

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 71

Sadie.

I barely slept a wink last night, and you could tell by the eye bags under my eyes. I haven't had a moment of rest or peace since Alec walked back into my life.

If I'd known all the s**t that would come with him walking back into my life, I would have moved to a different continent. Hell, a different planet if that were possible.

I want my life to go back to how simple it was a few weeks ago. Sure, I had my scars, both physically, emotionally and **y, but I was at peace. I didn't have all these mysteries surrounding. I didn't have a constant migraine from thinking too much. I didn't carry the weight of lifting a f**g curse on my shoulders.

Sometimes I wonder if things would have been better if I hadn't fallen in love with Alec. I've gone over what I would have done differently more times than I could count. The end results are always the same. Despite the pain and heartache, I wouldn't have changed a thing. Changing things and wishing they were different would mean Aspen never existed.... and I would never regret her.

There is also the matter of Beth, Raven, King and my pack. If things hadn't happened the way they did, I wouldn't have met any of them.

"Will, you pay attention?" Nyx's irritated voice pulls me from my thoughts.

"Sorry," I reply sheepishly.

Nyx hadn't been joking when she said we would start training. The moment we were done with breakfast, she had demanded we leave so that we could start training.

Since I had a hard time sleeping, I woke up pretty early. After debating whether or not to go downstairs for breakfast, I took a shower and headed for the kitchen. You have no idea the relief I felt when I didn't find anyone inside.

Sure, things have changed, but that doesn't mean I'm ready to face my previous pack. It would be overwhelming for me. I still had a hard time being around their alpha, seeing them would be too much.

After eating some cereal, I'd gone and called Martha. After she'd settled in my room with a still sleeping Aspen, I'd gone into Raven's room to let her know of my whereabouts so she isn't worried. After that, I'd silently left the pack house.

"So, first of all, I want you to clear your head," she says after she calms down.

"Nyx..."

“No, you have too many thoughts running around your head. For this to work, you need to completely focus on our powers. You can’t serve two masters at the same time. You can’t focus on both your thoughts and powers.”

We were in a meadow that used to be my favorite place in the pack. Piper and I played here countless of times when we were little kids. I loved the flowers and just how green and bright the whole area was. When I wanted to be alone or to just think, this is where I used to come.

Settling cross legged on the grass, I get comfortable and close my eyes.

“Don’t try to chase away your thoughts, just let them wander, but don’t focus on them. Don’t hold onto them. Your brain will eventually clear out.”

It’s so f**g hard. I’m the kind of person that overthinks things. I tend to overanalyze and overthink things until they

09:08 Fri, Aug 2 W

Chapter 71

drive me to the point of insanity..

Trying not to dwell on my thoughts is similar to trying to squeeze water from a rock. It is hard.

93%

+5

I struggle with that for what seems to be forever until finally, I just stop. I stop trying to dwell on them, and just let my mind

be.

Everything floods my mind. Alec. His pack. My pack. The mysterious woman. The hybrids. My powers. The other alpha female. The curse. On and on they go in. rattling inside my head like caged wild animals.

I don’t dwell on them, and just let them go in whichever direction they desire. Soon enough, my body starts swaying and I feel like I am in a trance. I’ve never meditated before, but I think this might be it.

I’m not sure how much time has passed when I realized that my mind is quiet. Empty.

There isn't a single thought in my head. Opening my eyes, I'm impressed. The entire thing is amazing because my head has never been this free. It has never been empty. As long as I can remember, there has always been a thought I'm dwelling on.

I felt liberated.

"Finally," Nyx draws. "I almost fell asleep waiting for you to clear that head of yours."

"It's our head, in case you haven't noticed

"Please, I meant you mind, which by the way is messier than a teenager's room."

"Can we just start training?"

The goddess was just trying me when she gave me a sassy wolf. One who is a complete opposite of who I am.

"Fine." She mumbles. "Today we are going to start off with something easy."

"Which is?"

"Teleportation"

I still, and just stare into space. Teleportation? Of all things. I would ask if she was crazy, but then again, she is crazy, so there is no need to ask.

"Are you crazy? Teleportation? That looks harder than diamonds. Can't we start with something easier? Like controlling my powers."

I didn't even know I could teleport. Truth be told, I don't really know what my powers entail. With everything that has been going on, I meant to ask Nyx, but it kept slipping my mind.

She rolls her eyes at me, "In order for you to control your powers, you need to understand them, and for you to understand them, you need to use them."

That made absolutely no f**g sense... And I do tell her that.

"Trust me, teleportation is the easy part. You need to learn how to use your powers on your own. When they first awakened, I was partly in control, that's why we were even able to fly. The few times you were in control, you lost control. We can't have that."

"In my defense, unlike you, they're new to me."

“They are not new to you. You’ve just forgotten how to use them anyway, teleportation is easy as compared to the rest. You’ll need to learn how to fly, Summon our scepters. Control the elements. Create energy balls.... and many more.”

I understand what she is saying, but one thing caught my attention.

They are not new to you. You’ve just forgotten how to use them.

What the hell did she mean? Of these powers are new to me... And I doubt I would have forgotten how to use these kinds of powers if I had them. Why would she say that? It takes a second to realize it must have been a slip of the tongue.

“Okay, let’s begin” she commands before I can ask her to elaborate on what she meant. “Close your eyes, and imagine yourself somewhere else.”

I do as she says, but my mind keeps wandering and I simply can’t decide on a place to focus on.

“Stop, just start with something simple. Think of a place not far from here and then focus your entire being on that place. Don’t think of how you’ll get there... Or how it will happen. Just focus on the place. Nothing else.”

I think of all the places on this pack that I used to love. For some reason my mind latches on the image of the training grounds. I try thinking of anywhere else, but the image stays put.

If I’m honest with myself, I know why my mind thought of the training grounds. It used to be one of my favorite places because I got to see Alec training. He was a beast when he was in training mode, and sometimes he would train without a shirt on. I’d stay on the bleachers and just dreamily watch his muscles and abs contract while I imagined licking my way down his chest.

I shake those memories away and focus. Since my brain refuses to focus on any other place. The training arena is it.

“Good, now push all your energy into that image. Want it, until that want vibrates through every cell of your body.”

I do as she says and just focus on that image. Slowly by slowly, I feel my body start vibrating. The power is there, so close I could almost taste it.

“Now, release it along with the image.” Nyx’s voice guides me.

I release the power and open my eyes. I frown when the image of the meadow greets me. I close my eyes again and follow the instructions until I feel power coating every cell of my body.

“This isn’t working,” I grumble when for the third time when nothing happens.

“Just keep trying until it does.”

Heaving a frustrated breath, I try again. This time I make sure that the image in my head, is all I see, feel and breathe.

A weird sensation goes through my body. For a moment I feel light. Like I am floating on air. It feels like cells are vibrating on a different level. For a moment I feel like I am space. Like I’m no longer on earth.

The feeling fades and slowly I feel myself or rather my cells reattaching themselves to the physical. When I open my eyes, I’m no longer in the meadow, instead, I’m in the training arena with eyes on me.

“Oh, my Goddess” someone screams. “A ghost!”

F**k me. I didn’t think there would be anyone here... and it looks like they don’t know I’m alive.

There are some screaming, while others watch me with shock plastered over their faces. They are pale, and I can imagine why. They thought I was dead, and then I seemed to materialize out of nowhere.

I turn around in circles, a smile playing on my face while I watch as they scream and scramble. If they don’t chill, they’ll end up causing a stampede.

“You are enjoying this entirely too much,” Nyx states.

“Sue me!”

For a moment, I even forget that I’d just teleported from the meadow. The feeling of tormenting them even a little, is breathtaking.

“What the hell is going on here?” Alec’s booming and commanding voice cuts across the space, causing everyone to freeze in their spots.

“G-ghost” one of his members stutters. “S-Sadie has come back to haunt us.”

This time I couldn’t help, I burst out laughing. This makes Alec’s head swing in my direction. On seeing this, he just shakes his head, before pinching the bridge of his nose.

“Meeting in thirty minutes, there are things I need to explain,” he says, his eyes never leaving me.

