

## Luna Aleksa's Escape Chapter 56

\*Aleksa POV\*

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Kaia couldn't run forever. She had to leave when Ezra first arrived to buy us all some time to figure out how we would manage the situation between me and Lachlan and then Kaia and Ezra.

If I had learned one thing, it is that we need to face our fears and relinquish the ties of our pasts. I was about to do the same with Lachlan once and for all, and then after that, I wouldn't think of him again. Kaia would need to do the same if she ever wanted to lead a normal life. Especially if she wanted a second chance mate.

The other pressing question I had was regarding the sweater at Abbey's cottage. The one that set Jackson off. I would love nothing more than to help him find his fated mate. He deserved happiness. Everyone deserved to find their fated mate. I was racking my brain trying to think of who might have stayed there but truthfully I had no clue.

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I got up out of the now cold water and wrapped my plush oversized towel around my body. I was so cold. How long had I been in that bath I thought to myself. I quickly walked over to the wardrobe that I shared with Kingston and chucked on some dark blue skinny jeans, a singlet, and a fluffy turtleneck sweater on top. I then grabbed my favorite tan leather boots.

I looked around the room and realized I was all alone. I looked at the clock on the wall. It was midnight. My goddess, how long was I in that bath? I must have been in there for hours. No wonder I'm so cold. It was strange that Kingston still wasn't here at this time of night. I walked out to the balcony and looked out around the pack grounds. There was a chill in the air. The silence was deafening. It all felt very eerie.

I decided that I will take a walk around the packhouse and see if I can find my mate.

I make my way out of my room and I head toward the staircase. It's so quiet, usually, there are skeleton staff working, cleaning staff or maintenance or a cook or two, but tonight there didn't seem to be anyone around. Perhaps they finished the preparations for the festival and everyone decided to have an early night. Although that doesn't seem like the right answer either.

I walked in the direction of Kingston's office and it was all dark, there was no lighting on, no noise whatsoever.

Amber pushed through, "I have a bad feeling about this Aleksa, keep your guard up," Amber advised me. Maybe that's why I was feeling so cold like chilled to the bone, and what about that nightmare? I can't seem to remember it, which is unusual for me.

"Oh, it's up" I replied to my wolf.

After about forty-five minutes of wandering around the pack house, I was feeling even more determined than ever to find my mate or anyone at this point. I decided to expand my search outside of the packhouse. I know I wasn't supposed to be walking around by myself but I was starting to wonder if there was anyone else around.

I made my way down the steps outside easily enough thanks to the solar lights that lined the steps, and I began to walk around the side of the packhouse making my way to the conference room, strangely enough, there was no one there.

I continued to walk through the pack grounds towards the training grounds because that's the most logical place for the guys to be at this time of night. They were probably going over strategies or having a late-night training session. As I made my way there I heard shuffling in the bush next to me.

I suddenly had the feeling I was being followed or watched.

"We aren't alone are we Amber," I asked my wolf.

"Nope," Amber said shortly.

I started to pick up my pace slightly, trying not to make it obvious that I was aware that I was not alone. And then I felt my arm being yanked backward aggressively. I let out a loud gasp. I turn to sidekick whoever had grabbed my arm but they pulled my leg and pushed me backward. I fell to the ground, with my back hitting a large rock hard.

"Ahh!" I screamed in pain. I could feel the pain searing through me. Well, that's gonna bruise I thought to myself.

"Just the person I wanted to see," a snarky voice called back at me.

I recognized the voice. It made my skin crawl.

"Ezra!" I called back to him.

"You lied to me the other day. Do you think I'm f\*\*\*\*\*g stupid? I could scent my mate all over your f\*\*\*\*\*g pack grounds. Where is she?" He spat out maliciously.

I stood up. Subtly rubbing my back with my left hand, as I pulled myself together. I was feeling a little cornered and at a definite disadvantage. But I couldn't let him know I was scared.

"I have no idea what you are talking about," I said faking confusion at his question.

"Look b\*\*\*h, I want my mate and I'm not leaving until I get her," He threatened.

He looked me up and down and I saw a glint in his eye.

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He laughed mockingly and continued to advance toward me. I closed my eyes to concentrate on my energy and visualise what I wanted to do to him, to stop him from hurting me.

At that very moment, I felt a hard slap across my face, so hard that I lost my footing, and fell to the ground again. It hurt so much. I wondered if I might have just lost a tooth or two then. But I managed to hold my pain in.

I tried to get up but Ezra was already forcing his bodyweight onto me.

“Focus Aleksa!” Amber called out to me. I could feel her giving me strength. I tried to channel all of my energy and focus.

I was trying not to get distracted by the overpowering stench of whatever his cologne was. I could sense his excitement and arousal.

Ezra ripped my jumper off me in an instant. I closed my eyes again and blocked everything out. This was not happening.

The fear of what this creep wanted to do to me fueled a fire inside me. I felt myself burn up. Everything was so hot, and before I knew it a huge force of energy consumed me and I felt Ezra being pulled away from me and towards a large oak tree. I heard him hit his head hard and fall to the ground.

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I picked myself up and walked over to him. I’m still shivering in shock at what had just happened.

I heard Ezra groan. He was making incomprehensible sounds. He didn't seem to be responding. I watched him lose consciousness.

I guess he was more of a threat than Kingston and I had thought. He needed to be held somewhere. I knew that I couldn't lift him. I was feeling drained from using my power.

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"Aleksa, what's wrong?" Jackson responded immediately.

"Ezra. He attacked me." I replied, trying to sound strong and unaffected.

Jackson growled. "Where are you?"

"Near the training grounds, between the bush and a huge oak tree," I told him calmly.

"I'm on my way," Jackson responded.

A minute or so later Jackson arrived in his wolf form.

"Hello Gray," I said to him, with a small smile, trying to remain strong while holding my arms against my chest. I was still shivering and that bastard had ripped my sweater, so I was standing there in my singlet.

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Gray looked at me, then he looked down at my ripped sweatshirt and Ezra’s top on the ground next to it.

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“Of course, but, where’s your mate?” Gray asked confused, and then mad.

“I don’t know. I haven’t seen him since lunchtime yesterday, and he has blocked me. I can’t get hold of Kingston or Kai. Something weird is going on,” I told Gray.

Then I think about how Gray arrived almost immediately after I had mind-linked him.

“Hey, how did you get here so fast?” I asked Gray.

“We’ve been out searching, for our mate,” Gray responded.

“Aww Gray, we will find her. I promise!” I tried to reassure him.

“I’ll mind-link my warriors to help me move this trash, give me a minute,” Gray declared.

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\*Aleska POV\*

Gray had shifted before we left for the pack lock-up facility. We began to walk to the lock-up facility. Being that Jackson was just visiting the pack he didn't know where the facility was so I had to show them where to go.

I still couldn't get through to anyone via mind-link, nor could Jackson as he wasn't part of our pack. It didn't take much to convince Jackson to let me come with him to look for the others and find out what was going on, as he could sense that things were off also.

When we reached the lock-up, the guards didn't appear to be outside as they usually were. Jackson looked at his warriors and they made a few hand gestures and slowly advanced inside. As we walked through the corridors which were dimly lit, it appeared that the backup generators were on. When we reached the holding area we found the guards out cold on the floor. I ran up to the closest one and felt for a pulse. His heart rate was slow but it was still there.

"He's still alive! But his pulse is very slow." I called out to Jackson.

"Let's investigate further, Aleska, you stay close to me." Jackson declared.

He didn't need to say a word, I wasn't planning on going anywhere alone at this stage. I was officially creeped out.

After a sweep of the cells, we made our way back to the entrance. The cells were all empty. The cell doors appeared to be locked shut, and the guards appeared to be out cold, almost as if they were sleeping. No one had been harmed.

We all looked at each other with confused expressions on our faces.

"Magic!" Jackson said abruptly.

"I have a feeling magic is involved, and not the good kind either," Jackson replied to himself.

I start to realize the gravity of the situation. I start to think of my loved ones. My mind then goes to Kali and Caleb. They were staying in the packhouse. Perhaps we should start there.

"Where's the Hybrid!" Jackson called out angrily.

"Abbey?" I replied to him.

"Yeah, her." He said gruffly.

"She will be sleeping. Wait, you don't think?" I start to speak before I am cut off.

"It feels like magic. She's a witch! Let's start there!" Jackson demanded.

"I guess that makes sense. But Jackson, let me do the talking. She's my friend." I tell him rather than asking. I know he is a higher rank than me, but this isn't about ranks. Something is going on and we need to find out what.

"Yeah well let's see what she has to say," Jackson replied gruffly.

"Alpha, what do you want us to do with him?" One of Jackson's warriors asks, referring to Ezra.

"You two watch him for now. See if you can get one of those cells open and shove him in. One of you can watch him, the other can come to find us. Mind-link me when you are done," Jackson ordered them.

“Yes Alpha,” they both called out concurrently, nodding their heads and bowing before dragging Ezra off.

With that Jackson takes a jacket off one of the guards and threw it at me.

“You look cold, throw this on, he doesn’t need it right now,” Jackson declared.

“Thanks,” I said, throwing the jacket on.

Abbey’s cottage wasn’t far away so there is no need for us to shift. It wouldn’t take us long to get there.

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We walked up the pathway to Abbey’s cottage, there were no lights on, which wasn’t surprising considering it was the middle of the night.

“I’ll do the talking!” I told Jackson, as I knew that he could come across as aggressive at times, and I felt bad enough waking Abbey up in the middle of the night.

As I was about to knock on the door it opened. I smiled as I expected nothing less. Abbey always seemed to know when someone was approaching.

“Aleska, are you okay?” Abbey started to fuss, taking in my appearance.

“Yeah, I’m fine,” I told her not wanting to go into detail right now.

“What’s going on around here?” Abbey asked.

“I’ve had no power all night, and Alaric hasn’t arrived back yet. I’ve had this strange feeling all night, and now you two show up at my doorstep in the middle of the night,” Abbey said with a concerned look on her face.

“You wanna come in?” Abbey offered.

“We don’t have time for this!” Jackson declared.

“Hmnm, unfortunately, he’s right, Abbey will you come with us, something is going on, the guards at the lock-up facility were out cold, the powers out, no one else seems to be around and I can’t mind-link anyone but Jackson,” I ranted off quickly to Abbey.



Abbey's face dropped, "Oh dear," she said as she pulls her jacket on and starts to walk out her door.

"Let's walk and talk," Abbey suggested.

After explaining everything that happened this evening Abbey was initially outraged at what Ezra had attempted to do, but then happy I was able to contact Jackson. She was trying to piece things together as we walked toward the training grounds.

"I agree with Jackson, the guards could be in a deep sleep, and an enchantment spell would appear that way. There could be someone messing with the pack's ability to mind-link, that too could be the doing of a witch, but no light witch would do such a thing, this sounds like the work of a dark witch." Abbey stated.

"When was the last time either of you saw someone familiar?" Abbey asked.

"I guess, before we came to your cottage yesterday," I replied.

"And you Jackson?" Abbey asked him softly.

"Same as Aleksa, after our meeting in your cottage, I shifted into Gray and we ran for hours, we only stopped when I got Aleksa's mind-link just before," Jackson replied.

"Hmmn, interesting, I never found Alaric when we parted ways at the packhouse earlier this evening, there were others around but I didn't interact with anyone," Abbey recalled.

"I wonder," Abbey started.

"What?" Jackson replied in anticipation.

"I wonder if something didn't happen while we were in the cottage? I wonder if something didn't happen to the rest of the pack? What if what we saw when we walked into the packhouse was just an illusion?" Abbey asked.

"But why?" I replied in denial.

"I don't know, It's just a thought, let's investigate some more," Abbey suggested.

We had just arrived outside the training grounds, and there weren't any lights on. I went to grab my phone out of my pocket when Abbey looked at me and chuckled.

"Let me, Aleksa," Abbey declared.

Abbey moved her hands in a circular motion and closed her eyes, and then a bright orb appeared before her, she released it in front of us and it started to guide our way into the training grounds.

"That was seriously cool!" I called out in awe.

"Not bad," Jackson said as if he was slightly impressed.

We walked through the administration block following the orb in front of us, and as we turned to walk into the stadium we were shocked to see the warriors from our pack and other packs on the ground.

I gasped in horror. Then I ran to the nearest warrior to feel for a pulse, it was there but it was faint. I looked around to see if I could see anyone familiar, I started walking through the bodies carefully, and then I saw him, I saw Kai.

I ran up to him, yelling, "Kai! Kai! Wake up!" I started to shake him, then I felt around for a pulse. It was much like the others there, but slow, although a bit stronger than the others, probably because he was a Gamma.

"Abbey, please, is there anything you can do?" I called out to Abbey who came running towards me. Jackson circled us, looking around but standing guard at the same time.

"Hmmn, let me see," Abbey said, getting down on her hands and knees, she then puts her hands just above his body and focuses her energy on Kai.

"I can feel that he's still here, but in a deep sleep, definitely an enchantment spell." Abbey declared.

"Can you counteract it?" I asked pleadingly. I looked at her wide-eyed.

"I think I can? It will probably take a lot of energy. I feel confident that I can wake Kai, but I am not sure I can do everyone at this stage," Abbey said with a sad expression on her face.

"That's ok, it's a start!" I said with some optimism in my voice.

“OK, give me a few minutes and some space,” Abbey instructed me.

I watched Abbey in awe. She was truly amazing. Jackson pretended not to be bothered about what is unfolding in front of him, but even he can't deny what Abbey is doing right now is nothing short of epic.

A short while later, Kai started groaning.

I knelt down on the ground again and touch his face. Kai opens his eyes.

“Luna?” Kai croaked out.

“Oh my goddess, Kai, are you ok?” I asked him in a panic-stricken tone.

“Luna, they took him! I'm sorry!” Kai declared.

“What, who?” I looked at him puzzled.

“The Witch. She took Kingston! Said she needed to get him out of the way,” he called out. Then he slowly started to sit up, rubbing his neck.

“Are you telling me that a dark witch took Kingston?” I asked him in shock.

“Yes Luna, I'm so sorry,” Kai replied, bowing his head, looking ashamed that he couldn't protect his alpha and prevent him from being taken.

“It's ok Kai, we will find him, this isn't your fault!” I tried to reassure Kai, and I leaned forward to comfort him in the form of a hug.

I looked back up to Abbey who was now standing up and looking around the stadium.

“Any ideas Abbey?” I looked to her for an answer.

“Dark witches don't attack packs for no reason, someone will be paying her to do this, someone who stands to gain something from getting Kingston out of the way,” Abbey questioned.

Jackson and I look at one another at the same time in realization.

“Lachlan!” We both called out simultaneously.

\*Aleska POV\*

Once it dawned on us that Lachlan was most likely behind all of this, we had to figure out what to do next. Abbey believed that the reason that Jackson and I could mind-link was due to our Crescent Moon wolf bond. Kai tested the theory by trying to mind-link and was unsuccessful. Although Jackson could mind-link his warriors which seemed strange. Although, it became clearer once he had explained that the two warriors he had brought with him weren't ordinary wolves. Apparently, they had met one another at a training camp that he had been sent to by his father in his early teens and they had bonded. They had recognized Jackson as their alpha early on, and submitted to him, despite the fact that they all shared the same rank.

Abbey believed that if there was a dark witch involved then her enchantment spell would have applied to regular pack wolves, but most likely not affect special wolves, hence why we were all unaffected.

While Abbey couldn't currently reach any of her contacts due to distance and the presence of a supernatural barrier, she could call them, so we started to make our way to the nearest phone.

Unfortunately, all methods of communication seemed to be out of order. For now, we were on our own. At least we had the advantage of the witch not knowing that we were special wolves. The witch would assume we were under the spell for now. But that would mean that they would be most likely looking for us.

Abbey suggested that we all hide our scents to be on the safe side. She was able to manage this with a simple cloaking spell.

If we were right and Lachlan was behind this, then he was looking for me. Jackson wanted to get me out of Rocky Mountain and to safety, but I insisted on staying. We needed to face this Witch and Lachlan, and break the spell she had placed on my pack.

Abbey believed that the key to breaking the spell was either capturing the witch involved and convincing her to reverse the spell, or k\*\*\*\*\*g her. Abbey didn't feel that comfortable taking a life, but said if it came to it she would. She too wanted to find her mate.

Jackson advised that we would need some more backup if we were to pull this off, and suggested we find Sam and Caleb, and a few other ranked members to help us on our mission.

“Do you think you are up for some more healing Abbey?” He asked her respectfully.

I looked at him in shock, it appeared that he might be softening in his attitude toward her and realizing she is an ally, not a threat.

“Yes, as long as I have a little break in between, I should be fine,” Abbey replied confidently.

With that, we made our way back to the packhouse stealthily. Caleb’s room would be our first stop. I sure hoped that Kali and her unborn baby would be ok. I asked Abbey about healing Kali now, she said Kali was safer sleeping for now, and shouldn’t be put at further risk. I agreed with her reasoning, at least she would be out of harm’s way for now.

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We made our way to Caleb’s designated room. Jackson had to break down the door as it was locked. We found Kali asleep on the couch and Caleb on the ground in the kitchen. It didn’t take long for Abbey to work her magic on him. When Caleb came to he demanded that Abbey wake Kali, but then she explained that by doing so Kali would be at more risk because she would want to fight, thus putting her and her unborn baby at risk. Caleb realized that she was right and dropped the subject. Once we had brought Caleb up to speed with the events of the night we were ready to find Sam.

Since Sam was the only attendee from Evergreen that was actually allowed to stay at Rocky Mountain he and Lily were sharing a cottage to themselves. They were on the far west side of the pack, so it was a bit of a hike to get there. We didn’t want to run into anyone so we exited the back of the packhouse and made our way through the woods. Kai was the only one of us that actually knew this place inside out, so we were lucky we had him with us to show us a shortcut.

Cutting through the woods meant we reached the cabin pretty quickly. Kai pushed the door open, it was unlocked luckily, Sam and Lily were laying face down on the table. They must have been having a hot drink when the spell took over because their cups had tipped over and had run onto the wooden floor.

Caleb and Kai went straight to Sam and moved him from his chair to the floor. Jackson picked Lily up carefully and placed her on the couch. As he was

laying her down Abbey called out to him, "Jackson could you bring Lily here and lay her beside Sam, I wanna try something," Abbey stated.

Before anyone could ask, Abbey had closed her eyes and began to focus on Sam and Lily, she did the same as before and placed her hands directly above both their bodies. After a minute or so they both started to come to.

We all looked at Abbey gobsmacked.

"You did it!" I called out happily.

"You healed them both at the same time!" I said to her with a look of astonishment on my face.

Abbey smiled and seemed to wilt a little. Caleb held her from behind, and she took a moment to steady herself.

"Thank you. I haven't done two people at a time before. It just takes a bit out of me. I'm not that long out of my witch training" Abbey clarified with a slight blush on her face.

"Sam!" Caleb called out, helping his friend up.

"What happened?" Sam said, rubbing his eyes.

"Lily!" I called out. "Are you okay?" I said helping her sit up.

"Aleksa! What are you doing here?" Lily called out confused.

"Wait, Sam?" Lily questioned, looking to the right side of her.

Lily and Sam pulled each other into an embrace and then pulled apart again.

"Ah, what's going on?" Sam asked looking around at us all with a puzzled look on his face.

\*\*\*

We didn't have time to spare. There wasn't a lot of darkness left before sunrise, and we needed to use the cover of darkness to our advantage right now.

Jackson gave Sam and Lily a rundown of the night's events as we made our way to the old log cabin. Kai had suggested that since it was on the far side of the pack boundaries. He had a theory that it might not have had its communications systems affected. We might be able to get some help or contact someone with knowledge of this sort of thing, and then we could make our way back to the pack before sunrise.

As we were almost at the old log cabin we walked into something. We tried to advance but we couldn't seem to move any further.

"I can feel a strong energy," I declared to my friends.

"So can I," Jackson responded.

"Uh oh," Abbey commented.

"It's a forcefield," a voice came from behind us, it was one of Jackson's warriors from earlier tonight.

"The witch has imposed a forcefield, we can't leave and no one else can come in," He replied.

"Nice of you to join us, Bryant," Jackson replied.

"Everyone, this is my good friend Bryant," Jackson called out.

Everyone acknowledged and greeted him. Once the pleasantries were over we had to figure out where we were going now and what our new plan would be.

"Comms!" Kai declared.

"We could try the backup equipment in the Communications room, back at the packhouse," Kai reiterated.

"Worth a try," Jackson replied.

"Let's go then," Sam said.

\*\*\*

Just as we made it up the steps to the rear entrance of the packhouse the sun started to come up. At least we had made it back safely. Hopefully, we could find something of use in the communications room.

The communications room was located in the loft at the top of the packhouse. I had no idea it was even here, although that isn't surprising as I was still orienting to the pack.

We made our way up to the room and started looking around. Caleb and Sam tried to get the computers and communication systems working, while Jackson took a look around for a backup generator, and Caleb checked the cupboards, while doing so he stumbled across a secret compartment in the ceiling for alternative means of communication.

After about thirty minutes we had made no progress.

"s\*\*t!" Jackson called out.

"I can't get through to Elijah." Jackson declared.

"We have to assume that Ezra has escaped, we also need to assume he may be in on whatever is going on here, so be on your guard! If you see him, don't k\*\*l him, we need to find out what he knows first," Jackson ordered.

\*Aleksa POV\*

Our search of the communications room was fruitless. Nothing we found was able to transmit. It looked like we were truly on our own here. We had no idea who we were up against. We just suspected that Lachlan was behind it all and he was being helped by a dark witch.

We knew that the pack seemed to be surrounded by some massive energy-bound forcefield so we couldn't get out either. We also knew that it was only a matter of time before whoever was behind all of this realized that I wasn't where I should be.

While my heart ached for my mate, I couldn't feel anything through our bond, but I didn't feel our bond break so that gave me hope that he was still out there, maybe he was under the enchantment spell, I sure hoped that was the case.



Abbey said that assuming that this was orchestrated by Lachlan and he was he for me the best thing to do would be to elude him for as long as possible.

Meanwhile, she will focus on trying to wake some of the pack up a few at a time.

Sam suggested we keep moving because it would only be a matter of time before they tracked back to the packhouse.

Abbey asked for suggestions as to who she should wake first. Jackson implied the stronger the wolf the better right now as they were likely to be able to defend themselves rather than hold us back, everyone was in agreement with that.

I voiced that I didn't recall seeing any of the alphas at the training grounds, to which Kai replied that the night before the summit festival it was tradition for the attending alphas to have a late-night whiskey at the lake house.

"Lakehouse?" I replied with a confused look on my face,

"Uh, yeah, it belonged to the previous alpha and luna, it's in the middle of the woods on the southern boundary. Chances are they were there when the enchantment spell hit. It's worth a try anyway. I can show you the way." Kai called out.

We all followed Kai out through the woods as quietly and quickly as possible. It took about twenty minutes to get there in our human form. It was a large wooden cabin just sitting here on the outskirts of the wood overlooking a small lake.

As expected, there were bodies of the visiting alpha's lounged out on chairs, by the lake, and on the deck. They all looked so peaceful, a contrast from the intimidating alphas they usually are. But this wasn't the time to reflect, we had work to do.

"Caleb, Sam, Bryant with me, let's get them all next to each other and line them up. Lily and Aleska, you can help Abbey set up. Abbey – are you ready for this?"

Abbey looked at Jackson and smiled. "You're just a big softy aren't you?"

Jackson huffed and walked off.

Abbey looked at me smirking, “I think we are going to be great friends, Jackson and I,”

I smiled at her knowingly. Because I thought so too.

\*\*\*

Abbey had begun healing the alphas. When they woke up they were disorientated initially but after about ten minutes or so they seemed to be back to their usual selves. While some wanted to spring into action immediately, we managed to convince them that we had to tread carefully since we didn't actually know what we were up against.

Abbey seemed to be holding up well despite using mass amounts of energy, there were about a dozen of us now, and still, another dozen alphas yet to be healed.

Jackson suggested that some of us would need to stay back with Abbey while she healed the other alpha's and the rest of us needed to continue onwards.

Caleb and Kai naturally refused to leave my side, I guess it was the gamma band at play. Sam and Lily said that they would stay back with Abbey, Bryant also offered to protect her while she helped us to gather more backup.

Jackson, myself, Caleb, and Kai, as well as some of the attending alphas, decided to move out and see if we could see any movement around the pack grounds. We hadn't seen anyone yet, but they must be somewhere.

\*\*\*

As we were about a hundred yards away from the entrance to the packhouse, we saw movement. We halted behind Jackson and waited. My jaw dropped as I took in the huge army of wolves that were descending upon the packhouse.

The foul stench of these rogue wolves invaded my nostrils. I fought the urge to vomit. We all looked at one another. Well, this complicates things a little I thought to myself. I wasn't quite expecting that we would have that many opponents to fight.

I looked at Caleb instantly in fear. We had left Kali behind sleeping there. Caleb let out a huge growl and ran forward shifting into his wolf, he ran as fast as his legs would carry him toward the packhouse.

“f\*\*k!” Jackson yelled. He also runs forward, shifting into Gray following Caleb’s lead. If we don’t follow him, both he, Kali, and their unborn baby are dead, so we all shifted and followed them through the packhouse, taking out wolves as we moved through the crowd.

Kai and a few of the other alpha’s flanked my sides and front and behind and pushed through the rogues, their bodies flying all over the place, blood spurting out all over the place.

We ran down the corridor and then skidded to a sudden halt, Caleb had shifted and was holding a sleeping Kali in his arms. We formed a circle around him and I nodded my head towards the back entrance swiftly, rogues descending on us from behind, we all pushed forward some of the alpha’s fending off the rogues as we made our way through the packhouse.

“Take Aleksa and Kali to safety, I’ll keep the rogues busy!” Jackson yelled as he slowed down and turned to fight the rogues.

Four of the alpha’s followed Caleb and Kali and me. Once we made it to the bush. I turned around.

“Get your mate and baby to safety!” I called out and I ran off.

