not yet. I planned to do that shortly."

"Do you mind calling now? I'd like to hear what the outcome of your call will be."

"Roxie is your granddaughter?"

"Yes. She's descended from the daughter I had with my first mate many, many years ago. I raised Roxie's mother from the time she was small, so I'm very close to her and Roxie. I don't want anything bad to happen to Roxie, if you understand my meaning."

Saskia bit back a smile. Royce's warning wasn't lost on her. He obviously felt very protective of Roxie, which Saskia couldn't fault him for. It was something she had counted on. Being the foretold one, Roxie needed to be protected at all costs. "I can make the call now."

"Let's go to my father's office," Billie said. "He won't mind if we use his phone. It has a speaker phone as well."

Following Billie and Royce back through the gym, Saskia caught sight of Eli as he came out of the men's change room. He now wore a pair of black warm-up pants. She gave him an appreciative look as they walked by. The man was all muscle and she couldn't wait to explore his body in great detail.

Eli caught up to them. "Where are you guys going?"

Billie answered. "Saskia is going to use Dad's phone to call Beowulf."

"I'll come with you."

"No you won't. I looked at your schedule when you were fooling around in the supply room with Saskia. You have a client in five minutes."

Eli glanced at his watch. "Well, damn." He looked undecided as he continued to walk beside Saskia. "All right, I'll go, but I'm warning you, Billie. Don't bother Saskia."

Billie rolled her eyes at her brother. "Eli, honestly. What would I do to her anyway? Saskia is the first woman I've ever seen you go nutso over. I'm not going to scare her away for anything. I don't want to miss my who-wants-to-stay-single brother finally fall for a woman. I'm going to enjoy watching this."

"Don't listen to anything she says, Saskia," Eli warned her quickly before he turned around and headed back to the main gym floor.

Interesting, Saskia thought. So Eli wasn't a big fan of permanent relationships. That suited Saskia just fine. She wasn't looking for a mate, not that she thought Eli could be her mate. Given his being mortal, he wouldn't show signs of what a male werewolf goes through when he finds his mate. This put things in a whole new light. If they could keep

their relationship casual, they could have their fun and at some point end it amicably. Neither one of them would have expectations that the other didn't want.

When they reached a closed office door, Billie knocked then pushed it open. "Hey, Dad. Can we borrow your office and phone for a few minutes?"

The older man, who sat behind the desk, looked up and smiled at Billie. Saskia could see who all the York siblings had taken after in looks. They all had their father's black hair and grey-blue eyes. "I take it this is..." Billie's father let his words trail off as he glanced meaningfully over at Saskia.

Billie nodded. "Yes, this has to do with werewolf business." She motioned to Saskia. "Saskia is a werewolf too. And Eli likes her, a lot."

The elder York stuck his hand out to Saskia. "Nice to meet you, Saskia. Eli has great taste in women I see."

Billie cleared her throat. "She's a werewolf, Dad. Of course she's drop-dead gorgeous. Just give us a few minutes and then you can have your office back."

Billie's father laughed. "Okay, I can take the hint. Maybe I'll just go and see Eli for a bit until you're done here."

After the eldest York left the office and closed the door behind him, Royce shook his head at Billie. "Eli isn't going to thank you for that. It's bad enough you guys harass him about not finding a mate, and when he finally takes a real interest in a woman, you sick your father on him."

Billie stuck her tongue out at her mate. She then pulled the phone across the desk. After hitting a button to put it on speaker phone, she motioned for Saskia to go ahead and use it.

She took out the piece of paper that had Beowulf's cell phone number on it from her jeans front pocket and punched in the numbers. The sound of the phone ringing through on the other side filled the office. After the third ring, Beowulf picked up. "Hi, Beowulf. This is Saskia."

"Hi, Saskia. I guess I'll get right to the point. Why do you and your men need to see Roxie?"

Saskia chuckled at Beowulf's straightforwardness. "Okay. I'll get right to the point as well. It's the duty of my men and me to be Roxie's protectors. We've trained for this for hundreds of years, waiting for the day the foretold one would be found."

A long silence stretched before Beowulf responded. "You want to watch over Roxie?"

"Yes."

"Then why have you waited until now to come forward? The leaders from the other packs pledged themselves to Roxie months ago. Wasn't your leader one of them?"

"My men and I don't belong to any pack. If there was a leader, it would be me. We just recently heard of the foretold one being found or we would have been in contact with you sooner."

"I don't understand how you can't belong to a pack. No offense, but how is it you, a female, are the leader of six large werewolf males that have obviously gone lone wolf?" Beowulf then said, "Ow! Rox, what did you hit me for now?"

A muffling sound came across the phone before a woman spoke. "Hi, this is Roxie. I have to apologize for Beowulf. Sometimes he doesn't think before he speaks. I think it's great you're the leader of your men."

“Roxie, I think it would be best if you put Beowulf back on,” Royce said.

“Royce, is that you? What are you doing with Saskia?”

“Saskia is at the gym.”

“And what is she doing at the gym?”

Billie answered before Royce did. “Saskia came to see Eli. They like each other.”

“Is that so?”

Royce groaned. “Roxie, can we focus on the topic at hand and not on Eli for the moment?”

“Cool it, Grandpa. No need to get your undies in a bunch. I think it’s great Eli has taken a liking to Saskia. Matching him up as been a pet project for Billie, Jocelyn and me.”

In the background, Saskia heard Beowulf say, “I pity the poor bugger.” Then. “Ow. Would you quick smacking me, Rox?”

“Then stop saying things that you know will get you smacked,” Roxie told him. “Saskia?”

Saskia found the banter between Roxie and the males of her family very amusing. It also showed her Roxie didn’t take any guff from them either. “Yes.”

“I think we need to meet face to face to discuss this business of you and your men being my protectors. How about you bring them to my house tonight for supper?”

Before Saskia could answer, Billie said, “Eli and Saskia planned to go out tonight after he got off work.”

“Okay, bring him along with you, Billie. I know Royce will want to be here. Right, Grandpa?”

“Yes,” Royce growled. “And stop calling me grandpa.”

Roxie ignored Royce’s last comment. “Is that all right with you, Saskia? You come with your men to my place for supper, we’ll have our talk, then you and Eli can go do whatever you had planned.”

“I don’t have any problem with it,” Saskia said.

“Good. Royce and Billie can give you my address. I look forward to seeing you all later tonight. Bye.”

Billie hung up the phone. “That went well. You’re going to love Roxie, Saskia. We hit it off right away when I first met her.”

Saskia nodded. “I must say I like the way she handles her mate.”

Royce grunted. “Great, another assertive woman. What happened to the time when a male could expect his mate to actually do what he says?”

Billie crossed her arms over her chest and glared at Royce. “That kind of attitude died out with the Dark Ages. You’re showing your age, mate of mine.”

“Well, I did live through the Dark Ages. What do you expect?”

Billie rolled her eyes. She then grabbed a piece of paper from her father’s desk and quickly wrote down an address before she handed it to Saskia. “This is Beowulf and Roxie’s address. Since Eli is more than likely still with his client, I can tell him about the change in plans for you. I’m sure you want to get home to tell your men.”

“Thanks. I guess I’ll see you later this evening.”

Saskia left the office and headed for the gym’s entrance. On the way by the main gym floor, she scanned the large open room. Her gaze immediately latched onto Eli who was spotting another man on one of the weight machines. Their gazes collided as he

looked up. She gave him a small wave before she continued on her way. She'd be lucky if she kept her hands to herself while they were at Beowulf and Roxie's. Hopefully Eli and she would be able to leave there sooner rather than later.

* * * *

When six o'clock finally rolled around, Eli left the gym and hurried to his apartment. He had an hour to get home, take a shower and get ready for his evening out. Reaching his apartment, he started to strip out of his clothes even before he reached his bedroom.

He resisted the urge to turn the tap on the shower all the way to cold as he stepped under the spray of water. After Saskia's visit to the gym, he'd spent most of the day half aroused. He didn't think he ever would be able to go into the supply room again without thinking of what they had done inside there. His cock twitched just thinking of how Saskia had sounded as she came. He wanted her to make those sounds again as he pumped his cock in and out of her. Becoming more aroused, Eli groaned and stuck his face under the showerhead.

After a quick wash, he got out and toweled himself dry. With the towel wrapped around his hips, he went to his bedroom to get dressed. He decided not to dress fancy. Eli knew the meal at Beowulf and Roxie's would be casual, so he opted for a pair of blue jeans and a black long sleeved tee. Once dressed, he returned to the bathroom and quickly blew dry his hair.

Running his hand across his cheek, Eli grimaced. He'd have to shave again. Not that he liked to shave twice a day, but he didn't want to give Saskia whisker burn. And considering what he wanted to do to her that night, she would definitely have whisker burn if he didn't get rid of the bristles. He pulled his shirt off and quickly lathered up his face with shaving cream.

Eli had just about finished shaving when his apartment door slammed open and Billie called out his name. He winced as he nicked himself. "I'm in the bathroom. And have you ever heard of knocking first?"

Billie came and stood at the open bathroom door. "I thought you would be ready by now." She peered closer at him. "You cut yourself."

He turned on the water and rinsed the rest of the shaving cream away, then patted his face dry. "Hmm, I wonder how I managed to do that. Maybe because someone startled me by barreling into my apartment as she yelled my name."

As Eli put his shirt back on, Billie nodded her head in approval. "Very nice. You look good. You'll be lucky if Saskia doesn't jump you the moment she sees you."

"Yeah, right. Not with her big, hulking brothers around she won't. With them there, I'll be lucky if I can get Saskia to myself later tonight."

"Don't worry about them. We'll manage to get the two of you away. I have lots of experience in getting out from under my four older brothers' watchful eyes, don't you know."

Eli shook his head and chuckled as he turned off the bathroom light. He headed to the living room with Billie at his side. "Yeah, you were good at that. I'm glad you're Royce's problem now."

Billie smacked his arm. "I am not a problem. And speaking of Royce, hurry up. He's outside waiting in the car for us."

Slipping on his running shoes, Eli said, "I thought I'd follow you guys instead of

catching a ride with you and Royce. If Saskia isn't driving herself, it would be kind of hard for us to get away if neither one of us has a car."

"Fine. I'll go down and tell Royce. We'll be waiting in the visitors' parking lot."

Once Billie left, Eli gave the apartment a quick look-over just in case he and Saskia came back to his place. He wasn't a slob, so it wasn't too messy. Spotting a dirty shirt he'd thrown on the couch, he snatched it up and put it in the laundry basket in his bedroom closet. Satisfied that he wouldn't be embarrassed to bring Saskia back to the apartment, he picked up his keys and left.

Down in the parking garage, Eli got into his dark grey Accord. Not as fancy as some cars out there, but it still got him from A to B. Spotting Royce's black BMW sports car in the visitors' parking, he pulled up close to him and waited for Royce to back out.

Eli followed behind his sister and Royce. As they reached the richer part of San Francisco, he let out a low whistle. He knew Beowulf was loaded, same with Royce, but he hadn't known Beowulf had *that* much money. Waiting behind the BMW, he watched the large gate open in the front of the drive. As they drove up the curving driveway, Eli looked at the grounds and the large house that loomed ahead. Beowulf wasn't just rich, he was stinking rich.

Eli parked his car next to Royce's and got out. There didn't appear to be any other cars parked near the house. Either Saskia and her brothers hadn't arrived yet, or they had parked their cars somewhere else. Eli hoped it was the latter. On the drive there he couldn't stop thinking about Saskia, and that he would see her soon. Their encounter earlier that day had left him hungry for more.

Roxie pulled open the front door after Royce knocked. She greeted them with a smile and waved them inside. "You guys are the first to arrive." As Eli walked past her, Roxie looked him up and down. "You're looking good this evening, Eli."

"Thanks."

She closed the door behind them. "And just so you know, I'll make sure Saskia gets to sit beside you during dinner."

"Good to know."

Beowulf greeted them after they followed Roxie to the large living room. Billie and Royce sat down on one loveseat, while Eli sat in the armchair nearest it. Beowulf and Roxie sat down on the loveseat across from Billie and Royce. That left the sectional couch and the only other armchair for Saskia and her men to sit on. Eli eyed the couch. He didn't think it was big enough to fit all of them even with the armchair. He would have no problem asking Saskia to sit on his lap if that turned out to be the case.

"So, Eli," Roxie said. "Are you going to follow in your twin's footsteps and take a female werewolf for your mate?"

Eli cleared his throat. He hadn't expected to be hit with that question so early on in the game. "Um, it's a little too soon for that, don't you think? I just met Saskia. We really haven't had much time to get to know each other really."

Billie snorted. "With the time the two of you spent making out in the supply room at the gym, I would think you guys got to know each other quite well."