And that was my cue to leave. I close my eyes and focus on the meadow. This time I knew what to do and how to tap into my powers. My body starts feeling light again.

The last thing I hear before disappearing are their horrified screams. Any torment I can give them for what they put me through is well worth it.

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 72

Alec

I pinch the bridge of my nose when, yet again, my pack screams after Sadie disappears.

I saw it in her face. It wasn't like she was trying to hide it or anything. She enjoyed the fact that she had scared the**p out of them. She loved that she had gotten to torment them.

The fear in their faces is evident. They really do believe that Sadie has come back from the dead to haunt them.

"Calm down," I roar above their screams and fear, hoping they would hear me.

"Didn't you just see that, Alpha! She's a ghost!" someone cries, and he looks like he's going to pee in his pants.

"Just follow me to the meeting hall!" this time I yell in irritation because it seems like nothing I tell them is working.

They scramble to leave the training arena. Most of them seem relieved that they are finally leaving a place they think is 'haunted.'

When everyone is gone, I'm left standing alone in the arena. Using the mind link, I call for a pack meeting. The sooner they know about Sadie, the better. Yesterday, when we arrived, I had warned the elders and the omega who served Sadie not to mention anything to anyone about Sadie. I'd felt that it was my job to explain to them. That they should hear everything from me.

Now as I stand here, staring at where Sadie just disappeared, I am starting to doubt my decision. I should have done this the moment the meeting with the elders was over.

I turn on my heels and head towards the meeting hall. The sooner I get this done, the sooner I can focus on other things.

"You called a meeting?" Jason asks as he steps beside me on my way to the meeting room.

“Yeah. They need to know Sadie is back, and they need to know that she’s innocent.” I reply, not breaking a step as I walk towards my destination with determination.

This is my mess to fix. I am the one that fell for the wrong one. I am the one that started this whole **t show when I decided Sadie was guilty without digging into the matter further.

What kind of leader does that make me? I’ve always had a clear and level head, so why didn’t I push this further? Why didn’t I investigate deeper? Instead, I assumed that she was guilty just because she gave me a drink handed to her by Calvin.

Why didn’t I see how unclear things were? How suspicious things looked? Hell, my ga**a his intuition. An intuition that led him to believe that not everything was as it seemed.

followed

Micah had a hunch... and it’s because of that hunch that he helped Sadie escape. Why was I so

89%1

Chapter 72

f**g blind? Now everything is a mess and I don’t know how to f**g fix it.

I pull myself out of my thoughts when the meeting room door comes into sight.

“And how are the injured members?”

+5

A smile breaks from Jason’s lips. “Three of them woke up from their coma. The rest are responding well, according to the doctors. Even those that weren’t in a coma have made a significant improvement. Sadie really is your mate! This never happened when Lola was here.”

Ignoring the mention of Lola, I sigh in relief knowing that my people are getting better and not worse. Making a m**I note to visit the hospital to check on them, I fully turn to my beta.

“That’s great. Now, I want you to be there to receive Piper and Calvin at the airport, and tell Micah to be there to receive the warriors from both packs, I command him.

“Sure thing,”

When he nods, I push the double doors open. The chatter of the pack members, excluding the ones in the hospital, greets me as I walk down to the front. Due to my super hearing, I could tell that they were talking about Sadie. Those who were at the arena sure didn't waste time spreading the ridiculous news of seeing a ghost.

"Quiet!" I command, once I'm at the podium.

They all shut their mouths at my alpha command. I take a moment to think about what to tell them or how to even tell them. It's not every day you have to tell your pack that you made a mistake.

That the woman who you thought was your mate, isn't... and the one they took part in torturing, is How do you even begin to explain such s**t? They were following my lead when they hurt Sadie. They felt my pain at losing Lola and took it out on her. Now, I have to tell them that the woman they hurt is actually their true luna. The news is going to unravel them. No one wants to hear that they hurt their luna.

"I know some of you saw Sadie Evans at the training grounds. You also assumed that she was a ghost. I can assure you that she's not. She's very much alive and will be staying here in the pack." I begin, still not sure how to explain this s**t.

There is an immediate uproar of anger and disgust. The noise is deafening as their angry insults at Sadie fill in the space.

I grit my teeth, p**d off. "Shut it!" I roar, making them quiet down.

"With all due respect, Alpha, why would you allow that woman back here after what she did to our luna? And how is she even alive? She died three years ago. We all saw Piper bury her." One member

stands and asks.

That is a mystery I am yet to solve. I saw Sadie's body. I got the doctors to perform a DNA test, and it turned out to be hers. How the f**k is that possible? Sure, I know Raven is powerful, but I know she doesn't have that kind of power.

"My trip to be Hope pack has been enlightening. We were able to find out that Sadie was innocent. She wasn't responsible for what happened three years ago. As for Lola, she wasn't my mate"

I explain to them everything without really disclosing anything about the curse that was hanging over our heads. We had agreed to keep the knowledge of the curse from them. The last thing we need is the information falling into the wrong hands.

When I am done, most of them are sagged on their chairs. Looks of astonishment and surprise on their faces.

“B-But we saw you with Lola. How can she not be your mate?” an old member asks.

“Lola was an impostor, Sadie isn’t. The elders have verified that and so have I. Sadie will be staying here for a while since she’s helping the pack with something. I demand you give her the same respect you give me. We did her wrong. I did her wrong. Please don’t make her hate us more than she already has. I need her to stay.”

If I had my way, Sadie would stay here forever. I didn’t have my way though, because, like the idiot I am, I ruined things between us before they even began.

“Yes, Alpha.” They chorus the answer and I nod my head at them.

“You are dismissed.”

I wait for them to leave. Once the room is empty, I also leave, heading outside. I had a ton s** of work waiting for me, but I couldn’t focus on anything but Sadie and Aspen.

Everyone, including Piper, told me that Sadie had a huge crush on me. She used to follow me around like a lost puppy, but I just ignored her. One, because she wasn’t my type. Two, because she was my baby sister’s best friend. There was no way I would ever go there, even if I were attracted to her.

To be honest, I never really noticed her. Apart from being Piper’s best friend, to me, Sadie was always the awkward and clumsy pack member. She was a plain Jane. There wasn’t really anything remarkable about her. She was always in loose-fitting clothes that swallowed her entire frame, her hair was always in a messy bun, and she never did make-up. In other words, she didn’t really put any effort into how she looked.

There wasn’t any one time I felt any attraction to her. In fact, I always felt the opposite. I felt irritated when it came to Sadie Evans. It irritated me how I would often catch her staring at me with a dreamy look or how she would find ways to try and touch me. I just hated it, so I went to great lengths to avoid her.

Now, though, I wonder if, at a deeper level, she had sensed we were mates. That would explain why she felt what she did for me, even though I never once felt the same.

It’s funny how the woman I’ve spent most of my teenage and adult life looking down on turned out to be my mate. I never once imagined that my sister’s best friend would turn out to be my mate.

Lola had been everything I wanted in a mate. Beautiful, s**y, intelligent and strong. While Sadie had been the opposite. I’m not saying she wasn’t any of those things back then, but she didn’t really put any effort into cultivating who she was. It’s like she was okay with just being plain and unattractive.

I must admit that I don't know what to do with the current Sadie. She's become everything I admire in a woman. Too bad her crush is long dead and she hates my f**g guts.

I take a deep breath and sigh, just as a small body collides with the back of my legs. I almost fall forward, but catch myself before I do. Turning sharply, my breath freezes when I see Aspen rubbing her chin.

"I'm sorry Mr." she says, looking up at me with the same green eyes. "I didn't look where I was going."

"It's okay sweetheart, there is no harm done," I squat to her level so that we are at almost the same level. "Are you hurt?"

F**k. This feels amazing. I still can't believe that Sadie and I made this beautiful and bubbly creature in front of me.

Before, I used to think that night was the worst night of my life. Now, though, I consider it the best, because the end result is Aspen. I may not remember sleeping with Sadie, but it doesn't really matter because our daughter is the product of that night.

"No, I'm not hurt, but are you okay?" She asks, her head tilted and her wide green eyes staring at me with concern.

