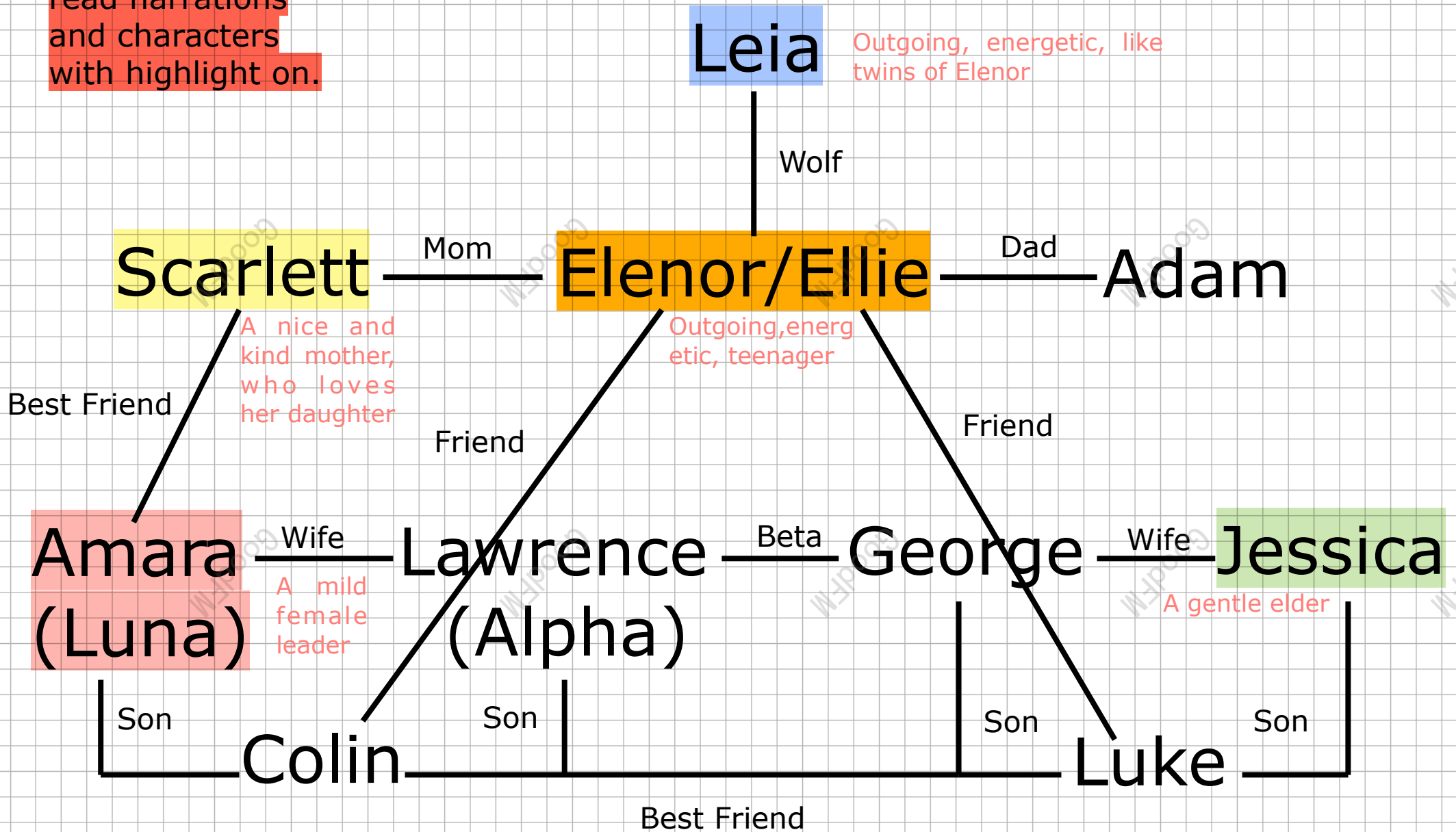


NOTE: Please read narrations and characters with highlight on.

## FEMALE PART



## Chapter 4

I wake up half dazed to Leia yelling at me.

"Wake up Ellie! We have a mate to watch get sweaty tonight!"

"Gross! You know I can sense your arousal, right?"

"You know I can sense yours too, right?" Yep, we are practically twins.

I grunt and roll my eyes before getting off the bed and heading to my closet to figure out what I will wear tonight. It's kind of a big night, so I should at least try to put some effort into my look.

I still don't care enough to not have my signature pony, but I do however care enough to wear some cut off denim shorts and a tight white t shirt with our school's colors. I also am wearing some neutral makeup with Luke's number on my cheek. I am his number one fan, after all. It's my job as his best friend to cheer him on.