I ran towards the packhouse to join Jackson and half a dozen alphas fight.

Jackson growled.

“What the f\*\*k are you doing? Run! Now!” He yelled at me followed by a growl.

“No. I’m here to fight for my friends and my pack!” I yelled as I fought two small dirty brown rogues.

“Aleksa, concentrate, like before. We can use our powers. Visualize. Then focus our energy!” Amber encouraged me.

I take a breath and close my eyes. I think of the danger my friends and my pack are in. I use my anger against those who have come to destroy my pack. I feel myself heat up again. I feel like I am being surrounded by a whirlwind of heat and then I release. I feel a huge gust of energy disperse, and when I open my eyes the rogues that were surrounding us were no more.

I look further afield and I see the remaining rogues retreat. I see movement in the woods to the north of the pack grounds, and for some reason, I know that is where the witch is hiding. I could feel a pull toward her. I could feel her dark energy.

I lunge forward and run like the wind in her direction. When I get there I can sense that she is still there. I see a figure move out from behind a large tree.

“Hello, Aleksa,” she called out.

“Why are you doing this?” I asked her aggressively.

“Why do we do anything? For power, for money, for control.” She spat out shaking her head.

“My, you really are naive aren’t you?” She mocked me.

“I can see why that brute of an alpha wants you. So pretty and yet so clueless.” She laughed again.

Then she went quiet and looked at me as if she was looking into my mind.

“He doesn’t know, does he?” the witch asked me. Then she starts laughing again.

“Oh, this is brilliant!” She called out trying to suppress further laughter.

“Who? Know about what?” I asked the witch, having no actual clue as to who or what she was referring to.

“What are you talking about, Who are you...” I asked. I stopped mid-sentence as I was distracted by a shuffle in the bushes to the witch’s left.

“My sweet Aleska, did you like the rose I sent you?” Lachlan said, striding towards me with a smirk on his face.

“Lachlan,” I said shakily, trying not to show my fear but failing miserably.

“You have caused a lot of trouble my little mate,” Lachlan said, shaking his head disapprovingly at me.

“Nevermind, you have the rest of your life to make it up to me!” He added, laughing evilly.

I slowly started to back away from Lachlan and the witch, as I did I could sense movement behind me. As I turned my head I saw two of Evergreen's warriors behind me in their wolf forms. I knew that I wouldn't be getting out of this situation without a fight.

"Well, my job here is done! You have your she-wolf. Now I will have my payment, Wolf!" the witch demanded eagerly.

"Don't dare disrespect me, Witch!" Lachlan declared to the witch.

However, she didn't appear to be affected by his menacing aura. She looked more impatient than anything else.

Lachlan pulled a small hessian sack out of his pocket and dumped it in the witch's hand. She quickly poured the gold out and looked over it, then she chucked it back in the sack happily and stowed it away in the inside of her gown.

"I'd watch this one if I were you. There's more to her than meets the eye," the witch said as she winked at me knowingly.

Lachlan huffed, and dismissed the witch.

"I have a feeling this isn't the last we shall see of one another Aleksa." the witch added and with that, she vanished in a big puff of smoke.

\*Aleska POV\*

"Where is my mate?" I yelled at Lachlan in disdain.

Seconds later I felt his large calloused hand connect with the side of my cheek. I almost lose my balance due to the sheer force of his slap.

I am done with taking slaps from men today, so I slapped Lachlan back even harder in return.

Lachlan laughed mockingly at me.

"I see my weak mate has developed a backbone. Well, I shall have fun breaking you back down." Lachlan said laughing even harder this time.

I felt my anger start to rise. Not now Aleksa. We need more information. Don't show your hand just yet. Amber warned me.

“Please, where is Kingston?” I asked Lachlan again, this time with a lower tone,

“That mutt. He’s none of your concern,” Lachlan said walking around me in a circular motion.

I hear him growl when he takes in my mark. I felt a hard punch to my stomach. I lean forward feeling gasping for breath as I am temporarily wounded. I got my breath back and managed to pull myself back up. I stood strong and tall. I tried to remain stoic.

I knew that he wanted me to submit, and to fear him. But I refused to. The next time he touches me I will not be holding back.

“First thing we will do when we get back to the pack is to get rid of that mutt’s filthy mark on you. You will regret letting him mark you, I promise you that w\*\*\*e!” Lachlan spat out in a rage.

“I gave you everything! You were living a lowly life in that human town before you met me. I gave you a home, a pack, a rank, a purpose. And this is how you repay me! By w\*\*\*\*\*g yourself to some alpha mutt in the middle of b\*\*t f\*\*k nowhere.” Lachlan screamed out. He looked like he was getting angrier by the moment.

I just stared at him blankly.

“What do you have to say for yourself w\*\*\*e?” Lachlan prodded me while glaring at me.

“Where’s my mate? Where’s...” I am not finished with my sentence when I feel another slap, this time it’s on the other side of my face. Well, thank goddess for that, at least the swelling will even out.

Even though I’m in so much pain right now, and I can feel the tears welling in my eyes I start laughing.

“Is that it? Is that all you’ve got?” I call out mockingly, laughing so more. Lachlan looks at me in astonishment, probably wondering if I have a death wish.

I figure that by baiting him, I am buying more time for my friends to find me. We haven't left the pack grounds yet. The dark witch appears to have left. Any minute now someone should arrive and then we can end this once and for all.

As if he can read my mind Lachlan grabs me and pulls me towards the pack boundaries.

"I'm no fool w\*\*\*e! I know your game! Move it!" He said pulling me along even faster than before, his warriors falling closely behind us.

As we approach the pack boundary there is a black SUV waiting, the engine is running and someone is in the driver's seat. We are approximately ten yards away, and no one has arrived yet. I guess they are busy with the rogues at the packhouse. I sure hope they are okay. Although, it looks like I'm on my own for now.

\*\*\*

Just as we were nearing the SUV I heard footsteps coming from the trees behind us. I turned my head and was shocked to see Ezra running toward us. I gasped out loud.

"What do you want?" Lachlan said in a tone of annoyance.

It sounds like they know each other.

"That b\*\*\*h isn't going anywhere! We have unfinished business!" Ezra growled pointing at me.

Lachlan looked at us both, studying our body language in amusement.

"And what has my wretched mate done to get you all wound up?" Lachlan asked.

"She knows where my mate is!" Ezra screamed.

"Tell me now! Where is Kaia?" Ezra demanded.

He started to step toward me. As he did I saw Lachlan start to sniff.

"We had a deal Lachlan, and I am yet to see my mate!" Ezra yelled fiercely, looking like he was struggling to keep himself together.

“WHY DO YOU REEK OF MY MATE!” Lachlan called out almost in a rage. Then I see his eyes turn black.

Interesting. I thought to myself.

Ezra stopped suddenly.

“Yyyour mate?” He said almost stuttering, and stopping short.

“He tried to r\*\*e me!” I called out.

I know that Lachlan doesn't care about anyone but himself. But I also know that he doesn't like to share his toys either. I decide that I can k\*\*l two birds with one stone by playing them against each other.

“Whattttt!” Lachlan roared.

“She was asking for it!” Ezra boomed.

“No one touches my mate but me!” Lachlan yelled savagely.

And in seconds he had lost all control, shifted, and launched his wolf upon Ezra.

Ezra was caught off-guard, clearly not expecting such a reaction from his partner in crime. Cyrus didn't hold back.

He held Ezra's arms down, and started snapping at his neck, he was about to go in for the k\*\*l when Ezra managed to push him off his legs.

Ezra shifted. His wolf was smaller than Lachlan's. Their wolves started circling one another slowly. They were both growling. I started to step back slowly. Unfortunately, I had forgotten about the warriors that were trailing me from behind.

The wolves lunged for each other and started rolling back and forth, each trying to get closer to the other's neck.

Cyrus managed to latch onto Ezra's wolf's neck and tore a huge chunk of skin off his neck. It was grotesque, I could see the artery rupture, and the blood rapidly spraying out all over Cryus and into the air.



Ezra started to go limp, he shifted back to human form. His skin was deathly pale, and I watched as he lost consciousness.

Cryus had delivered a fatal bite. I figured this was my time to escape now. I shifted into my wolf Amber and barged through the two warrior wolves behind me, causing them to fall to the ground.

I could sense that Cyrus was on my tail, merely seconds behind me, so I pushed myself as far as I could. I could almost see the end of the treeline ahead of me. I just had to move a little faster.

“Come on Amber, we are almost through the trees. Just a bit further!” I tried to encourage my wolf.

She was determined to outrun her ex-mate.

As we pushed past the last of the trees, I could feel the body heat of Cryus upon us, and just as I smelt him hover over us, I felt myself being pushed to the ground, my face hitting the ground suddenly.

Cyrus had launched his body on top of us, pinning us down. He was holding us face down on the ground.

Cyrus let out a menacing growl.

I could feel him shift on top of me.

“Mmmmn, just like oldtimes. Me on top riding you face down!” Lachlan declared.

“I think I’m gonna be sick!” I said out loud.

And with that Lachlan grabbed my head and pushed it hard against the ground.

I was too dizzy and in too much pain to even react.

I could feel myself being lifted up, but I felt so incoherent. I just let the darkness take me.

\*\*\*

I felt myself being pulled along the ground. I could smell the grass and earth scratching my face as I was being dragged. A burning sensation had engulfed me, it felt like my skin was being grazed repeatedly against the ground.

I must have only lost consciousness for a few seconds, as I appeared to be on the pack grounds still. I could see I was being dragged back the way I came.

I had enough of this playing dumb business. I tried to play the passive weak female and hoped that would be enough for Lachlan to let slip where Kingston was, but now I was over it.

I focussed my energy and used my power to get myself out of the warrior's grip, burning their hands with an electrical surge. They started screaming in pain. I jumped up on my feet and got into a defensive stance.

"Playtime is over! Tell me where Kingston is now! And I might let you live!" I demanded with a cold and determined look on my face.

Lachlan looked at me in disbelief.

"What the f\*\*k was that!" he yelled, looking at his warriors squealing in pain.

"That was me taking the power back!" I said standing there with my arms crossed looking at him smugly.

"I'm done playing games!" I yelled at him.

"Where is my mate? Tell me now and I might show you some mercy!" I demanded.

I could feel my eyes glowing. I was getting angrier by the moment. My wolf is anxious to find her mate and disgusted at the sight of her former mate.

"Your eyes!" Lachlan called out incredulity.

"Where is my mate!" I called out. My anger resonates and I felt a surge of energy, it felt electrical. I moved my hands in Lachlan's direction and he and his warriors fall to the ground. I watch them look at me in horror and disbelief.

"What the!" Lachlan screamed out, pulling himself back up, and dusting himself off.

"Turns out you didn't know me as well as you thought," I told him coldly.

“What are you? Some kind of witch?” Lachlan blurted out.

He was stalling. I struggled to contain my wolf. I could feel my eyes switching color. I was about to inflict pain upon this poor excuse for a wolf in front of me.

I was getting angrier by the moment and I could feel myself heating up again. As I went to raise my hand towards Lachlan he called out.

“I can take you to him! Kingston! I will show you where he is!” Lachlan yelled out with two hands in front of me, gesturing to me that he will surrender for now.

“No games! If I think you are tricking me – I will make you suffer!” I tell him.

I feel so strong and in control. A far cry from the naive and shy Aleksa that I once was.

\*Aleksa POV\*

We had been walking for a few minutes now and I could see the pack was starting to wake up. It would appear that the dark witch’s spell had been lifted. My mind-link was currently being flooded by anxious pack members. I felt a headache coming on so I blocked them all for now.

I tried to mind-link Kingston, hoping that I might finally be able to get through to him, but there was nothing. I couldn’t feel him, period. I knew that nothing sinister had happened to him so that was something at least.

“Aleksa, where are you?” I heard via mind-link. I was not surprised that Jackson could get through to me, it must be a crescent moon wolf perk.

“I’m with Lachlan and two of his warriors, we are walking towards the maintenance sheds, he’s cooperating at the moment but I don’t trust him,” I told Jackson.

“Right, we’re on our way!” Jackson called out via the mind-link.

As we were approaching the sheds I had a feeling that danger was awaiting us and that this was a trap, but I was determined to find Kingston. I had the upper hand for now, but I was still on high alert.

Lachlan told me that Kingston was just behind the sheds in the woods, and that he had him handcuffed in silver there. I look at him and I sensed that he was being truthful. I reached out to Amber but she couldn't sense anything.

As we approached the bush I heard movement in multiple directions. In a matter of seconds, I was surrounded by wolves, snapping their teeth at me angrily.

Lachlan turned around with a smirk on his face.

"Right where I wanted you. Still so naive!" He laughed out loud, shaking his head toward me.

I crossed my arms and tilted my head at him.

I was about to make some smart-a\*s comment when I heard snickering from behind the wolves, they parted ways, and out walked Eva.

"Aleska is mine!" She called out.

Lachlan looked at her in amusement.

"Have at it, just don't k\*\*l her, do you hear me!" Lachlan screamed out to Eva.

"I can't make any promises!" Eva replied snarkily.

"Eva!" Lachlan called back.

"Yeah, ok, fine I won't k\*\*l her," She begrudgingly agreed.

I looked at Eva and couldn't contain my laughter. I found it hilarious that she thought that she could take me. I'm not the same girl that she remembered, but I will sure enjoy educating her.

I stood in anticipation, as I knew that she would strike first.

As predicted Eva walked up to me and attempted to slap me hard across the face, but I could see it coming a mile away and I blocked her hand with my arm, causing her to call out loudly in pain.,

"Pathetic!" I called out to her.

I saw that the wolf's attention had moved to something coming from behind me.

I turned my head to see what it was, and I saw my friends approaching us with haste.

In doing so, I had broken the never turn your back on your opponent rule, and I had given Eva time to attack me.

I felt my body fall back on the ground hard. Eva was punching my face hard and fast, and after a few hits, I was starting to feel dizzy.

I let out a loud growl and pushed Eva from me hard. My wolf and I were now furious and I could feel my body heating up once again, but I didn't want to use my powers on Eva, nor did I want to shift just yet. I wanted to take this b\*\*\*h out on my own.

Suddenly I had flashbacks of all the times that I had suffered in pain while Eva was with Lachlan, all the times I confided in her, all the times I went out of my way for her, and then I thought about when I caught them in the act and that look of sheer smug satisfaction on her face, and that did it for me. I hit her hard, and I couldn't stop.

I felt a wolf jump up and bite my shoulder from behind. I felt the pain surge through me. I took this moment to shift into my wolf. Amber was furious, she charged for the wolf and ripped out a chunk of skin from its flank. I then spat it out. It tasted disgusting in my mouth. It appeared to be a rogue wolf, judging by its foul odor.

I watched Eva shift and charge toward me and I knew that I needed to end the other wolf so that I could focus on Eva. As I was about to go in for the k\*\*l, Eva's wolf jumped on me and snapped its teeth toward my neck. I was now vastly outnumbered and there was a raging battle going on around me. I knew that my friends were here fighting and I needed to try to end this.

I focussed my energy on getting Eva off me. I felt myself heat up, and the electrical energy surge through me. I felt it connect with Eva's fur and smelt her fur burning as she begun to sizzle. She was essentially being electrified. She fell off me onto the ground, rolling until she appeared to lose consciousness.

The wolf that had just been attacking me looked scared and started to cower away, submitting to me.

“Run away, and don’t come back, and I will let you live!” I mind-linked the wolf.

The wolf looked shocked, and nodded its head towards me, then ran off towards the woods.

I looked around me and saw Jackson and Lachlan circling one another. I saw Abbey had shifted and she was fighting back to back with Lily who had also shifted, there were about four wolves surrounding them.

Sam was fighting the two warriors that were accompanying Lachlan earlier.

The place was chaos. Pack wolves fighting rogue wolves, it was c\*\*\*\*e.

I look behind me and I saw some of the alphas from other packs that were here for the summit, were arriving to help us fight the rogues. Thank the goddess for that I thought to myself.

I mind-linked Jackson, “I need to find Kingston. Ask Lachlan where he is, do whatever you have to get the information out of him,” I called out.

“You got it!” Jackson replied.

I stalked hurriedly towards Sam to help him fight the warriors, he was holding his own, but the sooner we took these rogues down the better.

I mind-linked my friends “Try to incapacitate them as opposed to massacring them, they are just following orders, we want to keep the death toll down if we can,”

My mind was flooded with replies.

“Need a hand, Sam?” I mind-linked Sam.

“Sure thing Luna,” He called out to me.

In no time we take them out, but as fast as we get rid of them more seemed to appear.

“Sam, go help your mate! I’ll be fine here!” I called out to him via mind-link.

“Are you sure?” He called out nervously.

“Yes, go!” I told him.

Sam moved to help Lily and Abbey who seemed to be constantly surrounded by rogues.

Everyone was defending their positions well but it was becoming tiresome.

I asked my wolf if she could sense our mate yet. She replied to me that she couldn't pick anything up.

“Abbey, do you think you could help me find Kingston? I still can't get hold of him even though the spell has been lifted.” I mind-link her.

“Yes, I think so, I can definitely try, I just need to be able to concentrate,” Abbey replied.

“I'm on my way!” I replied to her.

I was done with fighting the hard way. I once again focussed my energy and shocked the wolves surrounding me. I felt a little drained. It appeared that the more my powers were used, the more energy it took from me.

I charged toward Abbey, Lily, and Sam. “Abbey if you can make your way to the maintenance sheds behind us you might be able to try that locating spell?” I declared.

“Hmnn, I can try. But I will need something that belongs to Kingston. Do you have anything I could use?” Abbey asked me.

I shook my head sadly.

“Ah, it's ok, I'll see what I can do, be back soon!” Abbey called out.

I took over her place in the circle and continued to fight the rogues. I was feeling a bit drained, my wolf missed her mate, it felt like forever since we had seen one another.

I looked over to Jackson, while I was fighting one on one with a rogue. I saw him and Lachlan fighting, rolling over each other, snapping and biting one another, each of them seeking dominance in the fight. Neither one of them

seemed to be winning, both taking hard hits, with gashes evident all over their bodies, both with blood-soaked fur.

It was at that moment it dawned on me. Jackson's powers. I had never asked him what they are specifically. Why hasn't he ended his fight with Lachlan?

I wasn't paying attention to the fight, and I felt a claw s\*\*\*h the side of my neck. I felt blood drip down my collarbone and onto my chest. The pain spurred me on.

I lunged forward and ripped the rogue's throat out, spitting its disgusting skin and flesh onto the field.

I was snapped out of my bloodlust by the feeling of a mind-numbing pain ripping through me. I felt as though I had been stabbed with a knife in my chest. I clutched myself where it hurt and let out a blood-curdling growl. I knew that I was feeling someone else's pain.

I scanned my eyes around the field and I saw Jackson fall to the ground, leaning on his knees, holding his chest. Lachlan hovering over him snickering.

I saw a silver dagger sticking out of his chest and my heart hurt for him. I picked myself up off the ground and my paws pounded against the ground galloping towards him as if my life depended on it.

I leapt off the ground into the air and lunged towards Lachlan, I started ripping into him, tearing into his chest frantically, he used whatever energy he had to push me off. I got back onto my paws to attack him some more, when I was distracted by Jackson's groans.

I was torn, part of me wanted to end this wretched wolf who has my mate hidden somewhere, who has made my life a misery as well as countless other and gravely injured my cousin, and the other part of me, the bigger part, needed to tend to Jackson.

I felt Sam and Caleb flank me.

Sam shifted beside me.

"I Sam Nicholson, Beta of Evergreen Pack, reject you Lachlan as my Alpha," Sam said holding his ground. He then quickly shifted back to his wolf form ready to fight the wolf he once pledged his allegiance to.



Lachlan laughed.

“I was gonna k\*\*l you anyway. Enjoy your short life as a Rogue!” He called out to Sam.

“I need to help Jackson, can you stall him for now?” I mind-inked Sam and Caleb.

“Yes Luna,” They replied to me in synchronisation.

I leaned down to Jackson, and tried to assess his wound. The blood was hemorrhaging out. The dagger was silver. And then it hit me -my nightmares. I've seen this all before, in my nightmares.

I shifted back to human form, so I could use my hands to help put pressure on the wound.

I tried to fight back the tears but they continued to fall furiously.

“Stay with me Jackson!” I called out pleadingly.

I shook him to try keep him awake. I saw his eyes were starting to roll back.

“Jackson, please!” I called out desperately.

“Please Moon Goddess, help him!” I yelled out to the sky.

At that very moment, we were all blinded by an overwhelming bright white light.

\*Aleska POV\*

I had to close my eyes as the light was so bright. I heard a loud screeching sound, it was piercing my ears, like some sort of sound distortion. And then a wave of energy hit us all. The force was overwhelming and I felt lightheaded. After a few moments, I felt myself come to my senses. The light started to dim down and my eyes began to adjust. The light appeared to be shrinking and in a matter of moments, it had become merely an orb. There was a figure emerging from behind it. I had to squint to see in the darkness of the woods. It was Xanthe!

Most of the wolves that had been fighting on the battlefield were holding their heads, they looked to be in pain. Xanthe looked panicked and started running

towards me. I looked back down at Jackson, “Jackson, can you hear me, please stay with me!” I yelled at him.

Xanthe approached us and pushed me aside, “Move!” She ordered me. I looked at her in confusion.

“Xanthe, what are you doing?” I asked her.

“He is my Mate!” She told me looking at him in disbelief.

I could see how concerned she looked. She touched his face with the palm of her hands, her fingers touching Jackson’s face in a gentle and loving manner.

Jackson’s breathing was starting to normalize already with Xanthe’s mere touch. I wonder if that could be the mate bond at work, or perhaps it was because Xanthe was a healer or both.

“Are you sure?” I asked Xanthe hopefully.

“I can heal him!” Xanthe declared.

“I just need some space,” Xanthe said. I could tell she was trying to suppress her true feelings, I could hear the shakiness in her voice.

\*Xanthe POV\*

After meeting with Aleksa and Kingston that day in the gazebo in the rose gardens, I was determined to find out whatever I could about her heritage. However, along the way my past had caught up with me. I had been detained against my will by someone who had untoward plans for me.

I was able to escape that hellhole with help from an unlikely ally. I then began to make my way back to Rocky Mountain. My intuition had told me to come back right away. I had thought something might be wrong with Aleska until I reached the pack border and then I felt it. I felt him.

I felt the pull deep within my heart. My true love. My mate, was here, and he was hurt. I made my way toward the training fields and I saw a raging battle taking place. I could sense it was between pack wolves fending off a rogue attack.

I could see everyone fighting from the woods. I saw that despicable Lachlan lunging toward Aleksa and then I let out a surge of power, blinding and stopping all in its path.

I made my way to the wolf on the ground as I saw he had shifted to his human form.

He was gorgeous. Rugged with dark and handsome features, I could sense that he was of alpha blood.

He had been stabbed with a silver wolfsbane-infused dagger in his chest and he was fading fast. I couldn't believe that after all these centuries I had finally found my mate. I refused to lose him when I had only just found him.

After telling Aleksa that he was my mate, I attempted to heal him. I placed my hands over his body and channeled all of my energy. I used my strength to s\*\*k the poison from his system. I felt it consume me but I would not stop until my mate was safe.

It seemed like an eternity but in reality, it didn't take long at all. I watched my mate wake from his state of unconsciousness.

I watched him look into my eyes with desire and growl "MATE!"

I looked at him and I smiled lovingly.

\*Aleksa POV\*

My wolf became restless, and then she growled wildly. "Mate! Mate is coming!" She howled in my head with joy.

I jerked my head to the left, and I watched as my mate approached us with Abbey in tow.

"Kingston!" I called out desperately. My heart racing and an overwhelming desire to run to my mate and never let go, right here in the middle of this fight.

I looked at Xanthe and Jackson. They were having a moment. They wouldn't notice me gone.

I leaped up onto the ground and ran into my mate's arms.

As I ran toward him I took in his bruised and swollen face, he had a split lip and a split eyebrow. Why was he in such a state I wondered. Why was his werewolf healing not kicking in? What had happened to him?

I felt him flinch in pain as my body smacked against his. I looked at him with concern on my face. I lifted up his shirt and saw burn marks, it looked like a silver knife had been slashed against him repeatedly.

I looked at his wrists which also looked to be burned. I could only assume he had been bound in silver handcuffs or chains.

My wolf whimpered internally for our mate.

"I'm ok. I'll heal soon." Kingston said to me casually.

I smacked my lips against his and passionately kissed him. My wolf was howling in my head. Then I pulled away quickly, realizing that we were still in the middle of the fight. There would be time for this later, I thought to myself.

I looked to Abbey, "How?" That was all I could ask her, still astonished that she had found my mate.

"He was bound in silver, and unconscious when I found Him. He was tied to a chair, at the back of the maintenance shed. I picked up his scent while I was trying to find some space to perform the locating spell," Abbey replied.

I looked again at Kingston. Trying my best to suppress my tears of joy, as I was pushed aggressively to the ground. My head hit the ground with a loud thud. As I looked up to see what had just hit me I saw Kingston being pinned to the ground by Lachlan's wolf Cyrus.

I ran into Cyrus with all my might. I figure it will buy Kingston a few moments to shift. As he hovers over me snapping at me, I try to fight him off with my hands.

I hear him whimper as Kingston shifts into his wolf Sabre and takes a large chunk of flesh out of his left hind leg. Cyrus is pushed to the ground and it seems that Sabre has the upper hand when a scroungy brown wolf jumps onto him trying to get access to his neck.

Furious, and recognizing that the scroungy and singed wolf is Eva, I quickly shifted into my wolf Amber and lunged forward viciously taking aim at her

neck. I latched onto it and I tugged at it mercilessly, not letting go until I was satisfied that there was no life left in her.

While part of me was sad to take a life, especially when this wolf was once my friend, I told myself that she was never the friend I thought she was, and that I would stop at nothing to protect my mate.