Roxie gave Eli a knowing smile. "The supply room, huh? Sounds interesting."

Eli leveled a hard stare at Billie. "And who was the one who told Saskia she would find me in there? I know she wouldn't have known unless someone showed her."

"I don't hear you complaining," Billie replied back. "The fact that you had to change

your pants after you left the supply room wasn't totally lost on me, you know."

Eli looked over at Royce. "Would you mind too much if I killed her now?"

Royce chuckled. "As a matter a fact I would."

The sound of a buzzer interrupted the conversation. Beowulf got up. "That must be the rest of our guests. I'll go open the gate for them." He then left the living room.

Now that Saskia was about to arrive, Eli decided he'd better set some ground rules for Billie. "Before Saskia gets here, Billie, I want you to promise me you won't go out of your way to embarrass me, especially in front of her men. And for god sake, don't bring up the subject of the supply room again. I really don't want Saskia's men to decide they want to use me as a punching bag. I doubt I would survive it."

"What do you take me for? I would never say anything like that in front of them. I'm on your side, remember?"

"Sometimes it's hard to tell."

A booming knock on the front door reached their ears. Eli shifted in the armchair as he watched the entrance to the living room. It didn't take long for Beowulf to appear with Saskia and her men following behind him.

Much to Eli's surprise, Saskia walked over to him, sat down in his lap and kissed him until he couldn't remember his own name. When she finally lifted her head, he glanced over at her men. Oh, he was screwed.

Chapter Four

Settling more comfortably in Eli's lap, Saskia followed his line of sight. She wrapped her arm around his shoulder and focused a hard stare on her scowling brothers. "Would the six of you go sit down and stop trying to be so intimidating?"

Jager crossed his arms over his chest. "We'll sit down after you get off the mortal's lap."

Saskia sighed. She had known this would be her brothers' reaction to her staking her claim on Eli, but she'd thought it best to get it all out in the open right from the start. They hadn't been too impressed when she'd come home with Eli's scent all over her. Not that she cared what they thought. It wasn't as if she ever questioned any of them when they came home stinking of sex and females.

"I'm quite happy where I am," she said. "Now behave yourselves and sit down. We haven't even been here five minutes and already you're all being rude." When they remained where they stood, Saskia pointed to the unoccupied sectional couch. "Sit. Down."

With a curl of his lip, Jager reluctantly went and sat down. The others, just as reluctantly, followed suit. Once they had all taken a seat, Saskia looked over at Beowulf who had gone to sit next to the woman she assumed had to be Roxie. "I hope you don't mind if I sit with Eli. It just makes things easier." She looked meaningfully at her brothers. Then she said, "I guess I'll be the one to do the introductions. I'm Saskia. And the grumps over there are my brothers-in-arms—Jager, Dirk, Kye, Roan, Skylar and Leif."

Roxie smiled at Saskia. "I completely understand," she said with a chuckle. Roxie's gaze settled on her brothers. "It's nice to meet all of you. All I can say is, wow."

"Rox," Beowulf warned.

"What? I'm not dead, Beowulf. I'm mated to you, but it doesn't mean I can't admire from a distance."

Saskia couldn't hide the smile that formed on her lips. Her brothers appeared to suddenly not know where to look. Taking pity on them, she directed Roxie's attention back on to her. "Do we have time to discuss why we sought you out before we eat?"

Roxie nodded. "We have some time. I must say I've been curious."

She shifted on Eli's lap, then bit back a moan. She felt the hard length of his cock press against her bottom. Swallowing, Saskia did her best to ignore it. "As I told you on the phone, we've trained for hundreds of years to be the protectors of the foretold one. It's our duty to keep you safe, Roxie."

"And if I don't want to accept you and your men as my protectors, what then?"

"We won't go away that easily. You must be protected."

"I'm flattered that I would have you around to look out for me, but it really isn't necessary. I can take care of myself."

Saskia looked Roxie up and down. With her long gold brown hair and slim body, Roxie didn't look as if she had the strength to stand against a male werewolf. "Don't take this the wrong way, but you wouldn't last ten seconds against one of my brothers, let alone all of them at once."

Beowulf started to laugh, something Saskia wouldn't have expected. "Saskia, you're wrong with that assumption. Roxie is more special than the prophecy said."

"I don't understand."

"I think it best you show them, Rox." Beowulf moved to sit on the arm of the loveseat.

Roxie stood up and moved to the middle of the room where all of them could easily see her. Something was up. Saskia noticed Royce and Billie grinned knowingly at Roxie. She looked down at Eli and found he wore the same grin as his sister and her mate.

"Watch," Eli told her.

Turning back to Roxie, Saskia watched as Roxie started to shift forms. Expecting her to shift into her wolf form, Saskia felt her mouth drop open as Roxie shifted into a half wolf/half human form. Glancing over at her brothers, she saw they all stared at Roxie with a look of incredulity on their faces. Saskia felt sure she wore the same expression as they. This was supposed to be impossible for any werewolf to do. Roxie now stood taller than she did in human form, and she looked much, much stronger. Her body was covered in gold brown fur, the same color as her hair. She had a wolf's muzzle and pointed ears on the top of her head. Instead of paws, she had human hands and feet, but covered with fur. She also had a wolf's tail. Then Roxie shocked the crap out of Saskia by being able to talk as well.

"See, I told you I could look after myself. Plus there's more."

Roxie's voice sounded gruffer than it normally did. Saskia couldn't tear her eyes off her. "More?"

"Yes. I have a bit more magic than your average werewolf." Roxie moved to stand in front of Skylar. She placed her hand briefly on top of his head. "Now try to get up."

Skylar tried to move, but nothing happened. He gasped in shock as he tried again and again. He couldn't get off the couch even if his life had depended on it. He looked up in awe at Roxie. "I can't."

Roxie laughed a raspy laugh. "Of course you can't. Now that I've touched you, you won't be able to move until I let you. Try now."

This time Skylar shot up on his feet and would have fallen on his face if Roxie hadn't been there to catch him. Saskia also noticed she handled Skylar as if he weighed next to nothing.

"How is this possible?" Saskia breathed.

Royce answered as Roxie shifted back to her human form then went to sit back down next to Beowulf. "We're really not sure, but we have come to one plausible reason. My first mate, the great, great, great, etc. grandmother of Roxie, was a mortal. She also had magic of her own. Alicia had abilities. To what degree her abilities extended, I don't know. She didn't like to use them or talk about them. All I know is out of all her descendents, Roxie is the one that resembles Alicia the most. So it stands to reason Roxie also inherited her abilities as well."

Leif looked over at Saskia before he spoke. "Did you see any of this in your recent visions about the foretold one?"

Saskia shook her head. "No."

"You have visions?" Eli asked.

"Yes."

Beowulf's head snapped in her direction. "Hold on. Recent visions of the foretold

one? You can't be the female werewolf that prophesied Roxie's coming."

"I'm not, but I'm from her bloodline. Kara was my grandmother. She is the one who brought my brothers-in-arms and me together to be Roxie's protectors. She picked the strongest and the biggest lone wolves. Kara trained us all to work together, to fight for one purpose. My grandmother saw the trouble that is to come now that Roxie has been found."

"Why did she pick six lone wolves? Why didn't she choose males from her own pack?" Beowulf asked.

Saskia looked over at her brothers. She loved them all as if they were indeed her brothers by birth. "By this time the numbers in our pack had diminished to almost nothing. Our pack was really no more, and ours wasn't the only one. So my grandmother chose males that no longer had packs. Dirk, Leif and Kye come from three different packs. Skylar, Roan and Jager are true brothers and come from a fourth pack. I used to have a seventh brother."

"What happened to him?" Roxie asked.

Saskia turned to stare seriously at Roxie. "He left us. Miles once trained to protect you, but now he is the one we must watch out for. He'll fight to take you as his own. Mated or not, he will claim you as his mate if he can. Then with you tied to him, he'll use you as a figurehead while he rules the packs in your stead."

* * * *

Eli pulled out the chair next to Saskia's at the large dining room table. He sat down and tried to ignore the six identical warning stares her brothers shot his way. He hoped that once they all had food on their plates they would concentrate on that rather than him.

After Saskia's statement about her seventh brother, the room had grown so silent you could have heard a pin drop. And right about that time, Beowulf's cook had stepped into the living room to let them know dinner was ready to be served. Saskia had then gotten off his lap as everyone else stood and followed Beowulf and Roxie to the dining room.

Now with everyone sitting, the food started to make its way around the table. Eli loaded his plate with the garlic roasted potatoes and steamed mixed vegetables. When Saskia passed him a serving platter filled with thick steaks that had barely touched a grill, he quickly passed it on to Beowulf who sat at the end of the table next to him. He liked his steaks medium rare with some pink showing, but those steaks were so rare they looked as if they would get up and walk away at any time. Those that had been born werewolves ate the almost raw meat with gusto.

Roxie spoke to him from the other end of the table. "Billie has the platter with the steaks that have been cooked properly."

"Good. I was a little worried there," Eli replied.

She laughed. "I could tell. If I had to eat meat that raw I would never get it down."

Kye looked over at her. "You're a werewolf, Roxie. I find it strange that you don't like your meat practically raw like the rest of us."

Roxie shrugged. "Maybe because I wasn't born a werewolf I still like my meat the way I did when I was a mortal."

"What about you, Billie?" Saskia asked. "You took your steak from the same platter Roxie and Eli did."

Billie shuddered. "You won't catch me dead eating meat that raw. That's just

disgusting. I have to agree with Roxie, it has to be a by-product of having once been mortal.” When Kye’s fork dropped to his plate in a loud clatter, Billie grimaced. “Oh, crap. I said too much, didn’t I? Sorry, Rox.”

Eli saw Saskia stiffen in her chair. If he had been sitting next to Billie, he would have given her a hoof under the table for not taking the time to think before she had spoken. Roxie, and most especially Beowulf and Royce, didn’t want the rest of the werewolf population to know she could turn mortals into werewolves with a magic spell after they had been injected with a small amount of her blood. Billie had put her foot in it this time.

Saskia slowly lowered her knife and fork to her plate. “Was Billie once mortal, Roxie?”

Eli held himself perfectly still and prepared for the shit to hit the fan. Taking quick glances at Beowulf and Royce, he noticed they looked ready to jump out of their chairs if the other six male werewolves so much as made a move toward Roxie. Eli hoped that if the fur began to fly, which it could quite literally in this case, that he wouldn’t get stuck in the middle of it.

Roxie smiled. “Yes, Billie used to be mortal.”

“I don’t understand,” Saskia said.

“I guess you may have heard about the spell that turned me into a werewolf.”

“Yes, my brothers and I learned about it a few years ago, but until you, we thought it wouldn’t work.”

“Well, the spell has worked on a few others as well. And before you can ask, it only works if my blood is used and if I’m the one performing the spell.”

Pandemonium broke loose as Saskia’s brothers all started to talk at once, and in very loud voices. To say they found the news disturbing put it mildly. Jager let loose with a string of swear words, some of which Eli hadn’t even heard before. Skylar and Roan were doing their best not to be outdone by their sibling in swearing capabilities. Kye, rubbed his temples as if he’d gotten a sudden headache and bellowed that they were so screwed. Leif and Dirk started to argue over what they thought would need to be done to keep the knowledge of Roxie being able to turn mortals into werewolves from the rest of their kind. Their shouting didn’t last for long though. Roxie put two fingers in her mouth and she whistled loud and shrill.

She gave the six males a hard stare. “You will behave yourselves right now or I’ll be forced to do something really nasty. Something I did to another male werewolf that really pissed me off. How would you guys like to be stuck in your wolf forms for twenty-four hours while I keep you chained up in my backyard like dogs?” When none of Saskia’s brothers said anything more, she nodded her head. “Smart boys.”

Saskia turned to look at Eli. “Roxie turned your twin as well, didn’t she? That’s why he’s a werewolf and you aren’t.”

Eli nodded. “Yes. After Finn and Jocelyn mated, he made the choice to become a werewolf. Well, actually, he came to the decision to do it in order to save Jocelyn’s life. But that’s another story.” By now everyone at the table had focused their attention on him and Saskia.

“How many mortals and werewolves have become mates?” Saskia asked in a shocked voice.

Beowulf must have taken pity on him, because he answered Saskia’s question. “It hasn’t happened very often, but it does happen more than you think. My brother, Wade,

mated with his mate, Taryn, while she was still mortal. As did I with Roxie before she became a werewolf. Royce's first mate was a mortal as well, remember?"

Saskia shook her head. "I never thought it possible that that many werewolves and mortals had become mates. The mating bond, the joining of the mates' souls, is forged through the magic inside us. A mortal doesn't have that kind of magic."

