

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 81

It has been a really stressful day, to say the least, and I can't wait to go to sleep and just forget about everything, even if it's for a while.

After our talk, Raven left to research more about the confinement spell. She hoped that she could ask around among the witches she knew. Hoped she could find something that could help us sever the tether between the spell and the pack without having to completely undo the spell.

On the other hand, I had gone outside to continue practicing my teleportation. Given this new development, I know that I need to become stronger. Nyx always told me to be prepared for the worst-case scenario. In our case, that is whoever has been imprisoned getting out.

I lean against the wall and allow the hot water to wash over me. My entire body was tense. I need to let loose and just relax. I need to stop thinking because, at this rate, I'll end up constantly having a migraine.

I wish I could take a long bath. Soak my body in the bathtub, but I couldn't. I am so tired that I'd probably end up falling asleep and then drowning in the bathtub. How tragic would that be?

I turn off the shower and get out of the cubicle. Wrapping the towel around my body, I step into the bedroom. It's only as I am looking for something to wear that I realize I forgot my tradition tonight. I forgot to look at my scars in the mirror.

Shrugging it off, I put on my clothes before getting under the covers. Aspen wasn't asleep yet, so I pull her into my arms. Her warmth and her scent calm me in a way nobody else can.

"Which story do you want me to read for you today?" I ask as she snuggles deeper into my heat.

I wasn't able to spend time with her today, but I wouldn't miss story time for anything in the world.

When she doesn't answer, I look down at her. Her lips were turned down, and her brows were pinched in a frown.

"Aspen, baby, what's wrong?" I ask worriedly, not liking that she wasn't happy right now.

Aspen is usually chill. She's the kind of child who doesn't really take anything to heart. She doesn't stay mad or upset for long. Honestly, she just doesn't let it bother her. She's happy in her little world, and she rarely allows anything to upset that little bubble.

“Did something happen to you? Was someone mean to you?” I continue pushing when she doesn’t say a word.

“No, mommy,” she whispers before her curious eyes lock on to mine. “It’s the sad man.”

“What sad man?” I pretend I don’t know what she’s talking about.

The last thing I want and need is my three-year-old daughter asking about her father. A man she has no idea is her father.

“The one in the field,” she whispers. “He-he-he”

She fumbles with the words, then stops. The frown between her brows deepens. It’s like she’s having a hard time formulating her thoughts into words.

“Baby?”

“He was sad. I didn’t like it,” she says in a soft voice, almost as if her heart was breaking at the thought of Alec being sad.

My heart rate starts speeding up as the realization of what is happening starts to sink in. Fuck. I was too tired to deal with this, but I had no other option.

“You didn’t like that he was sad?” I ask, squeezing her body into mine as if that will ward off what’s happening.

“Hmm,” comes her slow answer. “I wanted to hug him. Make it better, like you me. Hugs make everything better.”

do for

I stupidly nod my head, not really knowing what to say to her. I could warn her to stay away from Alec, but isn’t that just cruel? But then again, I can’t really let her get close to him.

“It feels weird in my heart, mommy,” she says, rubbing her chest, probably trying to ease the ache there.

Instead of answering, I sit up and lean against the headboard before pulling her on top of me. I kiss her forehead and just hold her in my arms.

I know what’s happening. I know why she feels ‘weird’ as she puts it. It’s the bond between her and Alec setting into place. It’s the familial bond taking root.

You are probably wondering why now. Well, Alec wasn’t there when she was born. So,

even though the bond settled in him, it didn't completely settle in Aspen. Let's just say that it was loose. That's the best term I can give it.

They have been around each other but never really interacted until today. Just like with mate bonds, familial bonds need eye contact and touch for them to fully settle. It's even stronger if the pup's father is an alpha.

Today, both of those things happened. Aspen unknowingly initiated contact by cupping Alec's jaw. That and the eye contact between them basically sealed the deal. It sealed the father-daughter bond.

Even though a familial bond isn't as strong as a mate bond, they are similar in some ways. Parents can feel the emotions of their children, and vice versa. Aspen is being affected by Alec's sadness. Just like the my emotions would affect her.

War

She doesn't understand what's happening. She doesn't understand why Alec's sadness is affecting her. She doesn't understand why her heart feels weird. She doesn't understand that a new bond clicked into place today.