Sabre continued to attack Cyrus, taking aim at his neck but missing and taking a chunk out of his shoulder instead, he then went for Cyrus's jugular and ripped into his neck, blood squirting out all over Sabre, soaking his fur. Cyrus began to lose strength, whimpering, his motions stalling.

Sabre moves away from Cyrus nudging against my snout, we both shift and fall into each other's arms. Usually, I would be embarrassed to be naked in front of so many other wolves but right now I'm just feeling blessed to have my mate in my arms. I'm so besotted that I don't even notice Cyrus has shifted into his human form and he is getting back on his feet.

It's almost too late when I see he has somehow picked up the silver dagger and is about to stab Kingston in the neck when Sam comes from behind and grips the dagger forcing it into Lachlan's heart he then pulls it out and slices Lachlan's neck open decapitating him.

I gasped in horror as I watch my former mate's head fall to the ground. I wished that things could have been different, but he was a lost soul, so consumed in evil and darkness. There was no redemption for him.

I mouthed thank you to Sam for saving my mate from harm. Kingston had turned around just in time to see Lachlan meet his demise. We all stood there in silence for a moment.

As I looked around us, I noticed that the rogues had started to retreat. I watched my friends start to pick themselves up off the battlefield. I saw wolves tending to the injured. We all just stared at one another looking grateful that we were still all here, and it is finally over.

\*Aleksa POV\*

Four hours later.

Once Lachlan was no longer a threat and we were sure the rogues had retreated, we began the task of picking ourselves back up.

We rounded the entire pack together and all the visiting packs, and had a quick debrief.

After the debriefing we encouraged the visiting packs not to feel obliged to stay, and to feel free to make their way home, as the summit was effectively over, due to these unexpected events.

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We had just finished rounding up the last of the deceased rogues when the royal pack entourage arrived. This isn't the way we were planning to greet the Alpha King, and it definitely wasn't what we had planned for this day of the summit.

Originally we had a huge festival planned with performers, stalls, music, and food. Until we were attacked by a dark witch and rogues led by my deranged ex-mate.

As the Alpha King himself, also known as my cousin Callum, stepped out of his Range Rover he took in the grim sight that awaited him.

The pack ground was a mess. Blood stained the once lush green field in front of us. It was clear a battle had taken place here.

Before he had a chance to ask what had happened we moved forward to introduce ourselves. We were quite a sight, I was still bleeding from the wounds I had sustained during the fight, Kingston looks like a bruised and battered mess, and we both still needed medical attention.

We had declined it initially, as we wanted the most vulnerable and injured wolves to be tended to first. Kingston tried to insist that I go straight to the pack doctor but I wanted to make sure my friends were seen first. Plus I could already feel my wounds were being healed.

We welcomed Callum to the pack and led him to the pack house dining room where some of our kitchen staff organized some pastries and hot drinks for Callum and his men.

We explained the events of the past twenty-four hours briefly, as well as explained that we had ramped up security as well as had Xanthe and Abbey placing some protective spells in place to secure the perimeter for now, in case of any further retaliation.

Callum suggested that we get cleaned up, get our wounds tended to, and then meet him and his men again in an hour or two on the pack house patio.

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After showering and dressing and attending to our wounds, we met Callum at the pack house patio. The sun was beginning to set and it was quite a sight to behold. It was daunting to think that there was still so much to do before we retired for the day.

Callum had examined my crescent moon wolf marking with awe. Jackson didn't have a marking yet as he hadn't mated and marked his true mate yet, although it was only a matter of time now that he and Xanthe had found one another.

I began to relay my story of how I had been raised as a human, to finding my wolf Amber and shifting for the first time, to meeting Lachlan and my time at Evergreen, up until the events that had just occurred here at Rocky Mountain. Callum had praised my strength and integrity, as well as Jackson's ability to lead a pack and still manage to keep his wolfs secret identity.

Callum then went on to explain his understanding of the events that had occurred at the royal pack all those years ago, as well as his condolences regarding our parents.

Jackson had also joined us, he was completely healed. It was as if nothing had happened earlier today. There was not a scratch on him.

He was reluctant to join us at first as he refused to be away from Xanthe, especially since they had just found one another. So Xanthe was present at the meeting also. Callum thanked her for her efforts to protect me and keep me safe, as well as her services to the royal pack.

Callum had even offered Jackson and me the opportunity to join the royal pack as senior members, which we were very honored to receive. However, we had to politely decline as neither of us wished to leave our current packs due to finding our true mates and our obligations.

While Callum was disappointed that we didn't take him up on his offer he did understand. So instead he came up with the idea of a Royal Pack Alliance which was extended not only to our closest allies but to the packs that had fought in the attack earlier today.

Though the packs had already started to make their way home immediately after the attack, we had all agreed to reconvene again in a month's time to discuss alliances and a peace treaty.

Callum was curious about the Hybrid who had such great knowledge of the royal pack, so he requested a meeting with Abbey, to which she gladly obliged, to which Alaric accompanied her too.

It appeared that Callum had known Abbey's mother well and they shared a few stories with one another. Abbey and Alaric were also invited to visit the royal pack, which they are intending to do after returning back to their packs.

Jackson and I have both been invited to stay at the Volkov Kingdom to meet some of our distant relatives and to learn more about our heritage. We have both agreed to come along, and we intend to bring our mates with us but have asked that it be postponed until everything is back to normal again following the recent attacks.

Jackson declared that he needed to speak with his father first and check back in with his pack, as he had been absent for some time now.

Further to that, he wished to introduce Xanthe to his pack as his Luna.

Xanthe was a bit reluctant. Although she had accepted Jackson as her mate, she was unsure about becoming Luna and is worried that there may be resistance to her being accepted as Luna due to the fact that she is a witch by birth.

I have a feeling it will all work out eventually though.

\*\*\*

After Lachlan had met his demise, the rogues instantly began to retreat. However, we had managed to capture a few of them for interrogation purposes. They aren't saying anything at the moment, but Kingston believes that in a few days' time they will probably start talking.

Kingston was organizing a tracking team right now to see if they could follow the rogue's scents in an effort to find out where they came from, and determine if they will be a future threat.



Xanthe was planning to contact a coven that she has a working relationship in a bid to try to find out who the dark witch was and to see if she will become a further threat to us in the future.

The dark witch did say she would “see me soon,” and I’m pretty sure she knew that I was a crescent moon wolf, so that could become problematic.

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Kingston and I were heading off to the pack hospital now to check on our friends and injured pack members. After that I planned on calling Mason and Quinn and sharing a video call with my pups if they were still awake.

Now that Lachlan was no longer a threat, there is no reason why they cant all come home.

I simply cannot wait to have my pups safely in my arms again. It feels like it has been an eternity since I last saw them.

Kingston had managed to contact Asher, and he and Kaia are on their way back to Rocky Mountain. Asher said that when he went to tell them about Ezra’s death, they already knew. They told him that they have something exciting to tell us when they get back. We have an inkling as to what it might be, but we are excited to hear what they have to say.

It’s going to take some time to get things back to what they once were. We have a lot to do as far as pack security goes. The fact that the dark witch managed to create all that chaos is pretty scary. To think such an attack was able to occur, means we have much work ahead of us to ensure it doesn’t happen again.

We will have lots of work to do with the creation of this new alliance with the royal pack, but everyone seems open to the idea so far.

With so many finding their fated and second chances mates, there is still much celebrating to be done. There are also Luna ceremonies to take place, including my own ceremony. But there is plenty of time for that.

What matters now is that everyone is safe and well, that all the injured recover, and that we get things back to a state of normality – whatever that might look like.

As I descended the stairs of the pack house I looked around at the lush greenery that surrounds me, the sky is now starting to darken, and night is falling.

I am so blessed to call this place home. I am safe. I am free at last.

I looked to the bottom of the stairs and see my perfect mate waiting for me.

Kingston had a grin on his face, and I raised my brows as I look at him, and then I saw why he was grinning.

As I looked to the side entrance of the main packhouse reception I saw my precious pups, my Liam and Layla, standing next to Mason and Quinn.

“How?” I asked Kingston via mind-link, in a state of astonishment.

“I rang Mason after the attack, and said it was safe to bring Liam and Layla back,” Kingston replied.

I was already making my way toward my pups.

“Mommy!” They called out in unison, running as fast as their little legs would carry them. I too started to run towards them and we met in the middle. They landed in my arms and I kissed them both on their foreheads as they push their heads into my chest and we take in one another’s scents. I felt the tears of joy falling from my cheeks. Then I felt Kingston join our hug and we all embraced each other. Our family unit was finally back together. Everything was just as it should be. I felt at peace at last. I never dreamed that I could feel so complete and so loved.

## **Luna Aleksa’s Escape Chapter 57**

\*Aleska POV\*

Gray had shifted before we left for the pack lock-up facility. We began to walk to the lock-up facility. Being that Jackson was just visiting the pack he didn’t know where the facility was so I had to show them where to go.

I still couldn’t get through to anyone via mind-link, nor could Jackson as he wasn’t part of our pack. It didn’t take much to convince Jackson to let me come with him to look for the others and find out what was going on, as he could sense that things were off also.

When we reached the lock-up, the guards didn't appear to be outside as they usually were. Jackson looked at his warriors and they made a few hand gestures and slowly advanced inside. As we walked through the corridors which were dimly lit, it appeared that the backup generators were on. When we reached the holding area we found the guards out cold on the floor. I ran up to the closest one and felt for a pulse. His heart rate was slow but it was still there.

"He's still alive! But his pulse is very slow." I called out to Jackson.

"Let's investigate further, Aleska, you stay close to me." Jackson declared.

He didn't need to say a word, I wasn't planning on going anywhere alone at this stage. I was officially creeped out.

After a sweep of the cells, we made our way back to the entrance. The cells were all empty. The cell doors appeared to be locked shut, and the guards appeared to be out cold, almost as if they were sleeping. No one had been harmed.

We all looked at each other with confused expressions on our faces.

"Magic!" Jackson said abruptly.

"I have a feeling magic is involved, and not the good kind either," Jackson replied to himself.

I start to realize the gravity of the situation. I start to think of my loved ones. My mind then goes to Kali and Caleb. They were staying in the packhouse. Perhaps we should start there.

"Where's the Hybrid!" Jackson called out angrily.

"Abbey?" I replied to him.

"Yeah, her." He said gruffly.

"She will be sleeping. Wait, you don't think?" I start to speak before I am cut off.

"It feels like magic. She's a witch! Let's start there!" Jackson demanded.

"I guess that makes sense. But Jackson, let me do the talking. She's my friend." I tell him rather than asking. I know he is a higher rank than me, but this isn't about ranks. Something is going on and we need to find out what.

"Yeah well let's see what she has to say," Jackson replied gruffly.

"Alpha, what do you want us to do with him?" One of Jackson's warriors asks, referring to Ezra.

"You two watch him for now. See if you can get one of those cells open and shove him in. One of you can watch him, the other can come to find us. Mind-link me when you are done," Jackson ordered them.

"Yes Alpha," they both called out concurrently, nodding their heads and bowing before dragging Ezra off.

With that Jackson takes a jacket off one of the guards and threw it at me.

"You look cold, throw this on, he doesn't need it right now," Jackson declared.

"Thanks," I said, throwing the jacket on.

Abbey's cottage wasn't far away so there is no need for us to shift. It wouldn't take us long to get there.

\*\*\*

We walked up the pathway to Abbey's cottage, there were no lights on, which wasn't surprising considering it was the middle of the night.

"I'll do the talking!" I told Jackson, as I knew that he could come across as aggressive at times, and I felt bad enough waking Abbey up in the middle of the night.

As I was about to knock on the door it opened. I smiled as I expected nothing less. Abbey always seemed to know when someone was approaching.

"Aleska, are you okay?" Abbey started to fuss, taking in my appearance.

"Yeah, I'm fine," I told her not wanting to go into detail right now.

"What's going on around here?" Abbey asked.

"I've had no power all night, and Alaric hasn't arrived back yet. I've had this strange feeling all night, and now you two show up at my doorstep in the middle of the night," Abbey said with a concerned look on her face.

"You wanna come in?" Abbey offered.

"We don't have time for this!" Jackson declared.

"Hmmn, unfortunately, he's right, Abbey will you come with us, something is going on, the guards at the lock-up facility were out cold, the powers out, no one else seems to be around and I can't mind-link anyone but Jackson," I ranted off quickly to Abbey.

Abbey's face dropped, "Oh dear," she said as she pulls her jacket on and starts to walk out her door.

"Let's walk and talk," Abbey suggested.

After explaining everything that happened this evening Abbey was initially outraged at what Ezra had attempted to do, but then happy I was able to contact Jackson. She was trying to piece things together as we walked toward the training grounds.

"I agree with Jackson, the guards could be in a deep sleep, and an enchantment spell would appear that way. There could be someone messing with the pack's ability to mind-link, that too could be the doing of a witch, but no light witch would do such a thing, this sounds like the work of a dark witch." Abbey stated.

"When was the last time either of you saw someone familiar?" Abbey asked.

"I guess, before we came to your cottage yesterday," I replied.

"And you Jackson?" Abbey asked him softly.

"Same as Aleksa, after our meeting in your cottage, I shifted into Gray and we ran for hours, we only stopped when I got Aleksa's mind-link just before," Jackson replied.

"Hmmn, interesting, I never found Alaric when we parted ways at the packhouse earlier this evening, there were others around but I didn't interact with anyone," Abbey recalled.

“I wonder,” Abbey started.

“What?” Jackson replied in anticipation.

“I wonder if something didn’t happen while we were in the cottage? I wonder if something didn’t happen to the rest of the pack? What if what we saw when we walked into the packhouse was just an illusion?” Abbey asked.

“But why?” I replied in denial.

“I don’t know, It’s just a thought, let’s investigate some more,” Abbey suggested.

We had just arrived outside the training grounds, and there weren’t any lights on. I went to grab my phone out of my pocket when Abbey looked at me and chuckled.

“Let me, Aleksa,” Abbey declared.

Abbey moved her hands in a circular motion and closed her eyes, and then a bright orb appeared before her, she released it in front of us and it started to guide our way into the training grounds.

“That was seriously cool!” I called out in awe.

“Not bad,” Jackson said as if he was slightly impressed.

We walked through the administration block following the orb in front of us, and as we turned to walk into the stadium we were shocked to see the warriors from our pack and other packs on the ground.

I gasped in horror. Then I ran to the nearest warrior to feel for a pulse, it was there but it was faint. I looked around to see if I could see anyone familiar, I started walking through the bodies carefully, and then I saw him, I saw Kai.

I ran up to him, yelling, “Kai! Kai! Wake up!” I started to shake him, then I felt around for a pulse. It was much like the others there, but slow, although a bit stronger than the others, probably because he was a Gamma.

“Abbey, please, is there anything you can do?” I called out to Abbey who came running towards me. Jackson circled us, looking around but standing guard at the same time.

“Hmmn, let me see,” Abbey said, getting down on her hands and knees, she then puts her hands just above his body and focuses her energy on Kai.

“I can feel that he’s still here, but in a deep sleep, definitely an enchantment spell.” Abbey declared.

“Can you counteract it?” I asked pleadingly. I looked at her wide-eyed.

“I think I can? It will probably take a lot of energy. I feel confident that I can wake Kai, but I am not sure I can do everyone at this stage,” Abbey said with a sad expression on her face.

“That’s ok, it’s a start!” I said with some optimism in my voice.

“OK, give me a few minutes and some space,” Abbey instructed me.

I watched Abbey in awe. She was truly amazing. Jackson pretended not to be bothered about what is unfolding in front of him, but even he can’t deny what Abbey is doing right now is nothing short of epic.

A short while later, Kai started groaning.

I knelt down on the ground again and touch his face. Kai opens his eyes.

“Luna?” Kai croaked out.

“Oh my goddess, Kai, are you ok?” I asked him in a panic-stricken tone.

“Luna, they took him! I’m sorry!” Kai declared.

“What, who?” I looked at him puzzled.

“The Witch. She took Kingston! Said she needed to get him out of the way,” he called out. Then he slowly started to sit up, rubbing his neck.

“Are you telling me that a dark witch took Kingston?” I asked him in shock.

“Yes Luna, I’m so sorry,” Kai replied, bowing his head, looking ashamed that he couldn’t protect his alpha and prevent him from being taken.

“It’s ok Kai, we will find him, this isn’t your fault!” I tried to reassure Kai, and I leaned forward to comfort him in the form of a hug.

I looked back up to Abbey who was now standing up and looking around the stadium.

“Any ideas Abbey?” I looked to her for an answer.

“Dark witches don’t attack packs for no reason, someone will be paying her to do this, someone who stands to gain something from getting Kingston out of the way,” Abbey questioned.

Jackson and I look at one another at the same time in realization.

“Lachlan!” We both called out simultaneously.

\*Aleska POV\*

Once it dawned on us that Lachlan was most likely behind all of this, we had to figure out what to do next. Abbey believed that the reason that Jackson and I could mind-link was due to our Crescent Moon wolf bond. Kai tested the theory by trying to mind-link and was unsuccessful. Although Jackson could mind-link his warriors which seemed strange. Although, it became clearer once he had explained that the two warriors he had brought with him weren’t ordinary wolves. Apparently, they had met one another at a training camp that he had been sent to by his father in his early teens and they had bonded. They had recognized Jackson as their alpha early on, and submitted to him, despite the fact that they all shared the same rank.

Abbey believed that if there was a dark witch involved then her enchantment spell would have applied to regular pack wolves, but most likely not affect special wolves, hence why we were all unaffected.

While Abbey couldn’t currently reach any of her contacts due to distance and the presence of a supernatural barrier, she could call them, so we started to make our way to the nearest phone.

Unfortunately, all methods of communication seemed to be out of order. For now, we were on our own. At least we had the advantage of the witch not knowing that we were special wolves. The witch would assume we were under the spell for now. But that would mean that they would be most likely looking for us.

Abbey suggested that we all hide our scents to be on the safe side. She was able to manage this with a simple cloaking spell.



If we were right and Lachlan was behind this, then he was looking for me. Jackson wanted to get me out of Rocky Mountain and to safety, but I insisted on staying. We needed to face this Witch and Lachlan, and break the spell she had placed on my pack.

Abbey believed that the key to breaking the spell was either capturing the witch involved and convincing her to reverse the spell, or k\*\*\*\*\*g her. Abbey didn't feel that comfortable taking a life, but said if it came to it she would. She too wanted to find her mate.

Jackson advised that we would need some more backup if we were to pull this off, and suggested we find Sam and Caleb, and a few other ranked members to help us on our mission.

"Do you think you are up for some more healing Abbey?" He asked her respectfully.

I looked at him in shock, it appeared that he might be softening in his attitude toward her and realizing she is an ally, not a threat.

"Yes, as long as I have a little break in between, I should be fine," Abbey replied confidently.

With that, we made our way back to the packhouse stealthily. Caleb's room would be our first stop. I sure hoped that Kali and her unborn baby would be ok. I asked Abbey about healing Kali now, she said Kali was safer sleeping for now, and shouldn't be put at further risk. I agreed with her reasoning, at least she would be out of harm's way for now.

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We made our way to Caleb's designated room. Jackson had to break down the door as it was locked. We found Kali asleep on the couch and Caleb on the ground in the kitchen. It didn't take long for Abbey to work her magic on him. When Caleb came to he demanded that Abbey wake Kali, but then she explained that by doing so Kali would be at more risk because she would want to fight, thus putting her and her unborn baby at risk. Caleb realized that she was right and dropped the subject. Once we had brought Caleb up to speed with the events of the night we were ready to find Sam.

Since Sam was the only attendee from Evergreen that was actually allowed to stay at Rocky Mountain he and Lily were sharing a cottage to themselves.

They were on the far west side of the pack, so it was a bit of a hike to get there. We didn't want to run into anyone so we exited the back of the packhouse and made our way through the woods. Kai was the only one of us that actually knew this place inside out, so we were lucky we had him with us to show us a shortcut.

Cutting through the woods meant we reached the cabin pretty quickly. Kai pushed the door open, it was unlocked luckily, Sam and Lily were laying face down on the table. They must have been having a hot drink when the spell took over because their cups had tipped over and had run onto the wooden floor.

Caleb and Kai went straight to Sam and moved him from his chair to the floor. Jackson picked Lily up carefully and placed her on the couch. As he was laying her down Abbey called out to him, "Jackson could you bring Lily here and lay her beside Sam, I wanna try something," Abbey stated.

Before anyone could ask, Abbey had closed her eyes and began to focus on Sam and Lily, she did the same as before and placed her hands directly above both their bodies. After a minute or so they both started to come to.

We all looked at Abbey gobsmacked.

"You did it!" I called out happily.

"You healed them both at the same time!" I said to her with a look of astonishment on my face.

Abbey smiled and seemed to wilt a little. Caleb held her from behind, and she took a moment to steady herself.

"Thank you. I haven't done two people at a time before. It just takes a bit out of me. I'm not that long out of my witch training" Abbey clarified with a slight blush on her face.

"Sam!" Caleb called out, helping his friend up.

"What happened?" Sam said, rubbing his eyes.

"Lily!" I called out. "Are you okay?" I said helping her sit up.

"Aleksa! What are you doing here?" Lily called out confused.

“Wait, Sam?” Lily questioned, looking to the right side of her.

Lily and Sam pulled each other into an embrace and then pulled apart again.

“Ah, what’s going on?” Sam asked looking around at us all with a puzzled look on his face.

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We didn’t have time to spare. There wasn’t a lot of darkness left before sunrise, and we needed to use the cover of darkness to our advantage right now.

Jackson gave Sam and Lily a rundown of the night’s events as we made our way to the old log cabin. Kai had suggested that since it was on the far side of the pack boundaries. He had a theory that it might not have had its communications systems affected. We might be able to get some help or contact someone with knowledge of this sort of thing, and then we could make our way back to the pack before sunrise.

As we were almost at the old log cabin we walked into something. We tried to advance but we couldn’t seem to move any further.

“I can feel a strong energy,” I declared to my friends.

“So can I,” Jackson responded.

“Uh oh,” Abbey commented.

“It’s a forcefield,” a voice came from behind us, it was one of Jackson’s warriors from earlier tonight.

“The witch has imposed a forcefield, we can’t leave and no one else can come in,” He replied.

“Nice of you to join us, Bryant,” Jackson replied.

“Everyone, this is my good friend Bryant,” Jackson called out.

Everyone acknowledged and greeted him. Once the pleasantries were over we had to figure out where we were going now and what our new plan would be.

“Comms!” Kai declared.

“We could try the backup equipment in the Communications room, back at the packhouse,” Kai reiterated.

“Worth a try,” Jackson replied.

“Let’s go then,” Sam said.

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Just as we made it up the steps to the rear entrance of the packhouse the sun started to come up. At least we had made it back safely. Hopefully, we could find something of use in the communications room.

The communications room was located in the loft at the top of the packhouse. I had no idea it was even here, although that isn’t surprising as I was still orienting to the pack.

We made our way up to the room and started looking around. Caleb and Sam tried to get the computers and communication systems working, while Jackson took a look around for a backup generator, and Caleb checked the cupboards, while doing so he stumbled across a secret compartment in the ceiling for alternative means of communication.

After about thirty minutes we had made no progress.

“s\*\*t!” Jackson called out.

“I can’t get through to Elijah.” Jackson declared.

“We have to assume that Ezra has escaped, we also need to assume he may be in on whatever is going on here, so be on your guard! If you see him, don’t k\*\*l him, we need to find out what he knows first,” Jackson ordered.

\*Aleksa POV\*

Our search of the communications room was fruitless. Nothing we found was able to transmit. It looked like we were truly on our own here. We had no idea who we were up against. We just suspected that Lachlan was behind it all and he was being helped by a dark witch.

We knew that the pack seemed to be surrounded by some massive energy-bound forcefield so we couldn't get out either. We also knew that it was only a matter of time before whoever was behind all of this realized that I wasn't where I should be.

While my heart ached for my mate, I couldn't feel anything through our bond, but I didn't feel our bond break so that gave me hope that he was still out there, maybe he was under the enchantment spell, I sure hoped that was the case.

Abbey said that assuming that this was orchestrated by Lachlan and he was he for me the best thing to do would be to elude him for as long as possible.

Meanwhile, she will focus on trying to wake some of the pack up a few at a time.

Sam suggested we keep moving because it would only be a matter of time before they tracked back to the packhouse.

Abbey asked for suggestions as to who she should wake first. Jackson implied the stronger the wolf the better right now as they were likely to be able to defend themselves rather than hold us back, everyone was in agreement with that.

I voiced that I didn't recall seeing any of the alphas at the training grounds, to which Kai replied that the night before the summit festival it was tradition for the attending alphas to have a late-night whiskey at the lake house.

"Lakehouse?" I replied with a confused look on my face,

"Uh, yeah, it belonged to the previous alpha and luna, it's in the middle of the woods on the southern boundary. Chances are they were there when the enchantment spell hit. It's worth a try anyway. I can show you the way." Kai called out.

We all followed Kai out through the woods as quietly and quickly as possible. It took about twenty minutes to get there in our human form. It was a large wooden cabin just sitting here on the outskirts of the wood overlooking a small lake.

As expected, there were bodies of the visiting alpha's lounged out on chairs, by the lake, and on the deck. They all looked so peaceful, a contrast from the

intimidating alphas they usually are. But this wasn't the time to reflect, we had work to do.

"Caleb, Sam, Bryant with me, let's get them all next to each other and line them up. Lily and Aleska, you can help Abbey set up. Abbey – are you ready for this?"

Abbey looked at Jackson and smiled. "You're just a big softy aren't you?"

Jackson huffed and walked off.

Abbey looked at me smirking, "I think we are going to be great friends, Jackson and I,"

I smiled at her knowingly. Because I thought so too.

\*\*\*

Abbey had begun healing the alphas. When they woke up they were disorientated initially but after about ten minutes or so they seemed to be back to their usual selves. While some wanted to spring into action immediately, we managed to convince them that we had to tread carefully since we didn't actually know what we were up against.