"There you're wrong," Beowulf said. "Maybe not all mortals have the magic, or ability, as we do, but some do have abilities of their own. For instance, Roxie was born able to do all the things her great-grandmother could. She just never knew she had them. Taryn is half werewolf. Her father, Drake, took a mortal woman as his mate. Taryn has dreams that sometimes come true. Billie over here has the ability to find anyone she meets. Finn has visions as you do, Saskia."

Saskia grew thoughtful. Eli could almost see the wheels turn in her head. "And these are all the mortals that have been turned by the spell. I wonder if these abilities they were born with determined whether the spell worked."

"That is something we've considered as well," Roxie said from her end of the table. "I've never tried the spell on a mortal who hasn't shown some kind of ability, so there's no way to tell for sure right now."

"I'm going to suggest you don't use the spell to find out the answer to that."

Roxie laughed at Saskia. "Don't worry. I have no intentions of doing that. Beowulf has made himself perfectly clear on how he feels about that idea."

"Let's just say I almost had an aneurism the first time Rox tried the spell herself and it worked," Beowulf added. "I don't want this to become general knowledge any more than you do."

Roxie cleared her throat. "Enough talk about the spell. The food is getting cold. Besides, I'm sure Eli and Saskia would like to leave soon to go out on their date."

"Date?" Roan asked in a loud voice.

"Yes, date. And you boys," Roxie gave each of Saskia's men a hard look, "will let her go or else I'll have to go and dig up some more chains for the backyard."

That threat seemed to do the trick. None of the six male werewolves seated across from Eli said another word. They all kept their eyes on their plates as they ate. Eli mouthed a silent thank you to Roxie, who in return smiled at him.

As the meal progressed, Eli found himself checking his watch to see what time it was every few minutes. With Saskia beside him, her leg pressed against his thigh, his unruly body refused to settle down. It didn't help that he couldn't seem to stop thinking of what he wanted to do to her that night. He had originally thought to take Saskia out for a nice meal then invite her back to his place for a drink, but after Roxie had invited them for dinner, it had messed up his plans a bit. Hopefully Saskia wouldn't be too offended if, after they finished eating, he just asked her back to his place. He didn't think he could last another couple of hours sitting at some bar as he made small talk with her. The need to touch her, to taste her, got harder to ignore as time went by.

In the end, Saskia took matters into her own hands. As soon as she finished eating, she looked at Eli. "Are you finished?"

"Yes."

"All right then."

She took his hand and stood up before she pulled him to his feet. Saskia quickly thanked Roxie and Beowulf for the enjoyable meal. Before she led him out of the dining

room, she told them she would be in touch.

Once they were out of sight of the others, she pulled Eli to a halt and took his mouth in a hard kiss. After a few seconds, she pulled away. "Take me to your place. All I can think about is having you buried deep inside me."

Panting as if he'd just run a marathon, Eli grabbed Saskia's hand. Before he led her out of the house, he said, "What the lady wants, the lady shall have." In no time flat, he had them both in his car as he raced down the large driveway. Praying there wouldn't be any cops around, he sped all the way back to his apartment.

Chapter Five

Given how fast Eli drove, Saskia knew he was just as anxious as she to finally be alone together. The smell of his arousal also gave him away.

In no time, Eli pulled his car into the underground parking garage at his apartment building. After he parked the car, he came around to her side to meet her. With her hand in his, he led her over to the elevators, then they were on their way up to his floor. Saskia debated whether or not to throw herself into Eli's arms as soon as the elevator door slid shut, but in the end she decided against it for a couple of reasons. The first, even though she couldn't see a camera, didn't mean there wasn't a security camera somewhere inside the elevator. The other big reason why she didn't do it provided the most restraint—once she started kissing him she didn't think she would be able to stop. Having sex in an elevator where other people could chance upon them didn't happen to be high on her list of things to do.

When the elevator dinged at Eli's floor and the doors opened, he hurried with her down the hallway to his apartment door. It swung open after he unlocked it, then they were inside. Once the door shut behind them, Eli locked it and moved to turn on the lights. Saskia would have told him not to bother because she could see just as well in the dark as she did in the day, but she knew that wouldn't be the case for Eli.

After he turned on enough lights, he came back to stand in front of her. "Would you like something to drink?"

"No. I just want you."

With a groan, Eli wrapped his arms around her waist and hauled her up against his broad chest. His mouth slammed down onto hers. Saskia tunneled her fingers through his hair as she kissed him back. At the feel of his tongue running along the seam of her lips, she opened her mouth to give him access. Their tongues twined as they tasted each other.

Saskia moaned into his mouth. The feel of the hard length of his cock pressed against her belly made her pussy clench. She grew wet as she rubbed herself against his erection. Eli lowered his hands to her bottom and pulled her closer. He pumped his hips, pressing his fully engorged cock against her lower stomach. The ache between her legs intensified.

When Eli lifted her off her feet, Saskia wrapped her legs around his waist as she rubbed her pussy along the hard ridge of his cock through his jeans. Swinging around, Eli walked down the short hallway and pushed open the door to his bedroom. This time he didn't bother turning on the lights. He continued to kiss her as he walked the short distance to his bed. He climbed onto it and lowered her down onto the mattress. They both moaned as he came to lie on top of her between her legs.

Eli released her lips and kissed a trail along her jaw to the side of her neck. He tugged her blouse out of her jeans and shoved his hand inside to cup her breast. Saskia shivered as his tongue swirled inside her ear before he took her lobe between his teeth with a small tug. She panted as she took hold of the bottom of his shirt and lifted it so she could run her hands along the smooth skin of his back.

Removing his hand from her breast, Eli swiftly undid the buttons on her blouse. He parted the material and ran the flat of his tongue across her tight nipple through her pale pink lace bra. With nimble fingers, he undid the front clasp. He brushed the straps over

her shoulders and down her arms until she was free of it.

Saskia arched off the bed as Eli swirled his tongue around one taut nipple before he greedily sucked it deep inside his mouth. With each pull of his mouth, she felt the corresponding pull in her pussy. Wetness leaked into her panties. Needing to feel Eli's naked skin pressed to hers, she yanked his shirt over his head and threw it to the floor. As he suckled at her other breast, Saskia rocked her hips against the large bulge in his jeans. When he shifted so he laid half on top of her, she reached down and undid Eli's pants. Shoving her hand inside, Saskia wrapped her hand around his thick shaft and squeezed.

Eli moaned, but gently pried her hand off his erection. "If you keep that up you'll make me come. I want to taste you first."

He shifted down her body before he undid the button and zipper of her jeans. Saskia gasped as he licked and kissed every inch of skin he exposed as he pulled her jeans down past her hips. She kicked them the rest of the way off, leaving her only in her pale pink lace thong.

Positioning himself between her spread thighs, Eli dipped his head and dragged his tongue along the crotch of her thong. With a finger, he hooked the material that covered her pussy and pulled it aside. Saskia's hips rose off the bed as his tongue licked against her naked flesh. A low growl left her lips as he licked her from bottom to top before he circled her clit with his tongue. Holding him to her, she rocked her hips against his mouth. Eli shoved first one then a second finger inside her pussy as he sucked on her clit. Saskia clamped her strong inner muscles around his fingers as he pumped them in and out of her.

She wanted to wait until he was inside her when she came, but Eli wouldn't allow it. "Come for me, Saskia," he breathed against her. "I want to taste you while you come against my mouth."

Eli removed his fingers and jabbed his stiffened tongue inside her core as he rubbed her sensitive clit. It was enough to send Saskia over the edge. With a keening moan, she pressed her head back against the bed as her release tore through her. Eli continued to lap at her sex until the last ripple of pleasure faded away.

It had felt good, but it had only whetted her appetite for Eli. She wanted the hard length of his cock as it filled her wet pussy. As Eli rose up on his knees, she yanked his jeans down. His stiff cock sprang free as soon as she had the material down past his hips. Before he could stop her, Saskia moved to sit up. She wrapped her hand around his thick shaft and licked him from base to tip. Eli moaned. She looked up to find his heated gaze watching her as she licked his cock. Returning her attention back to his member, she held him tight as her tongue came out to circle the broad head. His hips jerked as she took the tip into her mouth and sucked.

Eli's moans filled the room when she opened her mouth and took as much of his cock as she could handle inside her mouth. As she sucked, she felt him harden even more. She would have continued to pleasure him this way until he came in her mouth, but Eli had other plans. He pulled away and pushed her down onto her back. He kicked off his jeans before he grabbed her thong and yanked it off her body. Saskia spread her legs as he came down on top of her.

The head of his cock brushed up against her wet core. Eli took her lips in a hard kiss as he surged forward, fully seating himself deep inside her. Saskia sucked his tongue into her mouth and moaned. When Eli pulled back and then surged back inside, she felt

another orgasm start to build.

As he pumped his hips between her legs, Saskia gripped Eli's cock with her inner muscles. The slow pace he had set increased. He released her mouth as he lifted his upper body off her, supporting his weight on his hands. Saskia wrapped her legs around his waist as he pounded into her. Her orgasm crept ever closer.

Eli pumped his hips faster. He groaned as he angled his hips so his thick shaft rubbed her clit. The friction caused her body to coil even tighter. She was so close. Lifting her hips, Saskia met Eli's strokes as she squeezed down on him harder.

A vision slammed into her. She saw Eli and herself as they were now, making love. What made her gasp was what happened once they both reached their climax—their souls joined, mating them together as one.

Unaware of what she had seen, Eli rode her harder, faster, pushing her climax to the point of almost no return. Saskia dug her fingernails into his arms. "Eli, stop."

Eli lowered himself down on top of her and cupped her bottom in his hands as he angled her hips in just the right angle to send her flying. "Too late," he moaned.

He moaned again as her inner walls fisted his cock in a tight grip. Saskia whimpered as intense waves of pleasure ripped through her. She felt Eli's cock pulse deep inside her core as he came. While he emptied himself inside her, she felt his soul reach out to hers. Unable to stop herself, her soul reached out to him and wrapped itself around his. They both gasped as their souls joined.

Out of breath, Eli panted, "Was that what I think it was?" He pulled her close and nuzzled the side of her neck.

Saskia stared up at the ceiling. She'd gone cold inside. This couldn't be happening. She couldn't be mated. Long ago she'd made the decision to never take a mate. She had her duty to protect the foretold one. There wouldn't be room in her life for a mate, especially for a mortal mate. Feeling as if she suffocated, Saskia pushed Eli off her. She curled her upper lip and growled when he tried to pull her closer.

A look of confusion flashed across his face. "Talk to me, Saskia. Something happened between us. I felt it. It felt like what Finn described when Jocelyn and he became mates."

"I have to get out of here." Saskia searched the bedroom floor for her clothes. She moved off the bed to gather them up.

Eli sat up. "We're mates now, aren't we?"

She jerkily pulled on her clothes. "Yes."

"Then where are you going?" Eli got off the bed and came to stand gloriously naked beside her. "I know this is a bit unexpected, but I'm not unhappy about it, surprisingly enough. We can make this work. I can feel you inside me. You're a part of me now."

And she felt a part of him inside her as well, but that didn't stop her from snapping her teeth at him when he tried to reach for her again. "Don't touch me."

Eli took a step back. "Look, we have to discuss this."

Saskia yanked on her blouse. "There is nothing to discuss. I'm leaving."

"I don't understand what has you so pissed off with me. It isn't as if I forced this on you. Christ, I didn't know anymore than you did that this would happen. I'm not a male werewolf who recognizes his mate from the first whiff of her scent."

"Exactly." Now dressed, Saskia scowled at Eli. Feeling trapped, she said the first things that popped into her head. She didn't care what they would do to Eli. "You aren't a

werewolf. I never wanted a mate. Not ever. What makes this even worse is that you're a mortal. I thought we would have our fun then go our separate ways." The look of hurt that Eli gave her almost made her stop, but her emotions were too jumbled for her to rein herself back. "I thought I would have an enjoyable night of sex. Instead, I now find myself tied to a mortal."

"I can understand you being a little out of sorts about being mated when you never wanted one. I wasn't exactly looking for one, believe me, but what's done is done. We can't go back. You need to calm down, Saskia."

"No. I need to leave."

Saskia turned to go, but Eli grabbed her arm to stop her. "You can't leave. We need to be near each other or it'll mess with our heads. I've seen both my brother and sister go through it when they were too long apart from their mates. It isn't pretty."

She pulled her arm free with a rough yank. "I guess we'll see how bad it actually gets, because I'm still leaving and there is nothing you can do to stop me."

Moving at a speed Eli couldn't match Saskia hurried to the apartment door and flung it open. After she slammed it shut, she hurried over to the elevators. As luck would have it, the doors to one slid open as soon as she pushed the button. As they slid closed, she took a deep breath. She closed her eyes as she thought of all the hurtful things she had said to Eli. What was the matter with her? A part of her wanted to go back up to his apartment and tell him how sorry she was, but she didn't. The thought of going back to Eli, to her mate, made her gasp for breath. Until she got her head screwed on straight, she would have to stay away from him. She had already hurt him enough. He didn't need her to make things any worse than they already were.