We've never had a discussion about her father. In my defense, I never thought I'd come across Alec again. Plus, she's only three. She never asked. I knew that would change when she got older, but I'd vowed not to think about it and to cross that bridge when we got there.

We remain silent, and minutes later, Aspen's body grows heavy. I sneak a peek at her to find her soundly asleep. Gently, I pick her up and place her on her side of the bed before covering her with the blankets.

Since we will be staying here for a while, maybe I should ask Alec to assign her her own bedroom. She'll be more comfortable sleeping in her own bed.

Switching off the lights, I close my eyes. It takes a while, but eventually I do fall asleep. Only, it wasn't peaceful at all.

It was a cold and chilly night. There was no star in sight, and the moon had turned red. Red because the moon goddess, for the first time, bled. Everywhere I looked, I saw nothing but chaos and destruction. The scent of death coated the air, it's pungent smell burned my nostrils.

Tears coated my cheeks as I cried for all that we had lost. The pain ate at me. The lives that had been lost tore my heart into a thousand pieces. Why did she do this? Why did she choose this path?

We tried everything, but even with our allies, they were still too strong. Or maybe I am just weak. She has always said that I am weak. That my goodness, made me vulnerable. Made me soft and spineless. Maybe that's why we lost so badly. If only I'd been better. If only I'd been stronger, but I believed that violence didn't solve anything. I believed love was the answer. Now, looking at the blood-drenched ground, I'm starting to wonder if maybe, just maybe, she was right.

"Please stop this." I beg her. I was kneeling on the cold, hard ground, my eyes firmly fixed on my blood-soaked hands. "You've won. It's enough."

Her hands grab my chin in a painful grip. I couldn't see her face, but deep down, I knew her. I knew who she was.

"Stop?" she sneers. "This is just the beginning. I want everything. I want to rule both the heavens and the earth."

She was the opposite of me. While my clothes and wings were white, hers were black. The complete opposite, yet formed from the same cloth. Looking at her, I wonder how she has fallen so far.

"Come on, love." His cold voice sends a shiver down my spine. "We have things to do. Get rid of her."

There was nothing in his eyes. Absolutely nothing. This is the same man that was created for me, yet his eyes held nothing but contempt and cruelty. What happened? Where did the fates go wrong?

"Goodbye," she whispers, but I see no remorse in her eyes. The love that was once there no longer exists. "You should have joined us when you had a chance."

With those last words, she plunges her sword deep into my chest.

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 82

A freezing, wet, and hard surface is underneath me. This isn't like the soft mattress I slept on a couple of hours ago. I want to continue sleeping for a little while, but it's unbearable. I try to shift, hoping I will get comfortable, but it doesn't work. Small, hard things press into my skin, increasing my discomfort.

Giving up, I reluctantly open my eyes. Is a little bit more of sleep too much to ask for?

The moment my eyes are open, I jolt upward. This isn't my f**g bedroom? Where the hell am I?

I scan the area in confusion. The sight of trees shrouded in fog greets me. It's early in the morning. Maybe around six in the morning, but I couldn't be sure.

I know that I am still in pack lands because I can sense the patrolling team. I just don't know which part of the forest I am in.

The chilly morning wind blows, making me shiver at its coldness. It's only then that I realize I am butt naked.

On unsteady legs, I get up, my mind swirling in confusion. I clearly remember going to sleep right next to Aspen after our talk, so what the hell am I doing here?

I rack my brain trying to find the hidden answers, but I come up empty. I have no memory of what happened or how I got here in the first place.

My heart starts racing at the possibilities. Did I sleepwalk here? But I don't have a history of sleepwalking, and I doubt it starts suddenly out of nowhere. That also doesn't explain why I am naked in the first place.

I am a bit disoriented as I try to get my bearing, I mean, it's not every day you go to sleep and wake up naked in the forest.

I stumble as I begin to walk while trying to get my s**d brain to function. Sniffing the air, I smell the scent of the pack and use it as my beacon. I could use my teleportation power, but I am afraid that, with how disoriented I am, I'll end up somewhere else. It is better to avoid it.

"Nyx?" I call her, but she doesn't respond.

