



EAGLE RIVER ALPHA  
BOOK ONE

BECKY WILDE

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## Chapter One

Jade Ash sighed as she pulled into a parking space outside the small cafe in her mother's home town of Eagle River, Ontario, Canada. As her mother lay dying, Jade had promised she would visit her mom's hometown within the first year of her death.

Jade felt the familiar burning behind her eyes, as she thought of her wonderful selfless, loving mom. Her mother had raised her single handed, from the time she was born, until the day she had died. Her father had left the moment he found out her mom was pregnant; they never heard from him again. Her mom's parents had kicked their unmarried pregnant, teenage daughter out of her home; and Jade's grandparents died not knowing their only grandchild, or the strength and love of their only daughter.

She turned the ignition off in her small four-wheel drive and grabbed her purse and keys; she then entered the small café she had parked in front of. It took a few moments for her eyes to adjust to the change of bright sunlight to the dim lighting in the cafe, as she made her way to a small table near the rear of the cafe. After placing her order of coffee and a tuna salad sandwich, she dug out the map of the surrounding area buried in the bottom of her purse.

Her mom had lived in a small cottage, with her elderly parents on a property owned by influential socialites in town. It had been sold numerous times over the years, when inflation had taken its toll on Eagle River. The original owners went bankrupt. The property, house and everything in it had been sold.

The Jones' had moved away. Town citizens speculated the Jones' had been too embarrassed by their financial demise to remain in the town of Eagle River. They were never heard from again.

Jade studied the map until she found the direction she would need to travel. She ate half her sandwich, drank her coffee, and left a small tip for the waitress. Climbing into her vehicle, she headed out to find the roots of her mom's childhood. She only had a couple of hours of daylight left before she would have to head back into town, to book into the motel she would be staying in over the next few days. She didn't like to drive on unfamiliar roads in darkness and always tried to arrive at her destination before sunset.

Jade wound her way over the country roads, around hairpin bends, up and down the rolling hills, breathing in the clean crisp air that blew through the gap in her window, until she came to her mom's childhood home. She could just make out the rustic cottage behind the large security gates nestled among the tall, native cypress trees. She could see the old slate roof and some of the white washed walls showing through the dense flora. The peace and tranquility of the surroundings seeped into her soul. She breathed in the clean, clear fresh air and the scents of blooming roses and jasmine.

After parking her car off to the side of the road, she walked toward the large six foot, wrought iron gates. The gates were closed and latched, but didn't look to be locked. She reached out for the latch and froze. Off to the side, behind the gates she heard the low rumbling growl of an animal. The hair on the

nape of her neck stood on end. She turned her head slowly and met the piercing blue eyes of a large wolf. As though stalking prey, the huge animal crept toward her. Her eyes locked into the deep stare of the animal.

She moved backward until her legs came in contact with the bumper of her small SUV. She slowly moved to the side until her hand came in contact with the handle on the driver's side door of her vehicle. Her eyes were still on the huge black wolf, his muscles rippling beneath his black fur, silver highlights glinting in the sun, as it watched her. She opened the door and got into her car, slamming and locking the doors. She gave a nervous laugh as she realized she had locked the doors against an animal which was behind a tall gate. There was no way the wolf could get to her and, if he could get passed the gate, he couldn't open her car door.

The burly wolf sniffed the air, lifting his black snout as it twitched back and forth breathing in the human female's scent. Its black triangular ears pointed in her direction as if hearing her movements. Then he threw his head back and let out a screaming howl that sent goose bumps shivering from the tips of Jade's toes to the top of her head. Her hands trembled with fear and excitement, as she turned the key in the ignition. Making a U turn, she sped down the road. She glanced in the rear view mirror to see the wolf's piercing golden flecked, blue eyed stare through the gate. She rounded a bend, the wolf disappeared and she gave a sigh of relief as she headed back to the small rural town of Eagle River.

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Sloan Taggert watched the sexy petite, human female move towards her car, as she kept her eyes on his. Her scent engulfed him with a fiery pleasure. He breathed in her essence as well as the fear emanating from her body. His cock throbbed hard with arousal. He watched the SUV until it was out of sight then he slowly turned toward the house.

He was going hunting, but first he needed to find out as much as he could about the female who had been looking at the small gate house on his property. After years of waiting, he had finally found his mate. There was no way in hell he was going to let her escape.

## Chapter Two

Jade pulled into the parking lot of the Eagle River Motel. She entered the reception office to see a tall handsome, muscular man working behind the counter. His blond hair lay in a scraggly style above his dark blue eyes. He exuded masculine sexuality. He drew her eyes to him with his cocky crooked grin.

“Welcome to Eagle River Motel, ma'am. My name is Brock Fontaine, how may I help you?” With a cocky sensual gleam in his eyes, he perused the length of her curvy body.

“Um, thank you. I would like to book a room please,” Jade responded.

“Sure thing, little darlin'. How long do you want the room for?”

“I...I'm not sure. Can I let you know day to day, if it's not inconvenient?” Jade asked.

“No problem. If you could just fill out this registration form, you can pay by cash or card, for the first night. Let me know in the morning if you want to stay another night.” He passed over the forms and a pen and moved to the wall behind him, picked a key off a hook, then came back to the counter.

“Do you know the old Jones place?” Jade asked.

“Yes, I do. Why?” Brock asked as he stopped moving, crossed his arms over his chest and frowned at her suspiciously.

“Well, my mom grew up in the gate house on the property. I was wondering if you knew the new owners. If so, I wanted to know if I could get in to

have a look at where my mom grew up. It was her dying wish for me to see her childhood home,” Jade tried to control the wobble of emotion in her voice.

“I’ll have to ask the owner for you, Miss ....”

“Oh, sorry. I’m Jade Ash, pleased to meet you Mr. Fontaine,” Jade offered her hand in greeting.

“Call me Brock, little darlin’, everyone does.”

“Okay Brock. Please call me Jade.”

“You can have the room closest to the office—room number three. If you need anything at all, don’t hesitate to call from your room or drop in and I’ll see if I can get it for you,” Brock stated.

Brock moved back to where Jade was signing the registration form, took it from her outstretched hand. “Sorry about that, little darlin’. If you need a hand getting your luggage out of your car, just let me know. I will definitely set up a meeting for you at the old Jones place.”

“How can you be so sure the owner will let me have a look around, before you even ask?” Jade asked.

“Oh, I know the owner real well, Jade. I have a feeling he will be eager to show you around your mom’s old home.”

“Okay. Well thanks, Brock, I’ll see you later.”

“Sure thing, Jade.”

Brock watched Jade leave the reception office, walk to her car and haul her luggage from the back seat. He watched to make sure she didn’t need help with her small suitcase and because he appreciated a good looking woman just like any other healthy male. Once she had entered her room and shut the door behind her, he reached for the telephone as it



rang.

“Eagle River Motel, Brock speaking .... Oh, well that's fantastic, Sloan. You just let her drive away? Are you mad? Ah, sorry Alpha, I meant no disrespect. Can you describe her to me.... Really? Well, well, well. What a coincidence.... Yep, sure is.... She wants to see your property. Apparently her mom grew up in the gate house and on her deathbed made her daughter, Jade, promise to visit her childhood home. You are one lucky wolf, Sloan. If she wasn't your mate, I might have tried to seduce her myself.” A warning rumbling, growl sounded in Brock's ear as his Alpha let Brock know of his displeasure regarding Brock's comment. Brock gave a bark of laughter “I promise, I won't touch your mate, Alpha. I will make sure she is as safe as can be. When do you want to show her around? ... Yep, I think she'll jump at the chance to come out tomorrow. I'll call you back later and let you know what time to expect her... No problem, Alpha. I am honored to serve and protect you. You know I would give my life for you. See you tonight,” Brock hung up.

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Jade had a restless night. Her dreams were filled with the gold flecked blue eyes of the wolf. She tossed and turned throughout the night. By the time the sun rose, she felt more tired than she had been when she'd gone to bed.

After showering and getting dressed, Jade headed out to find some breakfast and decided to go back to the café she'd had lunch at yesterday. She entered and sat down at the same table she'd sat at

the day before. She ordered coffee and toast; she stared out the window as the town came to life.

She had just about finished her breakfast when she heard the bell above the door give a tingle. Four tall, rugged looking men, entered the café. She watched as they sat at the larger table next to hers. She tried not to be obvious while she stole glances at their features, too chiseled to be classically handsome, and their muscles bulging through their T-shirts and jeans. She eyed each man from beneath her lowered lashes and surreptitiously let her gaze wander from one large, handsome male, to the next, then pause at the largest man of the four.

She let her gaze roam the length of his lean, hard body. He had to be at least six foot five. His shoulder length black hair framed a firm chin and blue eyes. Wide muscular shoulders and chest tapered down to a narrow waist and hips. His long legs were covered in black jeans which hugged and bulged to present an impressive package. She squirmed in her seat, as heat roiled through her body, finding its home her pussy and panties dampened.

God *he's hot!* She had to grip the edge of the table so she wouldn't fan her face with her hand. She didn't want him to realize she was ogling him. Downing the last of her coffee, she lifted her head, then froze as her gaze met a pair of deep blue male eyes with golden flecks. She lowered her stare to his full mouth, then watched as the corners tilted up, spreading a grin across his dark chiseled features. His smile lit up his whole face.

Jade raised her eyes to his once more. Sure he could see her heart pounding beneath her shirt, she

stood and groped for her bag. She felt him watching her and looked up at him once more. Goosebumps raced over her skin and up her spine. She forcibly pulled her gaze from his and moved toward the cashier. She took two steps before a large, warm hand gently but firmly encircled her forearm. She raised her eyes to his and felt herself drowning within their heated depths. Her knees were weak. She had to get away.

“Are you by any chance, Jade Ash?” the tall muscular Adonis asked her, in a deep husky voice.

She hated being man handled; yet, to have this ruggedly handsome man grip her flesh made her horny. She covered her reactions with annoyance. “Who wants to know?” she snapped.

Something about this guy seemed to get her back up. He was way too sure of his appeal and was making her feel things she didn't want to feel. She hated feeling desire for this strange rugged man. She hated the way her sensitive nipples hardened and rubbed against the lace of her bra, and the way her vagina ached as it seeped with desire. She needed to keep her feelings hidden so he couldn't see how turned on she felt. She wanted to start living a normal life again. She didn't want to feel anything for anyone. It was too painful when everyone she cared for eventually left her alone.

“Sloan Taggart, I own the old Jones place. Brock, from the motel, called me last night to ask if you could have a look around, Jade. I am more than willing to open my home to you,” Sloan stated, as he breathed in his mate's scent.

He felt the stirring in his groin, fire raced

through his body, hardening his muscles for the hunt. She was the sexiest female he had ever seen, with wavy shoulder length auburn hair streaked with red, and the greenest eyes he had ever seen. She stood approximately five foot four, and even though she was petite, she had curves in all the right places. He could smell the scent of her arousal as he touched her arm, the longer he held her, the stronger her scent became. He couldn't wait to lick and kiss the length of her delectable little body, to bury himself in her tight hot, wet sheath to the hilt. He wanted to fuck her until he had her screaming his name.

“Thank you, Mr. Taggert. You have no idea how much it means to me, to be able to fulfill my mother's wishes,” Jade took a deep breath trying to keep her emotions under control.

“Would you like to join us for another cup of coffee, Jade? Once we have finished breakfast, I can drive you out to my place and show you around, but only if you call me Sloan.”

“Thank you, Mr. Taggert. I'll take you up on the coffee and the tour, but I will drive my own car out to your house. I will need to be able to get back to my motel later today. I wouldn't feel right making you waste more of your day to drive me back,” Jade stated with a stubborn tilt to her chin.

“As you wish. Please, have a seat,” Sloan stated offering her his chair. He grabbed a chair from the next table and pulled it over, next to Jades. “Jade Ash, I would like to introduce you to my brother's, Hunter and Grady. Next to Grady, is Riley O'Dwyer, a good friend of mine.”

“Pleased to meet you,” Jade stated, then

lowered her eyes to the table as she felt an uncomfortable blush form on her cheeks.

“Are you sure you wouldn't like anything to eat, Jade?” Sloan asked.

“No, thank you. I've already had breakfast, just a black coffee, please.”

She listened to the men talk and watched them devour a huge amount of food. She couldn't believe they were so toned and muscular with the amount they ate. She'd never seen anybody eat so much. She listened to them without interrupting, not wanting to be the center of attention. From what she could gather, they owned a lot of the property in the small town of Eagle River and the surrounding area.

Obviously the guy was a real estate guru. She saw the expensive watch gracing his wrist and shifted in her seat then folded her arms across her chest in a defensive gesture, as she began to feel very uncomfortable being in their presence. She was a check-out chick from a small independent grocer, for goodness sakes; way out of her league sitting here amongst such rich, capable men. The men or more appropriately two boys, she had gone out with before her mom had become ill, seemed to expect her to be a successful career woman. Once they found out what she did for a living, they would break up with her.

“What do you do for a living, Jade?” Sloan asked, as he turned his attention to her.

Jade glanced up, then lowered her eyes again, as heat suffused her cheeks. *Goodness, was he a mind reader as well?* “I, um, I work in a supermarket on the cash registers.”

Sloan leaned toward Jade, placed a finger beneath her chin, then lifted her gaze to meet his. “You have nothing to be ashamed of, Jade. You are working for a living. You don't have your hand out, taking welfare. Work is work, sweet, no matter what it is.”

She couldn't believe how turned on she was by the simple touch of his finger. She could feel her labia blooming with dew. An incessant ache throbbed through her lower extremities. She had never felt this way before. She had never had the opportunity to date much and didn't know anything about men, but she had read lots of erotic novels and knew she was experiencing desire for the first time

“Thank you,” Jade replied with a whisper. She pulled her face away from his touch.

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After working and saving her money, Jade had planned to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher. Then her mother had become ill, Jade couldn't bear the thought of leaving her mom to battle cervical cancer alone.

Jade knew that after her dad left, her mother had put all her own hopes and dreams aside, so she could work to keep a roof over their heads, clothes on their backs, food in their stomachs.

Jade had wanted to help her mother out, instead of her mom working all the time. She had gotten a job at the local supermarket to keep the bills paid and food on the table. She'd felt she owed her mother for keeping her and loving her unconditionally, without

any moral or financial support from anyone else.

She knew she had nothing to be ashamed of, but listening to the four men talk about their properties, their plans for the future, made her feel small and insignificant. She gave a tired sigh, finally became aware of the quiet surrounding her. She rose her head and found four sets of eyes regarding her quizzically.

Sloan had a frown on his face as he looked down at her. He could feel the sadness and hopelessness coming from his mate. He wanted to take her in his arms, hug her, make love to her, make her smile and laugh. He hated to see his little female so despondent.

Sloan took out his wallet, left a hundred dollar bill on the table, which was way too much money for their breakfast, as a large tip, but he loved to be able to help out wherever he could. He rose to his feet, held his hand out to Jade. "Are you ready, sweet one? If you will follow us in your car, I will take you on a tour of my property, so you may fulfill your mother's last wishes."

Jade gave a gasp as she raised her face up to his, once more, "How did you know?"

"Brock called me last night and arranged for you to come out to my house, remember. He told me then about your mom. I'm sorry for your loss, Jade. It helps that he is also a good friend, and lives in my house," Sloan stated with a smile. "I will ride with you, that way if you lose the truck from your sight, you will not become lost."

"There is no need. I have a map, I drove to your house yesterday."

“Nevertheless, I will come with you,” Sloan stated firmly.

Jade just shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly and headed out the café door, towards her car. She unlocked the doors with the press of a button and opened the driver’s door. A large, warm, male hand stopped her from getting in by gripping her wrist. She turned her face to see Sloan peering at her with a frown.

“You look tired, little Jade. Would you like me to drive?”

“Um, no. I’m fine,” Jade replied, looking back down at the hand on her arm. She gave a quiet sigh of relief when Sloan let her go and walked around the other side of her vehicle.

She drove in silence as she followed the large four wheel drive truck in front of her; but she was aware of Sloan studying her; she pretended to be unaware of his scrutiny. She squirmed uncomfortably as she looked in her mirrors, then back to the road and the vehicle in front. The drive took just over half an hour; she’d never been so glad to see the metal security gates, as they came into view. She couldn’t wait to get out of her car, so she could breathe without feeling so claustrophobic.

She followed the truck up the long, narrow, gravel drive and gave a gasp as the mansion came into view. It was huge. It reminded her of an old colonial style house with its white columns and pillars on either side. She parked her car and got out. There was a fountain in the center of the circular drive with a wolf statue, water arcing from its mouth into the large pool below, where gold fish swam



around the lily pads.

“You have a beautiful house, Mr. Taggart.”

“I thought I told you to call me Sloan.”

“Well, yes you did, but I don't know you, and you don't know me. I don't feel comfortable calling you by your first name,” Jade opined.

“How old are you Jade? Twenty-five, twenty-six?”

“I'm twenty-one, Mr. Taggart. What does my age have to do with anything?”

“Nothing. I'm thirty two, if you were wondering?” Sloan stated, moving towards her, clasping her hand within his.

Jade had to bite her bottom lip to keep the gasp bubbling up in her chest, from escaping. She felt fire travel from their joined hands, up her arms to her breasts, tightening her nipples into hard sensitive nubs and down her stomach to her cunt, her muscles clenching and releasing with arousal.

Sloan inhaled Jade's musky scent. His nostrils flaring wide, he breathed her in. He couldn't get enough of her. He didn't want her to leave him, or his house ever again. He had to figure out a way to keep her within his grasp, so he could seduce her, claim her. He was going to have to take things slowly, so he wouldn't scare her away. The last thing he wanted was for her to flee in fear.

Sloan grasped her small, delicate hand within his own, led her up the wide stone steps, leading to the front door of his house. “I would like to introduce you to my friends, little Jade; then I will take you on a tour of the house. We will have lunch, then I will take you down to the gate house cottage.”

“Thanks for your generosity, Mr. Taggart. I appreciate the time you have taken out of your busy schedule, to be with me, to show me where my mom grew up.”

“Ah, Jade. You have no idea how much I will enjoy showing my house to you. It is an honor to have you here, in my home, on my land,” Sloan stated, as he led her through the large foyer into a living room off to the right.

The room was full of males, there were no females in sight. Jade tried to hide behind Sloan's wide shouldered tall frame, as all the male eyes turned to her. She hated being the center of attention. To be under the scrutiny of so many males, made her decidedly uncomfortable.

Sloan led her into the room and sat down on a large modular sofa, tugging her down with him. “I would like to present to you, Jade Ash. Jade these are some very close, good friends of mine, as well as my Beta's. Myles O'Dwyer and his brother, Riley, whom you saw at the cafe. Brock you have already met, this is his brother, Zane Steel. Tyrone, Shane and Shannon Stead. Of course, you have already met Grady and Hunter.”

Jade nodded her head in greeting as each large, hunkalicious man was introduced to her. What happened next blew her away with astonishment. Each of the men came over to her, knelt down, placed their foreheads to her knees and stated; “It is an honor to meet you, Jade. I am honored to serve and protect you. I would give my life for you.” Including Sloan's brothers.

She turned her head, looked at Sloan with a

raised eyebrow, questioning his friends and brother's odd behavior.

"We value the lives of females above our own, Jade. Each man in this room would give his life to protect you from harm," Sloan stated.

"Um, okay. Thank you, I think," Jade muttered the last two words under her breath, but it must have been louder than she thought, because all the men laughed at her statement. Jade felt her cheeks turn red at being caught.

Grady and Riley approached the sofa, then tussled with each other. Jade watched them with astonishment as Grady shoved Riley out of the way and sat down next to her. The whole length of his side was pressed up against hers. Sloan moved in closer until he was touching her other side. Riley sat down on the floor, his back up against her legs with his head resting back on her knees, as he looked up at her with a grin. The heat surrounding her was unbelievable; she began to panic at being sandwiched in between three big, ruggedly handsome, muscular men. *What the hell were they doing?*

Sloan could feel his mate's trepidation, he and his brother's surrounded her with their large bodies. He heard the change of her breathing as she began to panic. He rose to his feet, shoved Riley away from his mates legs, and helped her stand by grasping her hand in his.

"Come, I will show you the rest of the house," Sloan stated, as he pulled her along behind him.

The house was not as opulent on the inside as it looked from the outside. It was comfortable, but still had state of the art appliances, including huge

televisions hanging on walls in various rooms. There was a large masculine tendency in the decorating of the house without being too much. The furnishings were all matching, the sofas and beds, Jade saw as Sloan led her around the house, and were very large and comfortable looking.

Sloan led her to the master bedroom on the second story of the mansion. The bed was huge, she figured it must have been custom made, since she had never seen such a large bed. The drapes were navy blue and the comforter on the bed was the same color. The room was huge, it was nearly the size of the apartment her mom and she had shared. The adjoining bathroom had a spa bath, large enough to fit at least ten people; the shower had three shower heads on the walls. It was fit for a queen, without being ostentatious. There was a large walk in closet off to the other side of the room, which was large enough to fit six people's cloths in it, by her estimation.

"Do you like it, sweet Jade?" Sloan asked from her side, as he watched her eyes wander over the room.

"What's not to like, Mr. Taggart? It's fit for a queen."

"I'm glad you think so. My thoughts exactly," Sloan stated cryptically. "Come. I will take you to the kitchen and introduce you to my housekeeper."

Sloan led her back down the hall and stairs by the hand, then down another hall beside the large staircase. He pulled her into the gourmet kitchen, which was a chef's dream; and walked over to the small elderly female at the sink.

“Emma, I'd like you to meet Jade Ash. Jade this is Emma Walker, my housekeeper and head cook.”

“Please to meet you, Ms. Walker,” Jade stated, holding her hand out in greeting.

Emma took Jade's hand in her own, knelt down at her feet and placed her forehead against Jade's knees. “The honor is mine, Jade. I am honored to serve and protect you. I would give my life for you.”

“Um, please do not kneel at my feet, Ms. Walker,” Jade stated and she helped the elderly woman to her feet. “Why do you people keep doing that?”