* * * *

Feeling as if someone had just sucker punched him in the gut, Eli sat down on the bed as his apartment door slammed shut. He made no move to go after Saskia. The things she had said, and the way she had acted, told him she wouldn't listen to him even if he did manage to catch up to her. His mate had not reacted well to their mating. He snorted. That could only be described as an understatement.

His mate. He shook his head. He never thought to have that one word—mate—connected to him in any way. Finn must have been right after all. He'd told Eli that once he found the right woman there wouldn't be any others for him. That was how Eli felt about Saskia. Even though she didn't like the fact, she had turned out to be the one for him. Making love to her had been beyond anything he had experienced with any other woman. His cock stirred just thinking about how good it had felt to be inside her. He wanted her again. The one time hadn't been enough.

"Damn."

Eli punched the mattress with the flat of his fist. Already he felt Saskia's absence. Right now he could handle it, but he had no idea what he would be like hours from now. With no way to contact Saskia, he had to hope when it got bad for her she would seek him out. If she didn't, he would be a walking mess.

Chapter Six

He was living in hell. Eli couldn't describe it any other way than that. Hours had gone by since Saskia had run out on him. The need to be with her, to touch her, seemed almost too great at times. It felt as if a piece of him had gone missing. He felt empty and out of sorts. *How the hell had Finn and Billie survived this?* Being separated from one's mate could only be described as excruciating.

Unable to fall asleep, let alone relax, at five in the morning, Eli decided he couldn't stay in the apartment any longer. He needed something to distract himself. Knowing the gym wouldn't be opening for at least a couple of hours, he made the decision to go there. A couple hours of lifting weights should help, or so he hoped.

He threw on a pair of old sweats and a t-shirt with the sleeves cut off. Before he left, he put a clean dark blue t-shirt that had York Fitness in white across the front and a pair of grey warm-up pants in a backpack. Grabbing his keys, he then headed down to the parking garage.

The birds had started to chirp to the new day when he arrived at the gym. Eli parked his car in the lot and headed for the front entrance. He unlocked the door and made sure to lock it behind him after he stepped inside. Once he had the security alarm disabled, he flipped the lights on in the darkened gym.

Eli put his backpack inside his locker in the men's change room before he headed for the main gym floor. First thing he did was turn on the sound system. Grateful the gym didn't sit next to any homes, he turned the music up louder than they normally played it. The deep base of the rock song that blared through the speakers thumped through him.

Crossing the gym floor to the rack of dumbbells that ran along the mirrored wall, Eli grabbed two forty pound dumbbells and went to one of the benches that sat in a row in front of the mirrors. He sat down, fixed his grip on the dumbbells, then stood up. Holding them perpendicular to his body in front of his waist, he swung them up in a fly. He did two more sets of flies before he moved on to the shoulder press machine.

The weight lifting took the edge off his need for Saskia, but only enough so he didn't feel as if he would start to climb the walls. He worked out for an hour before the music that blared out of the speakers suddenly cut off. Eli looked up to find his older brother, Keegan, headed his way. His chest rapidly rose and fell with each breath he took. Soaked in sweat with his hair plastered to his forehead, he nodded to his brother.

Keegan looked him up and down. "Don't you look like shit? What the hell brought you to the gym so early? You look as if you're trying to work out until you drop."

Eli wiped the sweat from his forehead. "You could say that. So far it isn't working."

"It still doesn't explain what you're doing here so early. I thought you had a date with Saskia last night."

He gritted his teeth at the sound of his mate's name. "Just stop talking, Keegan. I really need you not to talk about Saskia right now. Okay?" He took off one of the plates from the barbell he'd been using.

Keegan shook his head. "Holy shit. You mated with her. You're acting like Billie and Finn do when they're separated too long from Royce or Jocelyn. How did that happen?"

Eli brushed past his brother and headed for another machine. "I don't know. It just happened."

"Where is Saskia?"

"I don't know."

"What do you mean you don't know? If you're this bad, she can't be any better."

"Keegan, please. I'm not in the mood for this right now."

"Who isn't in the mood for what?" Billie asked as she and Royce came to join them.

Eli swore under his breath. "Can all of you just please leave me the hell alone?"

Of course that only caused Billie to get right up in his face. "I don't believe this. The confirmed bachelor became mated."

"What do I need to do to get you to go away?" Eli snapped.

Billie backed off. "Sorry. You're in rough shape there, Eli. Where's Saskia?"

"I don't know. She ran out on me before I got a chance to ask for her cell phone number and address."

"What?"

"You heard me. She's gone."

"What do you mean she's gone? You're mates now. She knows what the separation does to mated couples."

Eli sat down at the machine and scrubbed his face with his hand. "I don't think she cares. Let's just say she wasn't pleased to have me for her mate. I guess she never wanted a mate, and she sure as hell didn't want one who also happens to be a mortal. Does that answer your question?"

"Why didn't you call Billie earlier?" Royce asked. "She could have found Saskia for you."

"Yeah, why didn't you call me? I can look for her now if you want."

Eli sighed. "I don't think that will be a good idea. You didn't see how she looked once our souls joined. She couldn't get away from me fast enough. She even growled and snapped her teeth at me when I tried to touch her. I don't think she would take too kindly to me just showing up."

Billie's brows drew together in confusion. "So you would rather sit here slowly going insane from missing Saskia rather than go track her down and end the anguish you both are going through?"

"Yes."

"Are you nuts? What happens if she doesn't ever come back? It will only get worse."

"I'll take things as they come." Eli stood up. "Since you have interrupted my workout, I might as well go take a shower."

Once inside the men's change room, Eli stripped out of his sweat-soaked clothes and threw them on the bottom of his locker. He would have to take them home at the end of the day to wash. After he grabbed his shampoo, conditioner and the bar of soap from the top shelf, he headed for the showers.

Standing under the spray, he let the water pound on his back for a few minutes before he washed his hair. Eli had just started to soap his body when he felt another pair of hands run down his back. He spun around to find Saskia standing naked behind him. She took the bar of soap from his hands and started to run it across his chest. His cock became instantly rock hard. He had to bite back a moan as he fought the urge to pull her to him and devour her mouth with his own. Instead, Eli looked around to make sure no

one else had come in.

“Saskia? What are you doing?” He groaned as her soapy hand pumped up and down his shaft.

“I’m putting us both out of our misery.”

As Saskia fondled him, Eli found it hard to think straight. “I thought you didn’t want a mate. Plus I don’t think this is a good idea. It isn’t as if there are any doors in here.”

In retrospect, Eli didn’t really care so much if someone walked in on them. He wanted to be inside Saskia so bad his body shook with intense need. He didn’t think he could ignore the longing another minute.

Saskia dropped the bar of soap and moved him under the spray to rinse the soap off his body. “I have to apologize for the way I acted earlier. I shouldn’t have said what I said about not wanting you because you’re mortal. I intend to make it up to you, but this will have to tide us over until we can be alone together. Your older brother said he would give us ten minutes, so I think we had better spend what time we have left doing other things besides talking.”

Eli didn’t need to be told twice. He lifted Saskia off her feet, turned and walked until her back came up against the tiled shower wall. Saskia wrapped her legs around his waist as she clutched at his shoulders. Eli took her mouth in a hard kiss as he reached between her legs. He moaned at the slick moisture he found there. Gripping his hard cock in one hand, he led it to the entrance of her body. They both moaned as he stroked her pussy with the head of his cock before he pushed his full length into her core. Seated to the hilt, he tipped his hips back then rammed into her again. As he drove into her again and again, he felt as if his world had suddenly righted itself once more.

Saskia locked her ankles at his back as she matched his strokes as best she could. Pulling away from his mouth, she leaned forward and bit him where his shoulder and neck met. Eli’s deep throated moan filled the room as he rode her harder and faster. The inner muscles of her core squeezed down on his cock. His orgasm edged nearer.

“I don’t think I can hold back anymore,” Eli panted.

Saskia lifted her head. “I’m almost there. Don’t stop. Take me harder.”

Eli cupped her bottom with both hands, angling her higher up on his cock as he pumped his hips faster. When his orgasm tore through him, his moans mixed with Saskia’s as she came with him. Her inner walls clutched at his shaft, milking him, as his cock pulsed deep inside her.

They both were breathing hard as Eli buried his face in the crook of Saskia’s neck. She wrapped her arms around his shoulders and held him tight. Once their breathing returned to normal, he slowly let her back down on her feet. He brought them both under the warm spray of water to rinse the sweat from their bodies. Their time almost up, Eli left Saskia to get two white towels from the stack that sat in the corner near the showers.

He passed her a towel, then used the other to dry himself off. With the towels wrapped around their bodies, Eli led Saskia over to his locker. He looked around for her clothes and spotted them on a bench close to where they stood. Saskia moved over to them and started to dress as Eli pulled the fresh clothes he’d brought from home out of his locker.

Turning back to face her, Eli found Saskia had come up behind him as he dressed. She pulled his head down for a gentle kiss. “Let’s get out of here. I think we should have that talk you wanted to have last night now that we’ll be able to think straight.”

Eli put his hands on either side of her waist. "Your place or mine?"

"Yours."

"Okay. Come on then." He took one of her hands and led her out of the men's change room. "I just have to let the others know I'm leaving."

He found Billie, Keegan and Royce back in the office area as they sipped on coffee. All conversation stopped as he and Saskia made their way over to them. "I don't have many clients today. Do you think you guys can manage to cover them between you? I'm sure Finn will help out. He owes me one."

"Just go," Billie said. "We've got you covered." She moved closer and stood up on tiptoe to whisper in his ear. "Make sure you screw her brains out, then she won't have enough energy to run away again."

Eli cringed. Given how there were two other werewolves nearby, Saskia being one of them, he felt pretty sure Billie's whisper hadn't been quiet enough for them not to hear what she had said. Royce tried to cover a laugh with a cough. Glancing over at Saskia, Eli watched her try to keep a straight face and not smile.

"Ah, thanks, Billie. I'll try to do that." He leaned in closer to his sister and whispered, "If you don't stop making comments like that, I may be forced to put a muzzle on you."

That statement made Royce chuckle. Not so with Billie. She pushed him away before she slapped him in the chest. "Just try it, buddy."

Eli took up Saskia's hand again. "Time to go before Billie gets nasty. I'll see you all tomorrow."

He quickly led Saskia outside to the parking lot. Seeing the black Triumph Sprint ST motorcycle parked next to his Accord, he looked down at Saskia. "The Triumph is yours?"

She nodded. "Yes. Give me a fast motorcycle over a car any day."

Eli smiled. "A woman after my own heart. You're going to have to give me a ride on that sometime."

"You can have a ride anytime you want."

He somehow had the feeling Saskia meant more than just the motorcycle given the hot look she gave him. "Okay, I think we'd better hurry up and get to my place before I do something that will get us both arrested for indecent exposure. You can follow me if you want."

Saskia let go of his hand and walked over to her motorcycle. She unclipped the helmet from the side of it. Before she put it on, she said, "I'm ready whenever you are."

He quickly unlocked his car and got in. The engine came to life as he turned the key in the ignition. A second later, Eli heard the roar of Saskia's motorcycle.

Eli kept his eye on Saskia through his rearview mirror as they drove the short distance to his apartment. When they reached it, he stuck his arm out the window and motioned for her to follow him into the underground parking garage. He pulled into his spot and parked with the front of his car as close to the wall as he could get it. Turning off the ignition, he got out and watched Saskia park her motorcycle sideways behind his car.

He didn't give her a chance to take off her helmet as he grabbed her hand and walked her over to the elevators. When one came they stepped inside. Saskia pulled off her helmet as he pushed the button to his floor. Once he let her inside her apartment, Eli

closed and locked the door behind him. He stepped back and leaned against it as his gaze lingered longingly on Saskia.

“So, you want to talk,” he said.

“Among other things.”

“Then I suggest if you want to talk we’d better go sit down on the couch in the living room. If I get you anywhere near my bedroom I won’t be able to concentrate. At least on the couch, fully clothed, we should be able to say the things that need to be said before I jump you.”

Saskia smiled. “All right.”

They sat down on the couch and shifted so they could face each other. Unable to be this close and not touch her, Eli laced his fingers through hers. “Why did you run from me, Saskia? Did the idea of me as your mate disgust you that much?”

She reached out and cupped his cheek in her hand. “It didn’t so much as disgust me as it scared me. It was the truth when I said I never planned to take a mate.”

“But why? Because of your brothers?”