She's been MIA since yesterday. I tried getting in touch with her after Raven's revelation, but she wouldn't answer me. Even when I did more training in the afternoon, she was still not present.

I was beginning to get worried. She does do a disappearing act once in a while, but usually she tells me when she wants time away from me.

"Nyx," I call again desperately. "Come one, I really need you."

Once again, I get no answer, which just frustrates me more. I'm confused and scared, and for some weird reason, I feel like crying.

I feel like a failure. Like I failed someone or some people. My heart feels heavy with

i feelings I can't describe. I was okay yesterday. Sure, I was stressed and worn out, but that was the extent of it. I didn't feel like my heart was weighed down like it was right now.

The feeling of helplessness and hopelessness engulfs me. Washing over me. Drowning me in its tight and unwanted embrace.

What the hell is happening to me? Why the f**k do I feel this way?

I continue stumbling through the forest, my mind completely focused on getting to the pack house.

I keep going, using the trees to hold myself up. My head was killing me, but that was the least of my problems. Finally, I break through the forest, stumbling into the field just behind the pack house.

I heave a sigh of relief, knowing I wasn't that far. Now that I am in trouble, I see the urgency Nyx had. The urgency for me to learn how to use my powers. It would have been so easy to fly back here. Hell, it would have been easy to teleport had I completely mastered it.

I increase my pace. The urge to get to my room, a familiar space, is riding me hard. I'm careful not to stumble and fall because that would only push me behind. Maybe Raven can help me figure out what the hell is wrong and what happened between the time I went to sleep and woke up.

I bump into a brick wall. I almost fall, but a set of iron grips catches me before I do. "Woah! Careful," his voice startles me.

I push my hair out of the way and look up, only to find Alec's green eyes staring at me in confusion.

I jump away from him when I feel the bond start to pull me in and draw me to him.

Big mistake. I forgot I was naked.

His eyes move from my eyes to my body. They start from my shoulders, then move down. They linger a bit on my chest before moving further down.

I am frozen as his eyes hungrily take in my naked body. I see it in his eyes. I see the heat that is hidden there. The struggle in them as he fights for control. This is what the bond does. It makes you lose your senses.

Alec is fighting it's push. It's craving. He is fighting to stay in control. He's fighting to stop himself from pulling me into his arms and f**u*ng me like the bond demands it does. The bond is designed to make him dominant while making me submissive to him as my mate. The first time between mates is usually the male dominating the female into submission by f***g her till both of them are unable to walk properly.

His fists clench and unclench. His jaw tightens as his eyes keep shifting colors. He's struggling, and his heated gaze is starting to affect me.

I start walking back. Trying to put as much space between us as possible. This can't happen between us. One, because we don't really want each other, and two, because it would be a big mistake.

"Sadie?" his voice calls me, stopping me in my tracks.

He starts moving, closing the distance between us. I am just about to turn and flee when head. a sharp pain fills my

The dream I had at night fills my head. It felt so real. So f**g real.

I drop to my knees as a scream is torn out from me. Tears fall down my face as the weight of loss settles inside me like lead. The anguish of failing and failing everyone that depended on me shatters me.

The pain intensifies right before everything goes black.

It was just a dream, a nightmare, so why did it feel so real?

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 83

Alec

Sadie's scream has me freezing in my tracks, not sure what the **k was going on. One minute she bumped into me, looking confused as hell, and the next she was clutching her head and screaming.

She stops screaming her lungs out, and before she can hit the ground, I catch her.

"Sadie?" I shake her, but I get no answer from her.

Her eyes were closed. Her long lashes fanned her rosy cheeks. This close to her, I can see tiny freckles spread across her nose. How come I never noticed them before?

"Sadie?" I call again. "Come one, wake up?"

She doesn't.

Gently picking her up, I rush her to the pack hospital. Something is wrong. The way she clutched her head in pain a few minutes ago was a dead giveaway that something isn't right.

I kept my eyes forward. Doing all I can to make sure I don't stare at her very naked and soft body. Sadie had curves. Something I didn't realize I liked until I saw her standing in front of me.

Usually, I'd go for the slim, with long legs and tiny boobs. Sadie is around five feet, five inches tall, meaning I tower over her. Her breasts aren't tiny and aren't big. They were perfectly in-between. Probably a C-cup, if I were to guess. She had a small

waist that gave way to perfect curvy round hips... And then the juncture between her hips.