"Why do you ask, sweetheart?"

"Because you look sad."

I don't know what made me do it, but I just found myself saying, "I did something wrong. I hurt someone and she's very mad at me."

Aspen raises her hand and softly places it on my jaw. Cupping my jawline gently.

"All you have to say is sorry," she whispers in a sweet voice, her eyes enchanting me. "Mommy always tells me that if you do something bad, then you have to apologize. Have you said sorry?"

I know it won't be that simple when it comes to Sadie, but Aspen is right. I haven't said sorry. I haven't even apologized for the hell I've put her through... But even if I did, would she accept it?

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 73

Sadie.

By the time I was done training, I was tired. So, freaking tired. Who knew teleporting from one place to another would be draining? I didn't have any energy whatsoever.

"Today, you did well." Nyx praises in a soft voice. "I'm glad that you were able to get it so quickly."

"Well, it wasn't easy. It zaps your energy, that's for sure," I mumble, trying to level my breathing.

"Next, we'll expand the radius," she says almost in a lazy tone. "Maybe you can try teleporting back home."

"Are you freaking crazy?" I yell inside my head. "That's like hundreds of miles away."

See what I mean when I say that Nyx is crazy? I know she has this urgency to push me to master my powers, but this is pushing it too far.

"Nyx, I've only just mastered teleporting a few distances away. You can't expect me to just go from that to being able to teleport about four hundred miles away."

Her eyes bore into mine as she stares at me. She isn't happy, but she also knows that we can't push my body like that. I needed to start somewhere and build up slowly. Pushing myself too far isn't going to help anyone. In fact, it might just push us back.

"Fine," she grumbles before shutting me off.

Sighing at her stubbornness, I stand up from the boulder I'd been sitting on and start to make my way back to the pack house.

I didn't have a lot planned for today. Maybe I'd just spend some time with Aspen before I try to re-familiarize myself with the pack. After all, I've been gone for three years. Some things have probably changed.

I start speeding up when Aspen's sweet voice hits my ears. I am just about to reach her when his voice stops me cold in my tracks.

"Have you said sorry?"

I catch the last sentence from Aspen, just as I get closer to the father and daughter duo.

They were a few feet away from the back entrance of the pack house. Alec was squatting in front of Aspen.

Even though his back was to me, I would recognize him anywhere. That's just how deep my obsession with him had been. I would know his voice and body even in my sleep.

“No, I haven’t,” his gruff voice pulls me back to the duo.

Chapter 73

41%

+5

Alec was so lost in his conversation with Aspen that he failed to notice that someone was listening in to their conversation.

“You have to... you say sorry when you are wrong,” Aspen insists, her hand still on his face, something I didn’t like,

“I made a huge mistake, sweetheart. I don’t think it can be fixed with a simple sorry.”

Something in his voice catches, but I push it away. I refuse to dwell on what it is. It doesn’t matter. Alec and whatever feelings he has isn’t any of my business.

He is right though, what he did to me can’t be fixed with a simple apology. My wounds run deep. The internal ones are yet to heal... and the physical ones have left scars. It just isn’t easy to forgive and let go of the pain the man you fell in love with caused.

“B-but you have to try,” Aspen insists.

She is stubborn like her father and doesn’t really know when to let things go. It’s a character I love and hate at the same time.

Before Alec can respond, I decide to step in. I have to put a stop to whatever the hell was happening here.

“Aspen,” I call, “Come here.”

Two sets of the same green eyes turn to me. Aspen’s eyes transform, and her lips turn up in a smile. While Alec’s eyes shift in guilt, as if he has been caught doing something he shouldn’t.

“Mommy!” she shrieks before running to me, her body colliding with mine.

“What are you doing here and where is Martha?”

She starts nibbling her lips, and I just know I won’t like what she’ll tell me. She nibbles her lips when she’s guilty.

“I saw a butterfly,” she begins. “I wanted to chase it, so when Martha wasn’t looking, I did. I crashed on Mr. when I was chasing the pretty butterfly.”

“Why didn’t you let Martha know?”

She shrugs her shoulders. “I’m sorry,”

She gives me her puppy eyes and I cave in like the **g weakling I am. I can never say no to her. Nor can I ever stay mad at her.

I sigh, before bending down to kiss her cheeks, “This is a new pack, so don’t go running around alone, okay? Now go find Martha, she must be looking for you.”

“Okay mommy,” she then turns to Alec. “Bye Mr.”

She sprints past me and goes inside the house. When she disappeared, I turn to Alec. “Stay the f**k away from my daughter, Alec.”

His eyes harden as he gets up.

harden as he gets up. “She’s my daughter too.”

As much as I try to push it down, I feel my anger rising. Pushing forward to the surface.

“How dare you!” I all but scream. “Daughter? You wanted to end her life! You called me a f**g **e!”

I can’t stop the pain that washes over me when I remember that day and the words he carelessly flung at me. It hurts. It f**g hurts. My heart is aching, and I don’t know how to stop

“Do you remember what you said to me? Because I do. It’s still clear in my mind, as if you said them yesterday.” Tears are pouring down my face and I hate that he is witnessing me crying. “If the b**d child is mine, which I doubt, I would never allow it to live. I f**g hate you, Sadie, and I’d rather that pup die than be given birth to by the woman who destroyed my life... That’s what you said to me.”

My knees weaken and I wrap my hands around myself, just to comfort and give myself strength.

His eyes flash. Pain is etched in them, and he seems to drown in them. I don’t care though. He said things he can’t take back. He wanted to kill my baby. How can I even think of getting over that?

“Sadie...” his voice is nothing but a h**e whisper, full of emotions.

“No!” I wipe my tears aggressively, pretty p**d off with myself for allowing him to see this weak side of me. “By denouncing her, you severed any ties and bonds you had with

her. You lost the right to be her father because of the intent you had to kill her and the degrading name you called her.”

“I’m sorry,” he whispers brokenly, but it does nothing to ease the pain that still haunts me.

“Sorry doesn’t fix s**t, Alec. It’s only applicable when you accidentally spilled milk, or broke a glass but not when you destroyed someone’s life. You did what you did, fully conscious of your actions and being sound of mind. There are no take backs. You can’t go back and change things.”

“I would if I f***g could!” he grits out through a clenched jaw, but his words don’t move me.

I never thought that I would end up like this. Hating the same man that I was sure I would love forever. I used to see him and see nothing but our beautiful future together. Now I see him, and I’m- reminded of nothing but the pain he put me through.

I said everything I needed to say. I didn’t have anything else. I turn to leave, but he grabs my hand.

Immediately, the bond comes to life. Tingles race up and down my arm, and it feels like I’ve been electrocuted. I gasp, because this is new. It has never happened before.

“Sadie, please.” He pleads. His eyes move in wonder from where our skin is connected to my eyes. I didn’t want to feel the spark, so I rip my hand from his and leave, not once, looking back at him. Rubbing my arm where he touched me, I try to erase the lingering feel of the sparks. The bond seemed to get stronger and I hated it. Now more than ever, we need to find a way to break this d**n curse. I needed to leave, before the bond consumed us both.

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 74

A sites tu au

dibes tu di banda

waule my way Mark into the park houer !

How this 1 hay has had bi mub and Bin we dutbeone I wish dungs didir’t happen the way they did Maple dum i would

re

wipe the are away going ride all the dwuthur for a moment had been a weak teary ites Thaven't cried in a long time Tve Maxg pad fried by push everything down and focus on who had in le dan Forn on the presewn yszszewál

I haven't been hack even a full day and already the walls Fd built to keep my emotions away were starting to erudite

I walk through the pack house. Every corner of the place is haunted with memories I wish to bury and forget. All the good times I had with Piper. All the things we did together. All the happier times.

Memories I had of Alec. They weren't all warm. He spent most of the time ignoring me like I didn't exist, but they were there. There were a few times I caught him smiling or laughing. Joking with pack members. The happier times when we didn't carry the weight of the world.

My childhood, teenage years and part of my adulthood are deeply engraved in this pack. There isn't a place I could turn and I wouldn't find a memory to pull me back to the past.