Abbey seemed to be holding up well despite using mass amounts of energy, there were about a dozen of us now, and still, another dozen alphas yet to be healed.

Jackson suggested that some of us would need to stay back with Abbey while she healed the other alpha's and the rest of us needed to continue onwards.

Caleb and Kai naturally refused to leave my side, I guess it was the gamma band at play. Sam and Lily said that they would stay back with Abbey, Bryant also offered to protect her while she helped us to gather more backup.

Jackson, myself, Caleb, and Kai, as well as some of the attending alphas, decided to move out and see if we could see any movement around the pack grounds. We hadn't seen anyone yet, but they must be somewhere.

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As we were about a hundred yards away from the entrance to the packhouse, we saw movement. We halted behind Jackson and waited. My jaw dropped as I took in the huge army of wolves that were descending upon the packhouse.

The foul stench of these rogue wolves invaded my nostrils. I fought the urge to vomit. We all looked at one another. Well, this complicates things a little I thought to myself. I wasn't quite expecting that we would have that many opponents to fight.

I looked at Caleb instantly in fear. We had left Kali behind sleeping there. Caleb let out a huge growl and ran forward shifting into his wolf, he ran as fast as his legs would carry him toward the packhouse.

"f\*\*k!" Jackson yelled. He also runs forward, shifting into Gray following Caleb's lead. If we don't follow him, both he, Kali, and their unborn baby are dead, so we all shifted and followed them through the packhouse, taking out wolves as we moved through the crowd.

Kai and a few of the other alpha's flanked my sides and front and behind and pushed through the rogues, their bodies flying all over the place, blood spurting out all over the place.

We ran down the corridor and then skidded to a sudden halt, Caleb had shifted and was holding a sleeping Kali in his arms. We formed a circle around him and I nodded my head towards the back entrance swiftly, rogues descending on us from behind, we all pushed forward some of the alpha's fending off the rogues as we made our way through the packhouse.

"Take Aleksa and Kali to safety, I'll keep the rogues busy!" Jackson yelled as he slowed down and turned to fight the rogues.

Four of the alpha's followed Caleb and Kali and me. Once we made it to the bush. I turned around.

"Get your mate and baby to safety!" I called out and I ran off.

I ran towards the packhouse to join Jackson and half a dozen alphas fight.

Jackson growled.

"What the f\*\*k are you doing? Run! Now!" He yelled at me followed by a growl.

“No. I’m here to fight for my friends and my pack!” I yelled as I fought two small dirty brown rogues.

“Aleksa, concentrate, like before. We can use our powers. Visualize. Then focus our energy!” Amber encouraged me.

I take a breath and close my eyes. I think of the danger my friends and my pack are in. I use my anger against those who have come to destroy my pack. I feel myself heat up again. I feel like I am being surrounded by a whirlwind of heat and then I release. I feel a huge gust of energy disperse, and when I open my eyes the rogues that were surrounding us were no more.

I look further afield and I see the remaining rogues retreat. I see movement in the woods to the north of the pack grounds, and for some reason, I know that is where the witch is hiding. I could feel a pull toward her. I could feel her dark energy.

I lunge forward and run like the wind in her direction. When I get there I can sense that she is still there. I see a figure move out from behind a large tree.

“Hello, Aleksa,” she called out.

“Why are you doing this?” I asked her aggressively.

“Why do we do anything? For power, for money, for control.” She spat out shaking her head.

“My, you really are naive aren’t you?” She mocked me.

“I can see why that brute of an alpha wants you. So pretty and yet so clueless.” She laughed again.

Then she went quiet and looked at me as if she was looking into my mind.

“He doesn’t know, does he?” the witch asked me. Then she starts laughing again.

“Oh, this is brilliant!” She called out trying to suppress further laughter.

“Who? Know about what?” I asked the witch, having no actual clue as to who or what she was referring to.



“What are you talking about, Who are you...” I asked. I stopped mid-sentence as I was distracted by a shuffle in the bushes to the witch’s left.

“My sweet Aleska, did you like the rose I sent you?” Lachlan said, striding towards me with a smirk on his face.

“Lachlan,” I said shakily, trying not to show my fear but failing miserably.

“You have caused a lot of trouble my little mate,” Lachlan said, shaking his head disapprovingly at me.

“Nevermind, you have the rest of your life to make it up to me!” He added, laughing evilly.

I slowly started to back away from Lachlan and the witch, as I did I could sense movement behind me. As I turned my head I saw two of Evergreen’s warriors behind me in their wolf forms. I knew that I wouldn’t be getting out of this situation without a fight.

“Well, my job here is done! You have your she-wolf. Now I will have my payment, Wolf!” the witch demanded eagerly.

“Don’t dare disrespect me, Witch!” Lachlan declared to the witch.

However, she didn’t appear to be affected by his menacing aura. She looked more impatient than anything else.

Lachlan pulled a small hessian sack out of his pocket and dumped it in the witch’s hand. She quickly poured the gold out and looked over it, then she chucked it back in the sack happily and stowed it away in the inside of her gown.

“I’d watch this one if I were you. There’s more to her than meets the eye,” the witch said as she winked at me knowingly.

Lachlan huffed, and dismissed the witch.

“I have a feeling this isn’t the last we shall see of one another Aleksa.” the witch added and with that, she vanished in a big puff of smoke.

\*Aleska POV\*

“Where is my mate?” I yelled at Lachlan in disdain.

Seconds later I felt his large calloused hand connect with the side of my cheek. I almost lose my balance due to the sheer force of his slap.

I am done with taking slaps from men today, so I slapped Lachlan back even harder in return.

Lachlan laughed mockingly at me.

“I see my weak mate has developed a backbone. Well, I shall have fun breaking you back down.” Lachlan said laughing even harder this time.

I felt my anger start to rise. Not now Aleksa. We need more information. Don't show your hand just yet. Amber warned me.

“Please, where is Kingston?” I asked Lachlan again, this time with a lower tone,

“That mutt. He's none of your concern,” Lachlan said walking around me in a circular motion.

I hear him growl when he takes in my mark. I felt a hard punch to my stomach. I lean forward feeling gasping for breath as I am temporarily wounded. I got my breath back and managed to pull myself back up. I stood strong and tall. I tried to remain stoic.

I knew that he wanted me to submit, and to fear him. But I refused to. The next time he touches me I will not be holding back.

“First thing we will do when we get back to the pack is to get rid of that mutt's filthy mark on you. You will regret letting him mark you, I promise you that w\*\*\*e!” Lachlan spat out in a rage.

“I gave you everything! You were living a lowly life in that human town before you met me. I gave you a home, a pack, a rank, a purpose. And this is how you repay me! By w\*\*\*\*\*g yourself to some alpha mutt in the middle of b\*\*t f\*\*k nowhere.” Lachlan screamed out. He looked like he was getting angrier by the moment.

I just stared at him blankly.

“What do you have to say for yourself w\*\*\*e?” Lachlan prodded me while glaring at me.

“Where’s my mate? Where’s...” I am not finished with my sentence when I feel another slap, this time it’s on the other side of my face. Well, thank goddess for that, at least the swelling will even out.

Even though I’m in so much pain right now, and I can feel the tears welling in my eyes I start laughing.

“Is that it? Is that all you’ve got?” I call out mockingly, laughing so more. Lachlan looks at me in astonishment, probably wondering if I have a death wish.

I figure that by baiting him, I am buying more time for my friends to find me. We haven’t left the pack grounds yet. The dark witch appears to have left. Any minute now someone should arrive and then we can end this once and for all.

As if he can read my mind Lachlan grabs me and pulls me towards the pack boundaries.

“I’m no fool w\*\*\*e! I know your game! Move it!” He said pulling me along even faster than before, his warriors falling closely behind us.

As we approach the pack boundary there is a black SUV waiting, the engine is running and someone is in the driver’s seat. We are approximately ten yards away, and no one has arrived yet. I guess they are busy with the rogues at the packhouse. I sure hope they are okay. Although, it looks like I’m on my own for now.

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Just as we were nearing the SUV I heard footsteps coming from the trees behind us. I turned my head and was shocked to see Ezra running toward us. I gasped out loud.

“What do you want?” Lachlan said in a tone of annoyance.

It sounds like they know each other.

“That b\*\*\*h isn’t going anywhere! We have unfinished business!” Ezra growled pointing at me.

Lachlan looked at us both, studying our body language in amusement.

“And what has my wretched mate done to get you all wound up?” Lachlan asked.

“She knows where my mate is!” Ezra screamed.

“Tell me now! Where is Kaia?” Ezra demanded.

He started to step toward me. As he did I saw Lachlan start to sniff.

“We had a deal Lachlan, and I am yet to see my mate!” Ezra yelled fiercely, looking like he was struggling to keep himself together.

“WHY DO YOU REEK OF MY MATE!” Lachlan called out almost in a rage. Then I see his eyes turn black.

Interesting. I thought to myself.

Ezra stopped suddenly.

“Yyyour mate?” He said almost stuttering, and stopping short.

“He tried to r\*\*e me!” I called out.

I know that Lachlan doesn't care about anyone but himself. But I also know that he doesn't like to share his toys either. I decide that I can k\*\*l two birds with one stone by playing them against each other.

“Whattttt!” Lachlan roared.

“She was asking for it!” Ezra boomed.

“No one touches my mate but me!” Lachlan yelled savagely.

And in seconds he had lost all control, shifted, and launched his wolf upon Ezra.

Ezra was caught off-guard, clearly not expecting such a reaction from his partner in crime. Cyrus didn't hold back.

He held Ezra's arms down, and started snapping at his neck, he was about to go in for the k\*\*l when Ezra managed to push him off his legs.

Ezra shifted. His wolf was smaller than Lachlan's. Their wolves started circling one another slowly. They were both growling. I started to step back slowly. Unfortunately, I had forgotten about the warriors that were trailing me from behind.

The wolves lunged for each other and started rolling back and forth, each trying to get closer to the other's neck.

Cyrus managed to latch onto Ezra's wolf's neck and tore a huge chunk of skin off his neck. It was grotesque, I could see the artery rupture, and the blood rapidly spraying out all over Cryus and into the air.

Ezra started to go limp, he shifted back to human form. His skin was deathly pale, and I watched as he lost consciousness.

Cryus had delivered a fatal bite. I figured this was my time to escape now. I shifted into my wolf Amber and barged through the two warrior wolves behind me, causing them to fall to the ground.

I could sense that Cyrus was on my tail, merely seconds behind me, so I pushed myself as far as I could. I could almost see the end of the treeline ahead of me. I just had to move a little faster.

"Come on Amber, we are almost through the trees. Just a bit further!" I tried to encourage my wolf.

She was determined to outrun her ex-mate.

As we pushed past the last of the trees, I could feel the body heat of Cryus upon us, and just as I smelt him hover over us, I felt myself being pushed to the ground, my face hitting the ground suddenly.

Cyrus had launched his body on top of us, pinning us down. He was holding us face down on the ground.

Cyrus let out a menacing growl.

I could feel him shift on top of me.

"Mmmmn, just like oldtimes. Me on top riding you face down!" Lachlan declared.

"I think I'm gonna be sick!" I said out loud.

And with that Lachlan grabbed my head and pushed it hard against the ground.

I was too dizzy and in too much pain to even react.

I could feel myself being lifted up, but I felt so incoherent. I just let the darkness take me.

\*\*\*

I felt myself being pulled along the ground. I could smell the grass and earth scratching my face as I was being dragged. A burning sensation had engulfed me, it felt like my skin was being grazed repeatedly against the ground.

I must have only lost consciousness for a few seconds, as I appeared to be on the pack grounds still. I could see I was being dragged back the way I came.

I had enough of this playing dumb business. I tried to play the passive weak female and hoped that would be enough for Lachlan to let slip where Kingston was, but now I was over it.

I focussed my energy and used my power to get myself out of the warrior's grip, burning their hands with an electrical surge. They started screaming in pain. I jumped up on my feet and got into a defensive stance.

"Playtime is over! Tell me where Kingston is now! And I might let you live!" I demanded with a cold and determined look on my face.

Lachlan looked at me in disbelief.

"What the f\*\*k was that!" he yelled, looking at his warriors squealing in pain.

"That was me taking the power back!" I said standing there with my arms crossed looking at him smugly.

"I'm done playing games!" I yelled at him.

"Where is my mate? Tell me now and I might show you some mercy!" I demanded.

I could feel my eyes glowing. I was getting angrier by the moment. My wolf is anxious to find her mate and disgusted at the sight of her former mate.

“Your eyes!” Lachlan called out incredulity.

“Where is my mate!” I called out. My anger resonates and I felt a surge of energy, it felt electrical. I moved my hands in Lachlan’s direction and he and his warriors fall to the ground. I watch them look at me in horror and disbelief.

“What the!” Lachlan screamed out, pulling himself back up, and dusting himself off.

“Turns out you didn’t know me as well as you thought,” I told him coldly.

“What are you? Some kind of witch?” Lachlan blurted out.

He was stalling. I struggled to contain my wolf. I could feel my eyes switching color. I was about to inflict pain upon this poor excuse for a wolf in front of me.

I was getting angrier by the moment and I could feel myself heating up again. As I went to raise my hand towards Lachlan he called out.

“I can take you to him! Kingston! I will show you where he is!” Lachlan yelled out with two hands in front of me, gesturing to me that he will surrender for now.

“No games! If I think you are tricking me – I will make you suffer!” I tell him.

I feel so strong and in control. A far cry from the naive and shy Aleksa that I once was.

\*Aleska POV\*

We had been walking for a few minutes now and I could see the pack was starting to wake up. It would appear that the dark witch’s spell had been lifted. My mind-link was currently being flooded by anxious pack members. I felt a headache coming on so I blocked them all for now.

I tried to mind-link Kingston, hoping that I might finally be able to get through to him, but there was nothing. I couldn’t feel him, period. I knew that nothing sinister had happened to him so that was something at least.

“Aleksa, where are you?” I heard via mind-link. I was not surprised that Jackson could get through to me, it must be a crescent moon wolf perk.

“I’m with Lachlan and two of his warriors, we are walking towards the maintenance sheds, he’s cooperating at the moment but I don’t trust him,” I told Jackson.

“Right, we’re on our way!” Jackson called out via the mind-link.

As we were approaching the sheds I had a feeling that danger was awaiting us and that this was a trap, but I was determined to find Kingston. I had the upper hand for now, but I was still on high alert.

Lachlan told me that Kingston was just behind the sheds in the woods, and that he had him handcuffed in silver there. I look at him and I sensed that he was being truthful. I reached out to Amber but she couldn’t sense anything.

As we approached the bush I heard movement in multiple directions. In a matter of seconds, I was surrounded by wolves, snapping their teeth at me angrily.

Lachlan turned around with a smirk on his face.

“Right where I wanted you. Still so naive!” He laughed out loud, shaking his head toward me.

I crossed my arms and tilted my head at him.

I was about to make some smart-a\*s comment when I heard snickering from behind the wolves, they parted ways, and out walked Eva.

“Aleska is mine!” She called out.

Lachlan looked at her in amusement.

“Have at it, just don’t k\*\*l her, do you hear me!” Lachlan screamed out to Eva.

“I can’t make any promises!” Eva replied snarkily.

“Eva!” Lachlan called back.

“Yeah, ok, fine I won’t k\*\*l her,” She begrudgingly agreed.

I looked at Eva and couldn’t contain my laughter. I found it hilarious that she thought that she could take me. I’m not the same girl that she remembered, but I will sure enjoy educating her.



I stood in anticipation, as I knew that she would strike first.

As predicted Eva walked up to me and attempted to slap me hard across the face, but I could see it coming a mile away and I blocked her hand with my arm, causing her to call out loudly in pain.,

“Pathetic!” I called out to her.

I saw that the wolf’s attention had moved to something coming from behind me.

I turned my head to see what it was, and I saw my friends approaching us with haste.

In doing so, I had broken the never turn your back on your opponent rule, and I had given Eva time to attack me.

I felt my body fall back on the ground hard. Eva was punching my face hard and fast, and after a few hits, I was starting to feel dizzy.

I let out a loud growl and pushed Eva from me hard. My wolf and I were now furious and I could feel my body heating up once again, but I didn’t want to use my powers on Eva, nor did I want to shift just yet. I wanted to take this b\*\*\*h out on my own.

Suddenly I had flashbacks of all the times that I had suffered in pain while Eva was with Lachlan, all the times I confided in her, all the times I went out of my way for her, and then I thought about when I caught them in the act and that look of sheer smug satisfaction on her face, and that did it for me. I hit her hard, and I couldn’t stop.

I felt a wolf jump up and bite my shoulder from behind. I felt the pain surge through me. I took this moment to shift into my wolf. Amber was furious, she charged for the wolf and ripped out a chunk of skin from its flank. I then spat it out. It tasted disgusting in my mouth. It appeared to be a rogue wolf, judging by its foul odor.

I watched Eva shift and charge toward me and I knew that I needed to end the other wolf so that I could focus on Eva. As I was about to go in for the k\*\*l, Eva’s wolf jumped on me and snapped its teeth toward my neck. I was now vastly outnumbered and there was a raging battle going on around me. I knew that my friends were here fighting and I needed to try to end this.

I focussed my energy on getting Eva off me. I felt myself heat up, and the electrical energy surge through me. I felt it connect with Eva's fur and smelt her fur burning as she begun to sizzle. She was essentially being electrified. She fell off me onto the ground, rolling until she appeared to lose consciousness.

The wolf that had just been attacking me looked scared and started to cower away, submitting to me.

"Run away, and don't come back, and I will let you live!" I mind-linked the wolf.

The wolf looked shocked, and nodded its head towards me, then ran off towards the woods.

I looked around me and saw Jackson and Lachlan circling one another. I saw Abbey had shifted and she was fighting back to back with Lily who had also shifted, there were about four wolves surrounding them.

Sam was fighting the two warriors that were accompanying Lachlan earlier.

The place was chaos. Pack wolves fighting rogue wolves, it was c\*\*\*\*\*e.

I look behind me and I saw some of the alphas from other packs that were here for the summit, were arriving to help us fight the rogues. Thank the goddess for that I thought to myself.

I mind-linked Jackson, "I need to find Kingston. Ask Lachlan where he is, do whatever you have to get the information out of him," I called out.

"You got it!" Jackson replied.

I stalked hurriedly towards Sam to help him fight the warriors, he was holding his own, but the sooner we took these rogues down the better.

I mind-linked my friends "Try to incapacitate them as opposed to massacring them, they are just following orders, we want to keep the death toll down if we can,"

My mind was flooded with replies.

"Need a hand, Sam?" I mind-linked Sam.

"Sure thing Luna," He called out to me.

In no time we take them out, but as fast as we get rid of them more seemed to appear.

“Sam, go help your mate! I’ll be fine here!” I called out to him via mind-link.

“Are you sure?” He called out nervously.

“Yes, go!” I told him.

Sam moved to help Lily and Abbey who seemed to be constantly surrounded by rogues.

Everyone was defending their positions well but it was becoming tiresome.

I asked my wolf if she could sense our mate yet. She replied to me that she couldn’t pick anything up.

“Abbey, do you think you could help me find Kingston? I still can’t get hold of him even though the spell has been lifted.” I mind-link her.

“Yes, I think so, I can definitely try, I just need to be able to concentrate,” Abbey replied.

“I’m on my way!” I replied to her.

I was done with fighting the hard way. I once again focussed my energy and shocked the wolves surrounding me. I felt a little drained. It appeared that the more my powers were used, the more energy it took from me.

I charged toward Abbey, Lily, and Sam. “Abbey if you can make your way to the maintenance sheds behind us you might be able to try that locating spell?” I declared.

“Hmmn, I can try. But I will need something that belongs to Kingston. Do you have anything I could use?” Abbey asked me.

I shook my head sadly.

“Ah, it’s ok, I’ll see what I can do, be back soon!” Abbey called out.

I took over her place in the circle and continued to fight the rogues. I was feeling a bit drained, my wolf missed her mate, it felt like forever since we had seen one another.

I looked over to Jackson, while I was fighting one on one with a rogue. I saw him and Lachlan fighting, rolling over each other, snapping and biting one another, each of them seeking dominance in the fight. Neither one of them seemed to be winning, both taking hard hits, with gashes evident all over their bodies, both with blood-soaked fur.

It was at that moment it dawned on me. Jackson's powers. I had never asked him what they are specifically. Why hasn't he ended his fight with Lachlan?

I wasn't paying attention to the fight, and I felt a claw s\*\*\*h the side of my neck. I felt blood drip down my collarbone and onto my chest. The pain spurred me on.

I lunged forward and ripped the rogue's throat out, spitting its disgusting skin and flesh onto the field.

I was snapped out of my bloodlust by the feeling of a mind-numbing pain ripping through me. I felt as though I had been stabbed with a knife in my chest. I clutched myself where it hurt and let out a blood-curdling growl. I knew that I was feeling someone else's pain.

I scanned my eyes around the field and I saw Jackson fall to the ground, leaning on his knees, holding his chest. Lachlan hovering over him snickering.

I saw a silver dagger sticking out of his chest and my heart hurt for him. I picked myself up off the ground and my paws pounded against the ground galloping towards him as if my life depended on it.

I leapt off the ground into the air and lunged towards Lachlan, I started ripping into him, tearing into his chest frantically, he used whatever energy he had to push me off. I got back onto my paws to attack him some more, when I was distracted by Jackson's groans.

I was torn, part of me wanted to end this wretched wolf who has my mate hidden somewhere, who has made my life a misery as well as countless other and gravely injured my cousin, and the other part of me, the bigger part, needed to tend to Jackson.

I felt Sam and Caleb flank me.

Sam shifted beside me.

“I Sam Nicholson, Beta of Evergreen Pack, reject you Lachlan as my Alpha,” Sam said holding his ground. He then quickly shifted back to his wolf form ready to fight the wolf he once pledged his allegiance to.

Lachlan laughed.

“I was gonna k\*\*l you anyway. Enjoy your short life as a Rogue!” He called out to Sam.

“I need to help Jackson, can you stall him for now?” I mind-inked Sam and Caleb.

“Yes Luna,” They replied to me in synchronisation.

I leaned down to Jackson, and tried to assess his wound. The blood was hemorrhaging out. The dagger was silver. And then it hit me -my nightmares. I've seen this all before, in my nightmares.

I shifted back to human form, so I could use my hands to help put pressure on the wound.

I tried to fight back the tears but they continued to fall furiously.

“Stay with me Jackson!” I called out pleadingly.

I shook him to try keep him awake. I saw his eyes were starting to roll back.

“Jackson, please!” I called out desperately.

“Please Moon Goddess, help him!” I yelled out to the sky.

At that very moment, we were all blinded by an overwhelming bright white light.

\*Aleska POV\*

I had to close my eyes as the light was so bright. I heard a loud screeching sound, it was piercing my ears, like some sort of sound distortion. And then a wave of energy hit us all. The force was overwhelming and I felt lightheaded. After a few moments, I felt myself come to my senses. The light started to dim down and my eyes began to adjust. The light appeared to be shrinking and in a matter of moments, it had become merely an orb. There was a figure

emerging from behind it. I had to squint to see in the darkness of the woods. It was Xanthe!

Most of the wolves that had been fighting on the battlefield were holding their heads, they looked to be in pain. Xanthe looked panicked and started running towards me. I looked back down at Jackson, "Jackson, can you hear me, please stay with me!" I yelled at him.

Xanthe approached us and pushed me aside, "Move!" She ordered me. I looked at her in confusion.

"Xanthe, what are you doing?" I asked her.

"He is my Mate!" She told me looking at him in disbelief.

I could see how concerned she looked. She touched his face with the palm of her hands, her fingers touching Jackson's face in a gentle and loving manner.

Jackson's breathing was starting to normalize already with Xanthe's mere touch. I wonder if that could be the mate bond at work, or perhaps it was because Xanthe was a healer or both.

"Are you sure?" I asked Xanthe hopefully.

"I can heal him!" Xanthe declared.

"I just need some space," Xanthe said. I could tell she was trying to suppress her true feelings, I could hear the shakiness in her voice.

\*Xanthe POV\*

After meeting with Aleksa and Kingston that day in the gazebo in the rose gardens, I was determined to find out whatever I could about her heritage. However, along the way my past had caught up with me. I had been detained against my will by someone who had untoward plans for me.

I was able to escape that hellhole with help from an unlikely ally. I then began to make my way back to Rocky Mountain. My intuition had told me to come back right away. I had thought something might be wrong with Aleska until I reached the pack border and then I felt it. I felt him.

I felt the pull deep within my heart. My true love. My mate, was here, and he was hurt. I made my way toward the training fields and I saw a raging battle

taking place. I could sense it was between pack wolves fending off a rogue attack.

I could see everyone fighting from the woods. I saw that despicable Lachlan lunging toward Aleksa and then I let out a surge of power, blinding and stopping all in its path.

I made my way to the wolf on the ground as I saw he had shifted to his human form.

He was gorgeous. Rugged with dark and handsome features, I could sense that he was of alpha blood.

He had been stabbed with a silver wolfsbane-infused dagger in his chest and he was fading fast. I couldn't believe that after all these centuries I had finally found my mate. I refused to lose him when I had only just found him.

After telling Aleksa that he was my mate, I attempted to heal him. I placed my hands over his body and channeled all of my energy. I used my strength to s\*\*k the poison from his system. I felt it consume me but I would not stop until my mate was safe.

It seemed like an eternity but in reality, it didn't take long at all. I watched my mate wake from his state of unconsciousness.

I watched him look into my eyes with desire and growl "MATE!"

I looked at him and I smiled lovingly.

\*Aleksa POV\*

My wolf became restless, and then she growled wildly. "Mate! Mate is coming!" She howled in my head with joy.

I jerked my head to the left, and I watched as my mate approached us with Abbey in tow.

"Kingston!" I called out desperately. My heart racing and an overwhelming desire to run to my mate and never let go, right here in the middle of this fight.

I looked at Xanthe and Jackson. They were having a moment. They wouldn't notice me gone.