I stop myself and push those thoughts away. Gritting my teeth against the sparks from the bond, I forge forward, busting into the hospital.

"Alpha," a nurse rushes to me before bowing down in respect.

"I don't know what's wrong with her," I grit out. "She just fainted

She looks at Sadie curiously before her eyes focus above mine. "Don't worry, I'll get the doctor to look at her."

The moment she goes to take Sadie from me, a growl leaves my lips, surprising both of us. I'm caught off-guard by how fierce and protective I suddenly am.

"I'll get her to the doctor myself," I hiss. "Show me the way."

She quickly nods before scrambling to lead the way. Her steps are quick and fast, as if she's trying to get away from my imposing aura.

"You have to admit that having her in our arms feels amazing," Knox whispered softly.

It does. It f**g does, but how can I admit it? Just a few weeks ago, I was still in the 'Hate Sadie' band. A few weeks ago, I would have killed her without a second thought. A few weeks ago, I was convinced that I was still in love with Lola.

Now she's my mate. The bond is pushing and pulling us together. Making me crave her in ways I never thought possible.

"Things with her feel different," Knox continues, oblivious to the tension inside me. "The mate bond between us is stronger than it was with Lola."

"Maybe because Lola wasn't our real mate," I supply sarcastically

We get to the room and I cut off the mind link before placing Sadie on the bed.

"Doctor Willson will be here in a minute," she says, while covering Sadie with a sheet.

I didn't like that she's in this state. I didn't like that my mate was suffering, and I couldn't do anything about it... which, by the way, is hypocritical of me given the suffering she went through at my hands.

I watch her. My eyes refused to leave her face, even for a second. These past few weeks have been so confusing. I don't know what to do with Sadie. I don't know what the f**k to do with what's happening to us.

It's driving me crazy that the bond is so much in control. Knox is right; it wasn't this strong or hard with Lola. I guess that's why I fell for her. The bond wasn't pushing me to be with her. It wasn't riding us to the point of insanity. I fell for her without the influence of the bond. With Sadie, things are different.

The bond is pushing things between us. How the hell are we supposed to know whether what we feel is actually real or influenced by the bond? I know that as mates we are supposed to give in to the bond, and I probably would have if things weren't a mess between us.

My mind is torn between thinking about the pack and about Sadie and Aspen. No one else even registers. Not even Piper.

That's why I was out this early in the morning. I couldn't f**g sleep. I needed to clear my head, so I went on a run.

For as long as I can remember, everything has always been about the pack. About the curse. Piper had it easy with our parents because she had no responsibility towards the pack. For me, things were different.

From the time I was ten, I remember my dad telling me that breaking the curse was my responsibility. That it was up to me to save the pack. Even though he knew the prophecy, he still pushed me to find another way to break the curse. He would always tell me that I didn't have to wait for my mate to come and save the pack.

My days were spent in the library trying to find solutions, while others my age played and were allowed to just be kids. I had this huge weight already placed on my shoulders. My conversations with my dad were always about that f***g curse. That is all he was ever interested in.

"What do we have here?" Doctor Willson's voice pulls me away from the troubling memories.

It's been so long since I've thought about them.

"Could you please check her. She just fainted. I don't know what happened," I tell him as he comes to stand near Sadie's bed.

He nods his head and begins checking her. It takes a couple of minutes but when he is done, he turns to face me.

"So far, there is nothing wrong, I can tell." He informs me.

“She screamed before fainting,” I point out, because his diagnosis didn’t satisfy me.

“That can be due to many causes. We will have to wait for her to wake up before we can get more information.”

“She also seemed disoriented,” I add.

I wanted to argue. I mean, I know we werewolves do go for runs. It’s normal. What is not normal is showing up dirty and confused. Sadie looked like she didn’t know what the hell had happened.

“Is she a sleepwalker?” he asks, his eyes shifting from me to Sadie’s still form.

“Not that I know of.”

“Like I said, Alpha, we will have to wait for her to wake up. I need more information from her before I can do anything. From what I can tell right now, she just seems exhausted, and more rest will be good for her.”