I walk over to the stadium and purchase my ticket. Amber and Heather are at the mall picking out dresses and accessories for tomorrow. They couldn't care less about football, so it's not a surprise they didn't come. Since they are not at the game, I don't really have any friends to sit with.

Everyone pretty much likes me and I equally like them, but I just have never really formed deep friendships with anyone but Luke, Amber and Heather. Even Colin and I have had some conversations since we are around each other so much, but never anything meaningful or long.

I end up sitting next to mine, Luke's and Colin's parents. On the other side of me are the other Seniors in the "Senior Zone" going crazy. Not too crazy, since the Alpha and Luna are so close.

We all know that Lawrence and Amara actually really enjoy the young wolves having fun. They don't mind, as long as they don't get out of control, but the seniors are always respectful.

Luna Amara is currently talking to mom about shopping and tomorrow's dance. They both love to help out with preparations and decorating the gym. As they are talking, Amara stops and looks at my cheek.

"So, I can't help but notice that you and Luke are always together, and that you are sporting his number tonight. May I assume that you will possibly be our next female Beta, young Elenor?" Her voice as always is soft and beautiful. She really is a great Luna to all of us.

"Yes Luna Amara, we are always together. He has been my best friend since middle school. Although we would do anything for each other, the Moon Goddess did not make us mates. I think she knows we would be terrible for each other. To be honest, we fight like cats and dogs about everything!" I can't contain the small chuckle that leaves my mouth.

Luke's mom joins in laughing and shakes her head in agreement since she knows how much we fight.

"Very well, but you recently turned seventeen. Have you found your mate or spoken to your wolf yet?" She looks so interested and I am suddenly sweating bullets.

Why did she have to ask that!? Now my mother, my father, Luke's parents and the Alpha are all staring daggers at me. How the HELL am I getting out of this one?

"YES! My wolf's name is Leia! She is pretty much my twin in personality and although I haven't seen her yet, I have a feeling she is super pretty! I'm very excited, but also terrified of my first shift." I am really hoping she doesn't notice that I haven't answered the mate question.

"That's amazing dear! If she looks anything like you, I know she will be absolutely gorgeous! Any wolf will be lucky to have you as their mate." Hearing this from the Luna put me through a whirlwind of emotions. If she only knew that I was mated to her son.

~~"Yeah, but whoever it is better not piss her off! She's the best female warrior I have with one hell of an uppercut." Alpha Lawrence butts in and we all laugh.~~

The Alpha sometimes watches us train to keep an eye on his future warriors. Anytime I see him coming I make sure to be cutthroat with my opponent.

"Don't worry too much about your first shift Ellie, you are a strong she-wolf and I am confident you will get through it just fine." Luke's mom Jessica smiles at me.

"So, honey, you didn't answer Amara's question. Have you figured out who your mate is yet?" my mom asks me again while thankfully everyone is now intently watching the field.

"Mom, I-"

~~"TOUCHDOWN by number thirty-six, Lucas Combs! That's halftime folks!" The announcer yells out as we all stand to cheer for Luke. "Now let's get all of our senior players out on the fifty-yard line with their parents."~~

Relief floods over me as I am saved again from the mate question. I can't wait for this to all be over so I don't have to hide it anymore. It's becoming exhausting.

Since it is the homecoming game and halftime, all the parents of the Seniors get to walk them across the field. Colin looks up to find his parents but for a second our eyes catch.

There is suddenly electricity that bolts through me and sends crazy butterflies to my stomach. It's just like on my birthday when I first felt the pull, but this time, it's stronger. My breath hitches in my throat and I just stand there frozen.

Colin rips his helmet off quickly and cocks his head slightly to the side. Then he scrunches his eyes and bites his lip, puzzled like he isn't sure what just happened. Instinctively, I curl up the corner of my mouth and then bite my bottom lip, but his facial expression does not change.

Right on cue, one of the other guys comes up and chest bumps him out of his daze. I take the opportunity to run down the bleachers and out of the stadium.

I knew it, he doesn't want me. He wants Victoria, not some tomboy. As I hear his name along with the Alpha and Luna's over the loud-speaker, my heart feels so broken and I hear Leia let out a whimper.

"Why did he look at us like that Leia?"

"Ellie, I don't know. We were too far away to smell each other with all the sweat mixed in, so I am not sure he knows we are his mate."

"I can't go back in there Leia."

"Let's go for a run!"

"Really?! That would be amazing, but I'm so nervous it will hurt!"