Those happy memories became tainted when everyone, except Micah, turned their backs on me. I bury them because they bring me nothing but pain when I remember them. I bury them because they remind me of the deep betrayal that I endured from the so-called people I loved.

I rush through the space, intent on escaping those haunting melodies. The few pack members I pass by don't seem shocked to see me, but they do seem remorseful. I guess Alec told them the truth.

I ignore them. Not wanting to pass by any more of them, I focus my energy as Nyx taught me and teleport to the room that was assigned to me. I breathe a sigh of relief when I open my eyes, and I'm standing in the middle of the bedroom.

"Things will get better. You have to trust the goddess's plan," Nyx mumbles, popping in.

"It's hard to trust her when all I can think about is the mess she's made of my life."

She sighs. "It may seem so, but it will all make sense in the future."

Isn't that something that people say just to make themselves feel better about how out of control their lives are? Does it really get better? Because from where I am standing, I feel that if I don't get the hell out of this pack, things are only going to go downhill from here.

"I don't want to talk about it," I whisper tiredly and softly. What I want to do is to forget.

We are quiet for a while as I take off my clothes. I need another shower. One I wish would cleanse me of my bitter past.

This wall, Knos, Nyx begins just as I am heading to the bathroom. "He tried reaching out to me.

And?"

To me, his wolf was just as guilty as the woman. There were times during the torture when he would come out. Something is wrong with those two. The things they did to me and the joy that shone in their eyes as they tortured me still makes me sick to this day.

"Nothing. I told him to f**k off and blocked him. I would have given him the middle finger if I had fingers," she says it so casually it makes me laugh.

Like I said. Nyx frustrates me most of the time, but I still wouldn't trade her for a different wolf.

"You know I f**king love you, right? Even though you drive me crazy at times," I mumble, feeling some of the tension leave me as water cascades down my body.

"Yeah, yeah," she mumbles dismissively, but then adds so silently I almost fail to hear it. "Right back at you, my beautiful human."

I finish showering and wrap a towel around my body. Going to the mirror, I do what I've been doing for the past three years whenever I get out of the shower. I focus on my scars. Especially the one on my face.

After reminding myself of all the reasons why Alec is nothing but a monster, I leave the bathroom, so I can get dressed.

I'd just taken out my clothes from my suitcase when there is a knock on my door. I don't recognize the scent, but then again, I barely recognize any of my previous pack member's scent.

"Can I help you?" I ask the nervous looking brunette when I open the door.

"T-the Alpha and E-elders are requesting your presence in the alpha's office" she stammers the word.

With the way she was looking at me. With fear and remorse, I'm inclined to think she's not a new member. She was there when my life was turned upside down. I don't remember everyone. She's among those that I don't remember.

I don't say anything. I just shut the door in her face. I don't care if it is rude. They don't deserve anything from me and they won't be getting anything from me.

I get dressed quickly, then leave my room. I'll have to spend time with Aspen later on. The sooner I get this d**n curse fixed, the sooner we can leave.

I'd told the elders that I wanted to see the text about me. I thought I could get something from it. It was probably the reason why I've been summoned.

I get to Alec's office door and, without knocking, I push it open.

It's still the same. Nothing has changed. I'm taken back to the last time I was here. The day he threw the tablet at me. The day I begged them to believe me, but they didn't. The day he ordered me to be thrown into the dungeons.

Sadie." he calls my name and I shake myself from those memories.

His eyes hold something akin to regret, but I am not so sure. What I am sure though, is that he was also remembering that day. It's there in his eyes.

I nod a greeting to Micah before turning to the elders without greeting them, "Did you bring it?"

Mark nods and hands over the text to me. I immediately scan through it, eating up the words like they were sushi.

[She is strong and powerful. An Alpha Female and her powers, when awakened, will shake the foundations of the world. Because she is the blessed one, their union will be blessed, and their offspring will rule both the heavens and the earth. Only she will be able to undo the curse; only she will be able to destroy the evil. In her presence, the pack will recover and flourish, becoming the most powerful pack the world has ever seen. So many will want to use her, to destroy and suppress her, but she will prevail. Many will want to destroy their bond, so beware of impostors, for the blessed one will be known by a white crescent moon mark on her left ear.]

I place the old journal down. The words were still ringing in my head. Playing in my mind like a broken record.

Now I get why Micah asked to check behind my left ear when we first found out that I was Alec's mate. I never had the mark before, so it must have appeared when my powers awakened.

"It did," Nyx speaks up. "You two, you and the other alpha female both have marks. It's meant to differentiate you from the rest. Yours is a white crescent moon symbolizing renewal, growth and hope."

Even though I know what her answer would be, I still ask. "And the other female, what is her mark?" "You know I can't tell you that, Sadie, not yet anyway," she answers before slinking back into my subconscious mind.

I sigh. I want to be mad at her for holding information, but what if she has her reasons?

“Anything?” another elder asks when we are silent for a while.

“My powers awakened when Alec tried to attack me in my pack” I begin. “And my wolf did tell me that I am a rare breed of wolf. An Alpha Female...”

“Your presence has also begun bringing changes. The pack is starting to recover. We have all felt it. Even those in the hospital are starting to get better, Elder Martin adds, cutting me off.

“But,” Alec begins. “The text said that some would try to destroy our bond. I wonder if that’s what the veiled woman Calvin told us about was aiming for.”

Goddess, what he was saying made sense. A lot of it actually.

“But that would mean that she must know something about the curse, about what has been going pause as another racialization hits. “Oh goddess, that means she knew that we were mates way before we did and about my powers. Why else would she go through all the trouble to destroy our bond before it even awakened?”

I watch as the gravity of the situation hits everyone like a ton of bricks.

If this woman knew, it would explain why she came after me and Alec. Why she targeted us. The most important question is why? Is it because of the curse, something else or both?

“It also makes me wonder where Lola falls in all this?” I think out loud. “Was she in on it, or was she clueless and was used as part of the plan to destroy the mate bond between us?”

I see Alec freeze at the mention of his first love. I wonder if he still loves her? Anyway, it’s none of my business. After he rejects me, he can go looking for her, assuming she is innocent, isn’t dead, and hasn’t found her mate yet.

“We need to begin searching for that woman,” Micah voices what everyone has probably thought about. “She seems to be at the center of all this, and knows more about what’s going on.”

I couldn’t agree more on that. Something was going on, and she may be the only one with the d**n/answers.

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 75

Raven.

After Sadie left my room, I got up, showered and got dressed. I usually take a few minutes in the morning to just meditate. It helps me channel and anchor my powers. This is something that my mother taught me since I was a little girl.

Once I was done with that, I checked on Aspen. She was still asleep, with Martha curled up on the sofa opposite the bed.

Today I didn't plan on much except visit my mother's grave. It's been so long, and I miss her so much. Before Sadie and I fled, I used to go and visit her at least once a week. It helped me feel closer to her even though she was no longer around.

"Morning," a cook says when I walk into the kitchen "What can I get you for breakfast?"

I stare at her. A smile was plastered on her face as she looked at me expectantly. She seems so warm and inviting. It's been the same with the few pack members I've come across since we arrived yesterday.

I look at them, and it makes me wonder how such seemingly warm people can have such a dark side to them. The pain Sadie endured is embedded deep inside me. Her screams are still etched in my memories.

I dreamed about her. About what she went through. But it all felt real. Like I was the one going through the torture. It's like I had switched bodies with her.

"Miss?" her voice calls me.

I shudder as cold shivers rake through my body at those memories. Not wanting to think about them anymore, I push them to the recess of my mind. Shutting them in a place where they can't

haunt me.

"Just toast, eggs and coffee," I mumble, trying to hide my irritation and disgust.

She serves me my breakfast in minutes. I dig in, not really wanting to be here longer than I need to. I feel angry and bitter that they went on with their perfect little lives after they ruined Sadie's.

She tries to hide it most of the time. Tries to pretend that she's fine, but I see it. I know her... And I know that she's still struggling with what they did to her. She's struggling with putting the pieces of her shattered heart back together.

