Chapter 0076

"Brady," I say tersely. "I did not realize that you were joining us."

He smirks as we all sit down. "My father filled me in on the agreement. Lily would meet with you for two hours. You would have an opportunity to say whatever it is that you want to say, and ask whatever it is that you want to ask, but Lily would not be left alone with you under any circumstances."

"I thought your father was referring to security personnel who would be hovering in the background, not at our table. I certainly did not expect an alpha wolf who rejected his own mate and now wants to take mine," I respond bitterly.

Brady gives me another evil smirk as he grabs Lily's hand. "I am staying, you arrogant a&&hole, so get over it. It is not my fault that you made incorrect assumptions about what would happen at this meeting. Nor is it my fault that your FORMER mate can see through your bullsh&t and now finds herself attracted to a wolf who is better ... and bigger, if you know what I mean."

Lily shakes off Brady's hand and stands up. "I am not doing this. If the two of you want to fight like immature teenagers, you can do it without me. Let me know when you are done."

Lily starts to walk away. I immediately jump up, run to her,

and gently grab the top of her arm. To my happy surprise, I still feel faint sparks. They are much, much weaker than the first day at the waterfall, but they are there. That gives me hope.

"Lily, please don't go. I am sorry. Please, stay."

"Get your hands off of her," Brady growls behind me. "You also agreed to no touching her without her consent, and that Lily had the right to terminate the meeting at any point. It seems she has decided to terminate it now. Better luck next time."

Lily removes her arm from my grasp, and then turns to glare at... Brady?

"Brady Hyder, you are just as bad as he is. You are the one that insisted that I come here and meet with him, and yet now that we are here, you are trying to provoke a fight. I appreciate that you are trying to help me, I really do, but I can stand up for myself. You know that."

Brady frowns, and I smirk. If this was a scoreboard, I would have just earned a point.

Unfortunately, Lily notices the look on my face.

"James, you can wipe that smirk off of your face as well. I am not here because I wanted to be, and in case you have not noticed, I am not the same weak little girl that you have been bullying for the past six years. I am here as a courtesy for you only, and so that you can have closure."

Her words feel like a knife to my heart. Closure? I do not want closure. I want her to come home with me.

"I am glad you are finally admitting it," Luke links me.

"Lily, I ---"

Lily glances around, noticing that we have managed to get the attention of many of the other people in the restaurant. " Let's sit down and get breakfast. I will give both of you one more chance. But if either of you steps out of line, that is it. I am leaving."

Brady and I silently follow her back to the table. I cannot help but think that this is déjà vu from our experience last night. Somehow, Lily has transformed from the girl that I used to think I knew into a beauty that literally has two alpha wolves following her around like lost puppies.