I sigh before nodding my head. This is Doctor Willson. Our pack’s best doctor. If he says there is nothing he can do for now, then that’s true.

“Clean her up and get clean clothes for her,” I instruct the nurse, and she rushes to do my command.

I could have left; she was now safe, but for some reason I decided to take a s**t on the chair next to her bed. All the while fighting the need to hold her hand.

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 84

She’s beautiful, isn’t she?” Knox pops in my head, annoying me the f**k o

“Will you just shut the f**k up?” I growl, but it does nothing to avert his attention from Sadie.

I’ve been here for the last forty or so minutes. My eyes barely moved from her face. It’s like, no matter what I do, I just can’t pull my focus from her.

The need to smooth down her hair and touch her is so strong that I have to clench my fist just so I don’t give in to the strong need. One that goes beyond my understanding.

Sure, we were taught about mate bonds, but no one ever mentioned just how strong it would be. Just how powerful it would be.

“Mate bonds between alphas and their Lunas are usually stronger than those of average wolves,” Knox informs me.

“And you didn’t think to tell me this before?”

“It never came up,” he answers lazily. “Though I should have figured it out with Lola when the bond didn’t feel that strong. I was so smitten by her wolf that I failed to notice that major detail.”

I breathe out, trying to hide my frustration and bitterness. Had I known this before, maybe I would have questioned things with Løla. Had he been keener, maybe we would have avoided the mess we are in right now.

can’t really blame him, though. Just like him, I was so smitten with Lola that I could barely see straight. I barely thought straight.

“Has her wolf reached out to you?” I ask, needing something to do other than stare at Sadie like a d*n creep.

“No, I did try to, but she told me to f**k off,” he murmurs, clearly not happy with the fact that his mate told him off.

“It’s not anything the human counterpart hasn’t told us thousands of times.”

“True, but I thought her wolf would be more agreeable, since they usually are.”

Female wolves are built to submit to the mate bond and their mates. They rarely go against what the mate bond or their mates desire. The fact that Sadie’s wolf was able to deny Knox shows just how strong she is.

“At least tell me you got her name?”

“Nope,” he says, popping the P. “She told me to pi** off when I asked.”

Why am I not surprised? I should have guessed it; given how strong of a personality Sadie has, I shouldn’t have expected anything less from her wolf.

“I like that she’s feisty,” Knox says after a while. “It will make it more enjoyable to tame her and make her submit.”

I don’t say anything because, from what I’ve seen so far, I doubt anyone can ever tame Sadie. No one can make her submit. If she does ever submit, it will be because she wants to, not because she has to.

I don’t say anything because I know Knox. He’s a stubborn fucker. He won’t easily accept that Sadie’s wolf won’t submit to him.

The door opens and Jason pops his head in.

“I was told I could find you here,” he says, entering the room. His eye moves from me to Sadie and back again. “What happened?”

“I don’t know,” I answer: “I just bumped into her after my morning run, and she fainted.”

The nurse had washed and changed Sadie long ago. She is now clean and in a hospital gown.

“What did the doctors say?”

I explained everything the doctor said. W

I am done, we sit in silence for a little bit.

My eyes are drawn to her cheek. A place I’ve been trying to avoid looking at since the day the truth came out.

The scar is still there. Still visible. I did a wonderful job making sure that it’ll never disappear. I cut it deep enough to know that it would leave a scar. When I did that, I wanted to mark her as a traitor to her alpha. I wanted her to be reminded of what I did to her. To be reminded of my hatred for her.

It worked. The scar is there, and it’s glaring accusingly at me. Unlike what other females would do, Sadie doesn’t try to hide it underneath heaps of makeup. She wears it like a brand.

My heart constricts. I clench my hands against the wave of emotions. I did this to her. I did this to my mate. I may not have known the truth when I scarred her face, but now I do, and it guts me.

It shakes my soul that I hurt my mate in the cruelest way possible. The torture, the beating, the insults. Everything crashes onto me like a big boulder. I feel crushed as the weight of what I did to m

my own mate shatters me.

F**k, I am not an emotional person, but right now I feel like curling up in a f**g ball and crying like a baby.