I leaped up onto the ground and ran into my mate's arms.

As I ran toward him I took in his bruised and swollen face, he had a split lip and a split eyebrow. Why was he in such a state I wondered. Why was his werewolf healing not kicking in? What had happened to him?

I felt him flinch in pain as my body smacked against his. I looked at him with concern on my face. I lifted up his shirt and saw burn marks, it looked like a silver knife had been slashed against him repeatedly.

I looked at his wrists which also looked to be burned. I could only assume he had been bound in silver handcuffs or chains.

My wolf whimpered internally for our mate.

"I'm ok. I'll heal soon." Kingston said to me casually.

I smacked my lips against his and passionately kissed him. My wolf was howling in my head. Then I pulled away quickly, realizing that we were still in the middle of the fight. There would be time for this later, I thought to myself.

I looked to Abbey, "How?" That was all I could ask her, still astonished that she had found my mate.

"He was bound in silver, and unconscious when I found Him. He was tied to a chair, at the back of the maintenance shed. I picked up his scent while I was trying to find some space to perform the locating spell," Abbey replied.

I looked again at Kingston. Trying my best to suppress my tears of joy, as I was pushed aggressively to the ground. My head hit the ground with a loud thud. As I looked up to see what had just hit me I saw Kingston being pinned to the ground by Lachlan's wolf Cyrus.

I ran into Cyrus with all my might. I figure it will buy Kingston a few moments to shift. As he hovers over me snapping at me, I try to fight him off with my hands.

I hear him whimper as Kingston shifts into his wolf Sabre and takes a large chunk of flesh out of his left hind leg. Cyrus is pushed to the ground and it seems that Sabre has the upper hand when a scroungy brown wolf jumps onto him trying to get access to his neck.



Furious, and recognizing that the scroungy and singed wolf is Eva, I quickly shifted into my wolf Amber and lunged forward viciously taking aim at her neck. I latched onto it and I tugged at it mercilessly, not letting go until I was satisfied that there was no life left in her.

While part of me was sad to take a life, especially when this wolf was once my friend, I told myself that she was never the friend I thought she was, and that I would stop at nothing to protect my mate.

Sabre continued to attack Cyrus, taking aim at his neck but missing and taking a chunk out of his shoulder instead, he then went for Cyrus's jugular and ripped into his neck, blood squirting out all over Sabre, soaking his fur. Cyrus began to lose strength, whimpering, his motions stalling.

Sabre moves away from Cyrus nudging against my snout, we both shift and fall into each other's arms. Usually, I would be embarrassed to be naked in front of so many other wolves but right now I'm just feeling blessed to have my mate in my arms. I'm so besotted that I don't even notice Cyrus has shifted into his human form and he is getting back on his feet.

It's almost too late when I see he has somehow picked up the silver dagger and is about to stab Kingston in the neck when Sam comes from behind and grips the dagger forcing it into Lachlan's heart he then pulls it out and slices Lachlan's neck open decapitating him.

I gasped in horror as I watch my former mate's head fall to the ground. I wished that things could have been different, but he was a lost soul, so consumed in evil and darkness. There was no redemption for him.

I mouthed thank you to Sam for saving my mate from harm. Kingston had turned around just in time to see Lachlan meet his demise. We all stood there in silence for a moment.

As I looked around us, I noticed that the rogues had started to retreat. I watched my friends start to pick themselves up off the battlefield. I saw wolves tending to the injured. We all just stared at one another looking grateful that we were still all here, and it is finally over.

\*Aleksa POV\*

Four hours later.

Once Lachlan was no longer a threat and we were sure the rogues had retreated, we began the task of picking ourselves back up.

We rounded the entire pack together and all the visiting packs, and had a quick debrief.

After the debriefing we encouraged the visiting packs not to feel obliged to stay, and to feel free to make their way home, as the summit was effectively over, due to these unexpected events.

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We had just finished rounding up the last of the deceased rogues when the royal pack entourage arrived. This isn't the way we were planning to greet the Alpha King, and it definitely wasn't what we had planned for this day of the summit.

Originally we had a huge festival planned with performers, stalls, music, and food. Until we were attacked by a dark witch and rogues led by my deranged ex-mate.

As the Alpha King himself, also known as my cousin Callum, stepped out of his Range Rover he took in the grim sight that awaited him.

The pack ground was a mess. Blood stained the once lush green field in front of us. It was clear a battle had taken place here.

Before he had a chance to ask what had happened we moved forward to introduce ourselves. We were quite a sight, I was still bleeding from the wounds I had sustained during the fight, Kingston looks like a bruised and battered mess, and we both still needed medical attention.

We had declined it initially, as we wanted the most vulnerable and injured wolves to be tended to first. Kingston tried to insist that I go straight to the pack doctor but I wanted to make sure my friends were seen first. Plus I could already feel my wounds were being healed.

We welcomed Callum to the pack and led him to the pack house dining room where some of our kitchen staff organized some pastries and hot drinks for Callum and his men.

We explained the events of the past twenty-four hours briefly, as well as explained that we had ramped up security as well as had Xanthe and Abbey placing some protective spells in place to secure the perimeter for now, in case of any further retaliation.

Callum suggested that we get cleaned up, get our wounds tended to, and then meet him and his men again in an hour or two on the pack house patio.

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After showering and dressing and attending to our wounds, we met Callum at the pack house patio. The sun was beginning to set and it was quite a sight to behold. It was daunting to think that there was still so much to do before we retired for the day.

Callum had examined my crescent moon wolf marking with awe. Jackson didn't have a marking yet as he hadn't mated and marked his true mate yet, although it was only a matter of time now that he and Xanthe had found one another.

I begun to relay my story of how I had been raised as a human, to finding my wolf Amber and shifting for the first time, to meeting Lachlan and my time at Evergreen, up until the events that had just occurred here at Rocky Mountain. Callum had praised my strength and integrity, as well as Jackson's ability to lead a pack and still manage to keep his wolfs secret identity.

Callum then went on to explain his understanding of the events that had occurred at the royal pack all those years ago, as well as his condolences regarding our parents.

Jackson had also joined us, he was completely healed. It was as if nothing had happened earlier today. There was not a scratch on him.

He was reluctant to join us at first as he refused to be away from Xanthe, especially since they had just found one another. So Xanthe was present at the meeting also. Callum thanked her for her efforts to protect me and keep me safe, as well as her services to the royal pack.

Callum had even offered Jackson and me the opportunity to join the royal pack as senior members, which we were very honored to receive. However, we had to politely decline as neither of us wished to leave our current packs due to finding our true mates and our obligations.

While Callum was disappointed that we didn't take him up on his offer he did understand. So instead he came up with the idea of a Royal Pack Alliance which was extended not only to our closest allies but to the packs that had fought in the attack earlier today.

Though the packs had already started to make their way home immediately after the attack, we had all agreed to reconvene again in a month's time to discuss alliances and a peace treaty.

Callum was curious about the Hybrid who had such great knowledge of the royal pack, so he requested a meeting with Abbey, to which she gladly obliged, to which Alaric accompanied her too.

It appeared that Callum had known Abbey's mother well and they shared a few stories with one another. Abbey and Alaric were also invited to visit the royal pack, which they are intending to do after returning back to their packs.

Jackson and I have both been invited to stay at the Volkov Kingdom to meet some of our distant relatives and to learn more about our heritage. We have both agreed to come along, and we intend to bring our mates with us but have asked that it be postponed until everything is back to normal again following the recent attacks.

Jackson declared that he needed to speak with his father first and check back in with his pack, as he had been absent for some time now.

Further to that, he wished to introduce Xanthe to his pack as his Luna.

Xanthe was a bit reluctant. Although she had accepted Jackson as her mate, she was unsure about becoming Luna and is worried that there may be resistance to her being accepted as Luna due to the fact that she is a witch by birth.

I have a feeling it will all work out eventually though.

\*\*\*

After Lachlan had met his demise, the rogues instantly began to retreat. However, we had managed to capture a few of them for interrogation purposes. They aren't saying anything at the moment, but Kingston believes that in a few days' time they will probably start talking.

Kingston was organizing a tracking team right now to see if they could follow the rogue's scents in an effort to find out where they came from, and determine if they will be a future threat.

Xanthe was planning to contact a coven that she has a working relationship in a bid to try to find out who the dark witch was and to see if she will become a further threat to us in the future.

The dark witch did say she would "see me soon," and I'm pretty sure she knew that I was a crescent moon wolf, so that could become problematic.

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Kingston and I were heading off to the pack hospital now to check on our friends and injured pack members. After that I planned on calling Mason and Quinn and sharing a video call with my pups if they were still awake.

Now that Lachlan was no longer a threat, there is no reason why they cant all come home.

I simply cannot wait to have my pups safely in my arms again. It feels like it has been an eternity since I last saw them.

Kingston had managed to contact Asher, and he and Kaia are on their way back to Rocky Mountain. Asher said that when he went to tell them about Ezra's death, they already knew. They told him that they have something exciting to tell us when they get back. We have an inkling as to what it might be, but we are excited to hear what they have to say.

It's going to take some time to get things back to what they once were. We have a lot to do as far as pack security goes. The fact that the dark witch managed to create all that chaos is pretty scary. To think such an attack was able to occur, means we have much work ahead of us to ensure it doesn't happen again.

We will have lots of work to do with the creation of this new alliance with the royal pack, but everyone seems open to the idea so far.

With so many finding their fated and second chances mates, there is still much celebrating to be done. There are also Luna ceremonies to take place, including my own ceremony. But there is plenty of time for that.

What matters now is that everyone is safe and well, that all the injured recover, and that we get things back to a state of normality – whatever that might look like.

As I descended the stairs of the pack house I looked around at the lush greenery that surrounds me, the sky is now starting to darken, and night is falling.

I am so blessed to call this place home. I am safe. I am free at last.

I looked to the bottom of the stairs and see my perfect mate waiting for me.

Kingston had a grin on his face, and I raised my brows as I look at him, and then I saw why he was grinning.

As I looked to the side entrance of the main packhouse reception I saw my precious pups, my Liam and Layla, standing next to Mason and Quinn.

“How?” I asked Kingston via mind-link, in a state of astonishment.

“I rang Mason after the attack, and said it was safe to bring Liam and Layla back,” Kingston replied.

I was already making my way toward my pups.

“Mommy!” They called out in unison, running as fast as their little legs would carry them. I too started to run towards them and we met in the middle. They landed in my arms and I kissed them both on their foreheads as they push their heads into my chest and we take in one another’s scents. I felt the tears of joy falling from my cheeks. Then I felt Kingston join our hug and we all embraced each other. Our family unit was finally back together. Everything was just as it should be. I felt at peace at last. I never dreamed that I could feel so complete and so loved.

## **Luna Aleksa’s Escape Chapter 58**

\*Aleska POV\*

Once it dawned on us that Lachlan was most likely behind all of this, we had to figure out what to do next. Abbey believed that the reason that Jackson and I could mind-link was due to our Crescent Moon wolf bond. Kai tested the theory by trying to mind-link and was unsuccessful. Although Jackson could

mind-link his warriors which seemed strange. Although, it became clearer once he had explained that the two warriors he had brought with him weren't ordinary wolves. Apparently, they had met one another at a training camp that he had been sent to by his father in his early teens and they had bonded. They had recognized Jackson as their alpha early on, and submitted to him, despite the fact that they all shared the same rank.

Abbey believed that if there was a dark witch involved then her enchantment spell would have applied to regular pack wolves, but most likely not affect special wolves, hence why we were all unaffected.

While Abbey couldn't currently reach any of her contacts due to distance and the presence of a supernatural barrier, she could call them, so we started to make our way to the nearest phone.

Unfortunately, all methods of communication seemed to be out of order. For now, we were on our own. At least we had the advantage of the witch not knowing that we were special wolves. The witch would assume we were under the spell for now. But that would mean that they would be most likely looking for us.

Abbey suggested that we all hide our scents to be on the safe side. She was able to manage this with a simple cloaking spell.

If we were right and Lachlan was behind this, then he was looking for me. Jackson wanted to get me out of Rocky Mountain and to safety, but I insisted on staying. We needed to face this Witch and Lachlan, and break the spell she had placed on my pack.

Abbey believed that the key to breaking the spell was either capturing the witch involved and convincing her to reverse the spell, or k\*\*\*\*\*g her. Abbey didn't feel that comfortable taking a life, but said if it came to it she would. She too wanted to find her mate.

Jackson advised that we would need some more backup if we were to pull this off, and suggested we find Sam and Caleb, and a few other ranked members to help us on our mission.

"Do you think you are up for some more healing Abbey?" He asked her respectfully.

I looked at him in shock, it appeared that he might be softening in his attitude toward her and realizing she is an ally, not a threat.

“Yes, as long as I have a little break in between, I should be fine,” Abbey replied confidently.

With that, we made our way back to the packhouse stealthily. Caleb’s room would be our first stop. I sure hoped that Kali and her unborn baby would be ok. I asked Abbey about healing Kali now, she said Kali was safer sleeping for now, and shouldn’t be put at further risk. I agreed with her reasoning, at least she would be out of harm’s way for now.

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We made our way to Caleb’s designated room. Jackson had to break down the door as it was locked. We found Kali asleep on the couch and Caleb on the ground in the kitchen. It didn’t take long for Abbey to work her magic on him. When Caleb came to he demanded that Abbey wake Kali, but then she explained that by doing so Kali would be at more risk because she would want to fight, thus putting her and her unborn baby at risk. Caleb realized that she was right and dropped the subject. Once we had brought Caleb up to speed with the events of the night we were ready to find Sam.

Since Sam was the only attendee from Evergreen that was actually allowed to stay at Rocky Mountain he and Lily were sharing a cottage to themselves. They were on the far west side of the pack, so it was a bit of a hike to get there. We didn’t want to run into anyone so we exited the back of the packhouse and made our way through the woods. Kai was the only one of us that actually knew this place inside out, so we were lucky we had him with us to show us a shortcut.

Cutting through the woods meant we reached the cabin pretty quickly. Kai pushed the door open, it was unlocked luckily, Sam and Lily were laying face down on the table. They must have been having a hot drink when the spell took over because their cups had tipped over and had run onto the wooden floor.

Caleb and Kai went straight to Sam and moved him from his chair to the floor. Jackson picked Lily up carefully and placed her on the couch. As he was laying her down Abbey called out to him, “Jackson could you bring Lily here and lay her beside Sam, I wanna try something,” Abbey stated.



Before anyone could ask, Abbey had closed her eyes and began to focus on Sam and Lily, she did the same as before and placed her hands directly above both their bodies. After a minute or so they both started to come to.

We all looked at Abbey gobsmacked.

“You did it!” I called out happily.

“You healed them both at the same time!” I said to her with a look of astonishment on my face.

Abbey smiled and seemed to wilt a little. Caleb held her from behind, and she took a moment to steady herself.

“Thank you. I haven’t done two people at a time before. It just takes a bit out of me. I’m not that long out of my witch training” Abbey clarified with a slight blush on her face.

“Sam!” Caleb called out, helping his friend up.

“What happened?” Sam said, rubbing his eyes.

“Lily!” I called out. “Are you okay?” I said helping her sit up.

“Aleksa! What are you doing here?” Lily called out confused.

“Wait, Sam?” Lily questioned, looking to the right side of her.

Lily and Sam pulled each other into an embrace and then pulled apart again.

“Ah, what’s going on?” Sam asked looking around at us all with a puzzled look on his face.

\*\*\*

We didn’t have time to spare. There wasn’t a lot of darkness left before sunrise, and we needed to use the cover of darkness to our advantage right now.

Jackson gave Sam and Lily a rundown of the night’s events as we made our way to the old log cabin. Kai had suggested that since it was on the far side of the pack boundaries. He had a theory that it might not have had its communications systems affected. We might be able to get some help or

contact someone with knowledge of this sort of thing, and then we could make our way back to the pack before sunrise.

As we were almost at the old log cabin we walked into something. We tried to advance but we couldn't seem to move any further.

"I can feel a strong energy," I declared to my friends.

"So can I," Jackson responded.

"Uh oh," Abbey commented.

"It's a forcefield," a voice came from behind us, it was one of Jackson's warriors from earlier tonight.

"The witch has imposed a forcefield, we can't leave and no one else can come in," He replied.

"Nice of you to join us, Bryant," Jackson replied.

"Everyone, this is my good friend Bryant," Jackson called out.

Everyone acknowledged and greeted him. Once the pleasantries were over we had to figure out where we were going now and what our new plan would be.

"Comms!" Kai declared.

"We could try the backup equipment in the Communications room, back at the packhouse," Kai reiterated.

"Worth a try," Jackson replied.

"Let's go then," Sam said.

\*\*\*

Just as we made it up the steps to the rear entrance of the packhouse the sun started to come up. At least we had made it back safely. Hopefully, we could find something of use in the communications room.

The communications room was located in the loft at the top of the packhouse. I had no idea it was even here, although that isn't surprising as I was still orienting to the pack.

We made our way up to the room and started looking around. Caleb and Sam tried to get the computers and communication systems working, while Jackson took a look around for a backup generator, and Caleb checked the cupboards, while doing so he stumbled across a secret compartment in the ceiling for alternative means of communication.

After about thirty minutes we had made no progress.

"s\*\*t!" Jackson called out.

"I can't get through to Elijah." Jackson declared.

"We have to assume that Ezra has escaped, we also need to assume he may be in on whatever is going on here, so be on your guard! If you see him, don't k\*\*l him, we need to find out what he knows first," Jackson ordered.

\*Aleksa POV\*

Our search of the communications room was fruitless. Nothing we found was able to transmit. It looked like we were truly on our own here. We had no idea who we were up against. We just suspected that Lachlan was behind it all and he was being helped by a dark witch.

We knew that the pack seemed to be surrounded by some massive energy-bound forcefield so we couldn't get out either. We also knew that it was only a matter of time before whoever was behind all of this realized that I wasn't where I should be.

While my heart ached for my mate, I couldn't feel anything through our bond, but I didn't feel our bond break so that gave me hope that he was still out there, maybe he was under the enchantment spell, I sure hoped that was the case.

Abbey said that assuming that this was orchestrated by Lachlan and he was he for me the best thing to do would be to elude him for as long as possible.

Meanwhile, she will focus on trying to wake some of the pack up a few at a time.

Sam suggested we keep moving because it would only be a matter of time before they tracked back to the packhouse.

Abbey asked for suggestions as to who she should wake first. Jackson implied the stronger the wolf the better right now as they were likely to be able to defend themselves rather than hold us back, everyone was in agreement with that.

I voiced that I didn't recall seeing any of the alphas at the training grounds, to which Kai replied that the night before the summit festival it was tradition for the attending alphas to have a late-night whiskey at the lake house.

"Lakehouse?" I replied with a confused look on my face,

"Uh, yeah, it belonged to the previous alpha and luna, it's in the middle of the woods on the southern boundary. Chances are they were there when the enchantment spell hit. It's worth a try anyway. I can show you the way." Kai called out.

We all followed Kai out through the woods as quietly and quickly as possible. It took about twenty minutes to get there in our human form. It was a large wooden cabin just sitting here on the outskirts of the wood overlooking a small lake.

As expected, there were bodies of the visiting alpha's lounged out on chairs, by the lake, and on the deck. They all looked so peaceful, a contrast from the intimidating alphas they usually are. But this wasn't the time to reflect, we had work to do.

"Caleb, Sam, Bryant with me, let's get them all next to each other and line them up. Lily and Aleska, you can help Abbey set up. Abbey – are you ready for this?"

Abbey looked at Jackson and smiled. "You're just a big softy aren't you?"

Jackson huffed and walked off.

Abbey looked at me smirking, "I think we are going to be great friends, Jackson and I,"

I smiled at her knowingly. Because I thought so too.

\*\*\*

Abbey had begun healing the alphas. When they woke up they were disorientated initially but after about ten minutes or so they seemed to be back to their usual selves. While some wanted to spring into action immediately, we managed to convince them that we had to tread carefully since we didn't actually know what we were up against.

Abbey seemed to be holding up well despite using mass amounts of energy, there were about a dozen of us now, and still, another dozen alphas yet to be healed.

Jackson suggested that some of us would need to stay back with Abbey while she healed the other alpha's and the rest of us needed to continue onwards.

Caleb and Kai naturally refused to leave my side, I guess it was the gamma band at play. Sam and Lily said that they would stay back with Abbey, Bryant also offered to protect her while she helped us to gather more backup.

Jackson, myself, Caleb, and Kai, as well as some of the attending alphas, decided to move out and see if we could see any movement around the pack grounds. We hadn't seen anyone yet, but they must be somewhere.

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As we were about a hundred yards away from the entrance to the packhouse, we saw movement. We halted behind Jackson and waited. My jaw dropped as I took in the huge army of wolves that were descending upon the packhouse.

The foul stench of these rogue wolves invaded my nostrils. I fought the urge to vomit. We all looked at one another. Well, this complicates things a little I thought to myself. I wasn't quite expecting that we would have that many opponents to fight.

I looked at Caleb instantly in fear. We had left Kali behind sleeping there. Caleb let out a huge growl and ran forward shifting into his wolf, he ran as fast as his legs would carry him toward the packhouse.

"f\*\*k!" Jackson yelled. He also runs forward, shifting into Gray following Caleb's lead. If we don't follow him, both he, Kali, and their unborn baby are dead, so we all shifted and followed them through the packhouse, taking out wolves as we moved through the crowd.

Kai and a few of the other alpha's flanked my sides and front and behind and pushed through the rogues, their bodies flying all over the place, blood spurting out all over the place.

We ran down the corridor and then skidded to a sudden halt, Caleb had shifted and was holding a sleeping Kali in his arms. We formed a circle around him and I nodded my head towards the back entrance swiftly, rogues descending on us from behind, we all pushed forward some of the alpha's fending off the rogues as we made our way through the packhouse.

"Take Aleksa and Kali to safety, I'll keep the rogues busy!" Jackson yelled as he slowed down and turned to fight the rogues.

Four of the alpha's followed Caleb and Kali and me. Once we made it to the bush. I turned around.

"Get your mate and baby to safety!" I called out and I ran off.

I ran towards the packhouse to join Jackson and half a dozen alphas fight.

Jackson growled.

"What the f\*\*k are you doing? Run! Now!" He yelled at me followed by a growl.

"No. I'm here to fight for my friends and my pack!" I yelled as I fought two small dirty brown rogues.

"Aleksa, concentrate, like before. We can use our powers. Visualize. Then focus our energy!" Amber encouraged me.

I take a breath and close my eyes. I think of the danger my friends and my pack are in. I use my anger against those who have come to destroy my pack. I feel myself heat up again. I feel like I am being surrounded by a whirlwind of heat and then I release. I feel a huge gust of energy disperse, and when I open my eyes the rogues that were surrounding us were no more.

I look further afield and I see the remaining rogues retreat. I see movement in the woods to the north of the pack grounds, and for some reason, I know that is where the witch is hiding. I could feel a pull toward her. I could feel her dark energy.

I lunge forward and run like the wind in her direction. When I get there I can sense that she is still there. I see a figure move out from behind a large tree.

“Hello, Aleksa,” she called out.

“Why are you doing this?” I asked her aggressively.

“Why do we do anything? For power, for money, for control.” She spat out shaking her head.

“My, you really are naive aren’t you?” She mocked me.

“I can see why that brute of an alpha wants you. So pretty and yet so clueless.” She laughed again.

Then she went quiet and looked at me as if she was looking into my mind.

“He doesn’t know, does he?” the witch asked me. Then she starts laughing again.

“Oh, this is brilliant!” She called out trying to suppress further laughter.

“Who? Know about what?” I asked the witch, having no actual clue as to who or what she was referring to.

“What are you talking about, Who are you...” I asked. I stopped mid-sentence as I was distracted by a shuffle in the bushes to the witch’s left.

“My sweet Aleska, did you like the rose I sent you?” Lachlan said, striding towards me with a smirk on his face.

“Lachlan,” I said shakily, trying not to show my fear but failing miserably.

“You have caused a lot of trouble my little mate,” Lachlan said, shaking his head disapprovingly at me.

“Nevermind, you have the rest of your life to make it up to me!” He added, laughing evilly.

I slowly started to back away from Lachlan and the witch, as I did I could sense movement behind me. As I turned my head I saw two of Evergreen’s warriors behind me in their wolf forms. I knew that I wouldn’t be getting out of this situation without a fight.

“Well, my job here is done! You have your she-wolf. Now I will have my payment, Wolf!” the witch demanded eagerly.

“Don’t dare disrespect me, Witch!” Lachlan declared to the witch.

However, she didn’t appear to be affected by his menacing aura. She looked more impatient than anything else.

Lachlan pulled a small hessian sack out of his pocket and dumped it in the witch’s hand. She quickly poured the gold out and looked over it, then she chucked it back in the sack happily and stowed it away in the inside of her gown.

“I’d watch this one if I were you. There’s more to her than meets the eye,” the witch said as she winked at me knowingly.

Lachlan huffed, and dismissed the witch.

“I have a feeling this isn’t the last we shall see of one another Aleksa.” the witch added and with that, she vanished in a big puff of smoke.

\*Aleska POV\*

“Where is my mate?” I yelled at Lachlan in disdain.

Seconds later I felt his large calloused hand connect with the side of my cheek. I almost lose my balance due to the sheer force of his slap.

I am done with taking slaps from men today, so I slapped Lachlan back even harder in return.

Lachlan laughed mockingly at me.

“I see my weak mate has developed a backbone. Well, I shall have fun breaking you back down.” Lachlan said laughing even harder this time.

I felt my anger start to rise. Not now Aleksa. We need more information. Don’t show your hand just yet. Amber warned me.

“Please, where is Kingston?” I asked Lachlan again, this time with a lower tone,



“That mutt. He’s none of your concern,” Lachlan said walking around me in a circular motion.

I hear him growl when he takes in my mark. I felt a hard punch to my stomach. I lean forward feeling gasping for breath as I am temporarily wounded. I got my breath back and managed to pull myself back up. I stood strong and tall. I tried to remain stoic.