"I'm not going to lie to you, it will for the first time, but it won't last long and will be totally worth it! I will be there to help you recover."

"Ok let's do it then!"

Without hesitation I take off running towards the edge of the woods behind the stadium. Once I am inside the tree line, I try to catch my breath. I look around and slowly take my clothes off, making sure no one is around to see me naked. I can remember my dad telling me years ago, that when you shift, you just clear your mind and envision a wolf. Their paws, tail, ears, snout and all. So that's what I try to do.

The sound of my bones cracking is louder in my ears than the crowd at the game. I'm sure my screams are not heard either which is nice. I'm glad I am alone for this, as I don't like anyone to see me weak.

The pain is so intense that for a moment I feel like I may pass out. I do everything I can to just stay awake and focus on what a wolf looks like, knowing that this too shall pass. It's what my mother always tells me and it has helped me get through so many tough moments in my life.

Suddenly, the pain is completely gone. I notice all of my senses are going into overdrive. I can hear crickets from what seems like miles away, and I can smell the stench of football players, to which I scrunch my nose in disgust. All of the pretty colors of the woods seem like I am just seeing them for the first time tonight. I'm in complete awe of my surroundings.

"Ellie, let me have control."

"Ok Leia!"

I close my eyes, and when I open them back up, I realize that I am now in the backseat of my mind. Leia has taken control of our body.

Without hesitation she takes off into the woods and I am left stunned at how she leaps over logs and dodges trees like she's done this a million times. Before long she stops at a small stream to drink some water. That's when I see her reflection.

Her fur is the same golden blonde as my hair and her eyes, if possible, look like actual emeralds. Despite knowing my own eyes, I am completely entranced by their beauty. She is slightly larger than most she-wolves which gives me a sense of pride.

"You are stunning, Leia."

"We are stunning, Ellie! You are gorgeous in your human form just as I am in my wolf form. Please remember that, but like your mother says, maybe you could try a little harder."

I stick my tongue out at her as far as I can, shake my head and laugh. I needed this distraction after what just happened in the stadium with Colin. At that thought my heart sinks again, but Leia takes off before I have time to wallow in self-pity.

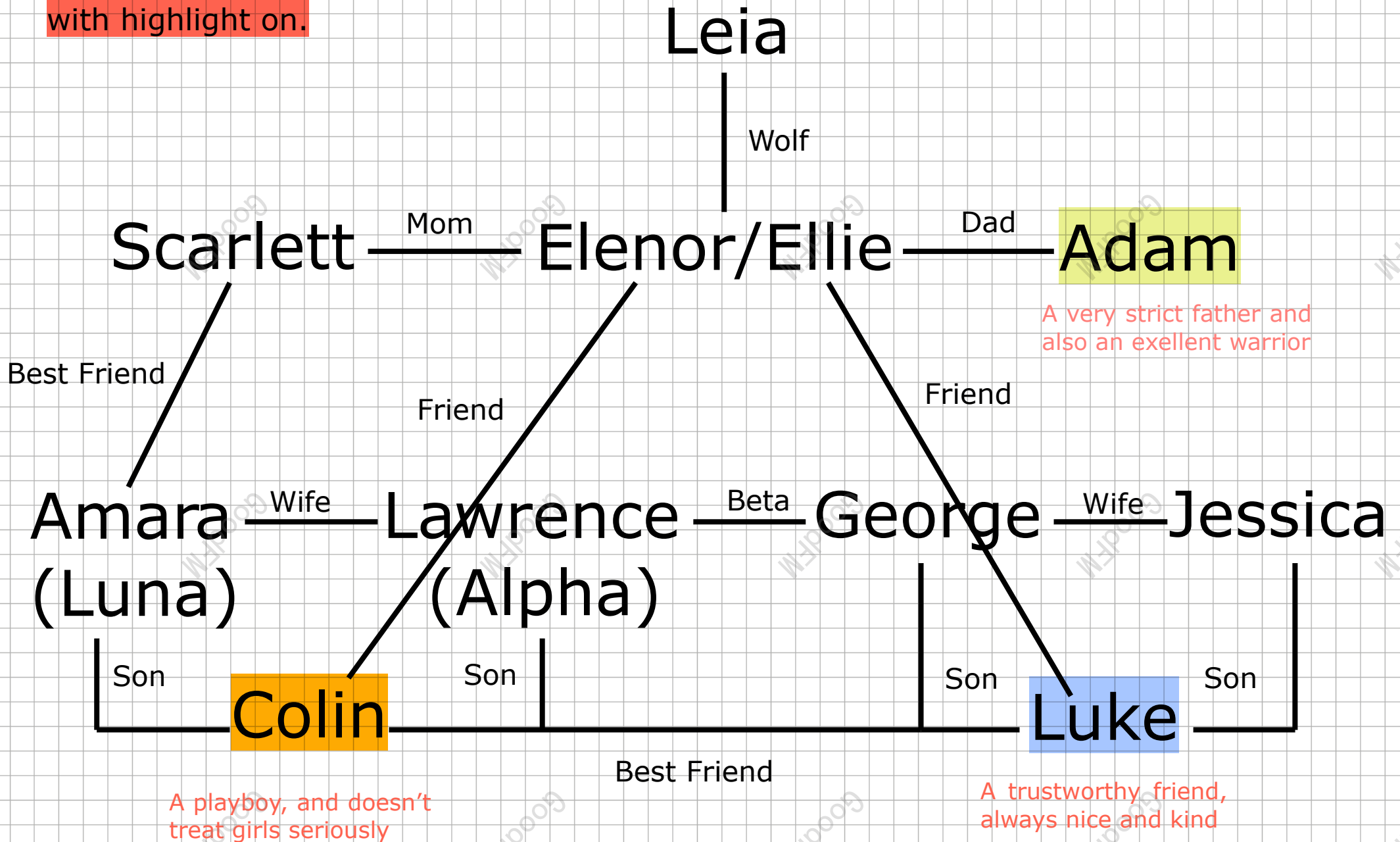
We get back to the tree line right before the end of the game and I shift back. It doesn't hurt nearly as bad, so I don't scream. I am silently proud of myself for taking it so well. I know my dad would be as well, if he was here.

