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Jericho Junction

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Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3)

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**Mark of Lycos**

**JERICHO JUNCTION**

**Marie Harte**

*Book three in the Mark of Lycos series*

*A cat, a demon and a bear. Oh my.*

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Jericho Dark Walker is a Bear, born to shift into both an animal's and man's form. He's second in command to the mixed group of shifters living in the Great Forest. For years it had been his dream to see his clan reintroduced to the land of their ancestors. But now that he's back he finds himself restless, unable to find joy in even the simplest back scratch or hive of honey. The female shifters offer little challenge, more than eager to bed the Great Clan's beta, and with everyone getting along, there's little more for him to do than break up the rare fight.

Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3)

When an opportunity arrives to represent the clan and work with the athmae to oust an evil plaguing the outer edge of the Great Forest, he gratefully volunteers. The alpha's brother has mated with an athmae—a demon—so Jericho thinks he knows what to expect. But his new partner is anything but typical. The athmae assigned to work with him is a male demon as large as Jericho, and just as deadly. No sex demon, but a hunter with the instincts of a true predator. So why is Jericho so taken with the male, when he has only ever felt desire for a female?

And why, when they rescue an annoying, sexy cat shifter from certain death, do his instincts scream at him to claim both the feline female and the demon as his own? Bears don't mate Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) outside their species, yet everything inside Jericho pushes him to do just that. A cat, a demon Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) and a bear. Oh my.

## Chapter One

He just didn't think he could do it anymore. A fight he could handle. Spurting blood, broken bones, hell, even a three-way with Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) the Loren sisters. But this...watching the wolves, foxes and bears play soccer together. It was unnatural.

"Where are the fucking cats when you need them?" Jericho muttered, not surprised no one answered, engrossed in the game.

Not even a year ago, he'd been part of the outcast Red Wolf Clan. Before the Great Forest had been Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) united, clan wars had ripped the

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shifter alliance apart. Anyone not a silver wolf had been forced to leave. Jericho's alpha, Rudra, had rallied the red wolves and accepted anyone into her clan who'd wanted revenge. Bears, foxes, wolves—it hadn't mattered. She'd intended to bring them all back to where they belonged. And then the fool woman had gone and mated Fenris—nephew to their enemy's alpha. Prior alpha, he corrected himself, now that Fenris and Rudra ruled the clan.

And Jericho's life had gone straight to hell.

When he'd envisioned peace, he'd never thought about how boring it might be. Getting along offered everyone the easy life in the Great Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) Forest. It meant fresh honey, trees to scratch and a plenitude of women from which he might find a mate.

The horror of it all made him sick to his stomach.

"Score!" Someone kicked a goal, and the clan went wild.

Apparently it was too much to ask half the clan Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) to grow incensed at the loss and beat the shit out of the winners. Instead, they smiled and laughed Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) as they took the defeat with good-natured cheer.

It was enough to drive Jericho to drink.

He left the cheering idiots behind before they broke into a round of *Kumbaya* and headed out to replace the guards patrolling the outer edge of the clan's keep. For the most part, things had remained quiet since peace had settled over the Great Forest. Rudra and Fenris ruled together, in harmony. But his alphas weren't counting on the calm lasting forever.

"Gibson, take a break. I've got this."

The brown fox smiled Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) and raced away after rendering a half-hearted salute.

Jericho waited until the fox had left before venturing deeper into the forest. He couldn't say why, but lately he'd been waking unable to remember his dreams, an odd sense of foreboding hanging around his neck like a curse.

No doubt thanks to his inherited visions, Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) his ability to foretell the future came into question whenever he had a dream he couldn't shake. If his visions had been clearer, he'd thank the Bear in the Cave for granting them. But the stubborn spirit toyed with his shaman, expecting Jericho to figure out his blasted messages.

Annoyed all over again, he stomped deeper into the shadows and used his night vision to better see through the darkening daylight. The sun poked out from between a Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) few clouds and made short work of the shadows. Better for him

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all around to make use of this form's stronger sense—eyesight. As a human, he had the same advantages and drawbacks as normal people, except that Jericho stood Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) much taller. At six foot six, he dwarfed most men, and his brawn lent to his ability to Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) shift into a huge-ass grizzly.

A noise ahead alerted him to be cautious, and he slowed his movements to minimize sound. The closer he drew, the more the hair on the back of his neck stood on end. The odd taint of dark magic layered over the air, Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) mixing with the coppery tang of blood he could all but taste.

Alarmed, Jericho pressed forward until he came to a sight he could have done without. For all that he'd wanted some excitement, this hadn't been what he'd had in mind. Before him, a family of cats lay dead, their guts and throats ripped out, their innards pulverized, as if crushed then chewed up and spat out. The scent of wrongness pervaded the place, and he knew no normal shifter had done this.

But who? Only the sorcerers were capable of hurting shifters to such a degree. From what Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) he knew, most sorcerers hadn't come near here in centuries. Only two sorcerers spent time around Shifters. One such sorceress was Rudra, Jericho's alpha, though to be fair, she was only *half* sorceress. The other would be her father, and Rurik would rather cut off his own arm than harm those he considered his friends and family.

Jericho's mind raced as he considered his options.

The athmae might be responsible. Demons who lived with Fenris' brother, they'd visited the Great Forest a time or two. But those dark beings lived peaceably half a world away. The incubi Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) wanted nothing more than to have sex, not kill indiscriminately.

Yet the blood and bodies didn't lie. Something magical had done this. No mere shifter or creature out to mark territory would leave this behind, except as a message.

Scowling, Jericho stripped off his clothes and shifted into his bear. Then he ran like hell back to the clan, needing to warn his alphas before something more dire happened.

\* \* \* \*

A month later Jericho rose from a crouch and turned Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) to Fenris, the male alpha and a golden wolf he'd follow to his grave. "That makes a dozen now." He leaned in to close the open eyelids of a dead wolf caught mid-change. Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) "I can't track our enemy except to see the footprints. They're

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human, or at least in human form when they do this. Jericho Junction (Mark of Lycos Book 3) And those look like dog prints. I don't understand it. There's no smell other than the hint of evil lingering over everything."

## **Jericho Junction Mark Of Lycos Book 3**

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