“It is a mark of respect Jade, please call me Emma. I know you and I are going to be good friends,” Emma stated, as she placed a kiss on Jade's cheek, and gave her a motherly hug.

Jade felt tears prick the back of her eyes. Her mom had been dead for eight months now; she so missed her hugs and love. She blinked rapidly a few times, took a deep breath to get her emotions under control and looked up into Sloan's face.

“Come, sweet Jade. I will take you and show you the gardens, while Emma prepares lunch. After lunch we will go to the cottage,” Sloan stated as he took her hand in his, and led her out of the room.

Sloan led Jade around the landscaped gardens at the rear of the house. There was a hedge maze at the far end, a gazebo off to one side, various flower beds as well as a vegetable garden. There was another large fountain with a wolf as the feature, as well as several various garden statues. It was such a peaceful, tranquil garden. Jade wandered over to a stone bench amongst some shading bushes, sat down

and breathed in the scent of blooming flowers and clean country air.

Sloan moved closer to the bench and sat down next to his mate. He felt her stiffen beside him as he breathed in her delectable scent; he felt his wolf pushing at him to claim his mate. He pushed his wolf back down, so he wouldn't leap on his mate or scare her. He had to think of a way to keep her here with him.

Jade could feel the heat emanating from Sloan Taggart as he sat close beside her. She didn't understand it, but he set her body on fire. She could feel her panties getting damp as her pussy juice dripped from her slit. She looked up at him and froze at the hunger burning in his eyes.

Sloan looked down into Jade's face, noticed the desire in her eyes, as she gazed at him, he cautiously moved an arm around her shoulders. When she didn't protest, he lowered his head slowly, giving her plenty of time to back away from him. She didn't move. He brought his lips down to hers, moved them over hers with gentle questing. She didn't pull back so he slowly deepened the kiss.

He slid his tongue over the seam of her lips, and gave a growl of satisfaction as she opened to him. He thrust his tongue into her mouth and he devoured her. He gently cupped the back of her head to hold her in place for his mouth. He coaxed Jade to tangle her tongue with his own, and gave a growl of approval as she tentatively slid her tongue along his.

Jade moaned as Sloan's taste exploded on her tongue. He tasted of man and desire. She couldn't get enough of him. She slid her tongue along his as he

slid his lips over hers. She felt one of his large hands, gently enclose one of her breasts, then kneaded the plump mound. He flicked her nipple into a hard peak and had her thrusting her chest into his warm large hand. He pinched her nipple. Her pussy clamped down, then convulsed with spasms, she reached climax.

Sloan felt Jade orgasm, as he pinched her turgid nipple hard enough to elicit a bite of pleasure/pain between his thumb and index finger. He eased his kiss back until finally, his lips left hers. He rested his forehead against hers, as he breathed heavily, his eyes closed. He tried to regain control of his passions. He slowly opened his eyes and smiled with satisfaction as he stared into her passion glazed, green eyes.

“You just had an orgasm didn't you, Jade? You have no idea how sexy you are, sweet one. I want you to stay here with me, in my house. I want to see where this fire between us will go. Are you willing to stay with me, Jade?”

“Oh, shit. What the hell am I doing? I don't even know you.”

“You're right, you don't know me; I don't know you. But you can't deny the fire between us, Jade. I would like you to stay here so we can get to know each other. You can't deny your body's response to mine, sweet one. You came just from the touch of my hand on your breast. Imagine what it would be like between us, if we made love. It would be so explosive. Can you deny your physical response to me?”

“You're right, Sloan. We do have a physical

chemistry, but that doesn't mean anything. I don't even know if I like you. There is no way in hell, I'm going to have sex with you. That's all it would be, sex. Making love doesn't even enter into it," Jade stated as she rose from the bench and began to pace back and forth.

"Okay, I think you're wrong in regards to having sex, against making love, but, I'll concede to your opinion for the moment. Please, give me the chance to get to know you; for you to know me. If you pass up this opportunity, who is to say you won't be passing up the opportunity of a lifetime. Are you willing to throw away what could be the chance of a lifetime, Jade?" Sloan asked as he stood. He moved towards her, and held her still by her upper arms, as he scrutinized the expressions flitting across her face. He could see her confusion, as well as her desire for him. Her uncertainty was written all over her face, but so was her arousal. "Just give it a chance, Jade. How about you move in here for a week? You'll have your own room and bathroom. You'll get the chance to explore your mom's childhood home. You'll be killing two birds with one stone. We can spend some time getting to know one another, and you'll have the freedom to explore. What do you say, sweet one? Are you willing to give us a chance?"

Jade drew in a deep breath then let it out slowly. *Was she courageous enough to stay, to find out where this thing between them, would go? Or was she going to be a coward and run? She'd never been a coward, maybe a little shy, less confident than she portrayed to the outside world, but never a coward.* She straightened her spine, pushed her shoulders



back and lifted her chin with stubborn determination.

“Okay, Sloan. I'll stay here for a week, but I'm holding you to your own room. I thank you, for the opportunity to explore my mom's old home.”

“Thank you, sweet one. You won't regret your decision,” Sloan stated and drew her into his arms giving her a hug. He rested his head on the top of hers and breathed in her scent, the smile of satisfaction unseen by his mate. Now all he had to do was convince her she belonged in his bed; and tell her they were all werewolves. Piece of cake.

## Chapter Three

Hunter and Grady offered to accompany Jade back to the motel to collect her belongings. Since Jade was beginning to feel tired from the emotional roller coaster she had been on since she had met Sloan, she handed her keys over to Hunter so he could drive her car. She settled in the front passenger seat, gave a sigh as her eyes tried to close. She was so tired, her eyes felt gritty, she had no doubt they were blood shot. She listened as Grady and Hunter talked about a new property investment they were looking into, until she slipped into a light doze. She jerked awake as the car came to a halt outside the door of her motel room.

“Whoa. Are you alright, sweet thing?” Hunter asked as he turned to look at her.

“Yes. I'm fine,” Jade stated as she opened her door and headed to her motel room.

Hunter and Grady scanned the area, then followed their Alpha brother's mate into her room, surreptitiously sniffing the air, to make sure things were all clear.

They watched as Jade collected and packed her belongings. Grady moved forward to take the small suitcase from her hand.

“I'm quite capable of carrying my own suitcase,” Jade stated belligerently.

“I'm sure you are sugar, but why would you want to, when I can make your burden lighter?” Grady asked.

“Thank you.”

“You're welcome, sugar. Have you got everything?”

“Yes.”

“Then let's head out. Let me go first, Jade.”

Grady stated, just before he opened the door.

Jade watched as Grady seemed to sniff the air, then gave a nod to Hunter. Hunter gently took her by her arm and led her to her vehicle. He opened the car door for her; he then reached in and inserted the clip on her seat belt making sure she was buckled up in her seat belt. Then he moved to the back door and climbed in the car.

They were half way back to the house when Grady spoke up from the driver's seat. “We have company coming this way. Jade, I want you to duck down in your seat as far as you can, so your head can't be seen from the windows. Hunter, call for back up,” Grady stated, just before he pushed the accelerator pedal to the floor.

Jade felt her heart pounding in her chest with fear; she pulled her seat belt to its full extension with a strong hand and slid down the passenger seat of her car. She couldn't hear anything over the roar of blood rushing through her ears. She took a few deep breaths, then held them and let them out slowly, as they sped along the narrow country road. When she had her fear under control once more, she tilted her head up, watching Grady as he handled her car with effortless ease, speeding along the road.

“Fuck, gun. Keep your head down Jade,” Grady roared as he ducked a little in his seat.

Jade screamed as she heard glass implode, she felt a burning in her shoulder, and then blessed

numbness and cold consumed her body. She didn't move from her position, as they sped along the road, she gave a sigh of relief when she heard Grady speak.

"They're gone, you can get up now, sweetheart. We will be home before anyone can get to us, but we'll keep you safe."

Jade didn't move. Her limbs and body felt like lead, too heavy to move, as she tried to command her brain, so she could sit up properly. She looked through the gap of the front seats to see Hunter looking at her with concern, as he thrust his gun back in the waist band of his jeans.

"Jade, are you alright?" Hunter asked, as he frowned at her. He could smell blood and wondered if she had been cut from flying glass.

Jade couldn't get her mind to form the words to answer him, so she gave a short nod. She closed her eyes, her body began to come alive again. She couldn't contain the whimper of pain, she felt an excruciating burning, pain throb in her shoulder.

"Two minutes tops, Jade, and we'll be home. Sloan is beside himself, waiting to hold you in his arms again, sweetheart. You need to get yourself under control, so you can let him know you're okay. Can you do that, baby?" Grady asked.

Jade closed her eyes, a wave of pain consumed her body. She sucked in a deep breath, opened her eyes to look at Grady. She nodded in affirmation to his question.

"Good girl, you're a lot tougher than you look ain't you, sweetheart?"

Jade nodded again as she stared at him, then to Hunter.

"I'm sorry you had to go through that, sweet thing. As you have probably already figured out, we have a couple of people who don't seem to like us very much. I think they are jealous of our success with our property investments," Hunter stated, from the back seat. It was the best excuse he could come up with at that moment. There was no way he or Grady were telling her the real reason.

That didn't make sense to Jade, but she was in no condition to question Hunter further. She gave a sigh of relief as the car slowed, then sped up again, when she heard the gravel of the driveway, crunch beneath the tires of her car. When her car came to a stop, the front passenger door was opened so forcefully, she could have sworn she heard the hinges ripping away.

The roar that filled the air made her cringe as she turned her head and looked into Sloan's piercing, gold flecked blue eyes. Jade knew Sloan was talking to her, as he undid her seatbelt, which, was nearly wrapped around her neck. He carefully unwrapped it from around her, then scooped her into his arms; but for the life of her she couldn't seem to make out what he was saying.

She didn't take her eyes away from his, as he carried her into the house and raced up the stairs to the second story. Jade was aware that Sloan had carried her into the large master bedroom, then deposited her gently on the large bed. She was aware of Hunter and Grady, as they stood off to the side of the bed, looking down at her with frowns on their faces.

Sloan grasped a pair of scissors that Grady

handed to him. Jade cringed away as he approached her, the scissors gleaming in his hand. She scuttled back against the headboard until she could go no further. She glanced from the scissors in Sloan's hand, then back to his eyes. Her hearing began to work once more, and she was aware of Sloan speaking to her in a soothing tone.

"I'm not going to hurt you, sweetheart, but I need to cut your top off of you, so I can see where you're injured. Can you hear me Jade?"

Jade took a deep breath and nodded to let Sloan know she could hear him.

"I'm going to cut your shirt off, sweetheart. I don't want to hurt you by trying to get your shirt over your injury, okay?" Sloan asked in a quiet soothing voice.

Jade nodded once more, to let him know she heard him.

Sloan moved towards her slowly, non-threateningly, as she uncoiled from her position against the headboard. He helped Jade lay down on her side on the bed and pulled her shirt from the waist band of her jeans.

"Don't move, sweet one. I don't want to hurt you. Grady, Hunter, hold her still so she can't hurt herself," Sloan stated. He waited until Hunter moved up on the bed and held her injured arm along her body, so she couldn't hurt it by moving or jerking. The other was pinned to the mattress, above her head. Grady moved to her legs, straddled them, since Hunter had a hold on her arms; he placed his hands against her hips to hold her torso in place, he used his body weight to hold her legs still.

Sloan cut her shirt up the center of her back, then down along her injured arm and shoulder. He sucked in a breath when he saw the hole where the bullet had penetrated her shoulder. The sight of her blood spilling freely from her wound, had his wolf growling low in his throat. He carefully looked over her shoulder, to see if the bullet had come all the way through her body. He gave another low growl when he saw her flawless white flesh unmarred by an exit wound. He would have to get the bullet out himself, or send for a doctor to remove the bullet.

He decided to send for a doctor. There was no way he would be able to cause his mate pain, by trying to remove the bullet himself.

"Hunter, go call the Doc, we need to get the bullet removed from Jade's shoulder," Sloan stated, as he watched his brother get up off Jade and walk out of the bedroom.

"Are you alright, sweet one? Are you in a lot of pain?" Sloan asked, as he scrutinized Jade's pale face.

"No, I'm okay."

"Doc, should be here within twenty minutes," Hunter stated when he walked back into the bedroom. "Are you alright, baby?"

"Yeah, I'm good," Jade answered, just before her eyes rolled back in her head as she passed out.

"This is all my fault. If I hadn't asked Jade to come and stay with me, this would never have happened," Sloan stated, wiping a hand over his face.

"You don't know that Sloan. Word is already out about your mate, at least she is safer here than she would have been at the motel or walking around town. She could have been kidnapped, or worse,"

Hunter opined.

"Hunter's right, Sloan. If they had gotten a hold of her, there is no telling what they would have done to your mate. Just be thankful, she isn't injured any more than she is; or missing. We would have probably never even known she was missing, if they had got a hold of her, until it was too late," Grady stated.

Sloan gave a sigh, then he climbed onto his bed and cradled Jade in his arms. He felt so complete, holding her small curvy body against his own. His wolf butted against him from the inside, demanding he claim his mate. He pushed his animal back down, as he savored being able to hold his mate.

Doc arrived, took in the scene before him, and prepared a local anesthetic for his Alpha's mate. While he waited for the numbing to take effect, he prepared his surgical instruments, placing them on a sterilized towel on the bedside table. Just as he was about to dig the bullet out of his Alpha's mate's shoulder, her eyes fluttered open, she gave a squeak of surprise to see the strange face of an elderly male, hovering over her.

"Shh sweet one. You are safe here with me. This is Doc Jonas Sullivan. He needs to get the bullet out of your shoulder, Jade. He has already given you a local anesthetic, so you shouldn't feel any pain. Just lay still against me, sweetheart, it will be all over before you know it," Sloan crooned.

"Okay. Thanks Doc," Jade replied with a tremulous smile.

"Are you ready, my Queen?" Doc asked.

"What?" Jade asked with confusion.



“Just get it over with Doc, the waiting is sometimes worse than the deed,” Hunter stated in a firm voice.

Jade turned her head at Hunter's voice, then hid her face down into Sloan's arm beneath her head. Both Hunter and Grady were in the room, looking at her with fierce expressions. She felt as if she had done something wrong. She couldn't bear to see their frowns.

Doc began working on Jade's shoulder. She was grateful she felt no pain. All she felt was tugging, and pulling until at last the Doc spoke. “You are lucky, my Queen. The bullet didn't damage any bone or major arteries. You are going to be sore for a while, but you will make a full recovery.”

Doc stitched Jade's shoulder, added some antibiotic ointment, and placed a waterproof surgical patch over her wound. “I want you to rest for the next few days. You are to do nothing, besides getting well. I want you to put your arm in a sling when you are up and about, so you don't damage your shoulder any more than it already is. Don't tear the stitches in your shoulder. Take these antibiotics twice a day, so infection doesn't set in.”

“Thanks, Doc,” Jade stated as her eyes began to close.

Jade felt a touch to her knees, opened her eyes to see the elderly Doctor with his forehead resting on her knees. “I am honored to serve and protect you. I would give my life for you, my Queen.”

Jade gave a sigh at the strange behavior as she closed her eyes and snuggled against Sloan's chest and slipped into slumber.



## Chapter Four

Jade woke up on fire. She opened her eyes to slits. To her astonishment she was surrounded by three very large, muscular, men. Sloan held her against the length of his body. He was spooning with her. The length of his body up against her back as she rested her head on one of his arms. Hunter was lying in front of her, his back and butt pushed up against the length of her front. Lifting her head when she felt movement near her legs, she looked into Grady's blue eyes, he was lying with his head on one of her thighs. She bolted upright, pushed against Hunter's shoulder with both her hands, and gave a cry, as pain sliced through her shoulder, then down her left arm.

"Jade, you need to lie still, sweet one. You are not supposed to use your arm. What are you trying to do?" Sloan asked, in a sleep graveled voice.

"What the hell are you doing in here? Why are there three men in this bed?"

"We are only trying to keep you safe and secure, sweetheart. We needed to keep an eye on you, in case a fever set in," Sloan stated.

"Well, I think you three have given me a fever."

Sloan, Hunter and Grady chuckled at her unintended innuendo.

"Oh, very funny," Jade snapped. "Get off me, you're smothering me."

Jade squealed as Hunter and Grady moved away from her, and she realized she was only wearing her bra and panties.

"Who the hell undressed me? Where are my

clothes? Where are your clothes? For goodness sakes, couldn't you three have put on a pair of pajama pants, instead of running around in your underwear?" Jade closed her eyes as her cheeks turned red with embarrassment. They were all sporting morning wood; since they had no clothes on, it left nothing to the imagination.

"I did, sweet one. I didn't want you to be uncomfortable whilst you were sleeping. How is your shoulder?" Sloan asked.

"Sore," Jade replied.

"How about you take a shower? Afterwards I will put some more antibiotic ointment on your shoulder; then you can take the pain medication, Doc left for you. After you eat some breakfast of course," Sloan suggested, as all three men stepped into their jeans.

"A shower sounds good. I don't know which I want more. The shower or food."

"Come on then, Jade. Up and at 'em. I will help you shower," Sloan stated as, he rose from the bed.

"You will not," Jade stated firmly as she slid from the bed. She went to cross her arms with indignation but stopped the motion with a yelp as pain radiated from her shoulder.

"Yes, I will." Sloan stated then, he grasped her by her right hand.

Jade could not tear her eyes away from their bare chests and jeans which hung low on their hips. Their chests, arms and abs, rippled with muscles as they moved. They were three of the sexiest rugged looking men she had ever seen.

Sloan dragged her into the luxurious bathroom

and began to run a bath for her. There was no way in hell he was going in there with her while she bathed.

“I can manage by myself, thank you. I would prefer a shower,” Jade stated with a mutinous expression.

Sloan turned the faucets off on the bath and rose to his feet, then turned slowly to face her. He took in her defensive stance; and knew she was not going to relent.

“Okay, I will leave you to shower. If you have any trouble or need help with anything just call out, I will come and help you,” Sloan advised. He moved forward, placed a light kiss on her lips and left, closing the door behind him.

Jade gave a sigh of relief. She thought she was going to have a fight on her hands, just so she could use the bathroom by herself. She was not used to people wanting to help her out. She valued her independence, but knew she was going to have to compromise with Sloan, otherwise they would end up butting heads consistently. She was not usually so confrontational, but she knew she would have to stand up to Sloan, so he wouldn't run rough shod over her all the time. He was such a dominant, but caring man.

Jade managed to wash her hair and body, using her one good hand and arm. She turned the faucets off and swung the door open. Stepping out she reached for a towel, dried her hair as best as she could. She was doing okay until she got to her back. She normally used two hands, moving the towel over her back in a side to side motion to dry off. There was no way she could do that at the moment,

not without causing herself more unnecessary pain. She was either going to have to deal with it by trying to wrestle into clothes still half wet, or she was going to have to swallow her pride and ask for help. Maybe she could get Sloan to ask Emma to help her dry off. That was better than having Sloan see her naked.

Jade pulled the door to the bathroom open a crack and peered through the gap. Sighing with relief to see she was alone. Taking in a breath of air, she squeaked out Sloan's name. She knew there was no way in hell, he would have heard her pathetic attempt to call. She cleared her throat, took another deep breath into her lungs preparing to yell; and gave a startled jump as the bedroom door was slammed open against the wall. Sloan walked towards the bathroom door.

"You called, sweetheart? Do you need some help?" Sloan asked as he took in Jade's red tinged cheeks.

"Um, well, yeah. Could you please ask Emma to come up and give me a hand?" Jade asked, forgetting she hadn't spoken loud enough to be heard by anyone.

"I am here now, Jade. Why disturb Emma from her duties when I can help you?" Sloan asked with a raised brow.

"Well, because she's a female," Jade answered before lowering her eyes to the floor.

Sloan reached into the gap of the door where all he could see was Jade's face peering through at him. He gently tilted her face up to his. "I have seen naked women before, Jade. You don't have anything I

haven't seen before, baby.”

“That may well be, Sloan, but no one but my mother has ever seen me naked, I'm not comfortable baring myself to you.”

“What seems to be the problem, sweetheart?”

Sloan asked trying to hide his smile of satisfaction. Even though Sloan knew Jade hadn't said so, she probably didn't even realize what she had revealed to him. He couldn't help his feelings of satisfaction and possessiveness, knowing Jade was still a virgin.

“I need help to dry my back. I can't do it because of my shoulder,” Jade stated then felt more heat rise up her cheeks.

“Why don't you wrap the towel you have, loosely around you to cover as much of your body as you can; when you are ready, I will come in and dry you're back with another towel. Do you think you could handle that, Jade?” Sloan asked.

“Okay,” Jade whispered, then practically slammed the door in his face. “You can come in now,” she stated when she was wrapped in the towel.

Sloan opened the door and strolled into the bathroom. Jade's scent of desire, was much stronger since she was naked beneath the towel. He couldn't help but breathe it deeply into his lungs. He didn't take his eyes from her, so he was aware when she spotted the hunger in them. He moved with a predatory grace, and grabbed a clean towel from the cupboard beneath the sink. He noticed his little mate was back to feeling shy and awkward as she lowered her eyes to the floor once more. He gently took her warm silky, smooth shoulders beneath his hands, turned her back towards him. He dried her back with

quick efficient economical movements, then waited for her eyes to meet his in the mirror above the vanity. When she finally raised her head, he studied her beautiful eyes and heated cheeks.

“I would never hurt you, Jade. Why are you so scared of me?” Sloan asked.

“I’m not scared,” Jade replied automatically. She saw Sloan raise one of his eyebrows, telling her he didn’t believe her. “I’m not scared of you, Sloan. You make me nervous. I’m not used to being around men. In fact the only men I’ve interacted with, has been at work. I didn’t have time for friends, when I was nursing my mother through her illness, male or female.”

“How long since your mother passed away, Jade?” Sloan asked gently.

“Eight months.”

“Oh baby. What have you been doing? Didn’t you want to make up for lost time? Go out with people your own age and enjoy life?”