I knew that he wanted me to submit, and to fear him. But I refused to. The next time he touches me I will not be holding back.

“First thing we will do when we get back to the pack is to get rid of that mutt’s filthy mark on you. You will regret letting him mark you, I promise you that w\*\*\*e!” Lachlan spat out in a rage.

“I gave you everything! You were living a lowly life in that human town before you met me. I gave you a home, a pack, a rank, a purpose. And this is how you repay me! By w\*\*\*\*\*g yourself to some alpha mutt in the middle of b\*\*t f\*\*k nowhere.” Lachlan screamed out. He looked like he was getting angrier by the moment.

I just stared at him blankly.

“What do you have to say for yourself w\*\*\*e?” Lachlan prodded me while glaring at me.

“Where’s my mate? Where’s...” I am not finished with my sentence when I feel another slap, this time it’s on the other side of my face. Well, thank goddess for that, at least the swelling will even out.

Even though I’m in so much pain right now, and I can feel the tears welling in my eyes I start laughing.

“Is that it? Is that all you’ve got?” I call out mockingly, laughing so more. Lachlan looks at me in astonishment, probably wondering if I have a death wish.

I figure that by baiting him, I am buying more time for my friends to find me. We haven’t left the pack grounds yet. The dark witch appears to have left. Any minute now someone should arrive and then we can end this once and for all.

As if he can read my mind Lachlan grabs me and pulls me towards the pack boundaries.

“I’m no fool w\*\*\*e! I know your game! Move it!” He said pulling me along even faster than before, his warriors falling closely behind us.

As we approach the pack boundary there is a black SUV waiting, the engine is running and someone is in the driver’s seat. We are approximately ten yards away, and no one has arrived yet. I guess they are busy with the rogues at the packhouse. I sure hope they are okay. Although, it looks like I’m on my own for now.

\*\*\*

Just as we were nearing the SUV I heard footsteps coming from the trees behind us. I turned my head and was shocked to see Ezra running toward us. I gasped out loud.

“What do you want?” Lachlan said in a tone of annoyance.

It sounds like they know each other.

“That b\*\*\*h isn’t going anywhere! We have unfinished business!” Ezra growled pointing at me.

Lachlan looked at us both, studying our body language in amusement.

“And what has my wretched mate done to get you all wound up?” Lachlan asked.

“She knows where my mate is!” Ezra screamed.

“Tell me now! Where is Kaia?” Ezra demanded.

He started to step toward me. As he did I saw Lachlan start to sniff.

“We had a deal Lachlan, and I am yet to see my mate!” Ezra yelled fiercely, looking like he was struggling to keep himself together.

“WHY DO YOU REEK OF MY MATE!” Lachlan called out almost in a rage. Then I see his eyes turn black.

Interesting. I thought to myself.

Ezra stopped suddenly.

“Yyyour mate?” He said almost stuttering, and stopping short.

“He tried to r\*\*e me!” I called out.

I know that Lachlan doesn’t care about anyone but himself. But I also know that he doesn’t like to share his toys either. I decide that I can k\*\*l two birds with one stone by playing them against each other.

“Whattttt!” Lachlan roared.

“She was asking for it!” Ezra boomed.

“No one touches my mate but me!” Lachlan yelled savagely.

And in seconds he had lost all control, shifted, and launched his wolf upon Ezra.

Ezra was caught off-guard, clearly not expecting such a reaction from his partner in crime. Cyrus didn’t hold back.

He held Ezra’s arms down, and started snapping at his neck, he was about to go in for the k\*\*l when Ezra managed to push him off his legs.

Ezra shifted. His wolf was smaller than Lachlan’s. Their wolves started circling one another slowly. They were both growling. I started to step back slowly. Unfortunately, I had forgotten about the warriors that were trailing me from behind.

The wolves lunged for each other and started rolling back and forth, each trying to get closer to the other’s neck.

Cyrus managed to latch onto Ezra’s wolf’s neck and tore a huge chunk of skin off his neck. It was grotesque, I could see the artery rupture, and the blood rapidly spraying out all over Cryus and into the air.

Ezra started to go limp, he shifted back to human form. His skin was deathly pale, and I watched as he lost consciousness.

Cryus had delivered a fatal bite. I figured this was my time to escape now. I shifted into my wolf Amber and barged through the two warrior wolves behind me, causing them to fall to the ground.

I could sense that Cyrus was on my tail, merely seconds behind me, so I pushed myself as far as I could. I could almost see the end of the treeline ahead of me. I just had to move a little faster.

“Come on Amber, we are almost through the trees. Just a bit further!” I tried to encourage my wolf.

She was determined to outrun her ex-mate.

As we pushed past the last of the trees, I could feel the body heat of Cryus upon us, and just as I smelt him hover over us, I felt myself being pushed to the ground, my face hitting the ground suddenly.

Cyrus had launched his body on top of us, pinning us down. He was holding us face down on the ground.

Cyrus let out a menacing growl.

I could feel him shift on top of me.

“Mmmmn, just like oldtimes. Me on top riding you face down!” Lachlan declared.

“I think I’m gonna be sick!” I said out loud.

And with that Lachlan grabbed my head and pushed it hard against the ground.

I was too dizzy and in too much pain to even react.

I could feel myself being lifted up, but I felt so incoherent. I just let the darkness take me.

\*\*\*

I felt myself being pulled along the ground. I could smell the grass and earth scratching my face as I was being dragged. A burning sensation had engulfed me, it felt like my skin was being grazed repeatedly against the ground.

I must have only lost consciousness for a few seconds, as I appeared to be on the pack grounds still. I could see I was being dragged back the way I came.

I had enough of this playing dumb business. I tried to play the passive weak female and hoped that would be enough for Lachlan to let slip where Kingston was, but now I was over it.

I focussed my energy and used my power to get myself out of the warrior's grip, burning their hands with an electrical surge. They started screaming in pain. I jumped up on my feet and got into a defensive stance.

"Playtime is over! Tell me where Kingston is now! And I might let you live!" I demanded with a cold and determined look on my face.

Lachlan looked at me in disbelief.

"What the f\*\*k was that!" he yelled, looking at his warriors squealing in pain.

"That was me taking the power back!" I said standing there with my arms crossed looking at him smugly.

"I'm done playing games!" I yelled at him.

"Where is my mate? Tell me now and I might show you some mercy!" I demanded.

I could feel my eyes glowing. I was getting angrier by the moment. My wolf is anxious to find her mate and disgusted at the sight of her former mate.

"Your eyes!" Lachlan called out incredulity.

"Where is my mate!" I called out. My anger resonates and I felt a surge of energy, it felt electrical. I moved my hands in Lachlan's direction and he and his warriors fall to the ground. I watch them look at me in horror and disbelief.

"What the!" Lachlan screamed out, pulling himself back up, and dusting himself off.

"Turns out you didn't know me as well as you thought," I told him coldly.

"What are you? Some kind of witch?" Lachlan blurted out.

He was stalling. I struggled to contain my wolf. I could feel my eyes switching color. I was about to inflict pain upon this poor excuse for a wolf in front of me.

I was getting angrier by the moment and I could feel myself heating up again. As I went to raise my hand towards Lachlan he called out.

“I can take you to him! Kingston! I will show you where he is!” Lachlan yelled out with two hands in front of me, gesturing to me that he will surrender for now.

“No games! If I think you are tricking me – I will make you suffer!” I tell him.

I feel so strong and in control. A far cry from the naive and shy Aleksa that I once was.

\*Aleska POV\*

We had been walking for a few minutes now and I could see the pack was starting to wake up. It would appear that the dark witch’s spell had been lifted. My mind-link was currently being flooded by anxious pack members. I felt a headache coming on so I blocked them all for now.

I tried to mind-link Kingston, hoping that I might finally be able to get through to him, but there was nothing. I couldn’t feel him, period. I knew that nothing sinister had happened to him so that was something at least.

“Aleksa, where are you?” I heard via mind-link. I was not surprised that Jackson could get through to me, it must be a crescent moon wolf perk.

“I’m with Lachlan and two of his warriors, we are walking towards the maintenance sheds, he’s cooperating at the moment but I don’t trust him,” I told Jackson.

“Right, we’re on our way!” Jackson called out via the mind-link.

As we were approaching the sheds I had a feeling that danger was awaiting us and that this was a trap, but I was determined to find Kingston. I had the upper hand for now, but I was still on high alert.

Lachlan told me that Kingston was just behind the sheds in the woods, and that he had him handcuffed in silver there. I look at him and I sensed that he was being truthful. I reached out to Amber but she couldn’t sense anything.

As we approached the bush I heard movement in multiple directions. In a matter of seconds, I was surrounded by wolves, snapping their teeth at me angrily.

Lachlan turned around with a smirk on his face.

“Right where I wanted you. Still so naive!” He laughed out loud, shaking his head toward me.

I crossed my arms and tilted my head at him.

I was about to make some smart-a\*s comment when I heard snickering from behind the wolves, they parted ways, and out walked Eva.

“Aleska is mine!” She called out.

Lachlan looked at her in amusement.

“Have at it, just don’t k\*\*l her, do you hear me!” Lachlan screamed out to Eva.

“I can’t make any promises!” Eva replied snarkily.

“Eva!” Lachlan called back.

“Yeah, ok, fine I won’t k\*\*l her,” She begrudgingly agreed.

I looked at Eva and couldn’t contain my laughter. I found it hilarious that she thought that she could take me. I’m not the same girl that she remembered, but I will sure enjoy educating her.

I stood in anticipation, as I knew that she would strike first.

As predicted Eva walked up to me and attempted to slap me hard across the face, but I could see it coming a mile away and I blocked her hand with my arm, causing her to call out loudly in pain.,

“Pathetic!” I called out to her.

I saw that the wolve’s attention had moved to something coming from behind me.

I turned my head to see what it was, and I saw my friends approaching us with haste.

In doing so, I had broken the never turn your back on your opponent rule, and I had given Eva time to attack me.

I felt my body fall back on the ground hard. Eva was punching my face hard and fast, and after a few hits, I was starting to feel dizzy.

I let out a loud growl and pushed Eva from me hard. My wolf and I were now furious and I could feel my body heating up once again, but I didn't want to use my powers on Eva, nor did I want to shift just yet. I wanted to take this b\*\*\*h out on my own.

Suddenly I had flashbacks of all the times that I had suffered in pain while Eva was with Lachlan, all the times I confided in her, all the times I went out of my way for her, and then I thought about when I caught them in the act and that look of sheer smug satisfaction on her face, and that did it for me. I hit her hard, and I couldn't stop.

I felt a wolf jump up and bite my shoulder from behind. I felt the pain surge through me. I took this moment to shift into my wolf. Amber was furious, she charged for the wolf and ripped out a chunk of skin from its flank. I then spat it out. It tasted disgusting in my mouth. It appeared to be a rogue wolf, judging by its foul odor.

I watched Eva shift and charge toward me and I knew that I needed to end the other wolf so that I could focus on Eva. As I was about to go in for the k\*\*l, Eva's wolf jumped on me and snapped its teeth toward my neck. I was now vastly outnumbered and there was a raging battle going on around me. I knew that my friends were here fighting and I needed to try to end this.

I focussed my energy on getting Eva off me. I felt myself heat up, and the electrical energy surge through me. I felt it connect with Eva's fur and smelt her fur burning as she begun to sizzle. She was essentially being electrified. She fell off me onto the ground, rolling until she appeared to lose consciousness.

The wolf that had just been attacking me looked scared and started to cower away, submitting to me.

"Run away, and don't come back, and I will let you live!" I mind-linked the wolf.

The wolf looked shocked, adn nodded its head towards me, then ran off towards the woods.



I looked around me and saw Jackson and Lachlan circling one another. I saw Abbey had shifted and she was fighting back to back with Lily who had also shifted, there were about four wolves surrounding them.

Sam was fighting the two warriors that were accompanying Lachlan earlier.

The place was chaos. Pack wolves fighting rogue wolves, it was c\*\*\*\*\*e.

I look behind me and I saw some of the alphas from other packs that were here for the summit, were arriving to help us fight the rogues. Thank the goddess for that I thought to myself.

I mind-linked Jackson, "I need to find Kingston. Ask Lachlan where he is, do whatever you have to get the information out of him," I called out.

"You got it!" Jackson replied.

I stalked hurriedly towards Sam to help him fight the warriors, he was holding his own, but the sooner we took these rogues down the better.

I mind-linked my friends "Try to incapacitate them as opposed to massacring them, they are just following orders, we want to keep the death toll down if we can,"

My mind was flooded with replies.

"Need a hand, Sam?" I mind-linked Sam.

"Sure thing Luna," He called out to me.

In no time we take them out, but as fast as we get rid of them more seemed to appear.

"Sam, go help your mate! I'll be fine here!" I called out to him via mind-link.

"Are you sure?" He called out nervously.

"Yes, go!" I told him.

Sam moved to help Lily and Abbey who seemed to be constantly surrounded by rogues.

Everyone was defending their positions well but it was becoming tiresome.

I asked my wolf if she could sense our mate yet. She replied to me that she couldn't pick anything up.

"Abbey, do you think you could help me find Kingston? I still can't get hold of him even though the spell has been lifted." I mind-link her.

"Yes, I think so, I can definitely try, I just need to be able to concentrate," Abbey replied.

"I'm on my way!" I replied to her.

I was done with fighting the hard way. I once again focussed my energy and shocked the wolves surrounding me. I felt a little drained. It appeared that the more my powers were used, the more energy it took from me.

I charged toward Abbey, Lily, and Sam. "Abbey if you can make your way to the maintenance sheds behind us you might be able to try that locating spell?" I declared.

"Hmnn, I can try. But I will need something that belongs to Kingston. Do you have anything I could use?" Abbey asked me.

I shook my head sadly.

"Ah, it's ok, I'll see what I can do, be back soon!" Abbey called out.

I took over her place in the circle and continued to fight the rogues. I was feeling a bit drained, my wolf missed her mate, it felt like forever since we had seen one another.

I looked over to Jackson, while I was fighting one on one with a rogue. I saw him and Lachlan fighting, rolling over each other, snapping and biting one another, each of them seeking dominance in the fight. Neither one of them seemed to be winning, both taking hard hits, with gashes evident all over their bodies, both with blood-soaked fur.

It was at that moment it dawned on me. Jackson's powers. I had never asked him what they are specifically. Why hasn't he ended his fight with Lachlan?

I wasn't paying attention to the fight, and I felt a claw s\*\*\*h the side of my neck. I felt blood drip down my collarbone and onto my chest. The pain spurred me on.

I lunged forward and ripped the rogue's throat out, spitting its disgusting skin and flesh onto the field.

I was snapped out of my bloodlust by the feeling of a mind-numbing pain ripping through me. I felt as though I had been stabbed with a knife in my chest. I clutched myself where it hurt and let out a blood-curdling growl. I knew that I was feeling someone else's pain.

I scanned my eyes around the field and I saw Jackson fall to the ground, leaning on his knees, holding his chest. Lachlan hovering over him snickering.

I saw a silver dagger sticking out of his chest and my heart hurt for him. I picked myself up off the ground and my paws pounded against the ground galloping towards him as if my life depended on it.

I leapt off the ground into the air and lunged towards Lachlan, I started ripping into him, tearing into his chest frantically, he used whatever energy he had to push me off. I got back onto my paws to attack him some more, when I was distracted by Jacksons' groans.

I was torn, part of me wanted to end this wretched wolf who has my mate hidden somewhere, who has made my life a misery as well as countless other and gravely injured my cousin, and the other part of me, the bigger part, needed to tend to Jackson.

I felt Sam and Caleb flank me.

Sam shifted beside me.

"I Sam Nicholson, Beta of Evergreen Pack, reject you Lachlan as my Alpha," Sam said holding his ground. He then quickly shifted back to his wolf form ready to fight the wolf he once pledged his allegiance to.

Lachlan laughed.

"I was gonna k\*\*l you anyway. Enjoy your short life as a Rogue!" He called out to Sam.

"I need to help Jackson, can you stall him for now?" I mind-inked Sam and Caleb.

"Yes Luna," They replied to me in synchronisation.

I leaned down to Jackson, and tried to assess his wound. The blood was hemorrhaging out. The dagger was silver. And then it hit me -my nightmares. I've seen this all before, in my nightmares.

I shifted back to human form, so I could use my hands to help put pressure on the wound.

I tried to fight back the tears but they continued to fall furiously.

“Stay with me Jackson!” I called out pleadingly.

I shook him to try keep him awake. I saw his eyes were starting to roll back.

“Jackson, please!” I called out desperately.

“Please Moon Goddess, help him!” I yelled out to the sky.

At that very moment, we were all blinded by an overwhelming bright white light.

\*Aleska POV\*

I had to close my eyes as the light was so bright. I heard a loud screeching sound, it was piercing my ears, like some sort of sound distortion. And then a wave of energy hit us all. The force was overwhelming and I felt lightheaded. After a few moments, I felt myself come to my senses. The light started to dim down and my eyes began to adjust. The light appeared to be shrinking and in a matter of moments, it had become merely an orb. There was a figure emerging from behind it. I had to squint to see in the darkness of the woods. It was Xanthe!

Most of the wolves that had been fighting on the battlefield were holding their heads, they looked to be in pain. Xanthe looked panicked and started running towards me. I looked back down at Jackson, “Jackson, can you hear me, please stay with me!” I yelled at him.

Xanthe approached us and pushed me aside, “Move!” She ordered me. I looked at her in confusion.

“Xanthe, what are you doing?” I asked her.

“He is my Mate!” She told me looking at him in disbelief.

I could see how concerned she looked. She touched his face with the palm of her hands, her fingers touching Jackson's face in a gentle and loving manner.

Jackson's breathing was starting to normalize already with Xanthe's mere touch. I wonder if that could be the mate bond at work, or perhaps it was because Xanthe was a healer or both.

"Are you sure?" I asked Xanthe hopefully.

"I can heal him!" Xanthe declared.

"I just need some space," Xanthe said. I could tell she was trying to suppress her true feelings, I could hear the shakiness in her voice.

\*Xanthe POV\*

After meeting with Aleksa and Kingston that day in the gazebo in the rose gardens, I was determined to find out whatever I could about her heritage. However, along the way my past had caught up with me. I had been detained against my will by someone who had untoward plans for me.

I was able to escape that hellhole with help from an unlikely ally. I then began to make my way back to Rocky Mountain. My intuition had told me to come back right away. I had thought something might be wrong with Aleska until I reached the pack border and then I felt it. I felt him.

I felt the pull deep within my heart. My true love. My mate, was here, and he was hurt. I made my way toward the training fields and I saw a raging battle taking place. I could sense it was between pack wolves fending off a rogue attack.

I could see everyone fighting from the woods. I saw that despicable Lachlan lunging toward Aleksa and then I let out a surge of power, blinding and stopping all in its path.

I made my way to the wolf on the ground as I saw he had shifted to his human form.

He was gorgeous. Rugged with dark and handsome features, I could sense that he was of alpha blood.

He had been stabbed with a silver wolfsbane-infused dagger in his chest and he was fading fast. I couldn't believe that after all these centuries I had finally found my mate. I refused to lose him when I had only just found him.

After telling Aleksa that he was my mate, I attempted to heal him. I placed my hands over his body and channeled all of my energy. I used my strength to s\*\*k the poison from his system. I felt it consume me but I would not stop until my mate was safe.

It seemed like an eternity but in reality, it didn't take long at all. I watched my mate wake from his state of unconsciousness.

I watched him look into my eyes with desire and growl "MATE!"

I looked at him and I smiled lovingly.

\*Aleksa POV\*

My wolf became restless, and then she growled wildly. "Mate! Mate is coming!" She howled in my head with joy.

I jerked my head to the left, and I watched as my mate approached us with Abbey in tow.

"Kingston!" I called out desperately. My heart racing and an overwhelming desire to run to my mate and never let go, right here in the middle of this fight.

I looked at Xanthe and Jackson. They were having a moment. They wouldn't notice me gone.

I leaped up onto the ground and ran into my mate's arms.

As I ran toward him I took in his bruised and swollen face, he had a split lip and a split eyebrow. Why was he in such a state I wondered. Why was his werewolf healing not kicking in? What had happened to him?

I felt him flinch in pain as my body smacked against his. I looked at him with concern on my face. I lifted up his shirt and saw burn marks, it looked like a silver knife had been slashed against him repeatedly.

I looked at his wrists which also looked to be burned. I could only assume he had been bound in silver handcuffs or chains.

My wolf whimpered internally for our mate.

“I’m ok. I’ll heal soon.” Kingston said to me casually.

I smacked my lips against his and passionately kissed him. My wolf was howling in my head. Then I pulled away quickly, realizing that we were still in the middle of the fight. There would be time for this later, I thought to myself.

I looked to Abbey, “How?” That was all I could ask her, still astonished that she had found my mate.

“He was bound in silver, and unconscious when I found Him. He was tied to a chair, at the back of the maintenance shed. I picked up his scent while I was trying to find some space to perform the locating spell,” Abbey replied.

I looked again at Kingston. Trying my best to suppress my tears of joy, as I was pushed aggressively to the ground. My head hit the ground with a loud thud. As I looked up to see what had just hit me I saw Kingston being pinned to the ground by Lachlan’s wolf Cyrus.

I ran into Cyrus with all my might. I figure it will buy Kingston a few moments to shift. As he hovers over me snapping at me, I try to fight him off with my hands.

I hear him whimper as Kingston shifts into his wolf Sabre and takes a large chunk of flesh out of his left hind leg. Cyrus is pushed to the ground and it seems that Sabre has the upper hand when a scroungy brown wolf jumps onto him trying to get access to his neck.

Furious, and recognizing that the scroungy and singed wolf is Eva, I quickly shifted into my wolf Amber and lunged forward viciously taking aim at her neck. I latched onto it and I tugged at it mercilessly, not letting go until I was satisfied that there was no life left in her.

While part of me was sad to take a life, especially when this wolf was once my friend, I told myself that she was never the friend I thought she was, and that I would stop at nothing to protect my mate.

Sabre continued to attack Cyrus, taking aim at his neck but missing and taking a chunk out of his shoulder instead, he then went for Cyrus’s jugular and ripped into his neck, blood squirting out all over Sabre, soaking his fur. Cyrus began to lose strength, whimpering, his motions stalling.

Sabre moves away from Cyrus nudging against my snout, we both shift and fall into each other's arms. Usually, I would be embarrassed to be naked in front of so many other wolves but right now I'm just feeling blessed to have my mate in my arms. I'm so besotted that I don't even notice Cyrus has shifted into his human form and he is getting back on his feet.

It's almost too late when I see he has somehow picked up the silver dagger and is about to stab Kingston in the neck when Sam comes from behind and grips the dagger forcing it into Lachlan's heart he then pulls it out and slices Lachlan's neck open decapitating him.

I gasped in horror as I watch my former mate's head fall to the ground. I wished that things could have been different, but he was a lost soul, so consumed in evil and darkness. There was no redemption for him.

I mouthed thank you to Sam for saving my mate from harm. Kingston had turned around just in time to see Lachlan meet his demise. We all stood there in silence for a moment.

As I looked around us, I noticed that the rogues had started to retreat. I watched my friends start to pick themselves up off the battlefield. I saw wolves tending to the injured. We all just stared at one another looking grateful that we were still all here, and it is finally over.

\*Aleksa POV\*

Four hours later.

Once Lachlan was no longer a threat and we were sure the rogues had retreated, we begun the task of picking ourselves back up.

We rounded the entire pack together and all the visiting packs, and had a quick debrief.

After the debriefing we encouraged the visiting packs not to feel obliged to stay, and to feel free to make their way home, as the summit was effectively over, due to these unexpected events.

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We had just finished rounding up the last of the deceased rogues when the royal pack entourage arrived. This isn't the way we were planning to greet the



Alpha King, and it definitely wasn't what we had planned for this day of the summit.

Originally we had a huge festival planned with performers, stalls, music, and food. Until we were attacked by a dark witch and rogues led by my deranged ex-mate.

As the Alpha King himself, also known as my cousin Callum, stepped out of his Range Rover he took in the grim sight that awaited him.

The pack ground was a mess. Blood stained the once lush green field in front of us. It was clear a battle had taken place here.

Before he had a chance to ask what had happened we moved forward to introduce ourselves. We were quite a sight, I was still bleeding from the wounds I had sustained during the fight, Kingston looks like a bruised and battered mess, and we both still needed medical attention.

We had declined it initially, as we wanted the most vulnerable and injured wolves to be tended to first. Kingston tried to insist that I go straight to the pack doctor but I wanted to make sure my friends were seen first. Plus I could already feel my wounds were being healed.

We welcomed Callum to the pack and led him to the pack house dining room where some of our kitchen staff organized some pastries and hot drinks for Callum and his men.

We explained the events of the past twenty-four hours briefly, as well as explained that we had ramped up security as well as had Xanthe and Abbey placing some protective spells in place to secure the perimeter for now, in case of any further retaliation.

Callum suggested that we get cleaned up, get our wounds tended to, and then meet him and his men again in an hour or two on the pack house patio.

\*\*\*

After showering and dressing and attending to our wounds, we met Callum at the pack house patio. The sun was beginning to set and it was quite a sight to behold. It was daunting to think that there was still so much to do before we retired for the day.

Callum had examined my crescent moon wolf marking with awe. Jackson didn't have a marking yet as he hadn't mated and marked his true mate yet, although it was only a matter of time now that he and Xanthe had found one another.

I began to relay my story of how I had been raised as a human, to finding my wolf Amber and shifting for the first time, to meeting Lachlan and my time at Evergreen, up until the events that had just occurred here at Rocky Mountain. Callum had praised my strength and integrity, as well as Jackson's ability to lead a pack and still manage to keep his wolfs secret identity.

Callum then went on to explain his understanding of the events that had occurred at the royal pack all those years ago, as well as his condolences regarding our parents.

Jackson had also joined us, he was completely healed. It was as if nothing had happened earlier today. There was not a scratch on him.