I continue staring at her. Knox is right; she’s d**n beautiful. How the hell did I not notice it before? Why did I look down on her? Why did I always treat her like she was insignificant? Was it because she was an omega and I thought there was nothing she could offer? After all, alphas are usually mated to higher-up females.

So many regrets. I was drowning in them. Drowning in the fact that if I had just questioned things, right now we would have been happy. We would have been a family. My mate wouldn't hate me and my daughter would know who I am.

"Alec?"

I turn when Jason's voice penetrates my fog. I sag against the chair, feeling the weight of my failures and regrets on my shoulder.

"I'd come to let you know that Piper has arrived," he says, Everything is a mess and I don't have anyone to blame.

I stand up. "Let's go."

but his words take a while to sink in.

Jason follows suite, and we cross the room. I give Sadie one last look. This is the most peaceful I have seen her since I found her. I know that I am partly responsible for her troubles. For her unrest. I know she hates being here and being around me. It bothers me more than I care to admit.

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 85

"What about the warrior? I know I charged Micah with them, but have they arrived?" I ask Jason as we walk side by side.

I fist my hand in an attempt to suppress the pull of the bond. Every fiber of my being was against leaving Sadie.

"No, but it won't be much longer. An hour or so," Jason answers before stopping.

I halt in my steps and turn to look at him, wondering why he stopped.

"Is something wrong?" he asks, his eyes looking at me in worry. "You seem tensed."

I grit my teeth against the need and pull to turn around and go back to Sadie's room. I honestly don't understand why this is happening. Why is it becoming so hard? Is it because we are in close proximity?

The need to be around her has gotten stronger since we came back here. It feels like my entire being is being consumed by this need. The need to be near her, as if she's the very air I breathe.

"Nothing; let's just go," I tell him, and I begin walking once again.

Every step take away from her feels heavy. Like my feet have been filled with lead. My body is screaming against me leaving, especially when my mate is in a delicate state. It's as if the very fabric of my being is fighting against me. Against walking away from this hospital.

We get outside, and I rush to get away from the suffocating atmosphere. I quicken my steps, hoping that the need to stay will leave if I can just put some distance between me and Sadie.

"Will you slow down?" Jason's pants, trying to catch up with me.

I don't stop, though. He can either hurry up or stay behind. Right now, it's none of my f*g **business.

Within minutes, I am pushing the door to the pack house open. Nothing and no one register in my head as I make my way towards my office.

I open the door to my office only to find Piper seated in one of my chairs.

"Alec!" she breathes in a relieved tone. She jumps on me, hugging me tightly as if we'd not seen each other in years.

I hug her back before stepping away from her. I round my desk and drop down on my chair. It wasn't even mid-morning, and I was already exhausted.

Is this how it's going to be? Constantly fighting against the mate bond? It's tiring and frustrating. I honestly don't know how long I can keep up with it.

"Hi, Piper. How was your trip?" I lean against my chair just as Jason walks in.

The pull is still there, but it has dulled. It isn't as strong as it was back in the hospital. The mate bond is still buzzing, though.

Its energy is there. It's hard to explain how it feels, but it's like every cell in my body is buzzing with an electric current or something. I never felt this way with Lola. Sure, I could feel the bond, but it wasn't this all-consuming. I never once felt like my entire being was being lit up.

"Alec?" Her voice interrupts my thoughts.

I shake my head in an attempt to bring my focus, back to the present. My mind is consumed with nothing but thoughts of my mate. D***n, this is so different from what I experienced with Lola.

I have alpha friends who found their mates long before I did. They used to talk about how it felt to find their fated. I once found it odd that I didn't feel the same with Lola, but I was so in love with her that I pushed those doubts away.

Looking back now, I realize that it's because of that love that I made excuses and believed in them. Aside from being in love with Lola, I was in desperate need of the cure to the curse. I made myself believe that once we marked each other, the bond would grow stronger.

"Alec, is there really a need for Calvin to stay in the dungeon?"

I sigh once again as Piper's voice pulls me from my thoughts.

"You know I can't," I reply, taking in a deep breath. "He plotted against me; that's a crime that can't go unpunished."

"B-but what he did led you to your true mate and stopped you from taking an impostor as a mate. That has to mean something," she tries to reason, her desperation clear in her eyes

"It doesn't work that way, Piper. He conspired against an Alpha and his actions led to a sequence of events that nearly destroyed Sadie's life. Imagine if Sadie had actually died three years ago."