“Um, no,” Jade replied, stopping to clear her throat as her emotional loss tried to swamp her. “I was too busy working double shifts, trying to pay the back log of medical bills, and keep a roof over my head. Besides, it’s not as if I have missed out on anything. I wanted and loved spending as much time with my mom, as possible. If I hadn’t had to work to keep food on the table and make rent payments, I would have stayed with my mom the whole time she was sick. I loved my mom, Sloan. I would have done anything for her,” she stated in a tremulous voice.

“Jade. You’ve had to be so strong, haven’t you? I want you to stay here with me . I want to protect



you, pamper you and take care of you. I know you're not ready for that yet, but I just wanted you to know, you can lean on me” Sloan stated and he drew Jade into his arms, being careful not to hurt her injury. He felt her breath hitch as she turned and he pulled her against his chest. He moved his hand up and down her back, reveling in the feel of her soft warm skin against his hand. He knew Jade was crying and trying to contain her grief, but he didn't want her to. He wanted her to lean on him and let her emotions out. She'd had to be so strong and independent, he knew she was hurting, had had to keep her emotions in check for her mother's sake and for her own. There was no need for her to do so anymore.

“Your mom would be so proud of you, sweetheart. You're here and have kept your promise to her. She would have known how you felt about leaving her to go to work,” Sloan stated quietly.

“I miss her so much, Sloan,” Jade sobbed. The grief she had been keeping in check finally erupted with a vengeance. Once she started crying, she couldn't stop. She cried and cried and cried. She wanted to stop but couldn't, she cried loudly, sobbing her heart out until she was hiccuping, her neck was spasming as she tried to re-oxygenate her depleted lungs. She wasn't even aware Sloan had picked her up, or that she was now sitting on his lap, as he sat on the side of the bed in the bedroom. Finally, her tears began to diminish. She was able to fill her lungs once more, taking deep rejuvenating breaths of air, her muscle spasms finally stopping. She slumped down against Sloan's chest, totally exhausted by her emotional storm. How long she lay against him, she

had no idea, and was too tired to care. It had been so long since she had been held like this. She needed to feel the contact of another human being. The warmth and comfort of having his arms wrapped around her was pure bliss.

Once Jade felt her energy returning, she was too embarrassed to lift her head to look at Sloan. She knew she wasn't at her best after crying, let alone a crying jag. She knew her face and nose would be red and blotchy, her eyes swollen and her throat felt raw.

"Are you alright, Jade?" Sloan asked when he heard her sigh.

She didn't raise her head, just snuggled into his chest and nodded.

"Why don't you let me put some more antibiotic ointment on your wound, and change your dressing? Then I'll help you get dressed, and afterwards, we can go and eat," Sloan suggested.

"Okay," Jade rasped.

Sloan gently sat her up on his lap and tilted her face to his. He kissed the tip of her nose and each of her eyelids, then her cheeks. "You are so beautiful, Jade. I could spend all day just looking at you."

"Ha, I probably look like a mess," she stated self-consciously, she pushed her damp hair back from her face in a nervous gesture.

"No. You would look beautiful in a paper bag," he replied. Sloan set to the task of removing the waterproof patch covering the stitches in her shoulder, turned carefully so as not to jolt or hurt her, and reached for the tube of antibiotics. He gently smeared the wound with the cream and, placed a clean fresh waterproof patch on her shoulder. He

kissed the skin above her wound, then helped her to get to her feet. He contained his smile, when he saw her clutching the towel wrapping her body, to keep it from falling off. He went to the drawers and cupboards, got her some clean underwear and clothes.

“I’ll help you dress, sweetheart. You can keep the towel around you until I have your panties and a shirt on. You’re not going to be able to wear a bra because of your wound. I’ll give you one of my T-shirts to wear. It will probably be too big for you, but at least it won’t be too firm and irritate your shoulder,” Sloan stated, then knelt down in front of her. He held her panties for her to step into, then slid them up her legs, and along the outside of her thighs, so she wouldn’t feel too uncomfortable. Then he stood, slipped one of his T-shirts up and over her injured arm and shoulder, then her head, and finally her other arm. She dropped the towel from beneath his large shirt; she held onto his shoulder with her good arm, while he held her jeans so she could step into them. When she was finally dressed, Sloan brushed her hair and helped to put her injured arm into the sling. He took her hand in his and led her out of the room. Time for breakfast.

## Chapter Five

Sloan and Jade entered the large formal dining room which was separated from the kitchen and informal dining area. The room was overflowing with males. There were even a few females seated at the table. Sloan led Jade into the room, pulled out the seat to the right of the head of the table for her, then sat to her left at the head of the table. The gossip faded away as everyone turned their heads toward Sloan and Jade.

“Everyone this is Jade, you can all introduce yourselves to her after we have eaten. Emma you may serve,” Sloan stated.

Jade watched as the elderly housekeeper walked in with platters heaped with food. She began to feel guilty watching the older woman work. She would have thought one of the other women would have offered a hand. When they didn't and Emma brought in another platter of food, Jade jumped to her feet, then followed the housekeeper back out to the kitchen, before Sloan could stop her.

“Emma, please let me help,” Jade stated, then she picked up a platter of food, with her good arm, then followed Emma back into the dining room before the housekeeper could respond.

“Jade, you don't have to help Emma. I do pay her a decent wage to look after all of us,” Sloan opined.

“I don't care if you pay her a million dollars, Sloan. Everybody could use some help now and then. What makes me any better than Emma? I am just as

human as she is. In fact I am much younger than Emma. I am trying to save her poor legs, running back and forth with plates of food so everyone in this room can eat,” Jade stated with disgruntlement, as she glared at him.

“Roslyn, Teresa please help Emma. Jade sit down.”

“Why?”

“Why? Because I didn't ask you here to work, besides, you're injured. Now sit,” Sloan demanded.

“Woof. I am not a dog, Sloan. I would appreciate it if you treated me with more respect,” Jade stated decisively.

The noise in the room diminished until you could have heard a pin drop. Emma stood near Jade, ready to jump in to defend her in case her Alpha become annoyed with his mate. Jade lowered her eyes as, she felt everyone in the room looking at her in shock. Obviously no one had ever taken Sloan to task, and they waited to see what he would do, with abated breath.

“You're right. I'm sorry, Jade. You deserve more respect. Thanks for helping Emma out, but since you're injured, the other women will help her and will continue to do so with each meal,” Sloan stated.

Jade gave a sigh of relief, and noticed everyone else around the table breathed easier. She raised her head to see Hunter and Grady smirk, then wink at her. She felt a blush tinge her cheeks, and drew her eyes from theirs back to Sloan's. He just leaned over, pecked her on the cheek and gave her a saucy wink. Jade gave a giggle, reached over, took some bacon and eggs from the platter Sloan held for her. The

noise level rose once more as people began to eat their breakfast, easing Jade's discomfort.

"Jade, have you had enough to eat?" Sloan asked watching her sip her coffee.

"Yes, thank you. Thanks for breakfast Emma."

"You're welcome, love," Emma replied.

"Are you ready for a tour of the gate house, little one?"

"Yes."

Sloan rose to his feet, moved behind Jade and, pulled her chair out for her. He took her hand and led her from the room. They strolled down the driveway enjoying the peace and quiet, and the clear crisp morning air.

"Why do so many people living at your house?" Jade asked curiously.

"Hm, well most of the people have jobs with me. It just seemed easier for them to be close at hand, since I work out of the house. I have a lot of security people as well as lawyers, a secretary and an administration assistant. It just seemed like a good idea at the time," Sloan answered.

"I can tell you're not telling me everything. Why?" Jade asked.

Sloan stopped, then pulled her against his large warm chest, resting his chin on her head and he wrapped his arms around her waist. "I don't want to scare you Jade. You're not ready yet."

"You know, I'm not a child, Sloan. What could you say, that might scare me for goodness sakes? And don't bother trying to sway me with that cock and bull story about someone being jealous about your success," she stated belligerently.

“Before I tell you, I want your promise to stay here for a couple of weeks. I don't want you to try and run from me because you get scared. Bear in mind, I will protect you with my life if I have to,” Sloan stated.

“Alright. I promise not to try and run. I will stay here for a couple of weeks,” Jade stated naively. She watched as Sloan took a deep breath, and stared directly into her eyes.

“I am a werewolf, Jade. Everyone who lives in my house is a werewolf, they are all part of my pack. The men I introduced you to yesterday are my Beta's. A Beta is second strongest to an Alpha, they also deal with any security. I am the Alpha male of the Eagle River pack. You are my mate,” Sloan stated emphatically.

Jade couldn't help it. She felt laughter bubble up out of her throat and escape from her between her lips. Once she started, she couldn't stop. She ended up bent over at the waist, clutching her stomach as tears coursed down her cheeks.

Sloan gave a sigh as his mate, laughed hysterically. He didn't want to hurt her but wanted her to get herself back under control. He had only one option. He moved to Jade, helped her stand upright then clasped her face between his large gentle hands and kissed her. He slid his lips across hers, until she stopped laughing and she calmed. He deepened the kiss, sliding his tongue in between her lips and teeth. He gave a growl of pleasure as she responded to him tentatively, sliding her tongue along his. She clutched his waist with her good arm, wrapping it around his side. He couldn't get enough

of her. His wolf was demanding he claim her then and there, to bite her and make her his. Wanting to push her down to the ground, to mount her. He had to use every ounce of his strength and determination to get his beast back under control. He needed to end the kiss now, or he wouldn't have the strength to hold his wolf off. He withdrew his tongue from his mate's mouth, slowly weaned his lips from hers, until he was sipping at her mouth. He drew his head back, gave a smile of satisfaction as he saw Jade's passion glazed eyes. He pulled her tightly against his body once more.

"Do you really believe that, Sloan?" Jade asked, her voice husky with passion.

"Yes, you will too. Watch my arm, Jade," Sloan stated then released her and took a step back. He held out his left hand, then forced it to change.

Jade gave a squeak of fright, as she watched Sloan's arm, contort, the muscles beneath the surface of his skin moved unnaturally, like there was something in there trying to get out. She watched the palm of his hand shorten, become a large paw with long black claws sprouting from the tips. She saw dark, thick black fur sprout out of his skin. She covered her mouth and began to back away from him.

*Oh my God. Oh my God. Oh my God.* She chanted in her head. *What the hell?* She couldn't seem to take her eyes from his deformed arm. She slowly continued to back away from him. *Oh my God, she was surrounded by monsters.* Jade didn't stop to think. She whirled and ran. She didn't know where she was going; only that she had to get away.



“Jade, please stop. I told you I will never hurt you. You are my mate for goodness sakes. It is my job to protect you,” Sloan stated as he caught Jade around the waist and hauled her against him.

Jade went wild. She kicked and slapped at him, trying to get free, as she sobbed with fear. *What had she done? She had promised him she would stay with him for two weeks. She was such a fool. She should have waited to see what he told her, before she promised anything.*

“Jade, stop it. You're going to hurt yourself. I would never hurt you, sweetheart. Come on, honey. Please try and calm down,” Sloan said as he wrapped his arms around her to contain her flailing arms; he used one of his long muscular legs to trap both of hers between his legs. He waited until she had calmed down. He slowly released his hold on her when she began to calm. She was still panting, but she wasn't trying to hit at him or leave. He stepped back from her, giving her more breathing room.

\* \* \* \*

Jade stood panting as she stared at Sloan. She thought about what he had said, what he was. None of the people living at Sloan's house had tried to harm her, including Sloan himself. He had held her while the Doc had removed the bullet from her shoulder and helped her get dressed this morning. He'd held her while she cried over the loss of her mom. In fact, he had done everything within his ability to see to her comfort and her safety. He was still the same caring man he had been before, just a

bit more.

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry I ran from you; that I got scared and hysterical. I know you would never hurt me Sloan. I think I was in shock," Jade explained.

"Ah sweetheart. You have nothing to apologize for," Sloan replied, then he took her into his arms once more. "Now, do you still want to see the gatehouse?"

"Yes. I can't wait to see where my mom grew up," she replied.

"Let's go then," Sloan stated, holding his hand out toward Jade. He gave an internal sigh of relief when she didn't hesitate and took his hand in hers. They walked slowly along the gravel drive, breathing in the clean and smog free air. Jade could smell roses, Jasmine and pine from the trees, plants and bushes lining the driveway. They didn't talk as they walked, just enjoyed the tranquility of silence, and each other's company.

Sloan took a key from his pocket and unlocked the door to the gatehouse. He pushed the door open, then stood back to let Jade enter the house first. Jade took a deep breath and stepped into the entry. The entry way led straight into a living room. The furnishings were draped with white sheets to keep the dust from settling. She wandered the room, taking in the old framed photographs still hanging on the walls. She got to a more recent color photo of an elderly couple with a young girl. Jade knew she was seeing her mother as her features were similar to her own. She felt her eyes tear up, knowing she would never see her mother in the flesh again.

Sloan moved up behind Jade, wrapped his arms around her waist, and gently pulled her back into his chest. He could feel her pain and grief, as she stared at the photograph. He knew by the young girls features he was looking at Jade's mother.

“Ah, sweetheart. If I could take away your pain and endure it myself, I would. Come on, I'll show you the rest of the cottage,” Sloan stated then he slid his hands down her arms and turned her to face him. He hated to see the pain in her eyes. He wanted to change her frown of sadness to happiness and love. He knew he was going to have to give her more time. He wanted to tell her everything there was to know about him and his kind, but knew she would run scared again if he did. She was not ready to hear anymore today. He released one of her arms and gently enveloped her small delicate hand in his own, and then he led her from the room.

They spent a couple of hours going from room to room in the small gatehouse cottage. Sloan let Jade take as long as she needed because he knew she was trying to reconnect with her mother. They wandered around the garden out the back and fed each other some strawberries from the long forgotten plants. Sloan decided then and there he would get one of his gardeners to pull the weeds and tend to the neglected garden. He knew once he and Jade ended up mated, she would want to spend more time here, to feel close to her departed mother.

Lunch was being served as they got back to the house. The dining room was full to overflowing with his pack members and their mates. Some of the females mated to his pack members were still so new,

they had not yet taken on the change. He wanted to be able to lay down the law and tell his pack not to give their wives a choice, but knew he could not give such an arrogant command. He knew females had a more emotional constitution and needed time to make their own choices. He just hoped that Jade would see some of the females take on the change then, decide she wanted the same thing. Their lives were prolonged, they lived way beyond the normal span of a human. If his pack member's mates did not go through the change and lived a normal life span, he would lose his male pack members as well. Usually a female was mated to one male, but there was the occasional time when a female was mated to more than one male.

Compatible human females were becoming as rare as hens teeth, so when a male wolf had the opportunity to mate, he did so as soon as possible. They had evolved over the years. When a werewolf mated with his female, it was usual for him to ask his single brothers or close friends to claim their female as well, in case the female's mate was killed. This would prevent the female from following her mate into the afterlife. There was nothing worse than seeing a female pack member dying from a broken heart.

Sloan seated Jade, then took his own seat at the head of the table. Emma and the women Sloan had asked to help her, began bringing plates of food out from the kitchen. Jade had never seen so many people or so much food in one house before. Because she was so introverted and shy, she was feeling very uncomfortable. One of the women near

the other end of the table kept glaring at her when she caught Jade's eye. Jade tried to ignore her, she knew she couldn't have done anything to upset or hurt the woman. She hadn't laid eyes on her until this very moment.

Sloan unaware of the tension between the two women, piled Jade's plate with food, much to her dismay. Usually she had a sandwich for lunch, there was no way in hell she would be able to eat such a large piece of steak, as well as the potatoes in their jackets, and all the salad. Jade ate as much as she could then sat back and watched as the men around the table consumed large quantities of food, then to her surprise went back for more, and still ate dessert as well. They were making her feel ill.

Jade rose from her seat and was about to make her way out of the dining room, but Sloan stopped her by gently wrapping his hand around her wrist.

"Where are you going, Jade?"

"Um, I just thought I'd go out into the gardens, to get some fresh air."

"Okay, but don't wander too far away. Under no circumstances are you to leave the estate," Sloan commanded.

His arrogant attitude began to rankle. She was about to protest but realized everyone had stopped talking and were listening to their exchange. She nodded her head in agreement then turned and left, when he released her.

## Chapter Six

Jade wandered around the gardens taking in the tranquility of the water fountain and the fish swimming lazily back and forth. She sat down on the edge of the fountain, breathing in the scents of the surrounding plants. She closed her eyes and tilted her head back, her face towards the warm rays of the sun.

“You little bitch. What gives you the right to come into my territory and try to take my man away from me?”

Jade opened her eyes to see the woman who had been glaring at her from the other end of the dining table. “I beg your pardon?”

“No I won't. How dare you think you can take Sloan away from me. He is mine, he came to my bed every night, until you came along. Who the hell do you think you are?”

“Look, I don't even know you. I didn't come here to take Sloan away from you, or anyone else for that matter. I came here to see where my mom had grown up. Nothing more, nothing less. I didn't know Sloan was sleeping with you and I really don't care. I have no control over him or anyone else in this freaky place. As far as I am concerned, you can have him,” Jade stated. She immediately knew she was lying to the woman in front of her and to herself. She wanted Sloan like no one ever before, but there was no way she was going to stand in Sloan's way if he wanted to be with someone else.

“If that is true, then why is he keeping you close and not letting you leave?”

“Look Miss..?”

“Tammy, Tammy Rowe.”

“Okay Tammy. My name is Jade. As I was saying I have no control over what anyone in this place does or says. If you have a problem with Sloan, then I suggest you take it up with him,” Jade stated with finality, rose to her feet, turned and walked away from the furious woman. She walked around the perimeter of the property, trying to find avenues of escape, if the need to leave became necessary. She found a tree close to the surrounding brick wall which enclosed the house and grounds of the estate. Knew if needed, she could use that as a means of escape. She was heading back towards the gardens when she felt the hairs at the back of her neck prickle with awareness. She looked behind her but couldn't see anyone. She put it down to an over active imagination and began walking once more. She was in sight of the fountain at the back of the house, when she saw Sloan heading towards her, a worried expression on his face.

“Where have you been, Jade?” Sloan asked with a scowl on his face.

“Just walking around,” she replied. “Why?”

“There has been some trouble from another pack in this area. I don't want you getting too far away from me. I need to be able to protect you, little one. I got caught up with some pack business and couldn't leave. I just needed to know you were safe.”

“I am on your land, Sloan. How could I not be safe? You can't keep me here if I decided I want to leave. I've only promised you two weeks, no more, no less. What are you going to do once that time is up

and I go home again?"

Jade's words were enough to goad Sloan's beast butting against him to claim her here and now. They had sounded like a challenge, one his beast couldn't refuse. He tried, but he didn't seem strong enough to push his wolf back down, but maybe he just didn't want to anymore. He knew he wanted to claim his mate so she couldn't, wouldn't leave him. He had just found her, there was no way in hell, he was letting her leave him, ever again.

Jade never saw Sloan move. One moment he was a few meters away, the next he had her in his arms, and was claiming her mouth. His kiss was one of dominance and possessiveness, he took control, demanded a response. He didn't hurt her but he didn't give her a choice either. He used his own mouth to force hers open, then thrust his tongue between her lips. He tasted every part of her. Slid his tongue over her teeth, up to the top of her palette, along the sides of her cheeks, then along her tongue, to once more tangle his with hers. He was consuming her. Her heart beat out a rapid tempo, caught up in the pleasure he was arousing within her. She felt as if her legs were no longer strong enough to support her. She clung to his shoulders and whimpered as she tried to get closer. Her pussy weeping with her desire. She pulled back as lack of oxygen forced her to fill her lungs.

Sloan wasn't deterred. He kissed and licked his way down her face, over the edge of her jaw. He nipped and licked behind her ear, down her neck until he came to the join of her shoulder and neck. Without thought, he sunk his elongated canine teeth into her



flesh and claimed her as his. The taste of her blood swam through his system as it combined with his own. He could feel her essence entwining with his, binding them together for life. He licked the wound he made, then lifted his face to her as he became aware of his mate trying to push him away.

“You bit me. What the hell have you done?”

Jade yelled. She knew he had done something to her, she could feel something different, but didn't understand. She felt connected to him.

“I have claimed you as my mate, sweet Jade. You can no longer leave me, because if you do, you condemn both of us to death.”

“Oh my.... You had no right. You fucking asshole. You've taken my choices away. God, I hate you,” Jade yelled at Sloan, spun on her heel and ran back to the house. She ignored everyone she saw on her way to her room and slammed the bedroom door so hard she made the windows rattle, then turned the key in the lock. She threw herself on the bed and cried. Several people knocked on her door, which seemed to her like every ten minutes; she ignored them all. She didn't want to see anyone. She wanted to go home.

Jade didn't bother to go down for dinner, she even ignored Sloan when he came, knocked on the door and pleaded with her to come down to the dining room. She knew he could probably get into her room if he really wanted to and was thankful when he didn't.

Jade was just drifting off to sleep when another knock sounded on the door. Emma called out to her.

“Jade, I've brought you something to eat and

drink. Please, open the door?"

Jade got up from the bed and pushed her hair back from her face. She knew Emma would be able to see her tear ravaged features but was too tired to care. She unlocked and opened the door and stepped back. Silently she indicated for Emma to come in with the sweep of her hand. She closed the door behind Emma.

Emma placed the covered tray on one of the bedside tables and sat down on the side of the bed. She gave it a pat, indicating to Jade to sit beside her. Jade sat and waited quietly, knowing instinctively Emma wanted to talk to her.

"Jade, I really like you a lot. I think you could be the daughter I never had. I want you to listen to me as I explain a few things to you," Emma stated, then waited for some sort of indication from Jade that she was listening. When she saw her Queen give a nod, Emma took a deep breath, she began talking.

"As you probably know, I am a werewolf. The only people here who are not yet werewolves, are the mated females who haven't changed over yet. We know they will eventually, but their mates have decided to give their women time to adjust, before making the change. A werewolf is a very possessive creature by nature. Once a werewolf finds its mate, the other half of their heart, their soul, the instinct to claim her is nearly impossible to stop or ignore. I don't condone a wolf claiming his mate before she is ready or fully informed about our laws and culture, but sometimes their beast, their wolf, takes over, makes it impossible for their human side to control their animal. I have known Sloan since he was a pup.