Once I am done. I leave without even a thank-you. Back at our pack, I would have thanked our cook and probably given her a hug, but I just can't master the energy to be kind to these people.

I leave the pack house and head straight for the woods. When she was alive, my mother and I didn't live all that far from Alec's pack.

We never ventured near the borders though. My mother always warned me to stay far away from this pack. Werewolves and witches have relatively good relationships, and even though I was drawn to this pack for some reason, I never once disobeyed my mother.

It's only after I met Sadie that I realized that she might be the reason why I was so drawn. It wasn't the pack I was drawn to like I'd thought. It was Sadie.

It takes me about forty minutes to get to her grave. When I do, I drop on my knees, my tears falling down my face as I lay eyes on her headstone for the first time in three years.

"Hi mom," I begin, my voice clogged with emotions. "I miss you so much."

I'll never forget the day she died.

Just like always, we spent the day with her teaching me how to use my powers. When my lessons were done, she sent me to go pick some herbs that would come in handy in making potions.

I did get the herbs, but I decided to take a swim. It wasn't unusual for me to do so. My mother knew that I liked to take a dip in the creek. She was okay with it, as long as I got back home with whatever it was she'd sent me to get.

I didn't know my father, and my mom refused to talk about him. For as long as I can remember, it was just her, me and our small cottage.

When I was done swimming, I headed back home. I think I'd been gone for like only an hour.

I remember nearing our cottage and just knowing that something wasn't right. Something didn't feel right. I rushed inside our home to find my mom on the floor with her chest ripped open. Her heart next to her body.

I fell down on my knees, my legs no longer able to keep me upright. I was shaken and broken as a scream tore from my lips. I remember crawling to her and pulling her body into my arms, as I wailed for her to come back. Willing everything to be just a nightmare.

The pain that consumed me was like nothing I've ever felt. I felt like my heart had been shredded into pieces. I felt lost and dead on the inside. Like I had nothing to live for. Everything became dull

and lost its color.

I cried for what felt like hours before burying her in a shallow grave I'd dug by myself. I ran after that. Trying to escape the pain I was feeling and the images of my mother's dead body.

I was confused and didn't understand why someone would kill her. Was it an accident? Was she just in the right place at the wrong time? Did someone intentionally kill?

My mother kept to herself. She didn't have enemies, not one I was aware of anyway, so I doubted someone would want her dead.

It was days later that I came across Beth. She welcomed me into her home and comforted me. She even took me back home where we held a proper burial for my mother and gave her a proper grave.

"How have you been?" I ask, pushing those memories back, so I could focus. "I'm sorry I haven't visited in a while, but I guess you already know why

I swipe away the dry leaves that had fallen on her grave, while I fill her in on everything that has been going on.

Being here with her after so long calms something inside me. It brings a certain peace that has been lacking since we fled this state.

"I'll bring Sadie and Aspen the next time I come," I promise, sitting cross-legged on the ground. "You will love them. You left me, but I believe you brought them to me. Beth, King, Sadie and Aspen. You didn't want me all alone, so you gave them to me. Thank you, mom."

"I wish you were here though," I continue. "Maybe you could help me figure out this curse that has been plaguing Alec's pack."

I sit quietly after saying those words. I just bask in the peacefulness for a few minutes when it hits me.

I shoot up, staring at my mom's headstone in wonder. "Oh, my goddess! Thank you, mom. I promise I'll be back."

I can't believe that I'd missed it and that it took coming to visit her to remember what she always told me.

Giving her headstone a kiss, I rush back to the pack. This time I get there in under thirty minutes because I was in quite a hurry.

When I break through the forest and get on pack land, I scan my eyes around looking for a central place. I hurry up when I spot an area near a pond. It's a few distances away from the pack house.

Sitting down in the middle of the field, I cross my legs and close my eyes, focusing on the surrounding energy.

My mother always told me that every spell cast leaves a sort of remnant behind. A residue, if you must. Something that you can trace. She told me that you can use those same residues to figure out the kind of spell used. The type of magic that was used.

Armed with that knowledge, I push my powers out. Feeling the energy around me. Separating them, trying to isolate the one that I am looking for. I dig deep, feeling the air, water and earth around me.

My eyes snap open when I get a lock on it, and feel it.

“Oh s**!” the curse flies from my mouth.

This isn't good. This isn't good at all.

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 76

Sadie.

“Even if we were to try and find this woman, I'm not sure where we would even start,” Martin says, voicing exactly what I was thinking.

This woman, whoever she is, went to great lengths to hide her identity. She didn't want to be found. She didn't want to be known... And with the kind of power Calvin said she possessed, it would be easy for her to hide herself.

“But we have to try, right? There is a reason she wanted to destroy Sadie and Alec's bond before it even started. We need to know what that reason is,” Micah pipes in, his finger tapping his chin thoughtfully.

“Which again, brings me back to what I asked. Where does Lola fit in all this?” I question again, refusing to let the matter.

There is just something that wasn't adding up. Something that we were all missing. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but it was there.

Once again, Alec tenses at the mention of Lola's name.

“Don't bring Lola into this,” Alec hisses through gritted teeth.

His jaw is locked, and his hands are fisted on his desk. It's like he was trying to stop himself from reacting.

For some reason, I wanted to push him. To push his buttons when it came to Lola. The woman he fell in love with. The woman he destroyed me for.

“And why is that, Alec?” I mock, my eyes staring directly into his. “Given everything that happened, she is a person of interest.”

His eyes flash, and I can't help but wonder. Could he still be in love with her? And if he is, why is he putting on airs about me being his mate? But then again, he does need me to save his pathetic pack. This is the one thing his dear first mate can't do for him.

I don't think I'll ever stop thinking of Lola as his first mate. With the way they were back then, it was obvious to see that he loved her. That he had a soft spot for. The moment Lola came into his life, Alec stopped his whorish ways. He became almost domesticated. Lola had him wrapped around her little finger. I've never seen Alec so pouty in a woman's hands before.

“She is not.” His reply pulls me back to the present.

‘She is,’ I snap backs

Was his love for her stopping him from seeing that Lola might just be involved in this?

“I doubt she is,” his words were firm, as if he actually did believe what he was saying.

I was starting to get pissed... and not because he might still love her, but because he's defending her while all the evidence points to the fact that she might be guilty.

“Sadie is right, Alec,” Micah always the voice of reason, cuts in.

I throw my hands up, grateful someone was on my side. “Thank you!”

“You never really like Lola, Micah,” Alec glares at him, but it doesn't shake Micah.

“Yes,” he begins. “But think about it. The prophecy said that some would want to destroy your bond. What if this veiled woman isn't the only player in this game? We all know once you marked Lola, your bond with Sadie would have been completely destroyed. Neither of you would have sensed each other as mates even when Sadie got her wolf.”

Micah had the attention of everyone, as we all keenly listened to him.

“There are two ways to look at this. Either Lola was in on this and knew the whole time what was going on, or she was clueless and someone used her. Either way, the true goal was to destroy your bond with Sadie. It could be that the veiled woman was working alone and there were two different players who wanted the same thing, or it could be that they were working together and that Calvin drugging you two was plan B.

A way to make sure that you two didn't get together. What better way to do that than to make you two hate each other?"

It's crazy

and a little bit scary knowing that someone played you in this way. That someone was mechanizing things behind your back to make sure an aspect of your life failed.

"But that would mean they know Alec and Sadie. They know them so well that they knew how they would react. They counted on them hating each other with both of them feeling betrayed by the other. You can't know someone's reaction to a certain situation unless you really know them." Another elder chimes in, his words rocking the boat even more.

"Fuck!" Alec curses and I mumble the same under my breath.

He's right. Whoever this person is must know us, or at least studied us for a very long time to know how we tick. They probably knew that Alec is unforgiving and never thinks things through. They counted on him not digging further into the drugging incident.

On the other hand, they knew I'm a forgiving person, but when pushed too hard and too far, I snap.

My breath catches as I'm struck by the enormity of the situation. "They knew us well, and we played right into their plans."

"And they would have succeeded had we not found out that Lola was an imposter," Micah says after a few minutes of silence.