Her eyes fill with tears. She's my sister and I know her. I know her. I know that, despite the truth of my words, she's determined to save her mate.

"Please, Alec. You have your mate, and you know how strong the bond is. It's stronger for me because Calvin has already marked me. I can't see him suffer. I just can't."

My heart constricts at the pain in her eyes, but there is nothing I can do. Calvin connived with another to drug an alpha. That isn't a small crime. Besides, Sadie deserves justice.

I know it's not enough to undo everything I did to her, and Calvin isn't wholly to blame for the torture I put her through, but at least she deserves to get some form of justice.

"I know, Piper, but I can't and won't allow it." I tell her this time with authority. "Calvin has to pay for his crimes. Sadie paid go scot-free?" for a crime she didn't commit. Do you think it'll be fair to her to let Calvin

She goes to say something, but I interrupt her.

"Besides, Sadie is now an alpha, and this is as much her decision as it is mine. She has the right to decide what to do with Calvin, given that his actions had the biggest impact on her."

She slumps in her seat in defeat. She knows what I said is the truth. Being an alpha gives Sadie the right to make decisions concerning what to do with Calvin. That is something I refuse to take from her after everything else I have taken from her.

“What will happen to him?” she whispers.

“I don’t know,” I answer. “It’s mainly up to Sadie, but for now, hell stay in the dungeons until a sentence has been made.”

This time, she doesn’t stop the tears from falling. They run down her cheeks freely. I hate seeing her in pain. I hate seeing her like this, but I just can’t do anything concerning this matter.

I can’t, and I won’t take this away from Sadie. I know it will not absolve me from my own mistakes, but I won’t make things difficult for her. I won’t stand in the way of her getting justice,

I love my sister and would do anything for her. Anything but this. Anything but releasing Calvin from the dungeons. She needs to understand that what he did didn’t just affect me.

“Is there really nothing you can do?” she asks, her words breaking as she says them.

I sigh. I feel like we are going around in circles now, and it’s beginning to frustrate me.

“No,” I answer, “And even if there was something I could do, I wouldn’t do it. I know he’s your mate, but you have to understand that his actions made me hurt my mate. It’s because of his actions that I am here in this mess with my mate hating my guts

My words make her cry harder. Running my hand down my face, I stand up, about to go comfort her, when a scream stops me in my tracks.

“Mommy!”

I hear Aspen’s voice, and she sounds terrified.

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 86

Never in my life have I felt the kind of fear I am feeling right now. I am Alec Ashford. The big bad alpha. Nothing terrifies me. Nothing shakes me. Well except for the terrified scream of my daughter.

“Is that Aspen?” Piper asks in confusion, her eyes now dry.

ised on Calvin

She already knew that the night Sadie and I were drugged resulted in a child. Just like me, she hasn't interacted with Aspen. On her part, I think it's mainly because she's been and besides, even if she wanted to get to know her niece, I doubt Sadie would a.

Without giving her or her question a second thought, I get out of my office, rushing towards where her scream came from.

All kind of thoughts ran through my mind as fear gripped me. What if something bad happened to her? What if she is hurt? What was wrong? Why did she scream?

My heart felt heavy. My chest felt like it had a boulder on top of it, crushing it. Making it hard for me to breathe. My legs literally carry me as I rush to get to Aspen as quickly as I can.

"Slow down, Alec," Piper's voice carries towards me, but it sounds drowned out over the loud beating of my heart.

I ignore her and continue running. Soon I am out of the back door and outside. I scan the area, looking for any signs of my daughter but there are none. Sniffing the air around, I lock in on her scent.

"Hurry up, she maybe in danger," Knox urges me, his fear feeding me. He is pacing in my head in agitation.

I swear, if someone has hurt her, there will be hell to pay. I know my pack wouldn't hurt a kid, especially my child. I didn't tell them about Aspen, though. I didn't think there would be a need, given she looks just like me.

Knox gives me his strength. Aspen's scream came from the training arena. I speed there, probably going faster that I've ever gone in my entire life.

I get there. My heart stops beating for a second when my eyes fall on one of my pack members, gripping Aspen's hand tightly while shaking her.