“No.” Saskia shook her head. “It’s not because of them. It’s just something I decided. I’ve trained for so long, for hundreds of years, with one purpose in mind—to be one of the protectors to the foretold one. I didn’t know if there would be room for a mate in my life.”

Eli placed his hand over top hers. “I would never ask you to give that up. It’s something you have trained for long before I was ever born. I’m not that selfish.”

Saskia took her hand away from his cheek and moved closer to him on the couch. “How old are you, Eli?”

“I’m thirty-three.”

“I’m a thousand years old.”

Eli blew out a breath. “Wow. I can’t picture living for so long.” He swallowed. “Does it really bother you that I’m mortal?”

“It does.” Eli felt his face fall, but Saskia quickly added, “Not in the way you think. It bothers me to think I could lose you one day. I would feel the loss greatly.” She then paused before she spoke again. “Would you be willing to let Roxie use the spell on you to turn you into a werewolf?”

“Are you sure that’s what you want? You’d be stuck with me then for a very, very long time.”

“You’re my mate. Of course I want to be stuck with you.”

“I’m willing to try, but…” Eli let his words trail off.

“But what?”

“I’m not sure it will work on me. I don’t have any special abilities. I’m just a plain old ordinary mortal.”

Saskia’s brows drew together. “Why wouldn’t it work on you? It worked on your identical twin brother.”

“Yes, but he can have visions, and I don’t.”

“I would have thought both of you would possess that ability.”

“Finn couldn’t always have visions. It wasn’t until he’d been injected with Royce’s blood that they started.”

“I thought he had to be injected with Roxie’s blood for the spell to work?”

“He did, but Finn had been injected with Royce’s blood before he was turned. Both

he and Royce had been captured by another male werewolf, the one who originally used the spell on Roxie to turn her. He thought Royce's blood would be the key to make the spell work on another mortal since he used it on Roxie. It didn't work on Finn, but it changed him nonetheless. One of the changes ended up being his ability to have visions like our mother."

Saskia crowded closer to Eli as she forced him to sit back against the couch. She then moved to straddle his lap, facing him. "I guess if the spell doesn't work the first time Roxie tries it, we could always inject you with Royce's blood then try it again."

Eli looked up at Saskia. He tucked her long hair behind her ear. "I guess we could. I don't think Royce would mind donating some of his blood."

"Good." She leaned down and nipped his chin. "I don't know about you, but I think we can continue this conversation later. Much later."

Chapter Seven

Saskia shifted on Eli's lap so her pussy settled against his erection through their pants. She then rubbed herself against him as she kissed him. Her lips slanted against his as she pushed her tongue inside his mouth. She sighed when their tongues met.

The hours of being separated from Eli had been the most unpleasant thing Saskia had ever gone through. It had felt as if she'd left behind a piece of herself when she'd left him. She never wanted to go through that again. It also made her come to terms with the fact that he *was* her mate, and that denying it would not make it disappear because she wanted it to.

As she kissed him, she lifted his t-shirt and ran her hands across his washboard abs. She felt his cock jerk inside his pants as she pulled his shirt higher. Saskia stopped kissing Eli only long enough to pull his t-shirt the rest of the way off.

Becoming more aroused, she left his mouth and trailed kisses across his jaw to his neck. She licked and kissed her way down the side of his neck to where she had left her mark on his skin. Her tongue came out and swirled across it before she lightly nipped him there. She continued her downward trail as she pressed kisses along the thick slabs of muscle in his chest. She loved Eli's body and doubted she would ever get enough of it.

Saskia moved to kneel between Eli's spread thighs as she kissed a path across his abs. She ran her hands down his sides until they reached the top of his warm-up pants. With a tight hold, she tugged his pants down past his hips. His thick cock sprang free, jutting from his body. Now that she had the object of her desire in front of her, Saskia focused her attention on the part of Eli that felt so good inside her.

She licked her lips as she reached out with a finger and gently rubbed the single drop of pre-cum that had leaked from the tip of his cock. A deep moan left Eli as she wrapped her hand around his shaft and pumped it up and down his length. Wetness pooled between her legs as his cock grew even harder. She continued to pump him until another bead of moisture appeared on the tip. This time she bent forward and licked it off. The taste of him made her want to take him inside her mouth. Instead, she lapped at him, swirling her tongue around the head of his cock as she worked her hand up and down.

Eli threaded his fingers through her hair to hold her to him. He gasped. "You're killing me."

"You'll survive," she said against his sensitive flesh.

With a firm grip on his shaft, Saskia sucked the very tip into her mouth. Eli fisted his hand tighter in her hair as his hips lifted off the couch, wanting her to take more of him. She slowly sucked more of his length inside her mouth inch by inch until she couldn't handle anymore. Eli's hips bucked as he moaned and panted. Saskia sucked harder. The combination of the sounds Eli made as she sucked him, and the feel of his hard cock in his mouth, pushed her arousal even higher.

Unable to wait any longer to have him inside her, Saskia released him and stood up. She quickly pulled off her clothes until she stood naked before him. His heated gaze followed her movements as she cupped her breasts in her hands and lifted them. Eli pushed his pants the rest of the way off. He sat back on the couch and watched her. His hard cock stood up straight from his body. Saskia took her bottom lip between her teeth

as it jerked. Moisture leaked from her pussy, coating the inside of her thighs.

She climbed back up on the couch and straddled his thighs. Eli tried to sheath himself inside her, but Saskia held herself away. She took hold of the back of the couch on either side of Eli's head as she pressed a nipple against his lips. His tongue came out and flicked the taut peak. He sucked the nipple deep as she rubbed her slick opening along the length of his shaft.

Once his cock slid between her moist folds, Saskia angled her hips and pushed down until she'd impaled herself on his hard length. Eli's hardness filled her to capacity. She moaned at the feel of being stretched as her body accustomed itself to his thickness. Eli sucked harder on her breast when she slowly rose up on her knees and then sank down once again on his shaft. Saskia set a slow pace as she rode him. In this position, he was in deep enough to hit her womb with each stroke in. Keeping her hips angled just right, Saskia rubbed her clit along his shaft as his cock slid in and out of her.

Eli released her nipple and leaned his head against the back of the couch. He held onto her hips as he lifted his own to match her strokes. Saskia squeezed her inner walls around him as she increased her pace. She felt her climax inch closer. She sank down harder and faster on Eli's hard cock and growled low in her throat as he reached between them. With his fingers he rubbed her clit. It was enough to send her over the edge. Saskia moaned/growled as her body climaxed around Eli's shaft. He held onto her hips and rammed up into her until he too started to come.

After the last wave of pleasure receded, Saskia fell forward onto Eli's chest. He wrapped his arms around her. She felt his now soft cock slip free of her body.

He kissed her forehead. "Sorry. I can't keep an erection for hours like male werewolves can. You'll have to give me a few minutes to recover then I'll be good to go again."

Saskia sat up and kissed him softly on the mouth. The more they made love the stronger their bond became. She already felt strong feelings for him. "Do you hear me complaining? It doesn't matter to me. You're doing a pretty fine job of it without being able to do that."

Eli chuckled. "Well, thank you. I do try."

Gathering Saskia close, Eli managed to get off the couch with her in his arms. She wrapped her arms around his shoulders. "Where are you taking me?"

He started to walk toward his bedroom. "I'm taking you to bed. I intend to take Billie's advice. I'm going to make love to you until neither one of us can move. I figure that should use up the rest of the day and most of the night."

Saskia growled with pleasure. "I can handle that. It should be more than enough time for me to do all the things I want to do to you." She then started to whisper in Eli's ear everything she wanted to do. With a groan, he practically ran with her to his bedroom.

* * * *

Eli looked over at Saskia where she slept next to him on the bed. His alarm clock had gone off a couple minutes before, but she hadn't reacted to the sound. He smiled. He had done his best to tire her out. It looked as if he had succeeded.

He rolled over onto his side and let his gaze run over her sleeping form. Life without Saskia was something he didn't want. His bachelor days were far behind him now. He smiled to himself and shook his head. *Who would have thunk it?* Eli sure as hell hadn't

seen it coming considering only a couple of days before he had found the whole idea of being tied to one woman for the rest of his life abhorrent. Now, especially after the many hours they had spent together, Eli had fallen for Saskia. Not just that he liked-her liked her, but had tumbled head over heels for her. He'd never felt this way about any woman before.

Saskia groaned and rolled onto her side toward him as she snuggled closer. She pressed a kiss to his bare chest. "I can feel you staring at me. Go back to sleep."

Eli chuckled. "Wish I could, but I can't. Since I played hooky from work yesterday I have to go to the gym today."

She groaned again. "I don't want to get up yet. Call them and tell them you'll be late."

"This may be a guess, but I'm thinking you aren't much of a morning person."

"I'm not, especially when I don't get to sleep in late after I've spent most of the night making love to my mate."

"Come on, sleepy head. I really need to go to work on time. I feel bad enough that I dumped all my clients onto my family yesterday with next to no warning. I'll make you a deal. You get up and I'll see if I can find a place for you to take a nap. And I'll make sure we can leave early."

Saskia snuggled closer. "What time is it?"

"It's just after nine." Eli gave her a smack on the bottom. "Let's get a move on."

"All right already. I'm moving. I'll get out of bed on one condition—we take a shower together."

"You really do want to make me late."

She tilted her head back and gave him a saucy smile. "Not if we have a quickie."

Eli felt his cock start to rise to the occasion. "You're insatiable."

"And you wouldn't have it any other way."

He smiled. "God, no." Knowing if he didn't get her into the shower soon they would end up spending even longer in bed than he really should, Eli flipped the covers off them both. "Shower. Now. Before we never get out of here."

In the end, they washed each other, which inevitably led to them making love in the shower. After, as they got dressed, both their stomachs started to growl loudly. Considering they had hardly come up for air the day before to eat, Eli didn't think it odd that both he and Saskia were starved.

"We should have just enough time to go pick something up for breakfast and take it to the gym to eat. That is if you don't mind take-out."

Saskia pulled his comb through her damp, light blonde hair. "That's fine with me. Just so long as I get fed. Why don't you leave your car here today? You can ride on my bike with me."

"I'd love to, but what about the food? I don't think I would be able to hold onto it and you and not drop it. Or better yet, fall off the bike entirely."

"Fine. Take your car. It would be a shame to have you drop the food." Eli cocked a brow at her. "And of course I wouldn't want you to fall off my motorcycle."

Eli then rushed them out the door to the underground parking garage. As Saskia pulled on her helmet and took the motorcycle off the kickstand, he said, "There's a great diner a couple blocks from the gym that serves all day breakfast. If you want, you can meet me at the gym while I go pick up the food. Is there anything you want in

particular?”

“Okay. I’ll see you there. Get me whatever you’re having.”

Flipping up the visor on Saskia’s helmet, Eli gave her a thorough kiss before he pushed it back into place. He waited until she left the garage before he got into his car. The trip to the diner didn’t take long, but having to stand around as he waited for his food order seemed to take longer than it should. He already missed Saskia. This would be something he would have to get used to—the separation anxiety he would invariably feel whenever they were apart.

With food in hand, Eli left the diner and headed for his car. As he crossed the parking lot, he couldn’t shake the feeling that someone watched him. The sensation persisted even after he reached his car. Unlocking it, he looked around the crowded parking lot. He couldn’t see anyone who seemed to watch him from a distance. He slipped into his car and headed for the gym.

Eli found Saskia leaning against her motorcycle in the parking lot. He parked next to her, got out of the car and waved the bags of take-out food in front of her. “I got their breakfast special. I hope you’re really hungry, because there is a ton of food.”

Saskia closed her eyes briefly and took a deep breath in. “It smells delicious. I’m starved.”

With his fingers laced through hers, Eli walked her into the gym. He kept walking until he reached his desk. After he shoved a few things that sat on top of it aside, he took the food out of the bags. Saskia grabbed the chair that sat on the other side of his desk and placed it next to his. They then sat down and started to eat.

Billie walked over to his desk as she sniffed the air. She shook her head when she saw what they ate. “That’s a good meal to bring to a gym, Eli. Fried eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns and toast. We’re supposed to promote a healthier way of living, not one where the person will keel over with a heart attack from all the grease.”

Eli used his toast to mop up some of his yolk. “Stuff it, Billie. We’re starved.”

Billie laughed. “I guess you took my advice. You both seem to be practically inhaling your food.”

Eli slapped Billie’s hand when she reached out to take one of his sausages. “Get your own.”

Saskia pushed her Styrofoam container closer to Billie. “Here, you can have one of mine.”

“Thanks, Saskia.” Billie took one then turned back to Eli. “At least someone was nice enough to share.”

When Billie didn’t show any signs of leaving, Eli asked, “Is there something you wanted? Other than trying to finagle us out of food, that is.”