He was reluctant to join us at first as he refused to be away from Xanthe, especially since they had just found one another. So Xanthe was present at the meeting also. Callum thanked her for her efforts to protect me and keep me safe, as well as her services to the royal pack.

Callum had even offered Jackson and me the opportunity to join the royal pack as senior members, which we were very honored to receive. However, we had to politely decline as neither of us wished to leave our current packs due to finding our true mates and our obligations.

While Callum was disappointed that we didn't take him up on his offer he did understand. So instead he came up with the idea of a Royal Pack Alliance which was extended not only to our closest allies but to the packs that had fought in the attack earlier today.

Though the packs had already started to make their way home immediately after the attack, we had all agreed to reconvene again in a month's time to discuss alliances and a peace treaty.

Callum was curious about the Hybrid who had such great knowledge of the royal pack, so he requested a meeting with Abbey, to which she gladly obliged, to which Alaric accompanied her too.

It appeared that Callum had known Abbey's mother well and they shared a few stories with one another. Abbey and Alaric were also invited to visit the royal pack, which they are intending to do after returning back to their packs.

Jackson and I have both been invited to stay at the Volkov Kingdom to meet some of our distant relatives and to learn more about our heritage. We have both agreed to come along, and we intend to bring our mates with us but have asked that it be postponed until everything is back to normal again following the recent attacks.

Jackson declared that he needed to speak with his father first and check back in with his pack, as he had been absent for some time now.

Further to that, he wished to introduce Xanthe to his pack as his Luna.

Xanthe was a bit reluctant. Although she had accepted Jackson as her mate, she was unsure about becoming Luna and is worried that there may be resistance to her being accepted as Luna due to the fact that she is a witch by birth.

I have a feeling it will all work out eventually though.

\*\*\*

After Lachlan had met his demise, the rogues instantly begun to retreat. However, we had managed to capture a few of them for interrogation purposes. They aren't saying anything at the moment, but Kingston believes that in a few days' time they will probably start talking.

Kingston was organizing a tracking team right now to see if they could follow the rogue's scents in an effort to find out where they came from, and determine if they will be a future threat.

Xanthe was planning to contact a coven that she has a working relationship in a bid to try to find out who the dark witch was and to see if she will become a further threat to us in the future.

The dark witch did say she would "see me soon," and I'm pretty sure she knew that I was a crescent moon wolf, so that could become problematic.

\*\*\*

Kingston and I were heading off to the pack hospital now to check on our friends and injured pack members. After that I planned on calling Mason and Quinn and sharing a video call with my pups if they were still awake.

Now that Lachlan was no longer a threat, there is no reason why they cant all come home.

I simply cannot wait to have my pups safely in my arms again. It feels like it has been an eternity since I last saw them.

Kingston had managed to contact Asher, and he and Kaia are on their way back to Rocky Mountain. Asher said that when he went to tell them about Ezra's death, they already knew. They told him that they have something exciting to tell us when they get back. We have an inkling as to what it might be, but we are excited to hear what they have to say.

It's going to take some time to get things back to what they once were. We have a lot to do as far as pack security goes. The fact that the dark witch managed to create all that chaos is pretty scary. To think such an attack was able to occur, means we have much work ahead of us to ensure it doesn't happen again.

We will have lots of work to do with the creation of this new alliance with the royal pack, but everyone seems open to the idea so far.

With so many finding their fated and second chances mates, there is still much celebrating to be done. There are also Luna ceremonies to take place, including my own ceremony. But there is plenty of time for that.

What matters now is that everyone is safe and well, that all the injured recover, and that we get things back to a state of normality – whatever that might look like.

As I descended the stairs of the pack house I looked around at the lush greenery that surrounds me, the sky is now starting to darken, and night is falling.

I am so blessed to call this place home. I am safe. I am free at last.

I looked to the bottom of the stairs and see my perfect mate waiting for me.

Kingston had a grin on his face, and I raised my brows as I look at him, and then I saw why he was grinning.

As I looked to the side entrance of the main packhouse reception I saw my precious pups, my Liam and Layla, standing next to Mason and Quinn.

“How?” I asked Kingston via mind-link, in a state of astonishment.

“I rang Mason after the attack, and said it was safe to bring Liam and Layla back,” Kingston replied.

I was already making my way toward my pups.

“Mommy!” They called out in unison, running as fast as their little legs would carry them. I too started to run towards them and we met in the middle. They landed in my arms and I kissed them both on their foreheads as they push their heads into my chest and we take in one another’s scents. I felt the tears of joy falling from my cheeks. Then I felt Kingston join our hug and we all embraced each other. Our family unit was finally back together. Everything was just as it should be. I felt at peace at last. I never dreamed that I could feel so complete and so loved.

## **Luna Aleksa’s Escape Chapter 59**

\*Aleksa POV\*

Our search of the communications room was fruitless. Nothing we found was able to transmit. It looked like we were truly on our own here. We had no idea who we were up against. We just suspected that Lachlan was behind it all and he was being helped by a dark witch.

We knew that the pack seemed to be surrounded by some massive energy-bound forcefield so we couldn’t get out either. We also knew that it was only a matter of time before whoever was behind all of this realized that I wasn’t where I should be.

While my heart ached for my mate, I couldn’t feel anything through our bond, but I didn’t feel our bond break so that gave me hope that he was still out there, maybe he was under the enchantment spell, I sure hoped that was the case.

Abbey said that assuming that this was orchestrated by Lachlan and he was he for me the best thing to do would be to elude him for as long as possible.

Meanwhile, she will focus on trying to wake some of the pack up a few at a time.

Sam suggested we keep moving because it would only be a matter of time before they tracked back to the packhouse.

Abbey asked for suggestions as to who she should wake first. Jackson implied the stronger the wolf the better right now as they were likely to be able to defend themselves rather than hold us back, everyone was in agreement with that.

I voiced that I didn't recall seeing any of the alphas at the training grounds, to which Kai replied that the night before the summit festival it was tradition for the attending alphas to have a late-night whiskey at the lake house.

"Lakehouse?" I replied with a confused look on my face,

"Uh, yeah, it belonged to the previous alpha and luna, it's in the middle of the woods on the southern boundary. Chances are they were there when the enchantment spell hit. It's worth a try anyway. I can show you the way." Kai called out.

We all followed Kai out through the woods as quietly and quickly as possible. It took about twenty minutes to get there in our human form. It was a large wooden cabin just sitting here on the outskirts of the wood overlooking a small lake.

As expected, there were bodies of the visiting alpha's lounged out on chairs, by the lake, and on the deck. They all looked so peaceful, a contrast from the intimidating alphas they usually are. But this wasn't the time to reflect, we had work to do.

"Caleb, Sam, Bryant with me, let's get them all next to each other and line them up. Lily and Aleska, you can help Abbey set up. Abbey – are you ready for this?"

Abbey looked at Jackson and smiled. "You're just a big softy aren't you?"

Jackson huffed and walked off.

Abbey looked at me smirking, “I think we are going to be great friends, Jackson and I,”

I smiled at her knowingly. Because I thought so too.

\*\*\*

Abbey had begun healing the alphas. When they woke up they were disorientated initially but after about ten minutes or so they seemed to be back to their usual selves. While some wanted to spring into action immediately, we managed to convince them that we had to tread carefully since we didn't actually know what we were up against.

Abbey seemed to be holding up well despite using mass amounts of energy, there were about a dozen of us now, and still, another dozen alphas yet to be healed.

Jackson suggested that some of us would need to stay back with Abbey while she healed the other alpha's and the rest of us needed to continue onwards.

Caleb and Kai naturally refused to leave my side, I guess it was the gamma band at play. Sam and Lily said that they would stay back with Abbey, Bryant also offered to protect her while she helped us to gather more backup.

Jackson, myself, Caleb, and Kai, as well as some of the attending alphas, decided to move out and see if we could see any movement around the pack grounds. We hadn't seen anyone yet, but they must be somewhere.

\*\*\*

As we were about a hundred yards away from the entrance to the packhouse, we saw movement. We halted behind Jackson and waited. My jaw dropped as I took in the huge army of wolves that were descending upon the packhouse.

The foul stench of these rogue wolves invaded my nostrils. I fought the urge to vomit. We all looked at one another. Well, this complicates things a little I thought to myself. I wasn't quite expecting that we would have that many opponents to fight.

I looked at Caleb instantly in fear. We had left Kali behind sleeping there. Caleb let out a huge growl and ran forward shifting into his wolf, he ran as fast as his legs would carry him toward the packhouse.

“f\*\*k!” Jackson yelled. He also runs forward, shifting into Gray following Caleb’s lead. If we don’t follow him, both he, Kali, and their unborn baby are dead, so we all shifted and followed them through the packhouse, taking out wolves as we moved through the crowd.

Kai and a few of the other alpha’s flanked my sides and front and behind and pushed through the rogues, their bodies flying all over the place, blood spurting out all over the place.

We ran down the corridor and then skidded to a sudden halt, Caleb had shifted and was holding a sleeping Kali in his arms. We formed a circle around him and I nodded my head towards the back entrance swiftly, rogues descending on us from behind, we all pushed forward some of the alpha’s fending off the rogues as we made our way through the packhouse.

“Take Aleksa and Kali to safety, I’ll keep the rogues busy!” Jackson yelled as he slowed down and turned to fight the rogues.

Four of the alpha’s followed Caleb and Kali and me. Once we made it to the bush. I turned around.

“Get your mate and baby to safety!” I called out and I ran off.

I ran towards the packhouse to join Jackson and half a dozen alphas fight.

Jackson growled.

“What the f\*\*k are you doing? Run! Now!” He yelled at me followed by a growl.

“No. I’m here to fight for my friends and my pack!” I yelled as I fought two small dirty brown rogues.

“Aleksa, concentrate, like before. We can use our powers. Visualize. Then focus our energy!” Amber encouraged me.

I take a breath and close my eyes. I think of the danger my friends and my pack are in. I use my anger against those who have come to destroy my pack. I feel myself heat up again. I feel like I am being surrounded by a whirlwind of heat and then I release. I feel a huge gust of energy disperse, and when I open my eyes the rogues that were surrounding us were no more.



I look further afield and I see the remaining rogues retreat. I see movement in the woods to the north of the pack grounds, and for some reason, I know that is where the witch is hiding. I could feel a pull toward her. I could feel her dark energy.

I lunge forward and run like the wind in her direction. When I get there I can sense that she is still there. I see a figure move out from behind a large tree.

“Hello, Aleksa,” she called out.

“Why are you doing this?” I asked her aggressively.

“Why do we do anything? For power, for money, for control.” She spat out shaking her head.

“My, you really are naive aren’t you?” She mocked me.

“I can see why that brute of an alpha wants you. So pretty and yet so clueless.” She laughed again.

Then she went quiet and looked at me as if she was looking into my mind.

“He doesn’t know, does he?” the witch asked me. Then she starts laughing again.

“Oh, this is brilliant!” She called out trying to suppress further laughter.

“Who? Know about what?” I asked the witch, having no actual clue as to who or what she was referring to.

“What are you talking about, Who are you...” I asked. I stopped mid-sentence as I was distracted by a shuffle in the bushes to the witch’s left.

“My sweet Aleska, did you like the rose I sent you?” Lachlan said, striding towards me with a smirk on his face.

“Lachlan,” I said shakily, trying not to show my fear but failing miserably.

“You have caused a lot of trouble my little mate,” Lachlan said, shaking his head disapprovingly at me.

“Nevermind, you have the rest of your life to make it up to me!” He added, laughing evilly.

I slowly started to back away from Lachlan and the witch, as I did I could sense movement behind me. As I turned my head I saw two of Evergreen's warriors behind me in their wolf forms. I knew that I wouldn't be getting out of this situation without a fight.

"Well, my job here is done! You have your she-wolf. Now I will have my payment, Wolf!" the witch demanded eagerly.

"Don't dare disrespect me, Witch!" Lachlan declared to the witch.

However, she didn't appear to be affected by his menacing aura. She looked more impatient than anything else.

Lachlan pulled a small hessian sack out of his pocket and dumped it in the witch's hand. She quickly poured the gold out and looked over it, then she chucked it back in the sack happily and stowed it away in the inside of her gown.

"I'd watch this one if I were you. There's more to her than meets the eye," the witch said as she winked at me knowingly.

Lachlan huffed, and dismissed the witch.

"I have a feeling this isn't the last we shall see of one another Aleksa." the witch added and with that, she vanished in a big puff of smoke.

\*Aleska POV\*

"Where is my mate?" I yelled at Lachlan in disdain.

Seconds later I felt his large calloused hand connect with the side of my cheek. I almost lose my balance due to the sheer force of his slap.

I am done with taking slaps from men today, so I slapped Lachlan back even harder in return.

Lachlan laughed mockingly at me.

"I see my weak mate has developed a backbone. Well, I shall have fun breaking you back down." Lachlan said laughing even harder this time.

I felt my anger start to rise. Not now Aleksa. We need more information. Don't show your hand just yet. Amber warned me.

“Please, where is Kingston?” I asked Lachlan again, this time with a lower tone,

“That mutt. He’s none of your concern,” Lachlan said walking around me in a circular motion.

I hear him growl when he takes in my mark. I felt a hard punch to my stomach. I lean forward feeling gasping for breath as I am temporarily wounded. I got my breath back and managed to pull myself back up. I stood strong and tall. I tried to remain stoic.

I knew that he wanted me to submit, and to fear him. But I refused to. The next time he touches me I will not be holding back.

“First thing we will do when we get back to the pack is to get rid of that mutt’s filthy mark on you. You will regret letting him mark you, I promise you that w\*\*\*e!” Lachlan spat out in a rage.

“I gave you everything! You were living a lowly life in that human town before you met me. I gave you a home, a pack, a rank, a purpose. And this is how you repay me! By w\*\*\*\*\*g yourself to some alpha mutt in the middle of b\*\*t f\*\*k nowhere.” Lachlan screamed out. He looked like he was getting angrier by the moment.

I just stared at him blankly.

“What do you have to say for yourself w\*\*\*e?” Lachlan prodded me while glaring at me.

“Where’s my mate? Where’s...” I am not finished with my sentence when I feel another slap, this time it’s on the other side of my face. Well, thank goddess for that, at least the swelling will even out.

Even though I’m in so much pain right now, and I can feel the tears welling in my eyes I start laughing.

“Is that it? Is that all you’ve got?” I call out mockingly, laughing so more. Lachlan looks at me in astonishment, probably wondering if I have a death wish.

I figure that by baiting him, I am buying more time for my friends to find me. We haven't left the pack grounds yet. The dark witch appears to have left. Any minute now someone should arrive and then we can end this once and for all.

As if he can read my mind Lachlan grabs me and pulls me towards the pack boundaries.

"I'm no fool w\*\*\*e! I know your game! Move it!" He said pulling me along even faster than before, his warriors falling closely behind us.

As we approach the pack boundary there is a black SUV waiting, the engine is running and someone is in the driver's seat. We are approximately ten yards away, and no one has arrived yet. I guess they are busy with the rogues at the packhouse. I sure hope they are okay. Although, it looks like I'm on my own for now.

\*\*\*

Just as we were nearing the SUV I heard footsteps coming from the trees behind us. I turned my head and was shocked to see Ezra running toward us. I gasped out loud.

"What do you want?" Lachlan said in a tone of annoyance.

It sounds like they know each other.

"That b\*\*\*h isn't going anywhere! We have unfinished business!" Ezra growled pointing at me.

Lachlan looked at us both, studying our body language in amusement.

"And what has my wretched mate done to get you all wound up?" Lachlan asked.

"She knows where my mate is!" Ezra screamed.

"Tell me now! Where is Kaia?" Ezra demanded.

He started to step toward me. As he did I saw Lachlan start to sniff.

"We had a deal Lachlan, and I am yet to see my mate!" Ezra yelled fiercely, looking like he was struggling to keep himself together.

“WHY DO YOU REEK OF MY MATE!” Lachlan called out almost in a rage. Then I see his eyes turn black.

Interesting. I thought to myself.

Ezra stopped suddenly.

“Yyyour mate?” He said almost stuttering, and stopping short.

“He tried to r\*\*e me!” I called out.

I know that Lachlan doesn't care about anyone but himself. But I also know that he doesn't like to share his toys either. I decide that I can k\*\*l two birds with one stone by playing them against each other.

“Whattttt!” Lachlan roared.

“She was asking for it!” Ezra boomed.

“No one touches my mate but me!” Lachlan yelled savagely.

And in seconds he had lost all control, shifted, and launched his wolf upon Ezra.

Ezra was caught off-guard, clearly not expecting such a reaction from his partner in crime. Cyrus didn't hold back.

He held Ezra's arms down, and started snapping at his neck, he was about to go in for the k\*\*l when Ezra managed to push him off his legs.

Ezra shifted. His wolf was smaller than Lachlan's. Their wolves started circling one another slowly. They were both growling. I started to step back slowly. Unfortunately, I had forgotten about the warriors that were trailing me from behind.

The wolves lunged for each other and started rolling back and forth, each trying to get closer to the other's neck.

Cyrus managed to latch onto Ezra's wolf's neck and tore a huge chunk of skin off his neck. It was grotesque, I could see the artery rupture, and the blood rapidly spraying out all over Cryus and into the air.

Ezra started to go limp, he shifted back to human form. His skin was deathly pale, and I watched as he lost consciousness.

Cryus had delivered a fatal bite. I figured this was my time to escape now. I shifted into my wolf Amber and barged through the two warrior wolves behind me, causing them to fall to the ground.

I could sense that Cyrus was on my tail, merely seconds behind me, so I pushed myself as far as I could. I could almost see the end of the treeline ahead of me. I just had to move a little faster.

“Come on Amber, we are almost through the trees. Just a bit further!” I tried to encourage my wolf.

She was determined to outrun her ex-mate.

As we pushed past the last of the trees, I could feel the body heat of Cryus upon us, and just as I smelt him hover over us, I felt myself being pushed to the ground, my face hitting the ground suddenly.

Cyrus had launched his body on top of us, pinning us down. He was holding us face down on the ground.

Cyrus let out a menacing growl.

I could feel him shift on top of me.

“Mmmmn, just like oldtimes. Me on top riding you face down!” Lachlan declared.

“I think I’m gonna be sick!” I said out loud.

And with that Lachlan grabbed my head and pushed it hard against the ground.

I was too dizzy and in too much pain to even react.

I could feel myself being lifted up, but I felt so incoherent. I just let the darkness take me.

\*\*\*

I felt myself being pulled along the ground. I could smell the grass and earth scratching my face as I was being dragged. A burning sensation had engulfed me, it felt like my skin was being grazed repeatedly against the ground.

I must have only lost consciousness for a few seconds, as I appeared to be on the pack grounds still. I could see I was being dragged back the way I came.

I had enough of this playing dumb business. I tried to play the passive weak female and hoped that would be enough for Lachlan to let slip where Kingston was, but now I was over it.

I focussed my energy and used my power to get myself out of the warrior's grip, burning their hands with an electrical surge. They started screaming in pain. I jumped up on my feet and got into a defensive stance.

"Playtime is over! Tell me where Kingston is now! And I might let you live!" I demanded with a cold and determined look on my face.

Lachlan looked at me in disbelief.

"What the f\*\*k was that!" he yelled, looking at his warriors squealing in pain.

"That was me taking the power back!" I said standing there with my arms crossed looking at him smugly.

"I'm done playing games!" I yelled at him.

"Where is my mate? Tell me now and I might show you some mercy!" I demanded.

I could feel my eyes glowing. I was getting angrier by the moment. My wolf is anxious to find her mate and disgusted at the sight of her former mate.

"Your eyes!" Lachlan called out incredulity.

"Where is my mate!" I called out. My anger resonates and I felt a surge of energy, it felt electrical. I moved my hands in Lachlan's direction and he and his warriors fall to the ground. I watch them look at me in horror and disbelief.

"What the!" Lachlan screamed out, pulling himself back up, and dusting himself off.

"Turns out you didn't know me as well as you thought," I told him coldly.

“What are you? Some kind of witch?” Lachlan blurted out.

He was stalling. I struggled to contain my wolf. I could feel my eyes switching color. I was about to inflict pain upon this poor excuse for a wolf in front of me.

I was getting angrier by the moment and I could feel myself heating up again. As I went to raise my hand towards Lachlan he called out.

“I can take you to him! Kingston! I will show you where he is!” Lachlan yelled out with two hands in front of me, gesturing to me that he will surrender for now.

“No games! If I think you are tricking me – I will make you suffer!” I tell him.

I feel so strong and in control. A far cry from the naive and shy Aleksa that I once was.

\*Aleksa POV\*

We had been walking for a few minutes now and I could see the pack was starting to wake up. It would appear that the dark witch’s spell had been lifted. My mind-link was currently being flooded by anxious pack members. I felt a headache coming on so I blocked them all for now.

I tried to mind-link Kingston, hoping that I might finally be able to get through to him, but there was nothing. I couldn’t feel him, period. I knew that nothing sinister had happened to him so that was something at least.

“Aleksa, where are you?” I heard via mind-link. I was not surprised that Jackson could get through to me, it must be a crescent moon wolf perk.

“I’m with Lachlan and two of his warriors, we are walking towards the maintenance sheds, he’s cooperating at the moment but I don’t trust him,” I told Jackson.

“Right, we’re on our way!” Jackson called out via the mind-link.

As we were approaching the sheds I had a feeling that danger was awaiting us and that this was a trap, but I was determined to find Kingston. I had the upper hand for now, but I was still on high alert.



Lachlan told me that Kingston was just behind the sheds in the woods, and that he had him handcuffed in silver there. I look at him and I sensed that he was being truthful. I reached out to Amber but she couldn't sense anything.

As we approached the bush I heard movement in multiple directions. In a matter of seconds, I was surrounded by wolves, snapping their teeth at me angrily.

Lachlan turned around with a smirk on his face.

"Right where I wanted you. Still so naive!" He laughed out loud, shaking his head toward me.

I crossed my arms and tilted my head at him.

I was about to make some smart-a\*s comment when I heard snickering from behind the wolves, they parted ways, and out walked Eva.

"Aleska is mine!" She called out.

Lachlan looked at her in amusement.

"Have at it, just don't k\*\*l her, do you hear me!" Lachlan screamed out to Eva.

"I can't make any promises!" Eva replied snarkily.

"Eva!" Lachlan called back.

"Yeah, ok, fine I won't k\*\*l her," She begrudgingly agreed.

I looked at Eva and couldn't contain my laughter. I found it hilarious that she thought that she could take me. I'm not the same girl that she remembered, but I will sure enjoy educating her.

I stood in anticipation, as I knew that she would strike first.

As predicted Eva walked up to me and attempted to slap me hard across the face, but I could see it coming a mile away and I blocked her hand with my arm, causing her to call out loudly in pain.,

"Pathetic!" I called out to her.

I saw that the wolf's attention had moved to something coming from behind me.

I turned my head to see what it was, and I saw my friends approaching us with haste.

In doing so, I had broken the never turn your back on your opponent rule, and I had given Eva time to attack me.

I felt my body fall back on the ground hard. Eva was punching my face hard and fast, and after a few hits, I was starting to feel dizzy.

I let out a loud growl and pushed Eva from me hard. My wolf and I were now furious and I could feel my body heating up once again, but I didn't want to use my powers on Eva, nor did I want to shift just yet. I wanted to take this b\*\*\*h out on my own.

Suddenly I had flashbacks of all the times that I had suffered in pain while Eva was with Lachlan, all the times I confided in her, all the times I went out of my way for her, and then I thought about when I caught them in the act and that look of sheer smug satisfaction on her face, and that did it for me. I hit her hard, and I couldn't stop.

I felt a wolf jump up and bite my shoulder from behind. I felt the pain surge through me. I took this moment to shift into my wolf. Amber was furious, she charged for the wolf and ripped out a chunk of skin from its flank. I then spat it out. It tasted disgusting in my mouth. It appeared to be a rogue wolf, judging by its foul odor.

I watched Eva shift and charge toward me and I knew that I needed to end the other wolf so that I could focus on Eva. As I was about to go in for the k\*\*l, Eva's wolf jumped on me and snapped its teeth toward my neck. I was now vastly outnumbered and there was a raging battle going on around me. I knew that my friends were here fighting and I needed to try to end this.

I focussed my energy on getting Eva off me. I felt myself heat up, and the electrical energy surge through me. I felt it connect with Eva's fur and smelt her fur burning as she begun to sizzle. She was essentially being electrified. She fell off me onto the ground, rolling until she appeared to lose consciousness.

The wolf that had just been attacking me looked scared and started to cower away, submitting to me.

“Run away, and don’t come back, and I will let you live!” I mind-linked the wolf.

The wolf looked shocked, and nodded its head towards me, then ran off towards the woods.

I looked around me and saw Jackson and Lachlan circling one another. I saw Abbey had shifted and she was fighting back to back with Lily who had also shifted, there were about four wolves surrounding them.

Sam was fighting the two warriors that were accompanying Lachlan earlier.

The place was chaos. Pack wolves fighting rogue wolves, it was c\*\*\*\*\*e.

I look behind me and I saw some of the alphas from other packs that were here for the summit, were arriving to help us fight the rogues. Thank the goddess for that I thought to myself.

I mind-linked Jackson, “I need to find Kingston. Ask Lachlan where he is, do whatever you have to get the information out of him,” I called out.

“You got it!” Jackson replied.

I stalked hurriedly towards Sam to help him fight the warriors, he was holding his own, but the sooner we took these rogues down the better.

I mind-linked my friends “Try to incapacitate them as opposed to massacring them, they are just following orders, we want to keep the death toll down if we can,”

My mind was flooded with replies.

“Need a hand, Sam?” I mind-linked Sam.

“Sure thing Luna,” He called out to me.

In no time we take them out, but as fast as we get rid of them more seemed to appear.

“Sam, go help your mate! I’ll be fine here!” I called out to him via mind-link.

“Are you sure?” He called out nervously.

“Yes, go!” I told him.