It all makes sense, but there are still some loopholes. Some things weren't adding up. Like, if they had managed to implant Lola as his mate, why not let it play out? Like Micah said, had Alec marked her, then he would have destroyed our bond for good. Wasn't that their goal? To destroy our bond. Then why not let things play out instead of going through the whole drugging us bit?

Unless that wasn't their entire goal. Unless whoever sent Lola and whoever drugged us had different goals in mind.

The more I thought about it, the more confused I got. There was something that we were missing.

Shaking my head to try and clear the migraine I could feel coming, I push those thoughts back. I'll think about them when I don't feel like my head is about to crack open.

I take a seat and turn to the elders. I seriously needed a nap.

“There is one thing that has been bothering me though,” I begin. “My powers. I know there are blessed ones, but usually, these people have a long history of their families being blessed by the goddess. My parents were Omegas and I don’t remember them telling me anything about our lineage ever being blessed.”

My mother was attacked by rogue vampires when I was about twelve. It had been a blow to both me and my dad. They weren’t the kind of warm parents every child wishes for, but they were my parents and they provided. That was enough for me.

My dad had been devastated. Inconsolable. He withered away, refusing to eat, talk, go on runs. He simply laid on their bed every day and cried for his mate. He had given up on life when his mate died. Seven months after my mother died, I found him dead in the same bed, holding a picture of her.

There was also a note addressed to me. He told me that it was finally time. That he was going to be with his mate. He said he couldn’t live on earth without her, so he was going to a place he knew they could be together.

At first, I thought he’d committed suicide. A postmortem assured me that he didn’t. His mind, body and spirit had given up on living, so he faded away, just like that.

The pack had a programme for orphans. I joined it, I was taken care of till I completed school.

Someone clears their throat. I look up to find the elders staring at each other uncomfortably.

“What is it?” I narrow my eyes, feeling like they knew something but weren’t sure about how to tell me.

Martin steps up. “Billy and Christine weren’t your parents. You were adopted, Sadie.”

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 77

His words ring in my car. I get what he is saying. I understand the words, but I can’t seem to grasp their meaning.

Adopted. Adopted.

How am I adopted? Of everything that has happened, not once had it ever crossed my mind that I may not be the biological child of my parents.

“H–how?” I stammer the words as I try to make sense of what he just told me.

“Billy and Christine couldn’t have children,” Martin begins, his worried eye scanning my face.

How are you supposed to react when you find out that you were adopted? That the people you thought were your parents aren't. Should I consider this a lie? That my entire life has been a freaking lie? And why didn't anyone tell me? Hell, my dad should have included that big fact in the letter he left me.

"I don't understand," I whisper in confusion, as my gaze latches on to him.

"Like I said, Billy and Christine couldn't have kids. They had tried for years with no success. When the doctor told them they would never be able to have a biological child, it all but shattered them. It took a while for them to recover from the devastating blow, but when they did, they decided to adopt." He pauses to take a breath before continuing.

"You know the orphan programme we have here, and you also know that couples are allowed to adopt from the orphanage if they wish to. They signed up to adopt. They wanted a small baby, since babies are a clean slate. Before their request could be approved though, Christine went to the Alpha with a baby, saying she wished for her to be made part of the pack."

I sigh and run my hand through my hair, untangling it from the messy bun on top of my head. I don't need to be told who the baby was. I could already guess.

"We questioned her, afraid that she might have taken someone's baby. She said that she was picking flowers like she usually did when she heard a cry. When she investigated, she found you wrapped in blankets hidden behind a tree with a note asking her to take care and protect you with everything she has.

Even in my state of mind, I note that it was an unusual request.

"She showed us the piece of paper that had been tapped into your blanket. We convened because, after all, there were risks to just taking in an unknown baby. What if you were from an enemy pack, and they wanted to use you to stage an attack? We were to send you to one of the many orphanages when we got a call from an Oracle. She told us to accept you into the pack."

That is even weirder, but with how things have been weird these past few weeks, I'm not all that surprised. Things just kept on unfolding in ways that I wasn't really prepared for.

"Billy didn't have a problem. He would do anything his mate wanted. Christine wanted you and so they adopted you." He finishes with his eyes still focused on me.

I look from Micah, then back to Alec. They both looked as shocked as I was. I guess they also didn't know I was adopted. Meaning, I was never truly a member of this pack. It would explain why I never fit in.

“Why did no one tell me?” I question the elders, glaring at each one of them. “And how come no one bothered to find out who my real parents are or where I came from?”

A blonde elder answers, “After the oracle told us to let you stay, we weren’t really bothered. We know it was the goddess’s plan, and so we let it happen. As for why we didn’t tell you, we saw no need. You had settled well, you were healthy and well taken care of, we saw no need to interrupt your life.”

I lean back against my seat. A lot of things now make sense. It would explain why my parents weren’t all that warm towards me in the first place. There weren’t warm hugs growing up, whispered words of affection, family times, achievement celebrations, such things.

I never took it personally. I had Piper and that was okay with me. I just always thought that it was how they were. That it was in their nature. Now, I’m starting to wonder if it’s because I wasn’t their biological daughter.

“So, no one knows who my biological parents are?” I ask, feeling my heart sink at the thought that my parents had given me up.

“I’m

no,” Martin answers. “Even if we’d wanted to find out who your parents but sorry, are or where you came from, there wasn’t a way to. Whoever left you didn’t leave a single trace. It’s almost like you just appeared in that field.”

I didn’t want to think about that. There has to be something. Someone must have left me.

“Nyx,” I call to her, wanting her presence with me. “Is what they said true?”

I just need to confirm it. Some part of me was having a hard time accepting that my parents aren’t my real biological parents.

“Yes,” she answers in a soft voice.

She pushes her warmth, trying to comfort me, but doesn’t say anything else. She doesn’t expound on it. I have so many questions. I want to ask. Ask if she knows our real parents. I am too emotionally drained though. Today has just been too much.

Alec begins, pulling my attention to him, “Could it be that whoever left her knew about her powers? About what was to come?”

“Otherwise, why ask Christine to protect her?” Micah finishes for him.

It would make sense. It does make sense, but fuck, I'm too tired to even think straight. This day has been full of nothing but revelations. I just want a freaking break to take in everything I've learned.

I am about to let everyone know that I'm leaving when the door suddenly bursts open.

"What the fuck!" Alec growls angrily as Raven rushes.

I stop, deep down knowing that my ride is far from over.

She looks stressed, frantic and worried... what has me freezing though, is the fear etched on her face.

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 78

I've known Raven for three years. In those three years, I've witnessed a lot of emotions from her, but never fear.

Have you ever come across someone who is fearless? Someone who nothing ever shakes them? Nothing ever rattles them? Raven is that person to me. Seeing the fear on her face right now, surges a kind of panic inside me. Something terrible must have happened to cause her to be like this when she's normally chill.

"Raven?" I whisper, trying to hide the tremble in my voice.

Raven raises her finger, stopping me from continuing. She bends over, one hand on her knee while the other hand is pressed on her fast-rising chest. She takes huge gulps of air, trying to calm herself down.

Either what she has to say has rattled her, or she has run all the way here, or both. I can't really figure out which is which.

I continue watching my friend as she slowly calms down. Her breathing goes back to normal, and then she's standing up straight. There is still something in her eyes. The fear is still there, but she's trying to get it under control.

"Don't you know how to knock?" Alec's irritated voice says behind me. "Given you are a g*, I **expected you would know how to respect other alphas by not barging into their offices."

My concern for Raven disappears for a moment as anger starts to fill. I didn't like the way he is talking to Raven, given she is here to help his pack too.

I was just about to put him in his place, but Raven cutting words stop me.

She glared at him with nothing but hate, "If an Alpha has earned my respect, then sure... But you, Alec, have done nothing to make me respect you. In fact, all your actions have done the opposite. I don't even consider you worthy enough to be an Alpha."

There were gasps all around the room at her statement. I'd forgotten that the elders were present when Raven barged in.

"Why you..." Alec says just as he was about to lunge at Raven. Before he can, though, he falls on his knees, clutching his head as a roar of pain tears from his lips.