He is one of the most, patient, compassionate wolves I have ever known, but he is an Alpha. The decisions he makes every day, effects the lives of every single member of Eagle River Pack. Yes, I know he is arrogant and commanding, but he has had to be. He has had to learn from the very young age of twenty, to take care of all his pack members. He has had to rule this pack for twelve years by himself. Yes, he takes and asks advice from other pack members, because he knows he isn't infallible, he is part human. He has made a lot of mistakes along the way, including taking that red haired bitch to his bed before he met you. If he or his wolf are challenged in anyway the primal instincts of his beast takes over, as is natural in the wild. He didn't want to claim you until you were ready, but you challenged his wolf when you reminded him you had only promised to stay for two weeks. A quarter of that time has already gone, that was enough of a challenge to his wolf."

"Okay, I understand, Emma. But it still doesn't make it right. He took my choices away. He told me I couldn't leave him, that if I did, I was condemning myself and him to death. How can that be?"

"A mated couple cannot be away from each other, if they are they will eventually die of a broken heart. We have evolved a little, to help the females of the pack in case they lose their mate. If a female's mate dies she is anchored to her mate's brother or friends; and can be claimed by them, so she does not follow her mate into the afterlife. Our women are so few and far between, they have come to be so precious to the males of a pack, they can do no more than to help keep them bound to the living."

"I'm really afraid of the answer, but I need to know anyway. How are the females in the pack prevented from following their mate when they die?" Jade asked fearfully.

"A claimed female goes through a bonding ceremony, first with her mate, then with her mate and the single male pack members he has chosen as her earth bound anchors," Emma answered.

"Um, where and how does this bonding ceremony take place?" Jade asked in a tremulous voice.

"Are you sure you want to know the answer to that question Jade?" Emma asked with concern.

"The more information I have now, the better."

"Alright, but don't say I didn't warn you. The bonding ceremony is attended by every pack member; it takes place outside in the gardens near the fountain. You will have to have it soon, before the mating fever gets hold of Sloan, he won't be able to control his urges...."

"Whoa. Back up the truck. What mating fever? You want me to have sex with three people, in front of everyone? You are out of your mind, if you think that is ever going to happen," Jade stated, she rose from the bed and began pacing. "There is no way on heaven or earth, I'm having sex with three people; or doing it in front of the entire pack. My God, what was I thinking? I was even considering this mating bullshit. You're all a bunch of perverts."

"Jade, sit down," Emma commanded firmly. She hid a smile as her Queen did as she was told. "I want you to stop and think about what I've told you, before you go off half cocked and let your temper get

the better of you. I know you are a human female and not used to having sex with an audience, but believe me when I tell you, you will be so wrapped up in your mate, you won't even be aware of anyone else. Every one of our mated pack members go through the same process, Jade. Nudity and sex is as natural as eating. No one is going to be watching for any perverse reasons. It's part of the bonding ceremony, it is a very beautiful thing. Now I must get back down to the kitchen and turn everything off. Oh, one more thing. If you don't go through with the bonding ceremony with Sloan by tomorrow night, the mating fever will take hold of his wolf. You won't have a choice of where or when it happens. He is likely to jump your bones in the middle of the dining room," Emma opined, then left the room, closing the door quietly behind her.

Jade was too keyed up to be tired anymore. She ate the sandwich Emma had thoughtfully brought to her and, went back pacing the room. She couldn't sit still. She stopped occasionally to stare out the window, but didn't really see anything. She let the information Emma had given her, run around and around inside her head, until she felt as if her thoughts were going round in circles. She was so confused, she had no idea what she was going to do. Finally exhaustion won, Jade stripped off her clothes and climbed under the covers. She tossed and turned for a while then spoke to her mom with tears running down her face.

"Mom, what I am going to do? I wish you were here so I could talk to you. I miss you so much. Love you, mom," Jade whispered and sleep finally claimed

her.

Jade tossed and turned in her sleep. She dreamed of wolves, raping her until all of a sudden her dream changed. Her mom stood before her, hand held out as she glowed with an ethereal light, beckoning to Jade. She reached for her mother's hand, as they touched Jade felt peace and calm return. With the one touch her mom's love bestowed on her, Jade knew what she was going to do.

## Chapter Seven

Jade awoke to the sun streaming through her windows, the chirping of birds floating on the wind. She smiled and got up, then walked toward the bathroom. Her shoulder didn't hurt much at all today, so she had no trouble drying or dressing herself. She headed downstairs to the dining room. It must have been later than she thought, because no one sat around the table eating breakfast or drinking coffee. Jade walked into the kitchen where she was sure she would find Emma.

There was no one in the kitchen either. Jade glanced at the clock on the wall and noticed it was two o'clock in the afternoon. No wonder she felt so rested, she must have slept for about twelve hours solid. She couldn't hear anyone about, but was too hungry to worry. She opened the fridge door and pulled out some already made wrapped sandwiches. She sat on a stool at the kitchen bench and ate her food and drank some orange juice. She was just finishing washing her dishes as Emma entered the kitchen.

"Jade, you're looking so much better today. I'm glad you helped yourself to the sandwiches I left for you," Emma stated as she scrutinized Jade's face. "I can see you've come to a decision, it looks as if you're no longer carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders."

"Yeah, I have. Do I really have to get naked in front of everyone, Emma?" Jade asked anxiously.

"Emma, could you leave us, please?" Sloan

asked from behind Jade.

Jade flinched, she didn't even know Sloan was behind her until he had spoken. He could move like a cat, not making a sound.

Sloan and Jade watched as Emma gave Jade a wink, then left the room.

"Jade, please look at me," Sloan commanded. He waited patiently until Jade turned her head to the side and looked up into Sloan's blue eyes as he sat beside her on a stool.

"I'm sorry for all the grief and the hurt I've caused you, Jade. If I could change the way I claimed you I would, but I wouldn't change the fact that I have claimed you," Sloan stated, as he took her face between his large, warm hands. He stared deeply into her eyes, not letting her look away. "I love you, Jade. I can't live without you. Will you please go through the bonding ceremony with me tonight? I don't want to join our bodies for the first time, by force. It would kill me to have to live with the fact I took you against your will, if I was consumed by the mating fever. I would have to live with that guilt for the rest of my life."

Jade could see the emotion in Sloan's eyes and knew he was speaking the truth. She placed her hands over his, leaned forward and placed her lips on his for a gentle kiss. "I love you too, Sloan. I don't how I could love you, after knowing you for less than a week, but I can feel you here, in my heart." Jade took one of Sloan's hands in hers and placed it over her heart. Tears shimmered in her eyes as he began to smile.

Sloan's whole face lit up when he smiled at her.



She felt as if she was seeing into his soul through his eyes. Why someone as ruggedly handsome, smart and as rich as he was, would want a little nobody like her, was beyond her comprehension, but she wasn't about to look a gift horse in the mouth. Sloan leaned in and took her mouth in such a sweet, tender kiss, the tears shimmering in her eyes, began to track down her cheeks. He lifted his mouth from hers and leaned his forehead against hers.

"Sloan, about this bonding ceremony," Jade began as she nervously licked at her lips, pulling back from him.

"What do you want to know, baby?"

"W...who have you chosen to be bonded to me, besides you?"

"Hunter and Grady," Sloan answered.

"Um, okay," Jade whispered, swallowing nervously. "Have you asked them if they want to do this, or did you tell them?"

"I told them. What difference does that make?" Sloan asked curiously. There was no way any man would ever work out, the totally different ways a woman's mind worked. He didn't think it made a difference to his brothers. He knew they would do what he commanded.

"I don't want your brothers doing this out of duty, Sloan. You need to ask them if they want to do this, if not you'll have to ask someone else," Jade stated, crossing her arms beneath her breasts.

"Okay. Come on," Sloan said, as he lifted Jade from the stool, clasped her hand and led her from the room.

Jade didn't know where they were going, but

assumed Sloan was taking her to his brothers. She was about to protest, then decided against it. She wanted to see the look on Hunter and Grady's faces as they answered their brother's question. They entered Sloan's large study, to find Hunter and Grady working away on something. They were leaning over Sloan's large desk when she and Sloan approached. Hunter and Grady looked up at the same time.

"Hey, what's up?" asked Hunter.

"I have a question to put to the both of you. I want each of you to answer honestly," Sloan stated.

"Okay," they answered in unison.

"I would like you both to participate in the bonding ceremony with me and Jade. But I would like to know if you actually wish to do so?"

"Are you kidding?" Grady asked with a grin.

"Actually, no. Jade and I want to know if you really want to participate, not because you feel it is your duty. I take back my statement commanding you to do this for me. Now, I am asking if you really want to?"

"Hell, yes. I most certainly do," Hunter answered immediately. "I mean look at her, Sloan. Who in their right mind would pass up the opportunity of ravaging such a beautiful woman."

Jade could feel her cheeks going red with embarrassment at Hunter's compliment. No one other than her mom or Sloan had told her she was beautiful.

Grady moved around from behind the desk and walked over to Jade and Sloan. He took Jade's hot, red cheeks between his large hands as he stared down into her eyes, totally ignoring his brother's growls of

warning.

“If you would let me, baby, I would love to be in that bonding ceremony with you and my brother. I would feel honored to be an anchor for you,” he stated then kissed her gently on the lips.

Jade gave a gasp of shock as she felt a tingle of arousal at Grady's kiss. She knew it was probably just the fact she was going to end up having sex with the three gorgeous Alpha males. She felt her desire leaking from her pussy to dampen her panties. That must have set off a primal instinct in her mate, because the next thing she knew, Sloan had pushed Grady away from her, and was devouring her mouth with his own. Jade eventually began to have trouble breathing; she tried to push Sloan away. Grady and Hunter came to her rescue, they pulled Sloan off of her. She stood staring at Sloan as she gasped air into her depleted lungs, watching him trying to get away from his brothers.

“Sloan, knock it off,” Hunter growled low and deep. They all gave a sigh of relief when Sloan finally snapped out of the grip, desire had a hold on him.

“Jade, I'm sorry baby. Please go to your room and lock the door. I will send Grady and Hunter up, when it's time for the bonding ceremony. Emma can bring a tray of food to your room. I don't want you in any danger from me. Please, sweetheart?” asked Sloan a little desperately.

“Okay. You didn't hurt me Sloan,” Jade stated, then quickly left the room.

Jade spent the rest of the afternoon pampering herself. She washed her hair in the shower and

shaved her legs. She then filled the large deep spa bath, throwing in some jasmine scented bath oil she found in the vanity. She lay back, luxuriating in the warm water, letting the spa jets knead and massage out the tension along her spine, arms and legs. When her skin began to wrinkle, she got out of the tub, dried herself off, then moisturized her skin with some jasmine scented lotion. She absolutely loved jasmine. She wondered whose stuff she was using. She gave a mental shrug and continued pampering herself. She removed the towel wrapped around her damp hair, plugged in the hairdryer, then styled her hair. She pulled on some fresh underwear, just as she walked back into the bedroom, a knock sounded at the door.

“Who is it?”

“It's Emma.”

Jade opened the door and moved back to let Emma through. She had a covered tray balanced on one hand and the coat hanger of a garment bag in the other. Jade quickly took the tray from Emma, placing it on the dresser.

“I have always dreamed of having a daughter, Jade. Since I didn't and only had sons, and since they are not as yet mated, I don't have any daughters in law either. I would be honored if you would wear my bonding ceremony dress, as you have not had the chance to prepare for any of this. I was just as slim as you are, as a young lady, but if you don't like it I will understand.”

All the while Emma had been talking she slowly slid the zipper down on the garment bag and began to pull the dress out. Jade gave a gasp of awe as she saw the beautiful white gown. It was any

young girls dream. It had shoe string straps with a tight fitted bodice. A sprinkling of pearls and crystals were threaded throughout, the skirt was a floating loose cloud of the same silky material. Tears shimmered behind Jade's eyes as she stared at the gorgeous dress. Taking a deep breath she looked at Emma.

“I would be absolutely honored to wear this exquisite gown. Thank you so much, Emma,” Jade whispered as she hugged the older woman.

“No, lovey. I am the one being honored. You are my Queen. I am so proud you are going to wear my dress. Now enough of these tears, we have work to do, but first you are going to eat everything I have put on that tray. Don't worry I haven't loaded it, I know you're not a werewolf, yet.”

## Chapter Eight

Jade gave a start as a firm knock sounded on the door of her bedroom. She took a deep calming breath, smoothed her hands down her hips and walked to the door. She gave a gasp of awe as she opened the door to Grady and Hunter. They were dressed in suits with ties; they were so handsome they took her breath away.

“You look stunning, baby,” Grady stated letting his eyes wandered from the top of her head to the tips of her toes.

“You are gorgeous, Jade,” Hunter stated in a deep gravelly voice.

“You guys don't look bad yourself,” Jade stated in a low husky voice. She hardly recognized her own voice, it was so low.

“Are you ready, sugar?” Hunter asked, as he extended a hand out towards her.

“As ready as I'll ever be, I suppose,” Jade answered, then swallowed nervously.

“You have nothing to be afraid of baby. Sloan will have you so hot, you won't be aware of anyone else. Then Sloan, Hunter and I will make you so horny, you won't care who is watching. Besides, the mated pack members will be so turned on by watching you and Sloan, they will probably end up fucking as well,” Grady opined with a leer and a waggle of his eyebrows.

“Oh, I forgot. I'm supposed to tell you the single males could end up fucking each other as well. You're not to worry about anything or anyone else

but you and Sloan. Then Sloan, Grady and me,” Hunter stated.

Jade was so turned on by the thought of watching the male pack members fuck each other, she could feel her cream dripping onto her panties. Hunter and Grady must have smelled her desire as well, because they both looked at her, then growled with approval.

Hunter and Grady each took one of her hands in theirs once again, and led her from the room. They slowly walked downstairs then along the hallway to the back of the house.

“Show time baby,” Grady stated unnecessarily.

Jade took another deep breath, trying to calm her racing heart. She gave a small nod to Hunter and Grady to let them know she was ready. Then took a step and they all began to move forward.

Jade stared straight ahead as Hunter and Grady led Jade to Sloan. He looked so handsome standing in front of the fountain in his black tuxedo. Jade had to stifle a giggle by biting her lip, as a stray thought shot through her head. *Why was everyone getting dressed up, just to remove their clothes to fuck.* She saw an elderly man standing behind and to the left of Sloan.

\* \* \* \*

Sloan drew in a deep breath when he first spotted Jade on the arms of his brothers. She looked stunning in the white gown, with flowers in her hair as she made her way toward him. He had to physically concentrate on not rushing forward and

snatch her from his brother's.

Hunter and Grady each leaned down, kissed Jade on her cheeks, before handing her over to Sloan. They moved back to give his brother and his mate room for the bonding ceremony.

"Today is the day your Alpha, Sloan Taggert will claim his mate for the first time in the traditional bonding ceremony. May they live long, prosper and have many pups," stated the elderly man in front of her and Sloan.

Sloan felt Jade's hand tremble in his and gave it a reassuring squeeze. He kept his attention on his elderly pack member, Sloan's Uncle Charles, as he officiated as their Master of Ceremonies.

"Jade Ash, do you promise to love and try to obey your Alpha, as long as his requests are reasonable?" asked Charles.

Jade had to clear her throat several times before she could answer without bursting into laughter. *What sort of vow was that?* When she had herself under control again, she took a deep breath and answered, "I do."

"Sloan Taggert, do you promise to love and protect your mate, Jade Ash and try to breed with her as soon as possible?" Charles asked.

"I do."

"I now pronounce you bonded. You may kiss your mate," Sloan's uncle Charles stated, then he moved away from the couple.

Sloan gently took Jade by her shoulders and turned her towards him. He saw the laughter in her eyes and the questions on her lips, but didn't give her a chance to voice them. He swooped down and took



her mouth under his own. He kissed her slowly at first, coaxing a response from her. Not wanting to push too hard, too fast and scare her away. He needed to keep a tight rein on himself, so he could seduce his mate and finally make her his.

Jade leaned into Sloan's kiss. She couldn't get enough of him. He tasted so good, like warm male and desire. When he slid his tongue over the seam of her lips, she didn't hesitate, she opened to him, giving him the access he asked for and she craved. He slid his tongue into her mouth, tantalizing her to respond. She slid her tongue over his and gave a moan of pure delight and desire.

Sloan wrapped his arms around her waist and pulled her up against his hard, warm body. He slid his hands down to her hips, around to the fleshy globes of her buttocks and kneaded her firm, soft globes, then pulled her hips firmly into his warmth.

Jade felt Sloan's hard erection against her belly, she slid back and forth over his hard, engorged flesh, as Sloan thrust into her softness. He moved his hands up over her hips, waist and ribs, until his hands were resting on the sides of her breasts. He moved one arm around the back of her shoulders, and the other moved up to cup one of her soft plump mounds. He kneaded her flesh until he had her moaning into his mouth, then pinched one of her turgid peaks hard enough to cause her a bite of pain with pleasure. Jade shook as Sloan sent her over the edge into a small orgasm. He gave a growl of approval, then slid the zipper down on the back of her dress. He slowly eased back from the kiss, and pulled away to look into her eyes, as he slid the dress down her shoulders,

until it pooled at her feet in a mound of silk.

Jade was left standing in nothing but her white lace panties and shoes, she went to turn her head as she remembered they were not alone, but Sloan gently gripped her chin with his thumb and index finger, keeping her eyes locked with his.

“Jade, keep your eyes on me, baby,” Sloan stated, not wanting his mate to become embarrassed, or scared by being watched. He leaned in once more and sucked the full lower lip of her mouth into his, nipping and sucking as he smelled the sweet essence of her desire dripping from her body. Sloan deepened the kiss and then pulled back again, kissing his way over her jawline and behind her ear. He nipped and licked his way down her neck, along her collar bone, until he was kissing over the top of her plump breasts.

He moved his mouth lower and lower, until he could circle his tongue around her dusky rose colored aureole, then suctioned the elongated peak between his lips. He sucked, laved and nibbled on her hard peak, until he had her arching her hips into his. He moved to her other breast then started the slow arousing process all over again.

Sloan moved down until he was on his knees in front of Jade as he licked his way lower down her stomach until he reached the waist band of her panties. He hooked his fingers into the elastic, slid them down her legs and off over her feet. He took time to remove her shoes, until she was standing in front of him totally naked. He pulled Jade down to her knees with him, and gently laid her back on a blanket. He moved down between her legs, ran his

hands up the inside of her warm silky thighs and gave a moan of appreciation as her scent beckoned.

He dipped his head down between her legs and licked gently between the soft lips of her pussy. She tasted like ambrosia, he couldn't get enough. He licked over her clit arousing the small nub of flesh, until it was standing up to its full extent, begging for more of his touch. Using a thumb he stretched the flesh at the top of her slit up, until the hood of her clitoris moved back to expose the most sensitive sweet spot. He laved it with his tongue, making his mate writhe and sob out her pleasure. He couldn't take anymore, he had to have her now.

Sloan stood up, ripped the clothes from his body using his super human strength as he looked down at his beautiful mate. He watched as her eyes perused his body and gave a small smile when she saw his hard cock.

Jade couldn't believe how muscular Sloan was. His skin had an olive tan all over with wide muscular shoulders and ripped abs which tapered into a small waist. His muscles rippled beneath his skin as he moved. She wanted nothing more than to reach out to touch and taste him. Her eyes caught on his hard cock and widened as she saw the monster between his legs. Oh my, he was huge. She began to feel nervous, as she stared at his hard, pulsing bobbing flesh.

\* \* \* \*

Sloan saw his mate's trepidation as he knelt down between her legs, then covered her small body

with his own. He took her mouth with his, driving her arousal as high as he could, he moved a hand between her legs and gently massaged her clit. When she arched up into his hips, he knew his mate was finally ready.

He slowly eased the tip of his cock into her small, tight wet warmth, all the while keeping her mouth occupied with his own. He felt her flesh and muscles stretch around the girth of his penis and held still, giving her time to adjust to his slight penetration. He took his mouth from hers, letting them both gulp in air, but kept her eyes locked to his. Sloan pushed in further and further, stopping each time to give Jade time to adjust to him. He slowly yet surely pushed his way into his mate's body, until he could feel the thin membrane of skin marking her as a virgin.

“Baby, I'm sorry, but I may hurt you as I break through your hymen. I will try not to hurt you too much,” Sloan stated in a voice husky with passion.

Jade couldn't answer, she was so hot, she felt as if she was going to burst into flames, so gave a nod of her head instead.

Sloan gripped Jade's hips, slid back out of her sheath a fraction, then pushed through her virgin's barrier. He held still giving his mate time to adjust and for the pain to alleviate. He looked into her green eyes, then saw her beautiful smile as he tried to control his beast.

Jade moved her hips up into Sloan's, gave a moan of pleasure, which seemed to be a signal he had been waiting for. He slowly withdrew from her cunt, then slid back in, making all the nerve endings in her

sheath tingle, drawing more cream from her body.

Sloan began to move in and out of his mate's pussy, faster, and faster each time, until he was pumping into her at a rapid pace. He could feel Jade's cunt fluttering around his engorged dick and gave a moan of approval. He couldn't get enough of her. The feel of her gripping his flesh in her tight, wet body was pure nirvana. He began pounding in and out of her, until they were both moaning with pleasure. Jade's moans got louder and he knew she was getting close to climax. He moved a hand down between their bodies, then pinched her clit lightly between his thumb and index finger. She screamed into his mouth as her body gripped his cock hard, her cream pouring out over his turgid flesh as she found her release.

Sloan felt the warning tingles of his own impending climax start at the base of his spine. He thrust faster, and deeper until he was in a frenzy of pleasure, his balls pulled up tight against his body, then he felt his seed begin to travel up his dick. He leaned down and bit his mate, marking her in the same place he had first claimed her, as he held her hips still, he thrust into her depths one more time, and gave a roar as his seed erupted into his mate. He felt her climax again as his pulsing cock took her over the edge once more.