Sam moved to help Lily and Abbey who seemed to be constantly surrounded by rogues.

Everyone was defending their positions well but it was becoming tiresome.

I asked my wolf if she could sense our mate yet. She replied to me that she couldn't pick anything up.

“Abbey, do you think you could help me find Kingston? I still can't get hold of him even though the spell has been lifted.” I mind-link her.

“Yes, I think so, I can definitely try, I just need to be able to concentrate,” Abbey replied.

“I'm on my way!” I replied to her.

I was done with fighting the hard way. I once again focussed my energy and shocked the wolves surrounding me. I felt a little drained. It appeared that the more my powers were used, the more energy it took from me.

I charged toward Abbey, Lily, and Sam. “Abbey if you can make your way to the maintenance sheds behind us you might be able to try that locating spell?” I declared.

“Hmnm, I can try. But I will need something that belongs to Kingston. Do you have anything I could use?” Abbey asked me.

I shook my head sadly.

“Ah, it's ok, I'll see what I can do, be back soon!” Abbey called out.

I took over her place in the circle and continued to fight the rogues. I was feeling a bit drained, my wolf missed her mate, it felt like forever since we had seen one another.

I looked over to Jackson, while I was fighting one on one with a rogue. I saw him and Lachlan fighting, rolling over each other, snapping and biting one another, each of them seeking dominance in the fight. Neither one of them

seemed to be winning, both taking hard hits, with gashes evident all over their bodies, both with blood-soaked fur.

It was at that moment it dawned on me. Jackson's powers. I had never asked him what they are specifically. Why hasn't he ended his fight with Lachlan?

I wasn't paying attention to the fight, and I felt a claw s\*\*\*h the side of my neck. I felt blood drip down my collarbone and onto my chest. The pain spurred me on.

I lunged forward and ripped the rogue's throat out, spitting its disgusting skin and flesh onto the field.

I was snapped out of my bloodlust by the feeling of a mind-numbing pain ripping through me. I felt as though I had been stabbed with a knife in my chest. I clutched myself where it hurt and let out a blood-curdling growl. I knew that I was feeling someone else's pain.

I scanned my eyes around the field and I saw Jackson fall to the ground, leaning on his knees, holding his chest. Lachlan hovering over him snickering.

I saw a silver dagger sticking out of his chest and my heart hurt for him. I picked myself up off the ground and my paws pounded against the ground galloping towards him as if my life depended on it.

I leapt off the ground into the air and lunged towards Lachlan, I started ripping into him, tearing into his chest frantically, he used whatever energy he had to push me off. I got back onto my paws to attack him some more, when I was distracted by Jackson's groans.

I was torn, part of me wanted to end this wretched wolf who has my mate hidden somewhere, who has made my life a misery as well as countless other and gravely injured my cousin, and the other part of me, the bigger part, needed to tend to Jackson.

I felt Sam and Caleb flank me.

Sam shifted beside me.

"I Sam Nicholson, Beta of Evergreen Pack, reject you Lachlan as my Alpha," Sam said holding his ground. He then quickly shifted back to his wolf form ready to fight the wolf he once pledged his allegiance to.

Lachlan laughed.

“I was gonna k\*\*l you anyway. Enjoy your short life as a Rogue!” He called out to Sam.

“I need to help Jackson, can you stall him for now?” I mind-inked Sam and Caleb.

“Yes Luna,” They replied to me in synchronisation.

I leaned down to Jackson, and tried to assess his wound. The blood was hemorrhaging out. The dagger was silver. And then it hit me -my nightmares. I've seen this all before, in my nightmares.

I shifted back to human form, so I could use my hands to help put pressure on the wound.

I tried to fight back the tears but they continued to fall furiously.

“Stay with me Jackson!” I called out pleadingly.

I shook him to try keep him awake. I saw his eyes were starting to roll back.

“Jackson, please!” I called out desperately.

“Please Moon Goddess, help him!” I yelled out to the sky.

At that very moment, we were all blinded by an overwhelming bright white light.

\*Aleska POV\*

I had to close my eyes as the light was so bright. I heard a loud screeching sound, it was piercing my ears, like some sort of sound distortion. And then a wave of energy hit us all. The force was overwhelming and I felt lightheaded. After a few moments, I felt myself come to my senses. The light started to dim down and my eyes began to adjust. The light appeared to be shrinking and in a matter of moments, it had become merely an orb. There was a figure emerging from behind it. I had to squint to see in the darkness of the woods. It was Xanthe!

Most of the wolves that had been fighting on the battlefield were holding their heads, they looked to be in pain. Xanthe looked panicked and started running

towards me. I looked back down at Jackson, "Jackson, can you hear me, please stay with me!" I yelled at him.

Xanthe approached us and pushed me aside, "Move!" She ordered me. I looked at her in confusion.

"Xanthe, what are you doing?" I asked her.

"He is my Mate!" She told me looking at him in disbelief.

I could see how concerned she looked. She touched his face with the palm of her hands, her fingers touching Jackson's face in a gentle and loving manner.

Jackson's breathing was starting to normalize already with Xanthe's mere touch. I wonder if that could be the mate bond at work, or perhaps it was because Xanthe was a healer or both.

"Are you sure?" I asked Xanthe hopefully.

"I can heal him!" Xanthe declared.

"I just need some space," Xanthe said. I could tell she was trying to suppress her true feelings, I could hear the shakiness in her voice.

\*Xanthe POV\*

After meeting with Aleksa and Kingston that day in the gazebo in the rose gardens, I was determined to find out whatever I could about her heritage. However, along the way my past had caught up with me. I had been detained against my will by someone who had untoward plans for me.

I was able to escape that hellhole with help from an unlikely ally. I then began to make my way back to Rocky Mountain. My intuition had told me to come back right away. I had thought something might be wrong with Aleska until I reached the pack border and then I felt it. I felt him.

I felt the pull deep within my heart. My true love. My mate, was here, and he was hurt. I made my way toward the training fields and I saw a raging battle taking place. I could sense it was between pack wolves fending off a rogue attack.

I could see everyone fighting from the woods. I saw that despicable Lachlan lunging toward Aleksa and then I let out a surge of power, blinding and stopping all in its path.

I made my way to the wolf on the ground as I saw he had shifted to his human form.

He was gorgeous. Rugged with dark and handsome features, I could sense that he was of alpha blood.

He had been stabbed with a silver wolfsbane-infused dagger in his chest and he was fading fast. I couldn't believe that after all these centuries I had finally found my mate. I refused to lose him when I had only just found him.

After telling Aleksa that he was my mate, I attempted to heal him. I placed my hands over his body and channeled all of my energy. I used my strength to s\*\*k the poison from his system. I felt it consume me but I would not stop until my mate was safe.

It seemed like an eternity but in reality, it didn't take long at all. I watched my mate wake from his state of unconsciousness.

I watched him look into my eyes with desire and growl "MATE!"

I looked at him and I smiled lovingly.

\*Aleksa POV\*

My wolf became restless, and then she growled wildly. "Mate! Mate is coming!" She howled in my head with joy.

I jerked my head to the left, and I watched as my mate approached us with Abbey in tow.

"Kingston!" I called out desperately. My heart racing and an overwhelming desire to run to my mate and never let go, right here in the middle of this fight.

I looked at Xanthe and Jackson. They were having a moment. They wouldn't notice me gone.

I leaped up onto the ground and ran into my mate's arms.



As I ran toward him I took in his bruised and swollen face, he had a split lip and a split eyebrow. Why was he in such a state I wondered. Why was his werewolf healing not kicking in? What had happened to him?

I felt him flinch in pain as my body smacked against his. I looked at him with concern on my face. I lifted up his shirt and saw burn marks, it looked like a silver knife had been slashed against him repeatedly.

I looked at his wrists which also looked to be burned. I could only assume he had been bound in silver handcuffs or chains.

My wolf whimpered internally for our mate.

"I'm ok. I'll heal soon." Kingston said to me casually.

I smacked my lips against his and passionately kissed him. My wolf was howling in my head. Then I pulled away quickly, realizing that we were still in the middle of the fight. There would be time for this later, I thought to myself.

I looked to Abbey, "How?" That was all I could ask her, still astonished that she had found my mate.

"He was bound in silver, and unconscious when I found Him. He was tied to a chair, at the back of the maintenance shed. I picked up his scent while I was trying to find some space to perform the locating spell," Abbey replied.

I looked again at Kingston. Trying my best to suppress my tears of joy, as I was pushed aggressively to the ground. My head hit the ground with a loud thud. As I looked up to see what had just hit me I saw Kingston being pinned to the ground by Lachlan's wolf Cyrus.

I ran into Cyrus with all my might. I figure it will buy Kingston a few moments to shift. As he hovers over me snapping at me, I try to fight him off with my hands.

I hear him whimper as Kingston shifts into his wolf Sabre and takes a large chunk of flesh out of his left hind leg. Cyrus is pushed to the ground and it seems that Sabre has the upper hand when a scroungy brown wolf jumps onto him trying to get access to his neck.

Furious, and recognizing that the scroungy and singed wolf is Eva, I quickly shifted into my wolf Amber and lunged forward viciously taking aim at her

neck. I latched onto it and I tugged at it mercilessly, not letting go until I was satisfied that there was no life left in her.

While part of me was sad to take a life, especially when this wolf was once my friend, I told myself that she was never the friend I thought she was, and that I would stop at nothing to protect my mate.

Sabre continued to attack Cyrus, taking aim at his neck but missing and taking a chunk out of his shoulder instead, he then went for Cyrus's jugular and ripped into his neck, blood squirting out all over Sabre, soaking his fur. Cyrus began to lose strength, whimpering, his motions stalling.

Sabre moves away from Cyrus nudging against my snout, we both shift and fall into each other's arms. Usually, I would be embarrassed to be naked in front of so many other wolves but right now I'm just feeling blessed to have my mate in my arms. I'm so besotted that I don't even notice Cyrus has shifted into his human form and he is getting back on his feet.

It's almost too late when I see he has somehow picked up the silver dagger and is about to stab Kingston in the neck when Sam comes from behind and grips the dagger forcing it into Lachlan's heart he then pulls it out and slices Lachlan's neck open decapitating him.

I gasped in horror as I watch my former mate's head fall to the ground. I wished that things could have been different, but he was a lost soul, so consumed in evil and darkness. There was no redemption for him.

I mouthed thank you to Sam for saving my mate from harm. Kingston had turned around just in time to see Lachlan meet his demise. We all stood there in silence for a moment.

As I looked around us, I noticed that the rogues had started to retreat. I watched my friends start to pick themselves up off the battlefield. I saw wolves tending to the injured. We all just stared at one another looking grateful that we were still all here, and it is finally over.

\*Aleksa POV\*

Four hours later.

Once Lachlan was no longer a threat and we were sure the rogues had retreated, we began the task of picking ourselves back up.

We rounded the entire pack together and all the visiting packs, and had a quick debrief.

After the debriefing we encouraged the visiting packs not to feel obliged to stay, and to feel free to make their way home, as the summit was effectively over, due to these unexpected events.

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We had just finished rounding up the last of the deceased rogues when the royal pack entourage arrived. This isn't the way we were planning to greet the Alpha King, and it definitely wasn't what we had planned for this day of the summit.

Originally we had a huge festival planned with performers, stalls, music, and food. Until we were attacked by a dark witch and rogues led by my deranged ex-mate.

As the Alpha King himself, also known as my cousin Callum, stepped out of his Range Rover he took in the grim sight that awaited him.

The pack ground was a mess. Blood stained the once lush green field in front of us. It was clear a battle had taken place here.

Before he had a chance to ask what had happened we moved forward to introduce ourselves. We were quite a sight, I was still bleeding from the wounds I had sustained during the fight, Kingston looks like a bruised and battered mess, and we both still needed medical attention.

We had declined it initially, as we wanted the most vulnerable and injured wolves to be tended to first. Kingston tried to insist that I go straight to the pack doctor but I wanted to make sure my friends were seen first. Plus I could already feel my wounds were being healed.

We welcomed Callum to the pack and led him to the pack house dining room where some of our kitchen staff organized some pastries and hot drinks for Callum and his men.

We explained the events of the past twenty-four hours briefly, as well as explained that we had ramped up security as well as had Xanthe and Abbey placing some protective spells in place to secure the perimeter for now, in case of any further retaliation.

Callum suggested that we get cleaned up, get our wounds tended to, and then meet him and his men again in an hour or two on the pack house patio.

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After showering and dressing and attending to our wounds, we met Callum at the pack house patio. The sun was beginning to set and it was quite a sight to behold. It was daunting to think that there was still so much to do before we retired for the day.

Callum had examined my crescent moon wolf marking with awe. Jackson didn't have a marking yet as he hadn't mated and marked his true mate yet, although it was only a matter of time now that he and Xanthe had found one another.

I began to relay my story of how I had been raised as a human, to finding my wolf Amber and shifting for the first time, to meeting Lachlan and my time at Evergreen, up until the events that had just occurred here at Rocky Mountain. Callum had praised my strength and integrity, as well as Jackson's ability to lead a pack and still manage to keep his wolf's secret identity.

Callum then went on to explain his understanding of the events that had occurred at the royal pack all those years ago, as well as his condolences regarding our parents.

Jackson had also joined us, he was completely healed. It was as if nothing had happened earlier today. There was not a scratch on him.

He was reluctant to join us at first as he refused to be away from Xanthe, especially since they had just found one another. So Xanthe was present at the meeting also. Callum thanked her for her efforts to protect me and keep me safe, as well as her services to the royal pack.

Callum had even offered Jackson and me the opportunity to join the royal pack as senior members, which we were very honored to receive. However, we had to politely decline as neither of us wished to leave our current packs due to finding our true mates and our obligations.

While Callum was disappointed that we didn't take him up on his offer he did understand. So instead he came up with the idea of a Royal Pack Alliance which was extended not only to our closest allies but to the packs that had fought in the attack earlier today.

Though the packs had already started to make their way home immediately after the attack, we had all agreed to reconvene again in a month's time to discuss alliances and a peace treaty.

Callum was curious about the Hybrid who had such great knowledge of the royal pack, so he requested a meeting with Abbey, to which she gladly obliged, to which Alaric accompanied her too.

It appeared that Callum had known Abbey's mother well and they shared a few stories with one another. Abbey and Alaric were also invited to visit the royal pack, which they are intending to do after returning back to their packs.

Jackson and I have both been invited to stay at the Volkov Kingdom to meet some of our distant relatives and to learn more about our heritage. We have both agreed to come along, and we intend to bring our mates with us but have asked that it be postponed until everything is back to normal again following the recent attacks.

Jackson declared that he needed to speak with his father first and check back in with his pack, as he had been absent for some time now.

Further to that, he wished to introduce Xanthe to his pack as his Luna.

Xanthe was a bit reluctant. Although she had accepted Jackson as her mate, she was unsure about becoming Luna and is worried that there may be resistance to her being accepted as Luna due to the fact that she is a witch by birth.

I have a feeling it will all work out eventually though.

\*\*\*

After Lachlan had met his demise, the rogues instantly begun to retreat. However, we had managed to capture a few of them for interrogation purposes. They aren't saying anything at the moment, but Kingston believes that in a few days' time they will probably start talking.

Kingston was organizing a tracking team right now to see if they could follow the rogue's scents in an effort to find out where they came from, and determine if they will be a future threat.

Xanthe was planning to contact a coven that she has a working relationship in a bid to try to find out who the dark witch was and to see if she will become a further threat to us in the future.

The dark witch did say she would “see me soon,” and I’m pretty sure she knew that I was a crescent moon wolf, so that could become problematic.

\*\*\*

Kingston and I were heading off to the pack hospital now to check on our friends and injured pack members. After that I planned on calling Mason and Quinn and sharing a video call with my pups if they were still awake.

Now that Lachlan was no longer a threat, there is no reason why they cant all come home.

I simply cannot wait to have my pups safely in my arms again. It feels like it has been an eternity since I last saw them.

Kingston had managed to contact Asher, and he and Kaia are on their way back to Rocky Mountain. Asher said that when he went to tell them about Ezra’s death, they already knew. They told him that they have something exciting to tell us when they get back. We have an inkling as to what it might be, but we are excited to hear what they have to say.

It’s going to take some time to get things back to what they once were. We have a lot to do as far as pack security goes. The fact that the dark witch managed to create all that chaos is pretty scary. To think such an attack was able to occur, means we have much work ahead of us to ensure it doesn’t happen again.

We will have lots of work to do with the creation of this new alliance with the royal pack, but everyone seems open to the idea so far.

With so many finding their fated and second chances mates, there is still much celebrating to be done. There are also Luna ceremonies to take place, including my own ceremony. But there is plenty of time for that.

What matters now is that everyone is safe and well, that all the injured recover, and that we get things back to a state of normality – whatever that might look like.

As I descended the stairs of the pack house I looked around at the lush greenery that surrounds me, the sky is now starting to darken, and night is falling.

I am so blessed to call this place home. I am safe. I am free at last.

I looked to the bottom of the stairs and see my perfect mate waiting for me.

Kingston had a grin on his face, and I raised my brows as I look at him, and then I saw why he was grinning.

As I looked to the side entrance of the main packhouse reception I saw my precious pups, my Liam and Layla, standing next to Mason and Quinn.

“How?” I asked Kingston via mind-link, in a state of astonishment.

“I rang Mason after the attack, and said it was safe to bring Liam and Layla back,” Kingston replied.

I was already making my way toward my pups.

“Mommy!” They called out in unison, running as fast as their little legs would carry them. I too started to run towards them and we met in the middle. They landed in my arms and I kissed them both on their foreheads as they push their heads into my chest and we take in one another’s scents. I felt the tears of joy falling from my cheeks. Then I felt Kingston join our hug and we all embraced each other. Our family unit was finally back together. Everything was just as it should be. I felt at peace at last. I never dreamed that I could feel so complete and so loved.

## **Luna Aleksa’s Escape Chapter 60**

\*Aleska POV\*

“Where is my mate?” I yelled at Lachlan in disdain.

Seconds later I felt his large calloused hand connect with the side of my cheek. I almost lose my balance due to the sheer force of his slap.

I am done with taking slaps from men today, so I slapped Lachlan back even harder in return.

Lachlan laughed mockingly at me.

“I see my weak mate has developed a backbone. Well, I shall have fun breaking you back down.” Lachlan said laughing even harder this time.

I felt my anger start to rise. Not now Aleksa. We need more information. Don't show your hand just yet. Amber warned me.

“Please, where is Kingston?” I asked Lachlan again, this time with a lower tone,

“That mutt. He's none of your concern,” Lachlan said walking around me in a circular motion.

I hear him growl when he takes in my mark. I felt a hard punch to my stomach. I lean forward feeling gasping for breath as I am temporarily wounded. I got my breath back and managed to pull myself back up. I stood strong and tall. I tried to remain stoic.

I knew that he wanted me to submit, and to fear him. But I refused to. The next time he touches me I will not be holding back.

“First thing we will do when we get back to the pack is to get rid of that mutt's filthy mark on you. You will regret letting him mark you, I promise you that w\*\*\*e!” Lachlan spat out in a rage.

“I gave you everything! You were living a lowly life in that human town before you met me. I gave you a home, a pack, a rank, a purpose. And this is how you repay me! By w\*\*\*\*\*g yourself to some alpha mutt in the middle of b\*\*t f\*\*k nowhere.” Lachlan screamed out. He looked like he was getting angrier by the moment.

I just stared at him blankly.

“What do you have to say for yourself w\*\*\*e?” Lachlan prodded me while glaring at me.

“Where's my mate? Where's...” I am not finished with my sentence when I feel another slap, this time it's on the other side of my face. Well, thank goddess for that, at least the swelling will even out.



Even though I'm in so much pain right now, and I can feel the tears welling in my eyes I start laughing.

"Is that it? Is that all you've got?" I call out mockingly, laughing so more. Lachlan looks at me in astonishment, probably wondering if I have a death wish.

I figure that by baiting him, I am buying more time for my friends to find me. We haven't left the pack grounds yet. The dark witch appears to have left. Any minute now someone should arrive and then we can end this once and for all.

As if he can read my mind Lachlan grabs me and pulls me towards the pack boundaries.

"I'm no fool w\*\*\*e! I know your game! Move it!" He said pulling me along even faster than before, his warriors falling closely behind us.

As we approach the pack boundary there is a black SUV waiting, the engine is running and someone is in the driver's seat. We are approximately ten yards away, and no one has arrived yet. I guess they are busy with the rogues at the packhouse. I sure hope they are okay. Although, it looks like I'm on my own for now.

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Just as we were nearing the SUV I heard footsteps coming from the trees behind us. I turned my head and was shocked to see Ezra running toward us. I gasped out loud.

"What do you want?" Lachlan said in a tone of annoyance.

It sounds like they know each other.

"That b\*\*\*h isn't going anywhere! We have unfinished business!" Ezra growled pointing at me.

Lachlan looked at us both, studying our body language in amusement.

"And what has my wretched mate done to get you all wound up?" Lachlan asked.

"She knows where my mate is!" Ezra screamed.

“Tell me now! Where is Kaia?” Ezra demanded.

He started to step toward me. As he did I saw Lachlan start to sniff.

“We had a deal Lachlan, and I am yet to see my mate!” Ezra yelled fiercely, looking like he was struggling to keep himself together.

“WHY DO YOU REEK OF MY MATE!” Lachlan called out almost in a rage. Then I see his eyes turn black.

Interesting. I thought to myself.

Ezra stopped suddenly.

“Yyyour mate?” He said almost stuttering, and stopping short.

“He tried to r\*\*e me!” I called out.

I know that Lachlan doesn't care about anyone but himself. But I also know that he doesn't like to share his toys either. I decide that I can k\*\*l two birds with one stone by playing them against each other.

“Whattttt!” Lachlan roared.

“She was asking for it!” Ezra boomed.

“No one touches my mate but me!” Lachlan yelled savagely.

And in seconds he had lost all control, shifted, and launched his wolf upon Ezra.

Ezra was caught off-guard, clearly not expecting such a reaction from his partner in crime. Cyrus didn't hold back.

He held Ezra's arms down, and started snapping at his neck, he was about to go in for the k\*\*l when Ezra managed to push him off his legs.

Ezra shifted. His wolf was smaller than Lachlan's. Their wolves started circling one another slowly. They were both growling. I started to step back slowly. Unfortunately, I had forgotten about the warriors that were trailing me from behind.

The wolves lunged for each other and started rolling back and forth, each trying to get closer to the other's neck.

Cyrus managed to latch onto Ezra's wolf's neck and tore a huge chunk of skin off his neck. It was grotesque, I could see the artery rupture, and the blood rapidly spraying out all over Cryus and into the air.

Ezra started to go limp, he shifted back to human form. His skin was deathly pale, and I watched as he lost consciousness.

Cryus had delivered a fatal bite. I figured this was my time to escape now. I shifted into my wolf Amber and barged through the two warrior wolves behind me, causing them to fall to the ground.

I could sense that Cyrus was on my tail, merely seconds behind me, so I pushed myself as far as I could. I could almost see the end of the treeline ahead of me. I just had to move a little faster.

"Come on Amber, we are almost through the trees. Just a bit further!" I tried to encourage my wolf.

She was determined to outrun her ex-mate.

As we pushed past the last of the trees, I could feel the body heat of Cryus upon us, and just as I smelt him hover over us, I felt myself being pushed to the ground, my face hitting the ground suddenly.

Cyrus had launched his body on top of us, pinning us down. He was holding us face down on the ground.

Cyrus let out a menacing growl.

I could feel him shift on top of me.

"Mmmmn, just like oldtimes. Me on top riding you face down!" Lachlan declared.

"I think I'm gonna be sick!" I said out loud.

And with that Lachlan grabbed my head and pushed it hard against the ground.

I was too dizzy and in too much pain to even react.

I could feel myself being lifted up, but I felt so incoherent. I just let the darkness take me.

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I felt myself being pulled along the ground. I could smell the grass and earth scratching my face as I was being dragged. A burning sensation had engulfed me, it felt like my skin was being grazed repeatedly against the ground.

I must have only lost consciousness for a few seconds, as I appeared to be on the pack grounds still. I could see I was being dragged back the way I came.

I had enough of this playing dumb business. I tried to play the passive weak female and hoped that would be enough for Lachlan to let slip where Kingston was, but now I was over it.

I focussed my energy and used my power to get myself out of the warrior's grip, burning their hands with an electrical surge. They started screaming in pain. I jumped up on my feet and got into a defensive stance.

"Playtime is over! Tell me where Kingston is now! And I might let you live!" I demanded with a cold and determined look on my face.

Lachlan looked at me in disbelief.

"What the f\*\*k was that!" he yelled, looking at his warriors squealing in pain.

"That was me taking the power back!" I said standing there with my arms crossed looking at him smugly.

"I'm done playing games!" I yelled at him.

"Where is my mate? Tell me now and I might show you some mercy!" I demanded.

I could feel my eyes glowing. I was getting angrier by the moment. My wolf is anxious to find her mate and disgusted at the sight of her former mate.

"Your eyes!" Lachlan called out incredulity.

"Where is my mate!" I called out. My anger resonates and I felt a surge of energy, it felt electrical. I moved my hands in Lachlan's direction and he and his warriors fall to the ground. I watch them look at me in horror and disbelief.

“What the!” Lachlan screamed out, pulling himself back up, and dusting himself off.

“Turns out you didn’t know me as well as you thought,” I told him coldly.

“What are you? Some kind of witch?” Lachlan blurted out.

He was stalling. I struggled to contain my wolf. I could feel my eyes switching color. I was about to inflict pain upon this poor excuse for a wolf in front of me.

I was getting angrier by the moment and I could feel myself heating up again. As I went to raise my hand towards Lachlan he called out.

“I can take you to him! Kingston! I will show you where he is!” Lachlan yelled out with two hands in front of me, gesturing to me that he will surrender for now.

“No games! If I think you are tricking me – I will make you suffer!” I tell him.

I feel so strong and in control. A far cry from the naive and shy Aleksa that I once was.