Raven was chanting, her lips moving quickly as she recited a spell. I've seen her using this kind of spell. It's painful and usually if she continues long enough, it makes someone's brain explode from the inside.

"I don't take kindly to being threatened, Alec," she hisses, her eyes glowing from the use of her magic. "You'll do well to remember that."

She lets

go and Alec is freed from the power of her spell. Just like Raven was a few minutes ago, he is breathing hard, his chest rising and falling with an effort to pull air into his lungs. His eyes are closed shut, and his brows furrowed in pain..

Micah moves and helps him up, before placing him back on his chair.

I just shake my head. Alec's arrogance knows no bounds. In all his years alive, hasn't he learned never to pi** off a witch?

gnoring him, I turn back to my friend. "Rave? Is there something you wanted to tell us?"

I know Raven. I know she would never barge in the way she did without a reason. She wouldn't have done it unless it was

urgent

Giving Alec one last angry stare, she focuses on me. "I went to visit my mother's grave today."

My brows scrunch up in confusion. I wasn't really sure what visiting her mother's grave had to do with her being here. "That's good, I'm glad."

Rave then starts pacing around the room. She seems agitated, another emotion I wasn't used to seeing from her. She is the most level-headed and calmest person I know. This is new.

“I was just talking to her when I remembered something that she used to tell me. Something she imprinted in me since I was young.” She stops to take a deep breath. “She would always tell me that magic, when used, leaves traces behind. Traces that can be tracked.”

Slowly, as if my brain is just now starting to wake up, what she says starts to sink in. I start to understand where she’s going with all this.

“You can trace the kind of magic that was used to cast the curse, I conclude as excitement slowly starts to rise inside me.

Is it weird that I feel like celebrating? Is it weird that I feel like jumping up and down because of how happy I am?

If she can trace the kind of magic used, then we can be sure of the kind of spell, and if we are sure, then we can undo it. We can unravel it.

Last night, I accepted that I would have to stay here longer than I had intended. I didn’t like it, but I’d surrendered to my fate. Now though, Raven had given me a glimpse of hope.

Sure, it might take a little while to undo the spell that wove the curse into life. It wouldn’t be easy considering the curse has been there for decades, but at least we had a starting point. At least we now have a solution.

“But how? None of the other witches and warlocks ever told us that magic could be traced and then undone,” one of the elders speaks, pulling me from my thoughts.

“If it was that easy, then we wouldn’t still have a curse on us,” another one adds.

Raven stops pacing and faces them, her hands on her waist. “The reason why they probably never figured it out is because they were probably busy trying to break the curse instead of undoing it. Spells can be undone if you know the source of the magic and what kind it is. It’s usually easier and less messy to undo a curse than to break it. Especially if it’s years old.”

Even as Raven continues to explain to the elders, I continue watching her. Something is wrong. Like I said, Raven isn’t one to be fearful or agitated. Given she found something useful, she should be on cloud nine right now, yet she wasn’t. She did find something, but her movement and reaction told me it wasn’t good.

“We can undo the curse, right?” I ask, my eyes laser sharp on her

She averts her gaze and begins pacing once again. From the glance I stole, she looks disturbed.

“Raven?” this time I say through gritted teeth, as my panic and pressure begins to rise. “Tell me you found something. Tell me we can undo the curse.”

I was basically begging at this time because I wanted some good f**ing news. Since I got here, I’ve gotten nothing but revelations and none of them have been good.

Raven winces then stops. Her hands are trembling, and I can hear her racing heartbeat.

“I did find something, but you are not gonna like it,” she starts before stopping, nibbling on her lip in the process.

What is it?” I push nervously. I already don’t like the direction this is heading in.

“The spell used isn’t the kind used when you curse someone,” she takes a breath. “It’s a confinement spell.”

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 79

Alec.

I was still reeling from whatever the f**k Raven had done to me when her words penetrated my throbbing brain.

F**k, I shouldn’t have antagonized her, but in my defense, I wasn’t in the right headspace. Things haven’t gone the way I’d pictured them today. I was stressed and on edge. That wasn’t a good combination.

“A confinement spell. What does that mean?” Sadie asks. She couldn’t hide the tremble in her voice.

“Exactly that,” Raven explains, a certain edge coating her voice. She pulls her gaze from Sadie and fixes it on us. “You thought that it was a curse that was eating this pack, but it’s something else.”

Rubbing my temples, I try to ease the migraine that had worsened because of whatever voodoo s**it Raven did to me.

For the hundredth time, I curse this day. It keeps getting worse instead of better. It’s getting on my f**g nerves.

As if it wasn’t enough with the confrontation I had earlier with Sadie. Then finding out that she’s adopted and now this?

I grew up being told that our pack was cursed. A curse that’s so severe it’s draining the life force of our pack members. Since I was old enough to understand the true meaning

of what that means, I've worked my a**off trying to find a solution. Trying to break the d**n curse so that we can be free.

No one said otherwise. My grandfather, my dad, the elders, everyone said it was a curse, now Raven is saying it's something else. What the f**k am I supposed to do with that?

"So, you are saying it isn't a curse?" Elder Martin asks. He looks skeptical of what she is saying.

I had been wrong this get him. I f**g do. Like I said, it was imprinted in us that it was a curse. To find out that everyone whole time, is a major blow. It's akin to saying that we could have found a solution long ago had someone pointed us in the right direction. Meaning our pack would have been saved from the damage that had been inflicted.

Raven folds her hand across her chest and starts tapping with her foot. "I'm not sure, what I know is that I did trace the spell, trying to find the remnants of the kind of magic used. The remnants I found don't have the same markings as the ones that are usually found in curses."

"You said that it's a confinement spell," Sadie asks in a taut voice. "What does that mean exactly?"

"Confinement spells are exactly what their names suggest. They are used to keep, bind or tether someone to a specific place," She explains..

I lean forward at my desk, and place my elbows on top of it. "You are saying someone bound something in this pack?" Raven's eyes turn and glare at me, but she answers. "Not something, someone. Confinement spells don't work on objects."

"Meaning the spell that was used, was used to imprison someone here?" Sadie starts pacing much like Raven did a few minutes ago.

"Yes," Raven answers with a sigh. "It would also explain why your pack is getting weak. Confinement spells need loads of power. The spell is probably draining power from the land and its people to sustain itself given it's tethered here. You are all getting weak because the spell needs power to keep whoever it is imprisoned."

F**k! I don't know which is worse. Believing that it's a curse plaguing us or this. Either way, we are f**d because the bottom line is, this spell is slowly killingus.

"But the text said it's a curse," Elder Gabriel argues, his voice almost whinny. "It never mentioned anything about this."

Raven sighs, her eyes strifting to him. "Maybe it didn't mean an actual curse, but whichever way you look at it, it is kind of like a curse because it's killing this pack."

“So how do we undo this?” I ask. My stress levels just went up a thousand folds.

It was bad enough, thinking it was a curse. Knowing it’s a confinement spell and that it is draining us just made everything a thousand times worse. We need to find a way to undo it.

“I’m not sure we can,” Raven whispers, her voice barely above a whisper.

“Why not?” I growl, my anger rising. I could barely think straight “I want it f**g undone!”

Micah walks towards me and places a hand on my shoulder, feeling my frustration and anger. “I get what she means. Think about it, Alec. It’s a confinement spell. You only imprison someone who has committed a serious crime.”

“Exactly,” Raven takes over from Micah. “Meaning someone went to great lengths to keep someone imprisoned. The fact that they’ve been imprisoned for decades and the kind of power used means they don’t want that person getting out. Do you seriously want to mess around with that? Do you seriously want to undo this not knowing the kind of person you’ll be unleashing?”

She takes a deep breath, before her glaring eyes refocus on me. “If it were any other crime, they would have been imprisoned in a normal dungeon or hell, in the council’s stronghold. Instead, they were imprisoned somewhere where no one knew their location and then their prison was sealed off with magic. That should tell everything you need to know.”

“Raven is right,” Sadie sighs tiredly. “Whoever imprisoned this person went to great lengths to make sure they never escaped. If Raven hadn’t figured it out, then we would have continued to run in circles, meaning the spell would remain intact, ensuring no escape.”