Sloan kissed Jade again as he withdrew his half flaccid cock from her pussy. He moved to the side of her and stroked a hand over her, from shoulder to hips, as he gentled her back to earth. He felt his brother's Hunter and Grady behind him, knew they were ready to complete the rest of the bonding ceremony. He was going to have to concentrate really

hard on keeping his wolf under control, as his brother's fucked his mate. He weaned his mouth from hers, and saw she was loose limbed in the aftermath of his love making.

"Jade, it's time for Hunter and Grady to complete the bonding ceremony. How are you feeling? Did I hurt you too much?" Sloan asked in concern.

"No. You didn't hurt me at all, Sloan. In fact, I can't wait to do it again," Jade replied with a saucy, sexy smile.

Grady moved to Jade's other side on the blanket and turned her head towards him. He took her mouth with his, before she could get a look at his naked body. He took her mouth with a gentleness, which was in opposition to his size and his strength. He asked, he didn't take and he had her responding to him in no time at all.

Jade opened to Grady as he swept his tongue along the seam of her lips, she tangled her tongue with his, as he slid it inside to mate with her mouth. His taste was different from Sloan's, but was still a delight she wanted more of. She felt hands on her breasts, plucking at her nipples, hands on her inner thighs as they smoothed a path up to her pussy. She arched her hips up as a finger thrust into her tight wet channel, another finger rimmed around and around her distended clit. She was so horny, she sucked on Grady's tongue the way she wanted to suck on a cock.

Grady picked Jade up, sat down on his ass on the blanket, and held her up by her waist, then slowly lowered her down onto his hard rod. He slid her

down his length slowly, giving her body time to adjust to his long hard cock. When he was fully impaled with her sitting on his lap, Hunter moved up to her side and turned her head to him. He took her mouth with a carnal kiss, thrusting his tongue in the way he wanted to with his cock. He released her mouth and gave her breathing room as Sloan moved up behind his mate.

“I love you, baby,” Sloan whispered into her ear. “I want you to relax, to trust me. Can you do that for me, Jade?”

“Yes.” Jade replied on a moan, she tried to move on Grady.

“Not yet, sweetheart. Soon,” Grady stated as he held Jade's hips still.

Sloan grabbed the tube of lube Hunter had dropped on the blanket, and popped it open, then coated two fingers. He moved his hand between Jade's lush, firm globes, then slid his fingers over her tight puckered rosebud. He heard her moan, as he massaged the nerve rich entrance until her muscles relaxed enough to permit him entrance. He pushed the tip of a coated finger into her ass, waited as she clenched, and released on and around his flesh. When she opened up to him again, he slowly slid his finger all the way into her body, until he passed the tight muscles of her sphincter. He withdrew his finger, retrieved more lube, then pushed two into her body. He wiggled them around touching her nerve endings, enhancing her pleasure until she opened to him fully. He scissored his fingers in her to stretch her muscles as she wiggled and whimpered on Grady's lap. He withdrew his fingers and pulled back slightly.

Sloan coated his cock with a generous amount of lube, then moved up closer behind Jade. He slid his cock up and down, over her tight anus, until her muscles released, her body was once more open to him. He pushed the head of his cock into her tight hole, he held still as she clamped down on his flesh. He panted through the pleasure of her grip, trying to hold his release at bay. When she opened to him again, he slid the length of his cock all the way inside her ass.

\* \* \* \*

Jade felt as if she was being split open as Sloan slid into her anus, but to her surprise the pain she felt, quickly turned to pleasure as he and Grady held still in the tight holes of her body. She needed them to move. She wiggled on their cocks and tried to impale herself more on their hard flesh.

“Baby, you're killing me,” Sloan groaned. “Let Grady and I do all the work, Jade. I think Hunter has something to give you sweetheart.”

Jade turned her head to see Hunter holding his hard cock at the base, as he swept it over the seam of her warm, moist lips.

“Suck my cock, Jade,” Hunter stated as he stared into Jade's green eyes when she looked up at him. He saw her give him a wicked smile, then the tip of her tongue flicked out, she licked around the corona of his hard flesh.

“That's it, sweetheart. Lick me good, get me nice and wet, then I want you to suck me into your sweet mouth.”



Jade was getting more turned on with every word Hunter spoke. She licked around and around the crown of his dick, then up and down the length, getting him nice and moist. When he was wet, she slid her mouth back up to the top of his length, opened her mouth wide and sucked him in.

“Oh fuck, yeah. Her mouth is so sweet. Look at those sweet lips wrapped around my hard cock. Suck me down, baby,” Hunter instructed.

Jade did what Hunter told her, she sucked as much of him as she could into her mouth. He was so wide and long, she was having trouble. She slid back up the length of him, took a deep breath and relaxed the muscles in her throat, as she sucked him down again. She felt the tip of his cock touch the back of her throat.

“Jade, you're are so fucking good at doing that. Now slide back up, but keep the suction on my cock nice and tight, then slide me back in babe. Oh fuck, you're killing me,” Hunter stated as the pleasure his brothers mate gave him, nearly took him over the edge. He had to grip his balls firmly and give them a sharp tug so he wouldn't shoot his load too soon.

Sloan and Grady waited until Jade was comfortable and into a nice easy rhythm, sucking Hunter's cock, then they slowly started to move within her body. Sloan pulled back and gently, slid all the way back into Jade's ass. As he pushed in, Grady pulled his cock from her cunt, until just the crown was still inside her body. They moved alternately in slow easy movements, giving Jade's tight little holes so much pleasure; she was moaning and humming around Hunter's cock. They slowly increased their

speed in increments, until they were moving at a steady pace.

When she started whimpering and writhing, they knew she was getting close to her peak. Sloan and Grady increased their pace, moving in and out, in and out, of Jade's body as she bobbed her head up and down on Hunter's cock, in time to their thrusting. For the bonding ceremony to work, they all had to climax at the same time, as the males bit and marked Jade. Jade's moans escalated until she was crying loudly in one big long, muffled scream around Hunter's cock.

"Now," Sloan roared, as he pinched Jade's clit between his thumb and finger then leaned down to bite her again in the same place, as Grady bit her on the other side where her neck and shoulder met, and Hunter bit her on her inner wrist.

Grady pulled out of Jades, pussy and sprayed her stomach with his cum. He would have loved nothing better, than to have stayed embedded in his brother's mate, but knew he could not take the chance of getting her pregnant. He knew this was the only time he or Hunter would have the opportunity of fucking Jade's sweet pussy, and sighed as he knew he shouldn't be feeling envious of his brother, but he was part human.

\* \* \* \*

Jade could feel the muscles in her pussy, coiling tighter and tighter, as Sloan and Grady pumped in and out of her body. She was so close to an orgasm; she was moaning and swallowing constantly on the

head of Hunter's cock, as it slid in and out of her mouth. She heard Sloan shout just before she felt Grady withdraw from her body and Sloan reached his climax, pulsing in her ass, then Hunter's in her mouth, Grady spraying her stomach with his cum, as they all climaxed together. She swallowed Hunter's seed automatically, as she saw stars behind her closed eyelids. She felt as if she was going to pass out from a pleasure overload. She felt Sloan and his brother's shooting their loads into and on her body. She swallowed one last time, before she slipped in to the land of dreams.

## Chapter Nine

Jade woke up thinking she was in a furnace. She was so hot, she was having trouble breathing. She opened her eyes as the sky began to lighten in the hour before dawn. She felt three large, hot male bodies surrounding her. She realized that she was in bed with Sloan, Hunter and Grady. She gave a groan as she moved, feeling sore muscles twinge throughout her body, no doubt to the excess of sex, she had never experienced before the previous evening.

She felt movement at her side and turned her head to see Sloan's blue gold flecked eyes smiling down into hers. He leaned over and kissed her on the lips, slipping his tongue between her teeth as he tangled it with hers. When he had her panting and moaning he pulled back, knowing it was way too soon to love his mate again. He knew she would be sore from the previous night's activities, and he wanted to give her body time to rest and recuperate.

"You are so sexy, baby. How are you feeling?" Sloan asked in a quiet voice.

"Sore," Jade moaned as she moved.

"I'll run some water in the tub for you. I want you to have a good soak to ease away your aches and pains," Sloan said, he rose from the bed.

Jade watched her mate rise from the bed; he was totally comfortable with his own nudity. She drank in his sexy, muscular body, her eyes lingering on his ass until he disappeared into the adjoining

bathroom.

Hunter moved up next to Jade turned her head to his and kissed her with an open mouth. He thrust his tongue in and tangled it around with hers until she gave a whimper of need.

“Morning babe,” Hunter greeted, then rose from the bed and strolled into the bathroom.

Jade felt fire burning in her cheeks as she watched Hunter stroll across the room. She took a deep breath turned her head away from her mate's sexy brother. She felt more movement from the bottom of the bed, and sat up to look towards Grady. He was propped up on his elbow with his head resting on the palm of his hand; a wickedly sexy grin tilted his lips.

“Morning sweetheart. God you have no idea how sexy you are, do you?” Grady stated, giving her a saucy wink then made his way to the bathroom as well.

Jade had no idea what to make of the situation with Sloan's brothers. Since she'd had to have sex with them at the bonding ceremony, she had become more attached to them than she should have; she began to feel guilty for having carnal thoughts about them. She wanted more of them as well as her mate and had no idea what to do about it. She knew what she felt was wrong, but how the hell Sloan expected her to keep her distance from them once she'd had sex with them, she didn't know.

She was going to have to talk with Sloan, and hoped to God he didn't get too upset or jealous over his brothers. Maybe she should wait a while, until she had established a better rapport with her mate, before

she said anything about wanting Hunter and Grady again. Yeah, that was probably the best thing to do, she convinced herself.

Sloan sauntered back into the bedroom, scooped Jade up into his arms and carried her into the bathroom. He climbed the steps to the spa bath, and then eased them both into the bubbling water. The scent of jasmine filled the air, so Jade knew Sloan had used some of the bath oil. Sloan sat down on the bench seat and placed Jade on his lap. He cuddled her into his chest as they both sat quietly, letting the warm water and massaging bubbles, go to work on Jade's aching muscles.

Jade looked up when she realized the shower was running. She spied Grady and Hunter, each under one of the three shower heads as they washed themselves. She closed her eyes again, settled back onto Sloan's lap, giving a sigh of satisfaction as she rested her head on his shoulder. She heard the shower turn off, but didn't move to peek at her sexy brother's in law. She was still nervous how Sloan would react to her panting after his brother's. She gave a gasp of surprise as she felt and heard the water in the tub splash and opened her eyes to see Hunter and Grady sit down in the tub with her and Sloan. She peeked up at Sloan to see his face; and saw his eyes were on her, hunger evident as he stared down at her body. She felt her cheeks redden, and lowered her eyes once more. She couldn't keep looking at him when he stared at her with such hunger. He was turning her on so much; she wanted him to ease the throbbing ache between her legs.

Sloan used a finger beneath Jade's chin and

tilted her face back up to his. He saw the fire in her eyes, then leaned down to take her mouth with his own. He slid his lips over hers, then slanted his mouth, using his own lips, he opened her mouth up to his. Slipping his tongue between her lips and teeth, he encouraged her to tangle her tongue with his. He slid a hand up from where it was resting on her lower abdomen, and cupped her naked breast in his large palm. He kneaded and massaged, until he had her moaning and writhing, on his lap. He used his thumb to flick her nipple back and forth rapidly, making her rock her hips on his own.

Sloan picked Jade up in his arms, turned her on his lap until she was straddling his hips, facing him. He leaned down and sucked first one, then the other of her nipples into his mouth, flicking and nipping as she rocked her cunt over his cock. He picked her up by her waist, high enough to be over the tip of his cock, then eased her down slowly until he was buried to the hilt. He swallowed her gasps and moans with his mouth, as he kept tangling his tongue with hers.

He motioned Hunter over with his free hand, behind Jade's back so she couldn't see what he was doing. Since he had already set a tube of lube on the side of the spa, he knew his brother wouldn't have much trouble entering his mate's ass, to enhance her pleasure. Sloan stood up in the spa tub, and then sat down on the edge as he let Jade rock and move on his cock. When he knew most of the water coating her body had slid off, he held her down on his cock and lap, making sure she couldn't move, so Hunter wouldn't hurt her.

Hunter moved up behind Jade after coating two

fingers with some lube. He massaged her tight little pucker, until her muscles released their tight grip and opened to him. He slowly pushed the tips of his fingers into her ass, and felt them pop through the muscles of her sphincter. He held still, giving her time to adjust to his penetration. As her muscles released and opened to him, he pushed them in all the way, then scissored them as he pumped them in and out of her body. When Jade began to rock back on his fingers, he removed them from her tight hole.

Hunter covered his hard rod with a generous amount of lube, and then massaged the tip against Jade's ass. When her muscles released again and opened to him, he pushed into her body until he felt the crown of his cock, pop through the tight ring of muscles in her ass. He gave a growl of pleasure, as the muscles of her anus pulsed over him, gripping and releasing. Her body finally adjusted, she stopped pulsing on his cock, so Hunter pushed into her relaxed ass, until he was fully embedded.

Sloan leaned down and took Jade's mouth with a carnal kiss until he had her gasping into his mouth; he weaned his mouth from hers then turned her head towards Grady. He watched her eyes widen, then narrow as she looked at Grady's hard on. She licked her lips, making all three of the men groan at such a sexy sight, then took Grady into her mouth, all the way to the back of her throat. He was so turned on watching his mate suck his brother's cock, it surprised him. Instead of making him jealous having his brother's help him to love his woman, it made him burn higher and hotter. He waited until Jade had a good rhythm going, as she licked, sucked and



bobbed up and down Grady's cock. Then he began to move, himself.

Sloan gripped Jade's hips and he rocked them back towards Hunter, as he pulled his cock out of her tight wet hole, until he was just resting inside her. As he pushed back in, he pulled Jade back onto him, as Hunter withdrew his cock. He and Hunter set up a slow steady rhythm, not wanting to go too hard or too fast, in case Jade was still tender from the previous night's activities. They thrust in and out of her body with lazy movements, he and Hunter helped her to rock her hips to and fro, helping build the friction of skin rubbing inside and on skin to enhance their pleasure, as they watched Jade give Grady head.

Jade pulled off Grady's cock and pleaded with Sloan and Hunter.

"Please."

"Please what, baby?" asked Sloan.

"I need more. Please. I want you to move faster, harder," Jade panted out between breaths. Once she was done speaking she dived back onto Grady's cock, sucking hard, until he was nudging the back of her throat.

Her pleading was enough for Sloan and Hunter to release the tight control they had on themselves. They began to pound in and out of her body at the same time, and had her growling on Grady's cock in moments. The faster they fucked her, the faster she sucked Grady off, as she rocked to and fro with her hips.

Grady gave a mighty roar, and lost his load down Jade's throat. Sloan and Hunter's libido was turned up another notch, as they listened to Jade

humming with satisfaction as she swallowed Grady's cum, then licked him clean. She pulled her face from Grady's crotch, tipped her head back and screamed.

"I'm gonna cum."

"Yes, baby. Give me your cream. Oh yeah, Jade. I want you to drench me with your cum," Sloan groaned, as he felt the first flutters of her cunt.

Hunter and Sloan pounded in and out of Jade's tight holes to enhance her orgasm as she tipped over the edge. She gave one big long cry as her climax shook her whole body. Then heard the men let out their own roars as they both followed her over the edge into bliss, pumping her full of their seed.

Jade slumped down onto Sloan's chest, panting air in and out of her lungs. She gave a low groan when she felt Hunter pull his half flaccid cock from her ass, and heard a splash as Hunter fell back down onto the spa seat.

"Fuck me. Jade, you are one sexy lady. You have totally wrecked me, sweetheart. My legs are shaking so much, I can hardly stand," Hunter stated.

"Why do you think I haven't moved yet?" asked Sloan.

"I was in the same predicament, but I've had a little longer to recover, since your mate made me cum before you all did," Grady stated with a sheepish grin.

"Dead," was all Jade managed to say.

She had all three men laughing with her. She was so satiated she couldn't move, let alone wanted to.

Sloan slowly eased his cock from Jade's pussy and turned her around to face his brothers. "I think

my mate deserves some pampering guys. What do you think?"

"Yeah, I agree," Hunter replied.

"Ditto," stated Grady.

They each picked up a sponge, squirted some jasmine scented body wash on them and proceeded to wash her. Jade sat back and let them. It felt so good not to have to wash herself. If she wasn't careful she could become very lazy, she was fearful she might just get too used to being pampered. Once they were finished washing every single inch of her body, Sloan stood and lifted her from the tub. He dried his mate from head to foot, then dried himself. They all entered the bedroom to get dressed. They were all very hungry after a night and morning of such pleasurable exercise, and they needed to refuel their bodies after satiating their carnal hunger.

Hunter and Grady left to go to their own rooms for some clean clothing, as Jade and Sloan dressed. They would all head down to breakfast and replenish their empty stomachs.

Sloan and Jade entered the dining room to find it full of pack members already. They all smirked as the two of them walked over to their seats, making wolf whistles and, howls as they progressed through the room. Jade could feel her cheeks becoming red, but tried to act nonchalantly as she moved. She just smiled at everyone and sat down as Sloan held her chair for her.

Jade ate more food than she ever had before, then felt guilty afterwards knowing she didn't have the same metabolism as the Eagle River Pack members. She shrugged mentally, knowing she

wouldn't have eaten so much if she didn't need it. Jade felt uncomfortable as she felt eyes directed her way. She looked up to see Tammy glaring daggers at her again. Jade decided she wasn't about to let herself be intimidated, and glared back at Tammy, until she looked away. Jade sipped her coffee, as she listened to Sloan talking to his brothers and other male pack members. There were so many rules and regulations, she was sure she was never going to remember them all.

Jade didn't know what she was supposed to do with her time, but she knew she was going to have to return to the apartment she had shared with her mom, to pack up her belongings and hand in her notice to end her lease. She was also going to have to resign from her supermarket job. She hoped her boss would be understanding, and not make her work out the months' notice she was supposed to give. She gave a loud sigh and, pulled her thoughts back to the room. She looked up and noticed most of the pack members had left, including Tammy, thank goodness. There was only Sloan, Hunter, Grady, Brock, Riley and a couple of others still in the dining room; all their eyes were on her.

"What," Jade asked, as she looked from one male to the other.

"What has that frown on your face, baby?"

Sloan asked with concern.

"Um, well, I was just thinking about the apartment I shared with my mom and my job," Jade answered. "I am going to have to do something soon, cause my rent is due next week."

"Don't worry about it, baby. I'll get someone to

take care of it for you,” Sloan stated.

“You will not,” Jade replied indignantly. “I’ll pack up my own things, thank you very much.”

“Jade, it’s too dangerous for you to be on your own. Now please, let me get someone to do it for you,” Sloan commanded more than asked.

“I don’t care how dangerous you think it is, Sloan. I’m not letting anyone touch my mom’s stuff,” Jade said quietly.

The male pack members leaned back in their chairs, content to watch the debate between their Alpha and Queen. They were sure Sloan was going to put his foot down, command Jade what he wanted her to do.

“I understand how you feel, baby, but I would rather you weren’t alone when one of the other packs has it in for me. They could try and get to me through you,” Sloan opined.

“And I can understand why you don’t want me to be alone. What if you come with me? If you can’t, send a couple of your pack members to protect me,” Jade suggested.

“I would rather you stay here with me, baby, but I know how you feel about your mom. I can’t leave at the moment, I have a few things which need attending to, so how about I send Hunter, Grady and Brock with you? That way I know you have the best protection the pack can provide, as they are all my Beta’s,” Sloan compromised. “How long will it take you, to get home, pack everything up and get back here?”

“Hm,” Jade stopped to think before answering. “Probably about a week, give or take a day or two.”

"A week?" Sloan asked, frustration evident in his tone. "Can't you get it done any faster?"

"I have to give notice to my landlord, Sloan. I'm supposed to give him a months' notice, plus I have to pack everything in boxes, give away some stuff to charity, let alone the drive there and back," Jade explained.

"You'll have Grady, Hunter, Brock and his brother Zane to help you with everything, Jade. I'll give you four days tops, no arguments or you stay here," Sloan stated, and then he leaned back in his chair, and crossed his arms over his broad, muscular chest.

"Okay, four days," Jade agreed grudgingly.

Jade waited until Sloan had finished up his pack business, rose from her chair, then straddled Sloan's lap. She gave him a kiss on the lips, then pulled back before he could take control and ravage her mouth.

"Sloan, can I ask you a question?"

"You don't need to ask that, baby. Fire away," he replied.

"Why did you let your brothers have sex with me, this morning?"

"Because you got so much pleasure out of it; and it turned me on seeing my bothers help me give you pleasure. Plus they don't have a mate of their own. They can and do probably fuck human females, but I can see the longing in their faces when they look at you. There is no telling how long it will take for them to meet their own mates. It is normal within the pack for a mated wolf to sometimes share his woman, with his single brothers and or other pack

members. Why? Didn't you like it?"

"God no. I mean, yes I liked it. I loved it. I was just wondering, since you didn't have to let them touch me, after the bonding ceremony."

"I love watching you come apart in my arms, sweetheart. You don't realize how sexy or beautiful you are. That's one of the things I love about you. You don't have a vain bone in your body. You know, the first time Brock laid eyes on you, he told me, if it wasn't the fact you were my mate, he would have made a play for you himself."

"He did?"

"Yeah, he did. I see all the single males of the pack eying you when you're not looking. If you could see the lust in their eyes, you'd be walking around with pink cheeks all the time," Sloan stated, then laughed, as said cheeks, reddened under his gaze. "I love you, Jade."

"I love you too, Sloan. I have another question. Would you let your brothers touch me if you weren't in the room?"

"No. The only time I would let anyone else touch you, is when I am with you. I like to direct what they will or will not be allowed to do to you, to enhance your pleasure, Jade. Why? Do you want them to touch you when I am not around?" Sloan asked through narrowed eyes.

"No. No way," Jade replied emphatically. "I was just curious." Jade leaned in and placed a her lips on Sloan's.

Sloan took over the kiss until they were both moaning.