Billie didn’t answer until she’d eaten her sausage. She picked up one of the serviettes that sat on his desk and wiped her fingers on it. “There is one thing. Since the two of you seem to have worked this whole two of you being mated business out, I thought to ask when you would like to see Roxie.”

Saskia answered for him. “If you mean about getting her to use the spell on Eli, we already discussed it.”

“And?”

“And Eli is willing to try it even though he isn’t a hundred percent sure it will work on him.”

“Of course it will work on him. It worked on Finn, it will work on you.”

Eli swallowed a mouthful of food. “Yes, but that was after he’d been injected with Royce’s blood.”

“Don’t get hung up on that theory about mortals needing to have a special ability to make the spell work. Even if that ended up being true, we know how to fix it so it will work. Royce will be more than willing to get jabbed for the cause.”

“Depends on what I get jabbed with,” Royce said as he walked over to them. He swiped one of Eli’s sausages before he could stop him.

Eli gave an exasperated sigh. “Can the pair of you keep your paws off our food?”

Billie ignored him. “I was just telling Eli and Saskia if the spell doesn’t work the first time on Eli because he doesn’t have visions like Finn that you wouldn’t mind getting a needle jabbed into you for your blood.”

Royce nodded. “If it comes down to that, I won’t say no. Just keep the needle away from my neck. Anywhere but the neck is acceptable.”

“Anywhere?” Billie asked with a sly smile.

Royce’s hands automatically covered his crotch. “That’s off limits too.”

Eli groaned. “Hello, I’m trying to eat here. Can we talk about something other than Royce’s dick?”

“I could talk about it all day long,” Billie said as she looked Royce suggestively up and down.

“You want to see me throw up on my desk?” Eli asked. “Keep it up and I will.”

Billie rolled her eyes at Eli. “Whatever. So when do you want to meet up with Roxie?”

“Whenever it’s good for her.” Eli turned to find Saskia smiling at him. “Once I’m turned, we then can work out the rest.”

Saskia’s smile slowly slipped away as she turned her attention on a spot near the front desk. Eli stiffened when he saw Roan standing with his arms crossed over his large chest as he stared at them. When he noticed he had caught their attention, Roan started to make his way over to his desk. Eli also noticed the girl at the front desk was too busy ogling Roan to ask if he had a membership card.

When Roan reached them, his gaze swept over Eli and Saskia. “So you decided to keep him as your mate after all I see,” he said to Saskia.

Saskia glared up at him. “I hope you didn’t come all this way just to discuss my mating.”

Roan shook his head. “No, I didn’t.”

“Then why are you here?”

“I need to talk to you. Alone. I wasn’t sure you would answer your cell phone since you’ve had it turned off since yesterday morning. Something has come up.”

Saskia pushed back her chair and stood up. She looked down at Eli. “I’ll be back in a minute.”

Eli closed the lid on her food. “I’ll make sure the vultures don’t take your food while you’re gone.”

Saskia nodded then followed Roan back to the front entrance.

Chapter Eight

“All right, what’s so important that you had to chase me down here?” Saskia asked as soon as they were out of hearing range.

“Miles is on the move. He’s learned about Roxie and is making plans to claim her as his own.”

Saskia let out a disgusted breath. “Are you sure? We’ve heard rumors of him gathering other lone wolves before and they were all false.”

Roan shook his head. “Not this time. Leif heard one of Miles’ flunkies bragging to another lone wolf about how he was going to be a part of something big. And that he had the job of finding new recruits for the bastard.”

“And where exactly did Leif hear all this?”

“At a mortal bar. It’s a place where the women and booze are plentiful, just the way Leif likes them. It’s also a place where lone wolves sometimes like to go.”

“Great.” Saskia sighed. “Did Leif learn anything more besides Miles recruiting lone wolves?”

Roan gave her a half smile. “You could say that. Since neither of the lone wolves knew him, Leif went over to their table and led them to believe he wanted in on a piece of the action they discussed. By the end of the night, he had Miles’ flunky believing he was his new best friend. Leif knows how to lay it on thick when he needs to.”

Saskia snorted. “You don’t have to tell me. So what did his new best friend tell him?”

“They’re holed up in an abandoned factory near the outskirts of the city. I guess Miles has been a busy boy the last couple of months. Supposedly he has twenty lone wolves under him. Most, if not all, were kicked out of their packs for bad behavior. It seems the nastier the lone wolf the more Miles wants him.”

Saskia grew thoughtful. “We need to check out this abandoned factory ourselves to make sure Miles is using it as his headquarters.”

“That’s what we thought you would want to do. We’re ready to go whenever you are.”

She looked over at Eli who still sat at his desk while he talked to Billie and Royce. “Shit. Eli isn’t going to like this. I know I won’t look forward to the separation.”

Roan chuckled. “Yeah, you mated does throw a wrench in the works, doesn’t it? You can’t get up and leave whenever you want now.”

“Shut up, Roan. You aren’t helping. It wouldn’t be safe for Eli. At least not right now. Later it won’t be so bad.”

“You talked him into letting Roxie turn him?”

“Yes. He’s my mate. I would rather not lose him to a mortal death.”

“I never thought I would see the day that you would take a mate. Or see you fall so hard for a man.”

“That doesn’t mean I still can’t beat your ass in sword practice.”

Roan held up his hands. “I know you can. Remember I ended up on the receiving end of your sword after you came running home the other night as if the hounds of hell chased you. I’m just glad it was in practice only and you weren’t set on killing me. I

would have been in trouble then.”

“And don’t you forget it. Where are we supposed to meet up with the others?”

“They’re out in the parking lot.”

Saskia’s brows rose. “You *all* came here? How come only you came in to look for me?”

“I lost the vote to stay behind. The others figured you would be less likely to bite my head off if I was the one to tell you the news.”

Her brothers knew her so well. Roan had been the perfect choice to send in after her. The others would have been bossier about it, and would have demanded she leave without giving her any details. “I guess I’d better go back and explain to Eli why I have to go when I said I would spend the day with him.”

“I’ll go tell the others you’ll be on your way shortly. Don’t keep us waiting too long. Jager is starting to get antsy.”

Saskia watched Roan leave the gym before she went back to Eli. He came around his desk when she stood in front of it instead of going to sit next to him. He gave her a questioning look. “Sorry, but I have to change our plans for the day. I have to leave.”

“Where are you going? I can go with you.”

“Not this time you can’t.”

“Are you sure it isn’t something your men can take care of without you?”

Saskia shook her head. “No.” She placed a finger against Eli’s lips as he opened his mouth to say something else. “Remember how you told me you wouldn’t ask me to give up what I’ve trained for most of my life? Well, this is something I must do as one of Roxie’s protectors.”

Eli sighed as he pulled her finger away and kissed the tip of it. “Just try not to be too long, okay? I don’t think I can handle being away from you so long again.”

“I promise.”

Before she could walk away, Royce stopped her. “Is Roxie in some kind of danger? Because if she is, I should let Beowulf know.”

“No, she’s not in danger, at least not yet. My brothers and I are just going to check something out. If it turns out to be a threat to Roxie, you and Beowulf will be the first ones we call.”

Reassured, Royce nodded. Saskia gave Eli a hard kiss. Making a vow to herself, she promised to return sooner rather than later to share more than just a kiss with him. She turned and walked out of the gym before she talked herself out of leaving.

* * * *

Saskia followed behind the black Cadillac Escalade SUV her brothers rode in on her motorcycle. They had suggested she ride with them at first, but she had quickly vetoed that. She wanted to be able to get back to Eli as soon as possible. Waiting around for them to drive her back would only delay her.

They parked the SUV and the motorcycle half a block away from the abandoned factory after they did a drive-by. Saskia met up with her brothers at the SUV. “Now no rushing in there blind.” She gave Jager a pointed look. He tended to rush into the action without thinking first.

“Hey, don’t look at me like that,” Jager said.

“I just wanted to remind you that we’re here only to observe. If this does turn out to

be the place where Miles is holed up, I don't want to tip him off that we know about it until we're ready. That also means we leave the swords behind so there isn't any temptation."

Jager swore under his breath as he placed his hand on the hilt of the sword he wore strapped to his waist under a black duster. "Ah, come on, Saskia. You take the fun out of everything."

She crossed her arms and waited for him to do as she asked. Jager rarely went anywhere without his sword. It had been a struggle for her to convince him to leave it behind when they had gone to Wulf's Den and Roxie and Beowulf's house.

Grumbling under his breath that he would feel naked without his sword, Jager unbuckled his sword belt and placed it on the floor of the SUV before he slammed the door shut. "Happy now?"

Saskia smiled. "Yes. Let's go check out the factory."

They walked down the street at a brisk pace until the abandoned factory came in sight. Knowing there very likely would be more than one werewolf inside, Saskia and her brothers made sure they stayed upwind as they closed in on the building. They didn't need their scent to give them away. She signaled for them to split up. The three brothers, Roan, Skylar and Jager, went one way while Saskia, Kye, Leif and Dirk went the other.

Sticking to the shade as much as possible, Saskia took a deep breath in. There definitely were werewolves somewhere inside. She could smell their scents, and most were fresh. Her brothers must have detected their scents as well, because the three of them had curled their upper lips in a silent snarl.

Not until they had gone halfway around the outside of the factory did they find a pair of windows they could easily look into. They spread out with Kye and Leif at one window while Saskia and Dirk took the other. Standing at the side of the window, Saskia slowly turned her head until she could look inside. What she saw made her bite back a string of curses.

Inside the partially sunken open room were at least ten male werewolves. They appeared to be taking part in various forms of training. Some trained with swords, while others were in their wolf forms practicing with their teeth and claws. For a bunch of lone wolves, they seemed more disciplined than she would have thought. No real fights broke out, and none of them seemed to be drawing blood from their sparring partners. As she watched them closer, warning bells went off in her head. She recognized some of the training exercises the lone wolves used. They were the same ones she and her brothers had been trained to use. If nothing else, it spoke of Miles' involvement. He had learned the same tactics while he had been with them. Stepping away from the window, Saskia motioned for them to continue on. Now she really needed to know if Miles could be inside.

Once they were well away from the windows, Dirk asked in a quiet voice, "Did you see what I saw?"

Kye's lips thinned as he nodded. "Yeah. The bastards are using our moves."

"It looks as if the sack of crap I talked to at the bar hadn't lied after all. This has Miles written all over it," Leif said grimly.

"Let's see if Roan, Skylar and Jager found anything interesting," Saskia said.

They were about to round the corner of the building at the back when Saskia spotted three male werewolves who stood in front of an open door. She and her men quickly

drew to a halt. She peeked around the corner. Luck must have been on their side, because the three werewolves didn't seem to realize they were no longer alone.

"Where are the others?" Leif asked Saskia in a whisper.

"I don't know. I can't see them." She then caught sight of a dark head peeking around the other corner of the building. "No. Wait. I see one of them. They're in the same position as us but on the other side."

Dirk leaned against her back as he took a quick look around the corner. "What now?"

Saskia shoved him back. "It looks as if that door could be our way in. We'll just wait for them to head back inside." She took a closer look at the door. "We should be able to catch the door before it shuts completely. It looks as if the door has one of those closer thingies on it."

Kye snorted. "Closer thingy?"

"You know what I mean."

"Sadly, yes I do."

After a minute went by and then another, Saskia started to wonder if the three who stood outside would ever go back inside the factory. Another five minutes ticked by before they turned and headed through the open door. Once the last one disappeared inside, Saskia and her men ran to catch the door before it swung shut behind them. Roan, Jager and Skylar rushed over just as Leif managed to grab hold of the door.

They waited a few seconds, then slowly slipped inside. Saskia could hear the three male werewolves as they talked somewhere up ahead. Following the sound, she and her men stealthily made their way farther inside the building.

The stretch of corridor they walked down was gloomy at best. Most of the lights set in the ceiling either had missing light bulbs or they had burned out. Not that any of them really needed the light to see where they went.

As they neared a closed office door, Saskia's steps slowed. She heard two voices talking on the other side. One voice she found very familiar—Miles' voice. Her brothers had stopped when she did and now stood around her as they listened to the conversation going on inside the office.

"So is it true?" Miles asked whoever was with him in a demanding tone.

"It's true. I've been following them the last couple of days. Not that they left his apartment much. It seems the mortal has been showing her a good time."

"I don't give a shit about that. I just wanted to know if they're mates."

"The way they left the place where he works yesterday morning, I'd say that's a big yes. They practically couldn't keep their hands off each other. They also stank of sex."

Miles chuckled. "This is working out better than I'd thought. So the bitch Saskia has finally found a mate, and a mortal one at that."

Saskia stiffened at the sound of her name. That she and Eli were the topic of conversation made a chill run down her spine.