I push myself up and walk to my window. “Meanwhile my pack continues to suffer.”

I didn’t like this. I didn’t f**g like this at all. I thought that we were finally making headway. That we were finally getting somewhere. Now, it seems like we are back to square one with no solution in sight.

How long were my people supposed to suffer because of this b**it?

“Sadie is here, and her presence is making things so much better” Micah tries to reason, tries to make things better. “The text did say that Sadie is the key. We just have to figure out what that means.”

Raven then adds, “Sadie’s presence will have to be enough for now. Like Micah said, She’s the key, which means there is a way to undo this spell without releasing whoever this person is. We just have to figure out which way that is.”

I release a breath, sighing tiredly as I try to figure things out in my head. Everything is such a mess. It's starting to drive me insane.

"Does any of you have the slightest idea of who this prisoner is?" Sadie asks the elders.

They all shake their heads. Of course, they wouldn't know who the person is. They, just like the rest of us, believed it was a curse. One put on us because we offended a witch. How were they to know that it wasn't an actual curse?

"I don't know where to begin," Martin states, "But we can start researching in the pack's library. We can check the records of crimes committed and who committed them. Maybe we can find something there. Maybe a pack member who committed a crime so bad that it would warrant that kind of imprisonment."

But if that's the case, wouldn't we know about it? Especially if it's a terrible crime. Unless someone didn't want the pack knowing about it. Unless something like that did happen, and it was hushed.

Sadie nods. "If that's all, then we'll leave."

She doesn't wait for anyone to speak. She just takes Raven's hand and pulls her away. They leave, shutting the door behind them. The elders don't wait long too; after bowing, they follow suit and leave.

I walk back and collapse on my seat. I run my hands down my face before heaving a tired sigh. My head was pounding right now as everything just crashed into me.

Peeling Micah's burning gaze on me, I lift my head. "What?"

"What was that earlier?" his eyes narrow.

"What was what?"

"Lola!" he snaps, making me growl in warning. The sound reverberating in the room. "Why the hell did you defend her when it was clear she was a person of interest?"

"I don't have time for this **t."

"No! Don't tell me you are still in love with her" his voice hardens at the last sentence.

"Lola is none of your business," I snarl, already feeling a c**k in my tightly held self-control.

It's only because we've been friends since we were pups that I didn't have him in a pulp for the disrespect.

“Fine, have it your way, but just know that you are already on thin ice with Sadie. Protecting the so-called love of your life isn’t going to win you any favors with Sadie. If you want a life with your mate, who is Sadie by the way, then you need to get your s**t figured out or else you are going to lose her for good... But if you still want that b**h Lola, then go ahead and t**ple over the mate bond the goddess has given you, but don’t start b**g when she turns out to be a f**g snake.”

With those parting words, he leaves, and I am left staring at his retreating back.

Before I found out Sadie was alive, I was *n sure that I was still in love with Lola. Now with the mate bond between Sadie and I wreaking havoc inside me, I wasn’t so sure.

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 80

Sadie.

I pull Raven into my room before shutting the door moment we are alone, Raven sits down on my bed while I start pacing the room anxiously.

So far, I am not liking the way things were going. In fact, I hate how everything has turned out. Would it make me a coward if I just fled back to my pack? Things were easier there.

We haven’t even been here for more than a day and things are getting complicated. Things have gotten more complicated the longer we stay here. My head is a mess. I am stressed, worried, and anxious. Which, by the way, is a fucking terrible combination.

I stop in my tracks and turn to Raven before taking a step. I sit down beside her, sinking into the soft mattress. My shoulders slump as if I am carrying the weight of the whole world on my shoulders.

I was worn out from lack of sleep, completely wound up, and, on top of that, I am also scared. This is more than I’d bargained for. This whole thing with Alec’s pack. What if I fail? What if I am unable to undo this spell? I barely know what the hell I am doing. How am I supposed to help them when I am walking in the dark?

I’m scared because the fate of a whole pack is on me. The children’s futures depend on whether I can undo this thing or not. That’s a lot of pressure, even for me.

Thinking of it now, I reluctantly respect Alec. He’s been carrying this burden since he was old enough to understand the implications of that d**d curse. He has carried it for years. I don’t know how I would have coped if I had been in his shoes. It’s already draining me, and I’ve only known about it for a couple of days.

“Sadie?”

I turn and face her at the sound of her voice. Just like me, she is worried. Worried about this new development.

I couldn't stop thinking about what she said. What can someone do that is so bad that it would force someone to confine them with a spell? Because that is the only explanation there is. You can't really lock up someone who is good, right?

"Yeah?" I mumble, shaking my head to try and clear it.

My head is overloaded with information. Overloaded with thoughts. It is driving me crazy that I can't catch a freaking break.

"We can't break the spell. We can't undo it," Raven whispers. "I know you wanted to finish this quickly so we could go back home, but we can't risk it."

Sighing

w myself to fall backwards and sink into my mattress.

"I know, Rave, and I understand." I answer, staring up at the ceiling.

"Do you? Because it means we have to stay here longer. Trying to find a loophole could take us weeks, even months. Are you ready for that?"

I close my eyes for a brief second. This pack holds bad memories, but I can deal with them. Hell, I can even deal with the pack members. It's easy to ignore them and just go about my business.

What I find challenging, though, is dealing with the ever-growing mate bond. The bond is designed to grow stronger the longer you stay around your mate. It doesn't matter whether you are an item or not. It doesn't matter if you love each other or not. Proximity will bring it to life and strengthen it. It is designed to bring two people together and bind them as one. It will grow stronger and stronger until it gets to a point where fighting it will be futile.

This is why I wanted Alec to accept the rejection. This is why I was fighting so hard to get this problem taken care of. Before, I loved Alec of my own free will, and that was okay. Now things are different, because I don't feel the same way. If we don't get this situation under control, the bond will force us together. That isn't fair to either of us.

"Sadie?"

"Yes, I understand what that means, but we don't have a choice. I can't let children suffer because of what their Alpha and some of the adults did to me. They deserve a worry-free life."

I push myself up into a sitting position. It was risky staying here, but what choice did I have? If I were completely heartless, I would have left without looking back or thinking twice, but I am not. My heart won't let me abandon these kids.

"Good," she says, her shoulders sagging in defeat. "Because I don't think we are dealing with just any normal supernatural being."

I honestly didn't think there was anything more to it, but I should have. Raven wouldn't have revealed everything to them without first asking me. She simply told them the part they needed to know.

"What do you mean?" I ask, perking up at her words.

Just from the way h

knew I was going to

ows were furrowed and the way she kept nibbling her lips, I**e this even more than I already did.

She turns fully and faces me. "I know I said I traced the remnants of the spell used, and I did. It is a confinement spell, like I said."

I nod my head, urging her to go on.

"What I didn't tell the rest is that I also caught remnants of something else. Something evil."

A shiver runs down my spine as what she says reaches my ears. I can't help trembling at her words. It's in the way she voiced those words. It's in the scared tone she used.

"So the power used to cast the confinement spell is dark magic? Is that what you are saying?"

She shakes her head and says, "No. Some magic seeped from the confinement spell, and that's what I sensed. The magic used on the spell itself isn't malicious or dark, but the one inside the confinement spell is. What I am saying is that whoever is confined in that spell is powerful, and his powers are dark and sinister. Pure evil. If magic had a feel to it, then this one felt cold. Like death's touch."

'Calvin said the same thing about the veiled woman's powers,' I think to myself.

Is it just a coincidence, or is there a connection?

"This is why I am against undoing the spell without first getting answers," she says, pulling me from my troubled thoughts. Her eyes were haunted, and she had her arms

wrapped around herself as if she were protecting herself from what she felt during that time. "Because if we undo the spell, we might just be unleashing a great evil into the world, one who, by the looks of it, is really powerful."

It all made sense. From the small glimpse Raven got. If this person is as bad as Raven describes them, it would explain why someone went to great lengths to subdue and confine them. I can't help but wonder who it is.