## Chapter Ten

Jade prepared her clothes for the drive back home to her apartment in Bismarck, North Dakota. She washed, ironed and packed, making sure everything was ready for her trip with the four, large, sexy werewolves. She washed all the other clothes left in the dirty laundry basket as well, hung them out onto the clothes lines so they could dry in the fall air and sunshine.

When she was done with her packing, she tidied the master bedroom she now shared with Sloan. She made the bed, vacuumed the carpet, dusted the furniture, and then she cleaned the adjoining bathroom until it gleamed. Once done she gave a sigh of satisfaction, then headed down to have a break in the large living room.

Sloan and his brothers were nowhere to be found, but she saw Riley and Myles playing a game of pool at the table on the far side of the room. Brock and Zane were watching car racing on television. Tyrone, Shane and Shannon were playing cards in another corner of the room.

Jade hesitated then took a deep breath and smiled when they all turned toward her. She sauntered into the room, slumped down onto the massive modular sofa, at the far end, away from Brock and Zane.

“Hey, Jade,” Brock greeted her with a wink, then turned his attention back to the car race on the TV.

“Hi Jade. Why don't you come over here and



snuggle?" Zane asked as he looked at her.

"W..what?" Jade asked the in-credulousness obvious in her tone.

"Sloan obviously hasn't told you, but pack members tend to snuggle together. It doesn't matter if they're male or female, we all like to be touching in some way. Especially our Alpha and Queen," Brock explained, as he held out a hand towards her, and beckoned by curling his fingers in towards his body.

Jade didn't want to break any of their strange laws, so she stood up, walked over to the sofa to Brock and Zane. They separated a little, to make room for her to squeeze in between them. She sat down carefully, making sure she didn't sit on one of their laps accidentally, and gave a sigh as they snuggled up against her sides, then rested their heads on her shoulders. Jade closed her eyes, as she reveled in the comfort the touch of another human being, gave her. She drifted off to sleep with the drone of cars racing around a track on the TV, in the background.

Jade was unaware when her snuggle companions changed from Brock and Zane, to Tyrone and Hunter. Sloan had found Brock and Zane snuggled in with his mate as they watched the car racing on the TV. Since he had needed them for a job, he had directed Hunter and Tyrone to snuggle up with Jade, so she would have someone to lean on, in case she happened to slip sideways. A nap would do her good, as he knew the bonding ceremony and the sex this morning with him and his brothers had worn her out. Plus he had found out from Emma, Jade had done all the laundry, as well as cleaned the bathroom

off his room, after vacuuming and dusting. Sloan wanted her to sleep as long as possible, since she was leaving for her apartment in the morning. He knew he was going to keep her up most of the night making love to his mate. He wanted her to get as much rest as possible.

\* \* \* \*

*She could feel the hairs on the nape of her neck standing on end. She felt as if she was being watched, but couldn't see anyone nearby. Her surroundings were unfamiliar; she had no idea where she was. She tried to sit up as she was lying on a bed, but when she tried to move, she realized her arms and legs were tethered to the foot and head rails of the bed. She gave a whimper of fear, then pushed it back down, she concentrated on breathing deeply. She couldn't let herself panic, because if she did she wouldn't be able to think rationally anymore. She had no idea how she had gotten here, or who had secured her to the bed, but she knew she had to escape or she would never see Sloan again.*

Jade whimpered, and then cried out just before she jerked awake from her dream. She gave a sob of relief, and threw herself into the closest pair of arms, which happened to be Tyrone's. She cried against his shoulder as he rubbed a soothing palm up and down her spine.

Hunter moved up closer to Jade, plucked her from Tyrone's arms and settled her onto his lap, securely into the curve of his body. He held her against his chest, as he stroked her back until she

calmed.

“Are you alright, sweetheart? Do you want to talk about the nightmare you just had?” Hunter asked in a gentle voice, as he continued to soothe her.

“No. I'm sorry Tyrone, Hunter. I didn't mean to weep all over you both.”

“You can weep on me anytime you want to, Jade,” Tyrone replied with a cocky grin. “Are you okay now?”

“Yeah, I'm fine, thanks. Where's Sloan?”

“He should be back any minute now,” Hunter answered evasively.

“What aren't you telling me, Hunter?” Jade asked suspiciously.

“He's gone for a run, sweet cheeks,” Hunter answered.

“A run? Sloan doesn't need to go for a run. He's fit enough already.”

Hunter and Tyrone both gave a bark of laughter at her naivety.

“He hasn't gone on a run for exercise Jade. He's gone for a run in his wolf form. We like to run for sheer pleasure. We feel so free, and joyous running in our wolf form, babe,” explained Hunter.

“Oh. Oh, I missed it. I wanted to see him in his wolf form,” Jade stated, her disappointment evident. “Why haven't I seen any of you in your wolf form?”

“We were all giving you time to adjust to your new life. We didn't want to frighten you, Jade,” Tyrone answered.

“Hm, okay. I know I would have been scared at first, but now I'm Sloan's mate, and part of this family, pack, I want to know everything about all of

you,” she stated sincerely.

“Well, why don't you let Sloan know you're ready to see all of him? I think you'll make him very happy if you approach him about wanting to see his wolf,” Hunter opined.

“Yeah, good idea. When is dinner? I'm hungry,” she stated unnecessarily, as her stomach gave a loud rumble.

Hunter laughed as he stood with Jade still in his arms. Instead of putting her down, he carried her into the dining room, as he felt Sloan enter the house. He had her seated with a plate of food in front of her before anyone else was even in the dining room. He and Emma were treating her like the Queen she was.

Jade had just finished eating her dinner as Sloan, then all the other pack members entered the dining room. Sloan gave her a smile and a wink, Jade returned the gesture as she smiled sheepishly back, then looked down at her empty plate.

“I think I've worn you out sweetheart. Were you really hungry?” Sloan asked with a satisfied grin.

Jade didn't reply but smiled as she swatted him on the shoulder. She sat and listened to everyone present talking. Snippets of conversation drifted down to her end of the table. Her curiosity was piqued when she heard Shannon talking about the Alpha of another pack.

“Shannon are you friends with this Alpha?” she called out.

“No, Jade. He's our enemy.”

“Why?”

Shannon looked at Sloan to see if she wanted him to explain the animosity between their pack and

the Hell Hound Pack. Sloan gave his affirmation, and sat back to watch his mate's reaction.

“The Alpha of the Hell Hound Pack has been trying to kill Alpha's of other packs in this territory. Devlin Spawn is a power hungry, evil Alpha. He will use anybody, and any means he can to get at the other Alphas, including women. He actually succeeded in destroying the Freedom Pack by killing the Alpha's mate. It took six months for him to follow his mate into the afterlife. He lost interest in the running of his own pack, they were left vulnerable by their Alpha's inattention.”

“Oh my, those poor people,” Jade sympathized, as she covered her mouth with her hand.

“That's one of the reasons I didn't want you going to pack up your apartment, baby. Do you think you could let others do this for you now?” asked Sloan.

“Oh, Sloan. I would, if it was just my stuff. I can't bear the thought of anyone touching my mom's things. They're too precious to me.”

“I understand, Jade. But now, maybe you can understand why I want my brothers, Brock and Zane going along.”

“Yeah, I do,” Jade said, then leaned over and covered his hand with her own.

Jade felt familiar tingling at the nape of her neck. She looked straight at Tammy and stared her down. Tammy looked away first, much to Jade's satisfaction.

The meal progressed in its normal rowdy fashion. Jade loved being surrounded by such a large family. At first she had been uncomfortable, not used

to so many people, but now she wouldn't be without a single one of them, except Tammy, of course. She knew she could go to Sloan in regards to the jealous female, but had decided against it, not wanting to bring him in to such a petty squabble. Besides, if she was Queen of Eagle River Pack, then she was going to have to learn to deal with problems herself, as they arose. She couldn't go running to Sloan every five minutes, he had enough on his plate already.

Jade had asked Brock why Tammy wasn't mated, since she was the only natural born female werewolf in the pack. He had advised her none of the males in their pack were her true mate, but it was natural for the single males and females, if there were any, to want to relieve their natural urges. He had explained the sex drive of a werewolf was much more potent than a human.

Jade waited until everyone had left the dining room, except for Hunter and Grady, before she posed the question front and center of her brain. "Sloan, why won't you let me see you change into your wolf?"

"It's not that I won't let you or don't want you to see my wolf, Jade, I was concerned I would frighten you."

"Well, I don't know why? It's a part of who you are, who all of you are," Jade stated as she looked from Sloan, Grady and Hunter, then back to Sloan. "I may have been a bit scared in the beginning, but now we're mated, I don't want you to hide any part of yourself from me."

"If you're sure you're ready, I can show you right now," Sloan said as he raised his eyebrow,

quizzically.

At Jade's nod of affirmation, Sloan stood, moved back from the table and began removing his clothes.

"Uh, do you think you should do that here?" Jade asked, as she looked around, making sure no one could see her man as he disrobed.

"Every one of my pack members has seen me naked, and I've seen them naked, baby. We have to remove our clothing otherwise, we would be forever buying new clothes," Sloan said with a grin.

"Okay," Jade sighed.

She watched as Sloan revealed his muscular physique, and felt the beginnings of arousal, as her clit began to throb. She wiggled in her chair, hoping she wasn't being too obvious, then saw the grin on her mate's face, and knew she had failed.

The lines of Sloan's body began to shimmer and fade. She watched as his muscles, sinew and bones, began to undulated beneath his skin. She heard horrible cracking and popping sounds as his bones contorted and shrunk. His face began to elongate at the nose and mouth until a snout appeared. Black fur sprung out through his skin until he was covered in a dark thick coat.

She gave a gasp as the most massive gorgeous black wolf, with blue golden flecked eyes, stood before her. She tentatively reached out a hand as Sloan moved toward her cautiously. She sunk her hand into the fur at the back of his neck, luxuriating in the soft silky feel of it under her fingers and palm. She moved her hand and scratched behind his triangular pointed ears, then gave a giggle, as he

groaned with pleasure.

“It was you wasn't it, Sloan. You were the wolf I saw the first day I came to look at the gate house,” Jade stated.

Sloan gave a little yip in acknowledgment, licked her arm once then moved back away from her. Once more the lines of his body delineated and contorted, the fur vanishing before her eyes as his body lengthened, until he was standing before her, in his human form.

“That was so awesome. I want you to tell all the pack members to stop hiding their wolves from me. It's not right you should all hide this part of yourselves, just because you think you may frighten me. I'm made of much stronger stuff than that. Besides, you're all gorgeous.”

Whilst Jade had been talking, Sloan had redressed, he moved toward her, picked her up in his arms and kissed her. By the time he lifted his head, they were both breathless and horny. He left the dining room with his mate, intending to ravage her all night long.

Sloan kicked the bedroom door closed behind him, placed Jade on the bed and followed her down. He kissed her with an open mouth, their tongues dueling and teeth nipping until they were both moaning and panting. He kissed his way down her neck until her shirt was impeding his progress. He sat up, straddling her hips, lifted her shirt up and over her head. Her luscious breasts beckoned, as her aureole shrank in the cool night air, pointing up towards his drooling mouth. He bent down, took first one hard nipple in his mouth, then the other, suckling



and flicking each tip until they were engorged with blood. He slid further down her body, licking his tongue over her soft, smooth silky skin, until he reached the waist band of her jeans.

He pulled open the button, then slid the zipper down and tugged, he removed her jeans and panties, as she lifted her hips to help his progress. Sloan moved down the length of her long shapely legs and pulled them off, over her feet. He sat back on his haunches and drank her in with his hungry eyes.

“God, you're beautiful,” he whispered, as his eyes roamed the length of her body, from feet to head. He quickly stood and began removing his clothes.

Jade had never seen Sloan undress so quickly, it made her even hornier, knowing he was as desperate for her, as she was for him. When he was finally naked, he climbed on the bottom of the bed, at her feet. Nipping and licking up the inside of one leg, beginning at her ankle. She never knew she had so many erogenous zones. He reached the apex of her thighs, gripped the inside of her legs, pushed them apart and up until she was totally exposed to him.

Sloan gave a growl, breathing in her sweet musky scent. He slid down until he was lying between her spread thighs, and then moved in for the first lick of her pussy. Sloan couldn't get enough of her taste. He opened his mouth wide, covering her entire cunt, sucking, licking, nibbling and thrusting his tongue in and out of her tight wet sheath.

Jade was in heaven and hell. Sloan was giving her too much pleasure. She wanted him to stop, but then contradicted herself by pulling his head firmer

against her aroused flesh. She felt him stab his tongue in and out, again and again, into her dripping sex, then cried out as he slid his tongue up through her wet folds to flick her clit with his tongue. He thrust two fingers into her sheath. He had her on the brink of orgasm in seconds. He removed his fingers from her body, slid up her length, then embedded himself to the hilt with one powerful thrust. He took her mouth, sharing the taste of her essence, tangling his tongue with hers.

Sloan couldn't hold back the urge to thrust his hips when Jade arched up beneath him. He pulled out, groaning at the sensation of her tight, wet flesh gripping him, then pushed back in once more, until the tip of his cock was touching her cervix. He withdrew again and plunged back in. Setting up a fast, steady pace. He thrust in and out of her cunt, making both of them moan with ecstasy. He increased his pace yet again, until he was pounding in and out of his mate, the sound of his balls slapping against her flesh echoing through the room. He felt her flutter around him, warning of her impending climax, just as his balls drew up tight against his body. He thrust once, twice, three times more, both of them crying out as they fell over the edge of the cliff and shot to the stars.

Sloan leaned over Jade, using the strength of his arms to support his weight, and kissed her lips, slanting his mouth over hers with a leisurely pace. He weaned his mouth from hers, then withdrew his cock from her body and moved off to the side. He pulled her into the curve of his body, spooning her as they both drifted into sleep.

## Chapter Eleven

Jade woke to an empty bed. She knew it wasn't very late, the sun was just beginning to lighten the sky. She gave a yawn, stretched then threw the covers back and sauntered to the bathroom. She was showered, dressed and packed before she headed downstairs to the dining room for breakfast. *She was so hungry she could eat a horse.* Jade gave a chuckle at her own analogy. Gave another yawn and entered the dining room.

Sloan was already there with his brothers as well as Zane and Brock. He looked up as she entered the room, giving her a wink and a grin as she moved around the table and took her seat beside him. Jade leaned over and gave him a kiss on the mouth, then breathed in his clean, masculine scent. Just his smell was enough to turn her on. She picked up the platter of bacon and eggs, then loaded her plate. She was going to have to watch what she ate, or she would end up the size of a pig. She gave a mental shrug, thinking it must be all the exercise she was getting in the bedroom, and she set about eating her breakfast.

Sloan discussed last minute security measures he wanted his brother's and Beta's, to ensure Jade's safety. Grady went and retrieved Jade's luggage, then took it out to the large dual cab truck, as Sloan walked his mate out the front of the house.

"I want you to listen to my brother's, as well as Brock and Zane. Do everything they tell you without question, I don't want your life in jeopardy," Sloan demanded.

"I'll be fine, Sloan. I'm only going to pack up a few things," she stated, smoothing the palm of her hand down his cheek.

"I want your promise, Jade. Promise me you'll do everything they tell you, as soon as they tell you to do it. Your life may depend on you following their orders, baby," Sloan said.

"Okay. I promise. I love you, Sloan."

"I love you, too. Four days, Jade. No more."

"Three, if I can," Jade said with a saucy wink, kissed him and hopped into the back of the car, sliding into the middle.

They took off down the drive moments later, Zane behind the wheel, Brock in the front passenger seat, with Hunter and Grady beside her in the back.

"Who's looking after the motel, Brock?"

"Tyrone, Shayne and Shannon, are taking it in turns," he replied turning his head to look at Jade.

"Do you own the motel?"

"Well, no. It belongs to the pack, the income goes back into running the motel as well as whatever else it's needed for."

"How many properties does the pack own?"

"Too many to count. I couldn't tell you off the top of my head. You should ask one of Sloan's accountants," Brock suggested.

"No, I was just being curious. I don't really care all that much," Jade replied.

Brock gave her a grin, then turned back to look out the front of the truck.

It took them six hours to drive from Eagle River to Jade's apartment in Bismarck, North Dakota. They had stopped a couple of times for bathroom

breaks as well as drinks and lunch. Jade gave a sigh as her apartment came into view. It looked so shabby compared to Sloan's house. She began to feel insecure again, seeing her apartment up close after such luxury, made her question why Sloan had wanted her. She was nobody. Why hadn't he wanted that sexy, bitchy Tammy, instead? She was so much more sophisticated than Jade would ever be. Tammy knew all about the Eagle River Pack laws, Jade was just beginning to get her bearings. Oh well, who was she to question who Sloan loved. She was just glad he did indeed love her, the way she loved him.

Jade unlocked her apartment door and entered. Every time she came home she still expected to see and hear her mom. She felt as if she had a big gaping hole in her chest, as if part of her was missing, like she was no longer whole. She gave a sigh and tried to focus her attention on what needed to be done.

Jade had already taken her mother's clothing to the local charity shop a few months before and was glad she didn't have to deal with them again. She put the rest of her clothes into large sturdy garbage bags, then set about emptying the cupboards of crockery, pots, pans and cutlery whilst Zane went to get some empty boxes from the local supermarket. By the time he got back everything was out on the benches and table ready to be packed and taken away. All the dishes had come from charity shops to begin with, so they held no sentimental value. The only things Jade really wanted to keep, was her own clothing, a few pieces of her mom's jewelry, as well as all the photographs she and her mom had taken over the years. Everything else could go to the charity shop.

By the end of the day she was exhausted, but everything had been packed up and taken away. The only things left were the beds and furnishings, which had come as part of their lease. Tomorrow she would come back to clean. She would need to notify her landlord of her intention to break her lease. She hoped he wouldn't quibble over a month's payment, but with some people you never knew how they were going to react.

"I'm done for today," Jade told Hunter and Grady as Brock and Zane were on their last run to the charity shop. "I'll need to come back tomorrow to clean and I need to contact my landlord."

"Okay, babe. Sit down and rest while we wait for Brock and Zane, then we'll go book into a hotel for the night. You can have a nice relaxing bath while you're waiting for room service," Hunter advised, as he and Grady sat next to her on the old lumpy sofa.

It had broken their hearts to see the way Jade and her mom had had to struggle over the years. The apartment building was so old, it looked as if it should have been condemned and knocked down years ago. None of the men had said anything, knowing how they would upset their Queen if they had.

Brock and Zane returned, then loaded all of Jade's belongings in the back of their truck, securing the cover so her things wouldn't get wet if it rained. They drove to a prestigious hotel; and much to Jade's consternation booked a suite instead of rooms. The suite had two bedrooms, with an opulence Jade found ostentatious, but she didn't argue, as she was just too plain tired. She presumed she was going to have to

sleep with Hunter and Grady or on the sofa.

She ran a bath, while the men ordered their food, luxuriating in the warm scented water, as she relaxed for the first time that day. She planned out the next day's activities in her mind and figured she should be done by lunchtime. Hopefully they would be able to head home soon after, knowing Sloan would be happy if she could finish up so quickly.

She heard the knock on the door, then a couple of thumps and everything went quiet. The noises had disturbed Jade. She got out of the tub, dried off, then dressed in clean clothes. She cautiously peeked through a gap she made in the door, but couldn't see anyone. She didn't like how quiet things had gone, the noises she heard had sounded like two people hitting the floor.

Jade moved down the small hallway which separated the bathroom and bedrooms from the living room. She was glad the lights were off so she could use the shadows to help camouflage her movements. She crept to the doorway leading into the living room, so she could scan the room without her body being visible.

Two large strange men in wait staff uniforms stood over Hunter, Grady, Brock and Zane, who were all unconscious on the floor. Her heart began pounding so loud in her ears; she couldn't hear anything but her own heavy panting, and the blood rushing past her ear drums. Before panic could take over totally, she noted the four Eagle River Pack members were still alive. She could see the rise and fall of their chests as they breathed, thank God.

Jade wasn't aware of making any sounds, but

her movement must have alerted the strangers she was there. They looked up, put their noses in the air and sniffed. Oh, no. They had to be werewolves, as well. She had only seen Sloan and his pack members do that. Jade spun on her heels, raced back into the bathroom, locking the door behind her.

Oh God, she was trapped. What the hell was she going to do now? She'd left her cell phone in her purse which was out on the coffee table in the living room. The only other phones in the suite had to be in either the bedrooms or the living room, not that she had taken any notice. She had entered the bathroom as soon as they entered the hotel suite.

Jade spied a window above the toilet, then realized it wouldn't help anyway, they were on the top floor of the hotel. She had nowhere to go. She cringed back to the far corner of the bathroom when she heard footsteps, coming closer. Usually a werewolf moved silently, not letting others aware they were around, obviously these guys didn't feel a need to hide any noise they made; since this was the case, she figured she was in deep shit.

She covered her mouth to keep a sob in as they pounded on the bathroom door.

"You may as well come out. We know you're in there. You have nowhere to go lady, so I suggest you open the door and save us the trouble of breaking it down," one of the strangers demanded.

Jade didn't move, she was too scared to. She kept her eyes on the door, gave another whimper as a loud crash landed on the wooden door, and knew her eyes widened with shock as the door fell to pieces before her eyes. She scooted back against the wall,



curled her body into the fetal position, as the two large men sauntered into the room. She closed her eyes against the offensive sight of the two large brutes, until she felt a hand clasp around one of the arms she had curled over her head.

Jade let fly. She kicked, screamed, scratched, slapped and punched, with all the strength she could muster. It didn't do her a lick of good. She just wasn't strong enough against a werewolf. One of them dragged her by the hair into the living room. She yelled the whole way, hoping like hell one of Sloan's brothers, Zane or Brock was beginning to come around. She glanced towards the four men still lying prone on the floor, and knew she was the only one she could rely on. She turned her body and used her fingernails, she raked them hard down the side of the brutes face. She left large bloody gouges, giving her a small sense of satisfaction.