Miles started to talk once again. "Did you leave a message for the bitch to find before you returned?"

The other man laughed, but there wasn't any humor in it. "I did better than that. I had one of the other men give the message to her mate for her to find later. Mortals can be so vulnerable, don't you think? They can die so easily."

Miles laughed. "I would love to see Saskia's face when she finds her mortal is no

more.”

Saskia felt the blood drain out of her face. She looked at each of her men. Fear for Eli had her almost gasping for air. Her brothers moved into action. Roan pulled the small spray bottle of vinegar he carried in his pocket and started to spray it in the hallway as they slowly made their way to the door. The vinegar would cover the scent trail they left behind better than anything. It would also burn the inside of a werewolf’s sensitive nose if breathed in too deeply. Saskia barely registered the fact that Roan had taken the time to hide that they had been there.

Once they reached the outside, Saskia took off at a run not caring if they ended up being spotted or not. All she could think about was getting to Eli before it became too late.

* * * *

Eli couldn’t take being stuck inside the gym another minute. Saskia had been gone for just over an hour and already he wanted to climb the walls. He wanted to touch her, to have her in his arms so bad he practically ached with the need that coursed through his body. Even though he understood why she hadn’t let him go with her, his still being mortal and all, it didn’t make what he went through any less hard to bear.

Thinking a walk would help clear his head, Eli headed down the sidewalk toward the parking lot at the side of the gym. As he reached it, he heard a cat meow pitifully. He shook his head as he changed course and cut through the parking lot to the alley that ran behind the gym. The gym’s dumpster sat out there and occasionally a stray cat ended up stuck inside it. Either they jumped in and couldn’t get back out again, or the lid of the dumpster shut, which closed them inside. The cat’s meows grew louder the closer he came to the alley.

Sure enough, the dumpster’s lid was closed and the meows seemed to come from inside it. Since this wouldn’t be the first time, Eli decided he would have to talk to his father about doing something to keep the cats away. He grinned to himself as he thought of one solution. Maybe he could get Royce and Finn to do a little territory marking in their wolf forms. Cats didn’t like dogs so it stood to reason they wouldn’t like werewolves either.

Eli lifted the lid to the dumpster and peered inside. A small tabby cat hissed up at him. “Didn’t your mother ever teach you not to jump into dumpsters?” He reached in to grab the cat, but quickly had to pull away as the cat tried to take a swipe at his hand with its front claws. “Take it easy. I’m only trying to help.” Moving faster, he grabbed the cat by the scruff of the neck and pulled it out.

He quickly put it down before it tried to sink its claws into him again. Instead of taking off as Eli expected it to do, the cat started to hiss and spit at something as all the fur along its back stood on end. It then arched its back like a Halloween cat.

Eli turned to see what had the little cat acting as if it had suddenly become possessed. A man stood a foot away. Now used to being around werewolves so much, he instantly recognized one when he saw one. So it came as no surprise to find one now standing nearby. If not for his height and extreme good looks, the loud menacing growl he made gave him away. The cat hissed one last time before it ran away.

The werewolf moved closer. “How cute. The mortal saved the little kitty cat.”

“What do you want?” Eli shifted on his feet as he took up a better stance. This

werewolf looked far from friendly. He didn't know if he could beat him in a fight, but Eli wouldn't just stand there and take it.

The werewolf smiled, one that didn't reach his eyes. "I have a message for your mate."

"What message?"

"A message from an old friend. I was told to deliver it to you personally."

The werewolf leapt into the air and went wolf at the same time. Eli didn't have time to move away as the large wolf slammed into his chest. He went down hard with the wolf on top of him. The wolf snarled and snapped his sharp teeth in his face. Eli grunted with pain as the wolf clawed him across the chest.

The werewolf's form blurred as he shifted back into human form. Then moving faster than Eli could have blocked him, the werewolf sank a long bladed dagger into his stomach. He stabbed him a second time before he stood. Gasping in pain and shock, Eli clutched at his stomach.

"I was told I had to make sure the wounds would leave you alive long enough for your mate to find you. Let's hope she doesn't take too long to come looking for you." The werewolf reached inside his pants' pocket and threw a piece of paper on Eli's chest. "I suggest you hold onto that, mortal, just in case you croak here all alone." With a cruel laugh, he walked out of the alley.

Eli struggled to breathe around the pain as he tried to sit up. Blood gushed from his wounds, spilling over his hand. With his other, he grabbed the piece of paper. Even though help was just a short distance away, he knew he would never make it back inside the gym. He was losing too much blood too quickly. Already he could see spots forming before his eyes.

His only hope was for someone to come looking for him, soon. Eli managed to drag himself across the alley to sit propped up against the wall. He leaned his head back against the wall and concentrated on not passing out.

Chapter Nine

Roaring up in front of the gym, Saskia parked her motorcycle on the street. The SUV squealed to a stop behind her bike a second later. She didn't wait for her brothers as she raced inside the building. With her heart in her throat, Saskia searched the main gym floor for Eli, but she couldn't see him anywhere. She raced to Eli's desk, praying he would be there. Her heart fell when she saw he wasn't there either.

By this time her brothers had caught up to her. They drew more than one stare from the people around them, but Saskia barely noticed. She frantically searched for one of Eli's siblings. Surely they would know where he had gone.

Billie came out of her father's office and stopped dead in her tracks when she saw Saskia and her brothers. "Saskia? You look white as a ghost. Are you okay?"

Saskia rushed over to her "Where's Eli?"

"I think he went out for a walk. The separation was getting to be too much for him."

"How long ago did he leave?"

Billie's brows drew together as she studied her face. "A few minutes ago I think. You're really starting to scare me here."

Spinning on her heel, Saskia took off at a run. She heard her brothers as they ran behind her. Before she made it to the front entrance, Billie yelled for Royce. Saskia pushed open the door and burst outside. Kye just about ran into her as she drew to a sudden stop when she reached the sidewalk and started to sniff the air for Eli's scent.

It took some doing to filter his scent from the many the wind carried, but Saskia soon latched onto his and started to jog toward the parking lot at the side of the building. She put on another burst of speed as the metallic scent of fresh spilled blood filled her nose. Praying it wasn't Eli's blood she smelled, Saskia followed the scent to the back alley behind the gym. She cried out when she spotted Eli slumped against the alley's wall.

Saskia knelt down beside him. "Eli!" His head had fallen forward on his chest. Her heart skipped a beat when she saw all the blood over his hands and stomach. She pushed his head back. "Eli! Open your eyes."

He slowly lifted his eyelids. "Saskia?" Eli asked weakly.

"Yes, it's me. You have to tell me what happened."

Saskia jumped when Skylar moved to kneel beside her. She blinked up to find the rest of her brothers standing around them. Billie cried out in anguish as she and Royce caught up with them.

"Saskia, let me look at his wounds," Skylar said gently.

Moving to sit next to Eli, Saskia wrapped her arm around his shoulders and shifted him so he leaned against her with his head supported on her shoulder. Eli gasped with pain when Skylar moved his arm away and lifted his shirt to expose his wounds. Saskia held him tighter. "Hang in there."

Eli swallowed audibly. "He left a message for you."

Saskia stiffened. "The one who did this to you?"

"Yes." Eli placed a crumpled, blood-stained piece of paper on her lap.

Feeling anger unlike anything she had felt before, Saskia grabbed it and shoved it into her jeans' pocket. "Don't worry about the message. Okay? Right now we have to

concentrate on you.”

Eli grimaced as Skylar probed his wounds. “Sorry.”

“What are you sorry for?”

“If I had been a werewolf, this wouldn’t have happened. I would have been on equal footing then,” Eli said in a weak voice.

“You have nothing to be sorry about.”

“I should have gotten Roxie to try the spell earlier. None of this would have happened then. Now it’s too late.”

“Stop it, Eli. There will be plenty of time to try the spell once you heal. We’ll call an ambulance.” Saskia looked up at her brothers. They all wore the same grim expression on their faces. “Would one of you get on the goddamn phone and call an ambulance?”

Skylar shook his head. “It’s too late for that, Saskia. He’s lost too much blood.”

Saskia growled deep in her throat. “I won’t accept that. I won’t just sit here and do nothing while my mate dies. Do something. Now!”

“They won’t be able to save him even if we manage to get him to the hospital. The knife hit some major organs.”

“There is another way,” Royce said. He held Billie close as she sobbed in his arms. “The spell.”

Skylar sighed. “Maybe, but we don’t even know if it will work on Eli. Plus Roxie would have to get here within the next minute or two.”

“I’ll call her. We have to try.”

When Royce pulled his cell phone out of his pants’ pocket, Saskia focused inward as a vision played inside her head. “You don’t have to call Roxie, Royce. She’ll be here in less than a minute. Finn and Jocelyn are with her. Finn saw what happened to Eli in a vision.” She shook her head as her vision receded. She then noticed how limp Eli had become as he leaned against her. “Eli? Wake up. Do you hear me? Wake up.” He groaned as she gave him a shake, but he didn’t open his eyes.

“Eli!” Finn shouted as he, Jocelyn and Roxie ran into the alley. He squatted down next to his twin as he took in Eli’s wounds. “We have to do the spell now.”

“We can’t do it out here in the alley,” Billie said.

“You move him too far and he *will* die,” Skylar said as he stood up. “I wouldn’t even recommend trying to get him inside the gym. For one thing there are too many mortals in there that would ask too many questions.”

Roan started to back away. “The SUV. I can bring it into the alley. It has enough room inside. The tinted windows should stop anyone from seeing what we’re doing if they happen to come back here.” At Saskia’s nod, he turned and took off at a run.

In a matter of seconds, Roan had the SUV backed inside the alley. Jager and Kye carefully lifted Eli in their arms as Saskia clambered into the back of it. She helped them get Eli into the very back seat so he lay stretched out with his head in her lap.

Roxie climbed in next. She knelt on the floor of the SUV as she pulled a syringe out of her purse. “Usually I’m a little more hygienic than this when I use the spell, but I think time is of the essence right now.”

As she spoke, Roxie pulled the plastic end off the needle of the syringe and stuck it in her arm. Once the syringe was full, she took Eli’s arm and jabbed the needle into it. Just as the last of her blood left the syringe, she spoke the words of the spell.

The magic of the wolf’s blood is now in thee.

A wolf you become to run wild and free.

Where once there were two, now only one we see.

Roxie sat back on her legs. "It's done."

"How will we know if it worked," Saskia asked.

"If it worked, right about now he should start to feel as if his insides have caught on fire."

Saskia looked down at Eli. He had slipped into unconsciousness even before they had managed to get him inside the SUV. *Would he even feel it?* She soon had her answer as his eyes started to move rapidly beneath his closed eyelids. He stiffened as he groaned.

"I think it's working," Roxie said with a smile.

Saskia bent and kissed Eli's forehead. As her lips touched his skin, his body suddenly relaxed. "Eli?"

When he didn't stir, she pressed her fingers to the major vein in the side of his neck. She breathed a sigh of relief when she felt a strong pulse. Taking hold of the collar of his t-shirt, she ripped it down the center. The deep claw mark across his chest started to heal before her eyes. The two stab wounds had stopped bleeding, but given the severity of them, Saskia knew it would take a couple days for them to heal over completely.

Skylar pushed his way into the SUV and put his hand over Eli's heart. "Nice and strong. He seems to be out of danger. Let him sleep. Right now it's the best thing for him."

With the crisis over, and while the others were distracted, Saskia took out the message Eli had given her. Short and to the point, it made her snarl with anger. In Miles' handwriting a single sentence had been scrawled across the paper. *She will be mine.*

"We should take Eli back to his place," Finn said where he stood crowded near the SUV's open door.

Saskia shook her head. "No. They know where he lives. Eli and I were followed. It won't be safe for him there."

"Then where? And who are they?"

"He'll be safer at my brothers and my place."

She decided not to answer Finn's last question. It was more important that they get Eli some place safe where he could recover. She would also feel better about leaving him there when she went after the bastard that had done this to him.

"We'll follow you then," Billie said.

"No. Just in case they're still watching us, we don't want to draw their attention to a big group of us leaving at the same time. I'll give you our address in Marin County. Give us a half hour head start."

It didn't take them long to get Eli settled comfortably into one of the seats with the seat belt around him. Skylar sat beside him to make sure Eli didn't get bounced around too much during the trip while the rest of her brothers piled into the SUV. Saskia gave Eli's family their home address before she raced out to the street to collect her motorcycle. As the SUV drove by she fell in behind it. She searched the nearby area. If the bastards were watching and decided to follow them, Saskia would take great joy in making them wish they had never been born.