Once I put my clothes back on, I head straight to the pack house and to my room. I don't want to deal with anyone anymore, and I certainly don't want to think about the homecoming dance tomorrow night. Knowing that Colin and Victoria are going together makes me want to puke, and I am already preparing myself for his rejection.

I wake up, and it's Saturday morning. Someone is pounding on my door. Who the hell could that be?

NOTE: Please read characters with highlight on.

# MALE PART



Excerpt

I lose control of myself as I make my way over to where he stands. I finally stop when our bodies are almost touching. He puts one hand carefully on the back of my neck, the other around my waist, pulling me closer with need. Sparks fly through me, and I am weak at the knees already.

I can't react as I just stand there in his arms, questioning reality. He leans down until his lips are barely touching mine, and I moan into his mouth, wanting more. His lips quiver and his fiery breath sends chills down to where I begin to throb. His eyes flash black and quickly back, like he is battling his wolf for dominance.

My own breaths become shallow and I close my eyes to keep from getting dizzy. Before he can kiss me, we hear the toilet flush from the bathroom behind us.

Colin gasps and pushes me away from him while furrowing his eyebrows and shaking his head. Leia whimpers loudly in my head at the loss of contact with our mate, as I let my own out. I take a few steps back to regain my balance and wrap my arms around myself tightly. I am so confused, everything felt so amazing, so why did he suddenly look so disgusted by me?

"Ellie Miner, what are you doing? You know I'm with Victoria. Besides, you are the school tomboy, why would I go for you?" he says a little too loudly, as if he is making sure others can also hear it.

As a kid from our class makes his way past us holding back a smirk, Colin straightens out his suit and proceeds back to the cafeteria leaving me alone in the hall like discarded trash.

Now it is my turn to say what the fuck, but I can't form the words. The only thing that I can do is shed a few lone tears. My heart feels like he rejected it, even though he didn't say the actual words.

Being who I am and loving the fact that my mother put on waterproof mascara, I clean up my face in the bathroom and head back. I am the top warrior's daughter for Goddess' sake, I'm not running away with my tail between my legs like some poor little pup.

This night is far from over, and I will get back at him for this. Not sure if I'm going to kick his ass or make him jealous. Probably the latter.

Chapter 2



I wake up late, again. It is Tuesday, so I have training before school. Colin obviously will be there, and I can guarantee Victoria will be in the stands watching him. I wish I could walk up to him and claim him in front of everyone right here and now. Three days. I must wait another three days to find out what is going to happen between us.

I get to the field as everyone is finishing their last lap around the track. I sigh in relief because I dread running. I spot my dad in his all-blue tracksuit, which is so embarrassing. I swear he does it to humiliate me. He's an attractive guy, and obviously in great shape, but dresses like he's from a boy band in the 90s. "Nice of you to join us, Elenor!" I HATE when he calls me by my entire name, and I equally hate that as the top warrior, my father is the trainer. He has never let me slack off, because it would look bad for him.

"Sorry dad, I couldn't find my shoes, so I had to borrow some from Heather." I blurt the first excuse I could come up with.