The bastard backhanded her. Jade saw stars and cried out as pain exploded on the side of her face and mouth, then radiated up into her skull. She could feel herself beginning to pass out; and forced herself to breathe deeply and evenly, trying to remain conscious. The last thing she needed right now was to swoon like a lady from the Victorian era. She needed to know where they were taking her so she could plan her escape. Jade slumped down, pretending to have fainted, she needed her kidnappers to believe her unaware of her surroundings, so they wouldn't think to blind fold her or knock her out. She concentrated on making her muscles relax, breathing slowly and deeply.

“You knocked her out you bastard. Devlin is

going to be so pissed at you,” one of the men said.

“Look what the bitch did to my face,” replied the other one.

“Oh, you poor baby. You fucking moron, you're a werewolf for fuck sakes. You're already starting to heal.”

“So what. I don't like being hurt by a woman. She ain't no lady. Ladies don't go around doing shit like that.”

“Come on, let's get out of here. You go down the back stairs first, if anyone sees us, shoot em with the tranquilizer gun,” he commanded.

Jade felt herself being lifted up into one of the goon's arms, she made sure to keep her muscles lax as if she was unconscious, making her head loll, and her arms and legs flop as he moved her.

“She's got a nice ass,” said the one carrying her over his shoulder, and he slid a hand over her butt.

Jade had to control the bile threatening to erupt from her throat at the man's touch. She swallowed several times, hoping to God he wouldn't hear her.

“Hurry the fuck up,” said the man carrying her. “I can hear someone above us taking the stairs. Move it.”

Jade was bounced over the goons shoulder as they ran down the stairs. Every time she bounced, his shoulder hit her solar plexus, making it hard for her to breath. A door slammed open in front of them, and the men pushed through. Jade opened her eyes to slits and saw they were in an underground car park. They walked until they came to their vehicle. Jade snapped her eyes closed again as they put her into the back of a van. The two men jumped into the front, and then

they were moving. The van had no windows in the back or sides, just like a courier's vehicle. She felt her frustration and fear building, because there was no way she would be able to see where they were taking her.

Oh God. What was she going to do now? Please God, please, send Sloan to get me. I've done everything I was supposed to, please. Please, God help me, Jade prayed.

Jade didn't know how long she was in the back of the van for. It felt like hours. She knew she was going to have bruises from being flung all over the hard floor of the van, and she was aching from head to toe, but that was the least of her worries. She'd finally remembered where she had heard the name Devlin Spawn. He was the Alpha of the Hell Hound Pack, the evil Alpha trying to take over a large territory, because he was power hungry. Jade was scared stiff, but tried to tamp her panic down. She needed to keep her head clear, so if an opportunity for escape arose, she would be able to take it.

The van slowed down and turned onto a gravel road or driveway. It only traveled for about another two hundred meters, then came to a stop. It was pitch black, there were no street lights to illuminate the way. Jade guessed it was in the early hours of the morning, but for all she knew it could be earlier or later.

The back doors to the van were flung open, a hand grasped her ankle and, pulled her from the van's interior. Jade kicked at the hand with her free foot, trying to get whoever had a hold of her to release her.

“Stop it you, little bitch or I'll give you another

backhander,” commanded the thug who had hit her before.

“You'd better not, Percy. Our Alpha is gonna be really pissed with you already,” said the other idiot. At least he tried to stop her from being hit.

“Aw, she deserves everything she gets, Mike.”

Jade couldn't believe Percy's griping, he sounded like a petulant child.

“Come on,” Mike said, holding a hand out to Jade.

Jade skirted his hand as she got out of the van. She looked around to see if she could ascertain where they were, but all she could see was dark forest everywhere and a large log cabin to her right, lit up from the inside.

## Chapter Twelve

Hunter woke up with a pounding headache. He knew something was terribly wrong, but for the life of him, he couldn't remember what. He turned his stiff, sore neck, saw Grady lying on the floor, Brock and Zane not far away.

"Jade," he screamed, as he jumped to his feet.

He reached Grady, shook him until his brother opened his eyes, told him to wake Brock and Zane. Hunter reached into his pocket, then dialed his Alpha brother's mobile.

"Sloan, they have her."

"Who?" Sloan growled out, causing the hackles at the back of Hunter's neck rise.

"I think they were members of the Hell Hound Pack. I only got a small whiff before I was tranquilized. There were two of them, they tranquilized all of us, Sloan. It had to have been a modernized tranquilizer gun, because they didn't have to stop to reload. God, I'm so sorry."

"I don't suppose you know where they took her?"

"No."

"Get your asses back here ASAP. I'll get the rest of the Beta's on the job," Sloan growled out as he snapped his phone shut. He gave an almighty howl of grief which brought his pack members running.

"Alpha, what's happened?" Riley asked with concern.

"Riley, I want you to find out everything you can on the Hell Hound Pack. They have kidnapped

my mate. Shannon I want you to try and hack into their computer system. Myles I want you and Tyrone to keep your eyes and ears open around our pack. No one knew where Jade, Hunter, Grady, Brock or Zane were going, we have a leak somewhere. You're to keep your mouths shut, I don't want the news getting out of Jade's disappearance. Whoever the mole in this pack is may slip up. I want whoever it is found. I want all the information on the Hell Hound Pack yesterday."

"Yes, Alpha," the pack members replied simultaneously, leaving to do their assigned tasks.

Sloan wanted to change then and there, so he could rip Devlin Spawn's throat out, and sever his fucking head from his shoulders, but he knew he had to try and be patient. He needed all the information he could get before he did anything. The last thing he wanted to do was put Jade's life in jeopardy. He walked through to the kitchen; Emma was preparing sandwiches and thermoses of coffee.

"You'll get her back, Alpha. She's too precious to this pack for some stupid power hungry animal to win. Besides, she's too smart by far to let anything jeopardize her own life. She's strong, Sloan. She's had to be to endure the way she has," Emma stated emphatically.

"I hope to God you're right, Emma. I can't, won't, survive without her. God, I love her so much. If I could trade places with her, I would in an instant."

"Do you think she doesn't know that? She knows you love her, Sloan; and she loves you just as much. You're two peas in a pod, you are. There is

nothing you wouldn't do to keep each other safe. I'll keep the fridge stocked with sandwiches and the thermoses with coffee," Emma advised.

"What would we do without you, Emma? I love you like a second mom, you know. If it hadn't been for you and your mate, I don't think I would have survived this long as Alpha."

"Now that's where you're wrong, young man. You are a better Alpha than your father, was before you. God rest his soul. I have never known an Alpha as compassionate or as fair as you are, Sloan. I love you too, son. Now, there is something I think you need to know," Emma stated with a frown.

"What is it, Emma?"

"I saw Tammy giving your mate the evil eye at every meal time. Your little woman wasn't intimidated though. You mark my words, our little Jade has gumption when she needs it. She glared right back at that little bitch. I heard that Tammy cornered your mate out near the fountain, told Jade you were hers. If I had to start looking somewhere for a traitor, I'd start with her," Emma stated indignantly.

"Do you know where Tammy is?" Sloan asked.

"No, I haven't seen her since yesterday."

"Hm, if she was so hell bent on causing trouble between Jade and I, you'd think she'd use Jade's absence to her advantage."

"Exactly. Now if she wanted to become Queen Bee, that would be another story," Emma supplied.

"Thanks, Emma. You're an angel."

"Oh, go on with you," Emma replied with pink cheeks.

Sloan knew Emma had been tickled pink with his compliment. For the first time since he had found out Jade was missing, he smiled.

Sloan walked toward his office, where he knew Shannon would be working away diligently, on trying to hack into the Hell Hound's Pack computer system. He walked over to his desk, pulling up a chair to sit beside Shannon.

"Have you found anything yet?" Sloan asked.

"No. Their security is unbelievable. I'm having trouble getting through their firewalls," Shannon replied.

"See what you can find on Tammy instead," Sloan suggested.

"Are you serious? You think she could be the mole?"

"I'd stake my life on it," Sloan replied.

"Okay, let me see what I can find," Shannon replied.

He tapped into Tammy's bank account, and found a lump sum payment of ten thousand dollars. They also found a will, linking Tammy and the Alpha of the Hell Hound Pack, which had been submitted on line to a lawyer. Shannon brought the document up on the screen. They were both furious at what they found. It seemed Tammy had been in the pocket of the Hell Hound Alpha for quite a while. He had named her beneficiary of all his belongings, as well as making her Queen of the pack in case of his demise.

"I'll kill her. I will rip her fucking throat out," Sloan growled in a low rabid voice.

"Wait, Sloan. I mean, Alpha. You can't let



Tammy know you have this information on her. If you do, any leverage you could use against her to find your mate, is gone,” Shannon advised.

“Fuck. You're right. Thanks, Shannon. I owe you, big time,” Sloan stated, as he ran a hand down over his face.

“You don't owe me anything, Alpha, I'm only doing my job,” Shannon replied.

Sloan called all of his Beta's together for a conference in the formal dining room, where Emma kept them supplied with food and drink. He advised them what Shannon had found out in regards to Tammy. He told them he wanted to know as soon as Tammy set foot on his estate. He rounded up more of his single loyal male pack members, doubling the watch around the perimeter of his estate; advising them to contact him as soon as Tammy returned from where ever she had disappeared to.

Once they had replenished themselves with food and drink, they all got back to their specified duties. They had all come to care for their Queen nearly as much as their Alpha. Jade always had a kind word for each and every one of the pack members, but what had ingratiated her to them the most, was when she had helped out their elderly housekeeper, even though she had been injured herself. They knew at that time, Emma had been a lot stronger than their Queen, as she was one of them, a werewolf, but their Queen hadn't known. It didn't seem to matter to her about anything of their hierarchy, if she saw someone she thought was in need of help, she didn't hesitate to lend a hand. They all wanted her back with them, where she belonged.

Sloan was so agitated he couldn't sit still, he paced for hours on end, waiting for some shred of information his pack would hopefully find, giving them a clue on where Jade was being kept. He knew the Alpha of Hell Hound would not have been stupid enough to take his mate back to his pack home. He wanted her back in his arms, beneath his naked body, buried in her sweet little pussy. He gave a groan as his cock gave a twitch between his legs. He had to push his wolf down once more, he could feel his beast butting against him, wanting to take over, to find his mate.

The hours dragged by, minutes seeming like hours, hours feeling like days passed. He was too worried and keyed up to even think of sleeping. He heard the engine of his brother's truck approaching, before it reached the gates to his estate. He headed out to the front door, and stood waiting for the four men who had been sent to protect his mate.

Sloan watched as Hunter, Grady, Zane and Brock climbed from the truck, they stopped before him on the front steps to the house. They each knelt down in front of Sloan, exposing their throats to him in supplication.

"I am honored to serve and protect you. I would give my life for you, my Alpha. We await your punishment, we have failed in our duty to protect our Queen, your mate. We are willing to die if that is the punishment you choose," Hunter spoke for all of them, as they waited to see what their Alpha would do.

"Get up, all of you," Sloan commanded, as he ran the palm of his hand over his face. "How could

you think I would choose to kill you? I know you would have given your lives for Jade, to keep her safe. You did the best you could under the circumstances, I don't hold any of you accountable for my mate being kidnapped. You were tranquilized for fuck sakes. You couldn't have done anything. Now, get your asses inside, get something to eat and drink, then you can help me work out what we can do to get her back.”

Sloan's Beta's, his two brothers and two friends gained their feet, and followed their Alpha into the house. They each had to hold in their smiles, they had known all along Sloan wouldn't punish them, hold them accountable for the kidnapping of his mate, their Queen, but had decided to act submissively, not sure how aggressive Sloan was going to be once they were in his presence again. He wasn't a pushover. When a situation warranted discipline, he did so fairly but had no compunction in holding back punches.

They had seen him rip the throat out of another wolf, for trying to rape a human female pack member, newly mated to one of their own. He also didn't blame others when blame was not theirs. He was ruthless when he had to be, but fair and compassionate when needed. This was what made him such a great Alpha.

They gathered around the dining room table, hashing out strategies to rescue Jade. But first they needed to find out where she was being hidden.

Riley entered the dining room and interrupted their planning.

“Alpha, Tammy has just entered the estate

gates, what do you want me to do?" Riley asked.

"Nothing," Sloan replied.

Riley raised an eyebrow in query.

"Hunter, Grady, I want you to intercept that little bitch and bring her to my study," Sloan said, as he rose to his feet, and then left the room.

## Chapter Thirteen

Jade made her way to the front door of the cabin, burst through it, making it slam against the wall hard enough to leave the imprint of the door handle in the plaster. She stormed into the living room, sauntered her way over to the man sitting on the sofa. She eyed the length of him, letting her distaste show on her face. When she met the steely gray of his eyes, she didn't back down by looking away. She kept her eyes on his as he stared at her.

"I can see why Sloan made you his mate. I just may have to sample your charms, sweet lady," he sneered.

"Devlin Spawn, I presume. You know, I think your parents named you aptly. You are the devil's spawn. You can try, but I will fight you every step of the way you sanctimonious bastard. Just looking at you makes my skin crawl. You will never be half the man Sloan is," Jade spat out.

She watched as he rose to his feet, but stood her ground. Inside she was trembling in fear, but her anger overrode it. Making her careless, reckless, as adrenaline pumped through her veins. There was no way she was letting this creep intimidate her.

He moved until he was standing toe to toe with her. He could see and smell her fear, but he also saw anger. Her fire made his cock harden, he wanted nothing more than to break her spirit. He would get great pleasure in doing so, knowing he was hurting the Alpha of the saintly Eagle River Pack. He reached out, grabbing a handful of her hair at the

back of her head, holding her immovable, leaned down and licked from the bottom of her jaw up to the corner of her eye.

Jade felt bile rising in her throat, she wanted to let it free, to cover him with her vomit in her contempt, but she swallowed it back down and made sure she didn't move or show any sign of emotion. To let him know how much he scared her, would be letting him win. It's what he wanted, what he was aiming for. When she saw his intent to kiss her on the lips, she brought her knee up hard, she had the satisfaction of watching him drop to the floor writhing in pain as he clutched his crotch. Jade took a step away from him, then gave a squeak of surprise when he wrapped a large brutal hand around her ankle and pulled. She fell with a bone jarring thud, the wind knocked from her lungs. She was rasping as she tried to breathe as he crawled up her body. He raised a hand and slapped her so hard on the cheek, she saw stars. He raised his hand again, and Jade began to fight as oxygen flooded her lungs. She kicked, scratched, slapped and punched, anywhere she could land her flailing limbs. She felt pain explode in her jaw and knew no more.

Devlin looked at the unconscious bitch beneath him. He wanted nothing more than to rip her clothes from her body and take her, but he held back. He would rather she was awake to experience her humiliation. He got to his feet, taking her with him, dragging her after him, to the guest room he'd had prepared. He dumped her none too gently onto the bed and gave a satisfied grunt as the back of her head cracked against the rail of the headboard. He ripped

her clothing from her body and stood looking down at her. She was exquisite in her naked glory, he could barely contain himself from shredding his own clothes and mounting her. He looked his fill, then set about securing her with the tethers prepared earlier for her arrival. He stretched out her arms and legs, secured her to the bed, then left without a backward glance.

Jade woke up aching from head to toes. Her whole body was a big throbbing mass, but it was her head and face that hurt the most. She gave a groan as she tried to move her aching limbs, and then began to panic when they wouldn't obey her command. She opened her eyes to slits, then slammed them shut again as pain pierced her skull. She breathed deeply, trying to circumvent the nausea roiling around in her stomach. She opened one eye cautiously, but couldn't keep it open, she was seeing double. She had caught a glimpse of one arm secured to the top of the bed. She tried again to move her limbs and, felt tethers around her wrists and ankles. She felt so sick, the back of her head felt wet. God, what had her done to her? She was naked and tethered to a bed, by a power hungry, evil animal. There was no way she was going to be able to escape alone. She needed help and she needed it fast. She knew she had a concussion, and probably a cut in the back of her head. Jade tried to breathe evenly and deeply. She couldn't afford to panic now. She had to try and keep her wits about her. It was going to be hard, everything was so confused in her mind. She tried to take inventory of her injuries and, gave a sigh of relief when she felt no twinges or dampness between her thighs, indicating

he had raped her. She slipped into blessed unconsciousness, the pain and nausea receding.

The next time Jade returned to consciousness, she heard voices raised loudly. She was too disorientated to understand what they were saying, but the female voice she could hear was familiar. She tried to call out, but her head was hurting so badly and her throat felt too raw and dry, she only managed a squeak. She knew she had to get away, but for the life of her she couldn't remember from who or why. Jade drifted in and out of consciousness, unaware of time passing. It could have been hours, days or only minutes. All she knew was that she was in some sort of danger. She tried to lick her dry cracked lips, but the effort was too much and she drifted away again.

She awoke to moans nearby. She opened one eye to a slit and took in the unreality of the scene before her. Devlin Spawn held that bitch Tammy down onto the side of the bed she was lying on. Her head and chest was supported by the mattress and he was fucking her from behind. Jade felt so ill, she knew she wouldn't be able keep the contents of her stomach from erupting. She turned her head, and was violently ill, the stench of her own vomit in her hair, and on her neck, revolting her. She gave a whimper at the roar of fury from her abductor, then gave a sigh as she slipped into the dark abyss once more.

When she woke next, she was so cold she was shivering, and she couldn't stop her teeth from chattering. Someone had cleaned her up, but she could still smell the lingering scent of vomit in her hair, and on her skin. She tried to curl up into a ball to retain some of her body heat, then frowned when



she couldn't move. Her eyelids were so heavy, they wouldn't obey her command to open. She knew she had to get away, escape, but she couldn't remember what she needed to escape from. She gave a whimper of pain, and drifted away once more, she dreamed of her mom.

*"I miss you so much, mom."*

*"I miss you too, baby girl. I love you so much, Jade. You are so precious. Don't give up sweetheart, you need to keep fighting. He'll come for you soon."*

*"I'm so cold mom. I think I'm dying."*

*"No, Jade. You can't let that evil monster win. Don't you dare give up baby girl. Promise me."*

*"I won't mom. I love you."*

*"Love you too, Jade," her mom replied before she drifted away.*

"You'll wake up eventually you bitch; and when you do I am going to spend myself between your thighs. I will get great pleasure taking you. Do you think, he will want you after I've had you? He's not going to want to touch you again. He'll throw you out, and you'll both die a long, slow, painful death."

Jade didn't know who was whispering in her ear, she only knew she couldn't respond, because if she did, she knew he would act on his threat. She kept her breathing even and deep, her muscles lax, then drifted away on a soft cloud.

The next time Jade woke, she knew it was day time. She could feel the sun's rays streaming in through a window, warming her naked body. She felt goose bumps rise up all over her flesh, as the warmth began to penetrate her skin. She sighed blissfully and drifted back into slumber.

Jade was awakened by terrible noises. It sounded like a pack of snarling dogs were attacking and killing each other. She frowned in confusion, not sure if she was hallucinating, dreaming, or if what she was hearing was reality. The fight seemed to last forever, then all was blessedly quiet again.

She felt warm gentle hands at her wrists and feet, she frowned to let whoever it was, know she was not happy, she just wanted to be left alone to die in peace. She groaned with pain as her arms were lowered down beside her body, then sighed as those same hands began to massage her blood starved limbs, chaffing the cold away. Someone wrapped her in a blanket, and she tried to bury herself into it, wanting to be warm again. She cried out as she was lifted from the bed, pain stabbing through her head. She felt like she was floating on a cloud, cocooned within its warmth.

She heard a strange whop, whopping sound and frowned. She knew she had heard that noise before, but couldn't work out where. Someone was whispering to her. She felt tears plop down on her cheeks. She tried to get her arm untangled from the blanket wrapped around her. She knew she had to comfort whoever was crying but her limbs were too heavy, it took way too much effort. She slid down, down, down, into the dark yawning maw of the black abyss.

## Chapter Fourteen

Sloan leaned back in the chair behind his desk, watched Tammy saunter into his study. He watched her face carefully wanting to see if she felt any fear. She looked him dead in the eyes, not flinching away from his unwavering stare.

She maneuvered around his study to the chair across from his desk, threw herself down and lifted one of her legs up over the arm of the chair. Sloan watched as she swung her leg back and forth as if she didn't have a care in the world.

"You wanted to see me, Alpha?" Tammy asked, emphasizing with a disparaging tone on the last word.

"Where is she?" Sloan asked, scrutinizing Tammy's face for a reaction.

Tammy removed her leg from the arm of the chair, sat up straight and answered, "Who?"

"Come on, Tammy. Don't play games with me. I know you've been fucking the Alpha of the Hell Hound pack. I know you've been receiving money as a payoff for information about our pack. Now you tell me, right now, where Devlin Spawn is holding my mate and I'll give you a head start to get out of here. If you don't, well, I just might let Brock and Zane torture the information out of you. They won't have any compunction whatsoever in holding back. They are so pissed at you for setting them up, you'll be lucky if you can still walk, by the time I get what I want."

"I don't know who or what you're talking

about,” Tammy yelled.

Sloan rose from his chair, walked around the desk and headed for his study door. He gave Zane and Brock a nod of his head and exited the room, closing the door quietly behind him.

Five minutes later, Zane and Brock joined him, his brother's and his other Beta's in the large dining room. He raised his eyes in query.

“Devlin Spawn has another property approximately four hours west. Apparently it's well guarded, as he spends most of his time there, rather than at his pack house. He has a contingency of *weres* guarding the place, twenty-four, seven,” Zane supplied.

“Tammy?”

“Dead,” Brock answered in a hard voice.

“Okay, gather the rest of the Beta's; and get some of the adolescent pups together. Tell them to bring arms. We are going to storm that cabin, and we're not leaving until I have my mate back. Tell them shoot to kill, I don't care if we have to wipe every single Hell Hound pack member from the face of the earth.”

They left in a convoy of vehicles less than half an hour later. No one in Sloan's vehicle spoke throughout the entire duration of the trip. They pulled their vehicles to a stop five miles away from the cabin. Sloan gathered his pack members around him, using a stick in the dirt he drew the location of the cabin, and advised them all how they would go in. He told his adolescent pack members, he didn't want them in the fray of the fight, but they were not to let any of the Hell Hound pack members to escape.

“If necessary shoot to kill. Aim for the heart,” Sloan stated.

“Yes, Alpha.”