* * * *

Eli came awake slowly. His eyelids felt heavy, but he forced them open a crack. He

would have liked nothing more than to roll over and go back to sleep, but something tugged at his memory. Something bad had happened. To him. Stretching, his brows drew together as he felt an unfamiliar pain in his stomach. It then all came back to him in a rush—the alley, the werewolf and being stabbed not once, but twice. Eli came fully awake as he pushed down the sheets that covered him and looked at his stomach. He found two pads of gauze taped to his skin. As his hand went to take off one of the gauze pads, a voice stopped him.

“Leave it alone.”

He turned his head to find his twin sitting in a chair next to the bed. Eli also noticed two things—he was in a strange bedroom, and that all his senses seemed to be three times stronger than before. He heard the sound of voices from a level below the bedroom he lay in as if they were in the same room. Scents that he had no idea even existed washed over him, giving him more information with one inhalation of air than he thought possible.

Eli sat up. He felt as if he had been bombarded with too much information. “What happened?”

Finn smiled. “You gave us quite a scare there. What do you remember?”

“Other than being stabbed by a sadistic werewolf, not too much. The last thing I remember was Saskia and her brothers finding me in the alley.” Eli put a hand on his stomach. “I don’t understand. I thought for sure I’d be a goner.”

“You probably would have been if I hadn’t happened to be with Roxie when I had a vision. I saw you lying bloody in the alley. We arrived just in time for Roxie to save you. If we had been a few minutes later...” Finn let his words trail off.

“Roxie? Roxie saved me?”

“Well, actually the spell saved you.”

Now Eli understood why he smelt and heard things so much better. “She turned me.”

“Yes. Now we’re back to being identical in every way.”

Eli gave Finn a broad smile before it quickly fell away. “Where’s Saskia?”

Finn shook his head. “I don’t know. Her brothers were trying to talk some sense into her, but I don’t think she listened. I heard her slam out of the house fifteen minutes or so ago.”

Eli felt a chill run down his spine. “She’s going after the one who stabbed me?”

“Yes.”

Swinging his legs over the side of the bed, Eli slowly got up. Much to his surprise, he didn’t feel nearly as weak as he should have considering the amount of blood he must have lost. Being a werewolf did have its benefits.

Finn moved to stand beside him. “Where are you going? You’re not fully recovered yet.”

He walked to the closed bedroom door and opened it. “I’m fine. I have to talk to Saskia’s brothers.”

As he walked out of the room and headed for the stairs, Eli caught the scent of dried blood. He looked down to find he still wore his blood-stained warm-up pants. He had no idea where his t-shirt had gone.

Taking the stairs two at a time, he followed the sound of voices once he reached the bottom. As he made his way through the house, Eli took in the large rooms and luxurious setting. He turned to Finn who walked at his side. “Whose house is this?”

“This is where Saskia and her brothers live.”

Eli wouldn't have thought in a million years that Saskia's six hulking warrior brothers would ever live in a house such as this. It seemed too refined for their taste. He went down one large hallway and stepped into a large sitting room. Eli stopped just inside the doorway as he took in the occupants of the room. His gaze landed on his father and two other brothers. Billie and Royce sat with Jocelyn close by them. His family seemed more than relieved to see him. Saskia's brothers on the other hand seemed distracted to say the least. They stood together at one side of the room as they argued over who should go after Saskia.

With his voice raised so they could hear him, Eli said, "I'll go after Saskia."

They all turned in his direction. Skylar spoke first. "I don't think that would be a good idea. You haven't recovered your strength yet."

His hands fisted at his sides. "I'm not mortal anymore, so stop coddling me as if I were. I won't let Saskia face the bastard that stabbed me alone. I'm her mate. It's my right to protect her."

Jager snorted. "You better not say that in front of Saskia. She prides herself on her ability to take care of herself. She thinks she doesn't need anyone to watch her back."

Eli ground his teeth together. "That won't stop me from going after her. Will you help me or not?"

Leif nodded. "We'll help you. But first you need to learn how to go wolf before we go anywhere. Saskia will have our balls if you get hurt again."

"Then I suggest we hurry up and get the lesson over with."

Just as his other two siblings had been able to, Eli managed to make the change from man to wolf and back again as if he had been born to it. After he changed into the clothes Finn had thoughtfully brought for him, he felt ready to go kick some wolf butt. The wolf inside him howled, anxious to be reunited with his mate.

Chapter Ten

The trip back to the city took too long as far as Eli was concerned. Sitting in the SUV with Saskia's brothers, he listened as they gave him pointers on how to fight while in wolf form. They also made him give them his word that he would not provoke a fight if they happened to run into any of the bad guys. At first, Eli thought they wanted it this way because he had only been newly turned, but he soon learned there was more to it than that. These werewolves would most likely fight with swords rather than in wolf form.

"Why with swords?" Eli asked Dirk.

"Because it's Miles' weapon of choice, as it is ours. It stands to reason Miles will train his recruits to fight that way. A sword can do more damage than anything we can inflict in wolf form."

"Where are you guys from? The Dark Ages or something?"

Dirk smiled. "Well, yes, we are."

"Royce and Beowulf are older than all of you, but I don't see either of them swinging swords now. I know they did at one time, especially Beowulf."

"That's because most werewolves our age try to keep up with the times. We, on the other hand, knew we had to keep in practice if we were to protect the foretold one properly."

"Okay, I get that, but why not use guns instead? They are a lot deadlier than swords."

Jager scowled at Eli. "There is no honor in taking down your enemy from a distance when you can look him in the eye when you take his life."

"Okaay," Eli said. "Remind me never to piss you off, Jager."

The others laughed. Up in the driver's seat, Roan slowly pulled the SUV over to the side of the road. Eli looked out the window and saw they were in an older industrial area of the city. From what Saskia's brothers had told him, Miles had set up a kind of headquarters inside one of the abandoned factories nearby. It also was the only place Saskia would have gone in search of Miles.

They all got out of the SUV. Eli followed the other men as they walked down the road to a building that stood a little away from where they had parked. He felt the tension inside him coil tighter. Now a werewolf, the separation and need he felt to be with Saskia hit him harder than it did as a mortal.

As they reached the abandoned factory, Eli looked around. The place looked deserted, but he knew that didn't mean anything. They made their way to the back of the building. When they rounded the corner, Saskia's brothers came to an abrupt halt. Eli tried to look past them to see what had made them stop, but they kept him behind them, shielding him from whatever was up ahead.

Leif turned his head slightly then said to Eli, "Go wolf. Now. Miles is here. He knows you were mortal. We don't need him to find out you have been turned. In wolf form, neither he, nor the two lackeys he has with him, will recognize you."

Eli quickly went wolf. From his earlier attempts at shifting, he knew he took on the form of a black wolf. Poking his wolf's head between Jager and Kye, he spotted Miles and his men who stood a short distance away. What made his hackles rise was the sight

of Saskia standing a foot away from Miles with her sword drawn. Eli looked from Miles to Saskia. They both had the same light, almost white, blonde hair. Even from this distance he could see the similarities in their features as well. He made a grumbling noise in the back of his throat. *Could Miles and Saskia be related?*

As if he had read his mind, Dirk said for his benefit, "They're brother and sister. Miles is younger than Saskia by four years. Miles couldn't stand the fact that Saskia had been chosen by their grandmother to be our leader over him. He has resented her since that day. It hurt Saskia far more than the rest of us when he turned on us and walked away."

Walking as a group, they made their way closer to Saskia until they stood at her back. Miles' gaze skimmed over Eli in his wolf form before he focused his attention onto the other men.

"I see your faithful lapdogs have arrived, sister. I'm not surprised."

Eli growled and pulled back his upper lip when he saw the werewolf who had attacked him stood on Miles' left. He and the werewolf locked gazes. Eli would have launched himself at him if Roan hadn't reached back and taken hold of him by the scruff of his neck.

Miles chuckled. "I see you've added a new member to your group. Is he shy or do you like him to stay in wolf form so he can be your mascot?"

"Shut up, Miles," Saskia snarled. "This is your final warning. You'll stay the hell away from the foretold one. We won't let you anywhere near her."

"We shall see. This conversation is starting to bore me."

"I'm not done saying what I came here to say."

"Ah, let me guess. It has to do with your dead mate? Was he still alive when you found him?" Miles pointed to the werewolf that stood on his left side. "My friend here said he bled like a stuck pig."

Saskia struck the werewolf responsible for hurting him. With a swing of her sword, his head went one way as his body collapsed on the ground. She then pointed the blood-stained sword at Miles.

He shook his finger at her as he backed away. "Now that wasn't very nice." He reached inside his jacket pocket and pulled out a small device that resembled a garage door opener. "As I said before, I've grown bored with this conversation. I hate to run, but time is of the essence." With a smile, he pushed the single button on the device he held in his hand. "Things are going to get pretty hot around here in about sixty seconds."

Miles and his man turned and went wolf as they took off at a run. Saskia and her brothers did the same as Eli ran at Saskia's side, his black wolf to her white. They just managed to clear the abandon factory's property when an explosion went off inside. The building instantly became engulfed in flames.

When they reached the SUV, they all shifted back to their human forms. Saskia quickly cut off her brothers before any of them could speak. "Go back to our place. Eli and I will be there shortly."

Grabbing his hand, Saskia led him down another side street to where her motorcycle sat parked. Eli pulled her into his arms and hungrily kissed her. The need to be inside her right that instant just about took him over. If Saskia hadn't pulled away when she did, he would have pushed her to the ground and taken her right there.

Saskia held her palm to his cheek. "Hold on. I need you too."

“I don’t think I can make it back to your place. Let’s go to my apartment.”

Saskia nodded. “It should be safe now. Miles thinks you’re dead.”

Eli urged Saskia to get onto the bike as he climbed on behind her. “Right now Miles is the furthest thing from my mind.”

Saskia revved the motorcycle’s engine as Eli wrapped his arms around her waist. Holding her tight against him, he shifted so her backside nestled against the hard bulge in his jeans. He barely paid attention to where they went as Saskia put the motorcycle in gear and pulled away from the curb. He had to concentrate on not coming as her bottom pressed harder against him with each bump the bike hit. By the time they reached the underground parking garage at his apartment, Eli’s cock threatened to burst the zipper of his jeans.

Once he had Saskia safely inside his apartment, Eli kicked the door shut behind them and locked the door. His lips came down on hers as he pulled her against his body. He backed her toward the living room as he tore at her clothes until he had her completely naked. Saskia moaned against his lips as she sucked his tongue into her mouth. She undid his jeans and wrapped her hand around his erect cock. Eli let her go only long enough to shuck his jeans. When he couldn’t take any more, he pulled her hand off his cock and yanked his shirt over his head. He would have taken her on the floor on her back, but Saskia turned and rubbed her bottom against him.

“I want the wolf to take me, Eli,” she said as she leaned her head back against his shoulder.

A growl slipped past his lips as he skimmed his hand along her breasts to her waist. Holding her to him, he sank to his knees on the floor. His hand trailed lower until he reached her pussy. He moaned as he felt how wet and ready she was for him. Positioning Saskia on her hands and knees before him, Eli moved to kneel between her spread thighs. With a firm grip on her hips, he sheathed himself with one stroke.

Unable to take things slow, Eli reared back and slammed into her. He rode her fast and hard. Saskia’s moans of pleasure made his cock harden even more as her strong inner walls squeezed down on his shaft. He couldn’t hold back his release as he pumped in and out of her. With a howl, he came deep inside her.

Even though he had climaxed, Eli found he hadn’t lost his erection. Pulling out of Saskia, he urged her onto her back as he came over her. Saskia smiled up at him as she took hold of his still hard cock and led it back to the opening of her body. “I guess the spell has given you all the attributes a male werewolf has.”

Eli sank into her as he hooked one of Saskia’s legs over his arm. “It would seem. Now let’s see how many times I can make you come.”

Pistoning his hips, Eli rocked into her. He didn’t stop until he pushed them both over the edge. The sounds of their moans as they climaxed filled the apartment. Eli propped himself up on his elbows as he brushed Saskia’s lips with his. Their bodies still joined together, he said, “I love you.”

She reached up and pushed his hair off his sweat-dampened forehead. “I love you too.”

“I guess we’re stuck with each other now.”

Saskia smiled. “I guess so, but I wouldn’t want to be stuck with anyone else.”

“Good, because it could be for a very, very long time.”

Eli pulled out of her and scooped her up in his arms. Heading for the bedroom, he

intended to show his mate just how much of a male werewolf he had actually become.

The End

About the Author:

Marisa Chenery was always a lover of books, but after reading her first historical romance novel she found herself hooked. Having inherited a love for the written word, she soon started writing her own novels.

After trying her hand at writing historicals, she now also writes paranormals.

Marisa lives in Ontario, Canada with her husband and four children. Check out Marisa's website at www.marisachenery.com. She would love to hear from you, so drop her an email while you're there.

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