With werewolves, when you come of age, you get to move into the pack house with the rest of the unmated wolves. It's basically a co-ed dorm house, in a find your lover sense. My father used to take me with him to training, but now I just have to walk out the pack house and down to the football field. I was never late while living at home, but I can't seem to make it on time living on my own.

"Ok, well since I know you're lying and you're late, again, you need to run and then get right into training. Your first partner today is Colin. Luke, since you half assed the last lap, why don't you run another one with Ellie."

What!?! I have to fight with Colin? My father has GOT to be joking. UGH, today is going to be hell, and it is only 6:45 am.

I trudge over to the track and Luke meets up with me. We jog and I can tell he's thinking about something and trying to figure out if he wants to say it or not.

"What, Luke? Just say it." I try to not make it come out annoyed, but I failed.

"Ok Ellie, why are you really late? You have at least ten pairs of tennis shoes." Luke, like my father, can see right through me. Either that, or I am a terrible liar. It's probably the latter.

"I was up talking to Leia, my wolf! Luke, she's amazing! It's like she's my twin. We are so similar in so many ways! I cannot wait to see what she looks like!" I can't help my excitement and I am practically squealing.

He stops in his tracks and hugs me so tightly I have to punch him to get him to let go of me.



"You met your wolf already? Ellie, that's so amazing! It took me two weeks after I turned seventeen to meet Jack! Do you know who your mate is yet?" He looks at me eagerly in anticipation while holding onto my arms, but I don't really think it is sincere. He doesn't want to know my mate's name unless it is him.

I kick at the dirt and try to stall. How can I tell him who it is? What would he say? I know he's my best friend and I tell him everything, but I just can't tell him this. He and Colin are so close, this might ruin that.

"YOU DO KNOW! WHO IS--"

"I will make you both do another lap if you don't start running again!" My father saves the day, phew, thank goddess!

"You know I will force you to tell me, right?" He lets go of me and we continue to run.

I know he will, but like always, I will put up one hell of a fight for the information.

We finish our lap and the fights have already started. Maybe it's a good thing I was late today, because I can watch a few of them on my way to the center of the field where we all spar.

"You both will just have to fight each other today." My dad yells out to us and I let out an obnoxious breath of relief. Luke just laughs at me.

Before we get into position, I look over and see Colin in a fight already. I can't help but watch him.

Colin throws a jab at Tim, who is our second warrior's son. It knocks him back a few steps and Leia purrs in my head. Goddess, he's sexy when he fights. Colin turns his head towards me, and I whip mine back towards Luke to begin our match.

As the top female trainee, I am a suitable match for our Beta-to-be, but he always takes it easy on me because I'm his best friend and a girl. I secretly know he has always liked me, but I never have seen him like that. I know it stings for him to be friend zoned, but he has said nothing.

I swear Colin keeps looking my way, even throughout his fight. Does he feel something? Does he know? I quickly shake that thought away and get back to my own fight. I am not really into it today, which isn't like me. I'm usually ruthless and don't hold back no matter who I am paired with.

"Why do you seem so preoccupied today, Ellie?" Luke knows how I am with my training, especially against him. Today I just can't seem to concentrate on what I am supposed to be doing. Leia keeps wanting to smell and get close to Colin, and frankly it is annoying and distracting. Not to mention a little weird.

"I'm thinking about the dance this weekend." He doesn't believe that lie for a second and gives me the disappointed dad look before sweeping his foot behind mine, taking my legs from under me.

"Get up and focus. Your dad and the Alpha are watching us." He points behind me and I glance up, searching the bleachers to see if the Alpha has shown up. He hasn't, and as soon as I turn back around, I catch Luke's fist to my mouth, Hard. I lick my bottom lip and taste blood. This instantly gets my head back into gear. I wipe it off with the back of my hand and glare at him.

"Luke, what the hell! Why would you do that?" I steady myself and get into my stance, ready to beat the crap out of him.

"There she is. Let's do this for real now!" His eyebrows dance at me.

I shake my head. What a jerk. He knows that when the Alpha shows up, I will fight practically to the death just to prove myself worthy, even though I know it's not needed. I am the only female trainee on Tuesday mornings, but I'm a better fighter than most of the males. My dad has trained me since I was five years old and has never held back. He always tells me I should know how to defend myself, and to expect no one to save me.

After getting a busted lip and a few bruised ribs, training is now over. Luke beat me this time, but my secret about Colin is still safe, for now at least. It's time to hit the showers and get ready for school. My wounds will all heal themselves by then, anyway. I really love being a werewolf.