It took them a little over five minutes before the cabin was in their sights as they had used the strength and stamina of their beasts to run. Sloan used hand signals to portray where he wanted his Beta's. Hunter and Grady were to go with him. Brock and Zane were to go in from the back. Riley and Myles were to cover from the east side of the cabin, which left, Shannon, Tyrone and Shayne to cover in from the west.

They moved in like avenging angels. By the time the fight was over, not one single male Hell Hound pack member was left standing. Sloan made sure he was the only one to take down Devlin Spawn. The fight left him feeling anticlimactic. It had been over before it had even begun. The man was a coward, and a weakling. Sloan should have known, since he only seemed to prey on women, instead of facing him head on like a man.

Sloan found Jade tethered to a bed, naked, covered in bruises, blood and the smell of vomit lingered in her hair and on her skin. He felt his knees buckle from beneath him at the sight of his mate, and had to physically concentrate on keeping his feet under him.

“Hunter, Grady,” he yelled, “get in here now.”

Sloan released the rope around Jade's wrists, securing his mate to the bed, while Hunter and Grady released her ankles.

“Jade, can you hear me baby?” Sloan asked. She didn't move or waken.

Sloan carefully moved her arms down from above her head, until they were next to her body. He massaged and rubbed one arm, trying to help her blood back into circulation, while Hunter did the same to the other. Grady was rubbing and massaging her ankles and calves. Sloan carefully wrapped Jade into a blanket, and gently lifted her into his arms.

He cradled her against his large body, as they all headed out back to their hidden vehicles. He sat in the front passenger seat of the truck, cradling Jade, keeping her wrapped in the blanket as he rested her body into his.

“Call for a medic,” Sloan rasped out. The lump in his chest and throat was threatening to choke him. He gently moved Jade's head to ascertain where the blood was coming from. Her head was split open at the back, her hair matted into clumps where blood had dried and caked. “My God, baby. What did he do to you?”

The fifteen minutes it took for the medical helicopter to arrive, seemed to take forever, to pass. Sloan wouldn't let the paramedic take Jade from him. He carried her, and placed her on the stretcher in the copter himself, then moved back to let the paramedics do their job. They were in the air in moments, headed for the nearest hospital.

Sloan watched as the paramedics worked on his mate. They hooked her up to a drip and placed a heart monitor to her chest. They checked the back of her head but he didn't miss the look of concern they gave each other, which they tried to hide when they saw Sloan watching them. They cleaned her head wound as best they could, took her blood pressure

and monitored her heart. When they could do no more than monitor Jade, Sloan moved in, leaned his head down near hers and began to whisper to her.

"I love you, Jade. Please don't die, I need you to keep fighting for me, baby. I've only just found you. I couldn't bear it if you left me now," he whispered to her, and saw a drop of moisture fall on her cheek. Sloan wiped his eyes and cheeks, surprised to find them moist. He hadn't even realized he was crying.

The chopper began its decent. A few minutes later they were on the ground and his mate was being rushed away from him. Sloan had to physically hold himself back from following his woman and the paramedics through to the emergency theater.

Sloan paced the waiting room. He kept his eyes on the double doors, waiting impatiently for the doctor to come and notify him of his mate's condition.

As he paced and waited, his pack members began to show up, which surprised him. He hadn't even asked what hospital they were at, hadn't thought to ask. He realized one of his brother's must have asked the paramedics.

Emma arrived with Hunter and Grady, with a basket full of food, and thermoses of coffee. She tried to get Sloan to eat and drink, but he declined, knowing he wouldn't be able to swallow anything around the lump in his throat and chest.

A tall young man dressed in green scrubs emerged through the double swinging doors to the emergency theater. He stopped in front of Sloan.

"Are you Jade's family?" he asked.

"I'm Jade's husband, Sloan Taggert," Sloan stated, stepping forward with his hand held out. He breathed in deeply, and knew he was in the presence of another werewolf.

"Doctor Gerard Guild, Alpine Pack," the doctor greeted. "Your mate has various cuts and contusions on her body which have been disinfected. They should take no time at all to heal. I've stitched up the back of her head, that will also heal, what worries me most is the fracture to her skull. She has fluid on the brain from a severe concussion, as a result to the fracture from a blow to the head, which will take some time to heal. She was also severely dehydrated. You haven't changed her yet?"

"No. We've not long been mated," Sloan replied.

"Okay. Well, if I were you, I'd think about it seriously. I don't know if you're mate will have any long lasting effects due to her head injury. You know as well as I, if you change her, she'll be healed within hours. I'll leave you to think it over."

"Can I see her, please?" Sloan asked in a deep gravelly voice, full of emotion.

"Of course. Follow me."

Sloan followed the Doctor through the double doors to a small cubicle with curtains surrounding the bed. He slipped through the gap in the curtains, and sat down in the chair at Jade's bedside. He took her hand in his, and rested his forehead against their joined hands and wept.

Jade could hear someone crying. She wanted to wake up and comfort them, but couldn't drag herself up from the darkness. She squeezed the hand holding



hers, to let them know she was alright. She heard a deep voice echoing in her mind from a great distance, she had to concentrate really hard on making the words audible.

“Jade, I love you, baby. I can change you to a werewolf, you will be better within hours, but I don't want to change you against your will. If you want me to change you, squeeze my hand once. If you don't want to become a werewolf squeeze my hand twice. Come on baby, concentrate. Let me know what you want.”

Jade squeezed as hard as she could once, then relaxed. She knew Sloan was with her. Knew he loved her, that she loved him more than her own life. She wanted to be with him as long as she was alive. She wanted to have his babies.

Sloan waited, his heart pounded into his throat when he felt her squeeze his hand once. He waited another few minutes, and when she didn't squeeze his hand again, knew she had made her decision.

“Jade, you need to bite me, and swallow a few drops of my blood,” Sloan stated, holding his wrist to her mouth. He watched as she opened her mouth automatically, as he leaned down, readying to bite his mate again, where he had claimed her previously.

“Bite down as hard as you can, baby,” Sloan commanded. “Harder Jade, bite me as hard as you can.”

Jade bit down on Sloan's wrist, and tasted blood, as he bit between her neck and shoulder. She swallowed the salty, copper taste of his blood, then drifted into sleep totally exhausted.

Sloan lay his forehead down on the side of the

bed, on top of their clasped hands and slept for the first time in over twenty-four hours.

Jade woke up feeling so full of energy, she threw the covers on the bed back before she had even opened her eyes. She felt cool air swirl over her body, opened her eyes wide when she realized she was only wearing a thin cotton gown. She quickly pulled the covers back into place up beneath her chin, then took in her surroundings.

She was in the hospital. What the hell...? Memory came rushing back. It slammed against her skull with a ferocity making her whimper with remembered pain. Movement to her side had her snapping her head around in that direction. She gave a sigh of relief when she saw Sloan rub a hand over his whiskered face as he sat up straight in the chair.

"Jade. Oh thank God, you're awake. How do you feel, baby? I love you so much. I thought I'd lost you," Sloan stated, and was at her side in an instant.

"I love you too, Sloan. Will I be able to move that fast?"

"You will, eventually. How do you feel?"

"I feel amazing. Can we get out of here and go home?" asked Jade. "Oh, you'll need to get me some clothes first."

"Emma brought some for you already. We've already had the release papers signed, I was just waiting for you to wake up from your nap. Let's get you dressed and blow this Popsicle stand," Sloan grinned.

## Chapter Fifteen

Sloan carried Jade through the front doors of the house and then continued up the stairs amidst wolf whistles and catcalls from his pack members. He ignored every single one of them. Jade couldn't get down, she looked back over Sloan's shoulder, a blush tingeing her cheeks as she waved.

Sloan slammed the door behind him, placed Jade on the bed, and followed her down. He didn't give her time to protest. He covered her mouth with his, thrusting his tongue in and out, reacquainting himself with her taste. He mimicked the act of love making, taking her mouth and tongue with carnal greed.

He let his claws extend from the tips of his fingers, shredded her clothes, being careful not to touch his mates, smooth, silky skin, then ripped the remnants of material from her body. He licked, sucked and nibbled down her throat, over the plump mound of her breast, then sucked her hard nipple into his mouth.

He couldn't get enough of her; he kissed, licked and nipped every inch of her skin from the top of her head to the tips of her toes. He sucked on two toes, which had Jade arching her back off the bed, pleading and sobbing. He finally stood, shucked his clothes, then dove down between her long silky thighs.

He spread her legs and licked through her aroused, wet folds from clit to anus. He drank down the taste of her essence, but growled with frustration.

He wanted more, he wanted her to fill his mouth with her cum.

Sloan thrust two fingers into her canal, turned his hand palm up, then slid his fingers in and out of her tight wet cunt, rubbing over her rough G-spot as he licked her clit. He placed the large palm of his other hand over her pubic bone, holding her down to accept the pleasure he was giving her. He rubbed the sweet spot inside her, giving a firm tug near the end, making her pussy squelch with her juices. Sloan was aware of Jade's whimpering and moaning escalating as she came closer and closer to orgasm. He pumped his fingers in and out of her body, faster and faster, sucking and laving her clit.

"Sloan," Jade moaned, "y..you have to stop."

"No," Sloan replied as he raised his head.

"You're not going to urinate baby. Let it go. Trust me, Jade."

Sloan ducked back down between Jade's legs and began all over again. It didn't take long before she was back up to where he had left off. She tried to pull back then buck him off her, to get away from the ecstasy he was giving her. He wouldn't allow it. He pumped and rubbed harder and faster, until he felt the first flutters of her sheath, she was about to climax. Sloan bit down on her clit gently but firmly, making her clamp down hard on his embedded fingers.

Jade screamed as she her body flew. She reached the stars and beyond, as Sloan sent her hurtling into nirvana. She felt her pussy gush out her cum, drenching herself and Sloan, as her whole body convulsed with uncontrollable spasms. She could have sworn she saw stars.

When she came back to herself and she opened her eyes, realized Sloan's hard cock was buried deeply in her body. He was smiling down at her, love shining from his eyes.

"Welcome back, baby. Now, let's see if we can do that again."

"Oh, you're gonna kill me," Jade replied with a smile.

"Oh, yeah. Didn't you know an orgasm was known as 'the little death?'" he asked rhetorically.

Sloan withdrew his cock from her body until just the crown was surrounded by her warm, tight wet flesh. He pushed back in with a groan, leaned down, slanted his mouth over hers, tangling their tongues together. He finally had to release her mouth, to let them both breathe. He pumped his hips, increasing his pace, until he was pounding in and out of her body, the sound of his balls slapping her flesh filling the room.

"I love you, Sloan," Jade stated as she stared into his beautiful, blue gold flecked eyes.

"I love you too, baby. More than I can ever express with my body or words," Sloan murmured, as he watched her emerald green eyes glaze over, her pupils dilating indicating she was close to climaxing again.

"Oh, you feel so good wrapped around my cock, Jade. I never want to leave your pussy again. I want to stay buried in your body for the rest of my life," Sloan groaned.

He felt the warning flutters of her vaginal walls, as she got closer to her peak.

"Yeah, baby. Cum on my cock. Milk the cum

from my balls,” Sloan growled.

Sloan pumped harder, faster and deeper, until he felt the tip of his hard rod nudging her cervix. He gave a groan as Jade screamed, she clamped down on his cock so hard, he felt the wash of her cum as she coated him. He thrust faster, the base of his spine tingling, then gave a roar as he joined her in bliss.

Sloan heard the footsteps approach his bedroom door. He knew who was beyond the door before the knock landed. He knew Hunter, Grady, Zane and Brock waited to be let in. They had also brought food with them. Sloan's stomach gave a growl, reminding him, he was overdue for some food. He knew Jade needed to eat as well. She needed to keep her strength up for her first change, and if he wasn't mistaken by her changed scent, she had also just conceived his pup.

Sloan got up off the bed, not caring that he was naked, and opened the door. He motioned his brother's and Beta's into the room, and then indicated where to put their food, as he stood with his feet braced apart, and his arms folded over his chest. He knew why they were here, but decided a little intimidation didn't hurt now and again.

“Thanks for the food. Now, get out,” Sloan growled.

“Sloan, that's no way to treat your brother's and pack members. What is wrong with you?” Jade stated, getting up off the bed, pulling a sheet with her, keeping her nakedness from view. She gave Sloan a swat on the arm as she walked passed him. “Thanks for the food, guys. It looks like you brought enough for all of us. Why don't you join us?”

The four men smirked at Sloan, and sauntered around him, picked up the trays of food, then took them over to the small table in front of the big bay window.

“Oh my goodness. Is that meat, I can smell? It smells divine, I am so hungry,” Jade stated.

As Jade got nearer to the table, Sloan's two brothers and Beta's, did something really weird. They each leaned into the sides of her neck two at a time, sniffed at her skin, then pulled back, grinning from ear to ear, as they looked from her, to Sloan, then back to her again. What the fuck? She knew she'd just had sex, probably smelled a bit musky, but she didn't smell that bad did she? Jade felt her cheeks begin to redden, as tears of humiliation pricked behind her eyes. Sloan must have seen her embarrassment, because he walked up to her, and took her in his arms.

“Don't worry, baby. You don't smell bad,” he whispered for her ears alone.

“How do you feel about kids, Jade?” Hunter asked with a big grin.

“I love kids, why?”

“Just curious,” Hunter replied.

“You know, I'm gonna love being an uncle,” Grady stated.

“Okay,” Jade replied with a frown. “Hey wait a minute, are trying to give us a hint?”

“Too late for that, Jade,” Brock grinned.

“What the hell are you lot talking about?” Jade asked, trying to pull out of Sloan's arms. She wanted to get her hands and mouth on that meat, the smell of it was so delicious, it was making her drool.

"How many babies do want, Jade?" asked Sloan.

"I don't know. How can you think of babies at a time like this? I need food and I need it, *now!*" Jade growled low in her throat. Oh shit. Her wolf was trying to come out. What the hell?

"Sloan, what's wrong with me?" Jade asked nervously.

"Nothing you need to worry over for about nine months, baby," Sloan answered.

"What? Oh no. I am not pregnant. There is no way in hell I'm ready for a baby, yet."

"Well, you may not be ready now, sweetheart, but I bet in approximately nine months' time, you will be," Sloan suggested.

"How the hell do you know I'm pregnant for goodness sakes? I don't even know. I won't know for at least another couple of weeks to a month," Jade snarled.

"Uh, sweetheart? We're werewolves," Sloan stated.

"What has that got to do with anything?"

"We can smell the change in your scent, baby. You're definitely pregnant," Sloan replied smugly.

"I don't care what you think. Now get out of my way and let me at that food," she snarled again.

"Yes, Jade."

"As you command, my Queen."

"Have my seat, Jade."

Jade didn't take any notice of the five men in her and Sloan's bedroom, she devoured the rare steak on her plate, then began eying the meat on the other plates. She was about to ask for more meat, when she



froze. Her mouth gaped open and closed again, as she realized she'd eaten rare steak. She hated rare steak, she always liked her meat to be well done.

"Oh my God. I'm pregnant," Jade whispered. She stood up, flung herself into Sloan's arms.

"Ah, baby. Don't be upset. You should be happy," Sloan held Jade against his hard warm body. Trying to soothe his mate.

"I am happy, you big dolt," Jade laughed out loud, around her tears.

Jade began rubbing herself against Sloan's warm, hard body. She was on fire, she needed him inside her, she needed him, *now*. She didn't care that his brother's and Beta's were still in the room. Her whole being was centered on Sloan, and getting him to satisfy the ache in her pussy. She dropped the sheet from her body, reached up, grabbed the hair at the back of his neck, and pulled his mouth down to hers. She devoured him. She could taste his desire on her tongue. She heard the four masculine groans behind her, but paid them no mind. She wrapped her arms around his neck, and literally crawled up his body, wrapping her legs around his waist as she rubbed her cunt against his hardening flesh.

Sloan took over the kiss; he thrust his tongue into her mouth, curled his around hers, drew it back into his own and sucked on her. He had her arching her hips against his cock, trying to impale herself on him. He heard her whimper as he took them down to the bed. He kissed and stroked every inch of her flesh, until she was begging.

"Please. Fuck me, Sloan. Please, please."

"Don't worry baby. I'll take care of you," Sloan

soothed, he slid into her warm wet body. He pumped into her, in and out, with a hard furious pace.

“More. I need more,” Jade begged.

Sloan picked his mate up into his arms and sat with her on his lap, his cock buried as far as it could go. He kissed her mouth, slanting back and forwards, over and over again, thrusting his tongue into her depths. He held her hips still, and indicated with a finger for some help to pleasure his mate. Brock and Grady, walked over to their Alpha and Queen.

Jade felt cold wet fingers massage over the pucker of her ass. She pulled her mouth away from Sloan's, and looked over her shoulder. Brock stood behind her, desire making his features, sharp and taunt. She glimpsed more movement in her peripheral vision, and turned her head back to the other side. What she saw had her so horny, she nearly climaxed. Hunter and Zane were kissing each other. Wide open mouthed kisses, their tongues tangling as they gripped and masturbated each other's cocks. She gave a whimper, and then turned back around, at the nudge from a finger. She looked up to see Grady holding the base of his cock, the tip so close to her mouth, all she had to do was open it, and he would be inside her mouth.

She opened up for him, then slid her mouth down over his hard flesh, which had them both groaning with delight. Jade took a deep breath as Brock began to push his cock into her ass. They were all so big, it felt like she was being ripped apart with pleasure. She pushed back with her muscles and gave a sigh as she felt him pop through her sphincter. She began to bob her head up and down over Grady's

cock, using her tongue to lick the sensitive underside.

Brock used Jade's distraction on Grady's cock to his advantage, he pushed until he was buried in his Queen's ass. He held still giving her time to adjust to his penetration, and waiting for direction from his Alpha.

Sloan pulled out of Jade's pussy until he was barely resting inside her flesh. As he pushed back in, Brock withdrew slowly, easily, being careful not to hurt Jade. They began slowly, sliding in and out of her body, with long, slow, smooth glides, as she gave Grady head.

When she began whimpering low in her throat, they picked up the pace, pumping into her harder and faster. They moved alternately, one pushing in as the other pulled out. Every time Jade's moans escalated in volume, so did the movements of Sloan and Brock, until they were thrusting and pounding at a furious pace. Jade's bobbing head increased every time they did, matching their rhythm.

Grady gave a roar as he climaxed, spewing his seed down Jade's throat, she licked and swallowed until he pulled out of her mouth, too sensitive to bear anymore of her sweet torture.

Jade stiffened between Sloan and Brock, threw her head back, then she screamed with pleasure. Her cunt clamped down on the two hard cocks buried in her body. She milked them dry. First Brock then Sloan, both gave a yell as they rode out their climax. Jade turned her head to Hunter and Zane as they both moaned loudly. She watched as cum spewed from their cocks, covering each other's bellies. Then she slumped down, resting her forehead on Sloan's chest.

“That was so hot,” Jade panted. Then gave a groan as Brock withdrew his latex covered cock from her ass.

“Thank you Alpha, my Queen, you have both honored me by letting me share you Jade,” Brock stated humbled.

“No problem,” Jade replied, then hid her red face from him. She'd never been promiscuous before. Why was she wanting monkey sex with Sloan and everyone else.

She heard the rustle of clothing behind her and knew the others were dressing, then she heard the door close. She peeked cautiously over her shoulder, then lifted her head when she knew it was all clear.

“Why did we just do that?”

“You were on fire baby. Your hormones are kicking in already. You're going to be horny, grumpy, hungry and sleepy from one minute to the next. I've heard about the effects pregnancy has on female werewolves.”

“Are you going to share me all the time?”

“No. You're mine, Jade. You'll never belong to anyone else but me. No other man will ever get the chance to be buried in your sweet pussy again. You belong to me.”

“Will you ever want to fuck another woman?”

“No, baby. You're the only one I want to make love to. Once a male is mated, he can't and doesn't want to ever touch another female.”

“Well, good. Because I know there is no way, I'll let you,” Jade growled.

“I think you're ready for your first change, baby. What do you think?” Sloan asked.

“Yeah, I think you're right again,” Jade frowned over that statement. “What do I need to do?”

“Put a robe on, and then we'll go outside. I can feel the other pack members gathering to make the change, and go for a run.”

“It won't hurt the baby, will it?”

“No sweetheart. In fact you're now healthier than you've ever been.”

They walked side by side down the stairs, and out the open front doors, the moon was high in the sky, glowing brightly. Jade breathed in the scents around her, then let her breath out slowly. She could feel itching beneath her skin, but restrained herself from scratching. She felt as if she had something inside, trying to get out.

“Look at me Jade. You're so beautiful. I love you baby,” Sloan stated then dropped a kiss on her lips.

“I love you too, Sloan.”

“Give me your robe, sweetheart,” commanded Sloan.

Jade released the tied belt, slipped the robe from her shoulders, then handed it to Sloan.

“Look at me, Jade. Keep your eyes on me, don't look away.”

Jade followed Sloan's directions, and kept her eyes glued to his. She breathed deeply, in and out a couple of times, let herself relax as she sank into his gaze. She saw the love he had for her, and let her eyes reciprocate. She felt her bones pulling and her muscles contorting. She heard the cracking and popping noises as her bones reformed. Felt claws protrude from the tips of her fingers and fur sprout

from her skin. She looked down, and noticed she was a lot closer to the ground than she had been. She lifted first one leg then the other, as she studied her claws and paws. She let her gaze move back to Sloan's, and saw him standing before her in his wolf form. She threw back her head, breathed in the night air and howled at the moon.

Sloan threw his head back and howled with his mate. The sound she made in her wolf form was music to his ears. She made a beautiful wolf, her black and brown fur a beautiful contrast, he studied her small muscular form with pride, then let his eyes return to hers. He watched as she took her first couple of steps in her new body, then gave a bark of laughter as she wiggled her ass at him. They both took off running through the trees, heading for the small lake at the far side of his estate. The freedom a wolf felt with the moon shining down from above, the air caressing through their fur as they ran, could not be compared to anything as a human.

Life could not get any better. He had a mate he loved and who loved him in return; and now they were expecting their first pup. What more could a wolf want?