"Mommy! Help me,"

Tears fall down her green eyes as she screams in fear. She's trying to pull her hand away from her but she won't let her go.

A growl vibrates from my chest and I see red. My body starts to vibrate as both my essence and that of Knox combine. I know what is happening. It has happened before when I was furious. Instead of shifting into Knox, we both take control and we do a half shit, where we are not fully human and not fully wolf.

Nisharidy, and I mean nobody, hurts my daughter and gets away with it.

We were just about to stick when the sky darkened for a while with lightning cracking. There is a gasp from some of the others who were there when Sadie appears next to Aspen, still in her hospital gown.

I don't really know her name, but I know her. The b**h has been trying to get me in her bed since Lola left me three years ago. She lets go of Aspen and steps back. Her eyes kept shifting from Sadie

to the

I take steps forward, walking further into the arena. Closing in on my daughter and mate. Everyone scrambles away, giving me a wide berth. I don't care, though. My focus is on my daughter, who is holding tightly to her mother. Still crying.

"What happened, Aspen?" Sadie kneels down to her level and asks while smoothing a

"It hurts, mama," she cries, holding her upper arm.

I approach them slowly so as not to scare her, given that I am still in my half shift.

My eyes lock in on the bruise marks on her upper hand. The anger inside me surges to higher heights. I am literally vibrating with the need to tear out her f**g heart.

"Where does it hurt, baby?" Sadie's voice is gentle as her eyes scan Aspen's body.

"My hand an-and h-head"

"And where is Martha?"

"She was taking too long to make b-fast" she answers. "I got bored."

I assume b-fast meant breakfast. I find it cute how she has shortened the word.

"Tell me what happened, Aspen," I demand softly, my voice distorted by my half-shift form.

She turns her head and looks at me. Unlike other kids, who shake in fear whenever they see this form, Aspen doesn't look fazed. There is no stitch of fear as her eyes collide with me.

"I wanted to see warrior fight, like in our pack. I didn't mean to. I bumped into her and she got angry. I tried apologising but she didn't let me. She hurt my hand. I said sorry again, but she shake me." Her speech is distorted even more because of her crying.

"You said sorry?" Sadie asks as if she wants her to be clear.

Aspen nods her head. "She called me a bad word. She said, my mommy didn't teach me manners, So she will do it."

The air turns chilly as both mine and Sadie's fury fill the air. I could almost taste it. My eyes turn to the said b**h, and she takes a step back. Before I can do anything, the air around us c*ks.

Sadie appears in front of her.

"Close your eyes, baby she commands Aspen, who does as her mother told her.

Lucy must have seen something in Sadie's eyes because she tried to run away. Before she can even turn, though, Sadie grabs her face, her hands digging into the sides of her face.

"I've never really liked you, Lacy," Sadie begins. So that is her name? "You were always a b*h, but today you took it too far."

"She was being a brat," Laury, probably not knowing when to shut her f**g mouth, says.

"Really, let's see how you fare when you are up against someone your own size," Sadie says, her tone more menacing than I have ever heard it.

She begins to speak, but it's not in English. Hell, it's not in any language I've heard before.

Lucy starts screaming, clutching Sadie's hand and trying to pull them from her face. Sadie holds firm as power begins cracking in the atmosphere.

Lucy continues screaming, her pain-filled scream echoing through the space. It sends chills down my f**k**g spine and shivers throughout my body

Blood begins leaking from her eyes, nose, ears and mouth. She gags from the blood coming from her mouth, but Sadie doesn't stop. She continues in that foreign language that almost sounds like she's chanting.

Finally, she stops. Lucy stills before crumbling to the floor after Sadie lets 's her go. There is no heartbeat. Sadie killed her, but I can't really say I blame. I was about to do the same.

"No one hurts my daughter and gets away with it," she warns, addressing those around us as they watched her with wide eye, fear etched on their faces

I shift back. The good thing about being able to half shift is that I am not naked when I shift back to human. My clothes are torn, but they are still on.

I step beside Sadie and address those present, Jasona and Piper were here, but this didn't concern them. "You watched as an adult basically bullied a child and did nothing. Is this what this pack is about? Would you have stood by if she were your child, a relative's, or a friend's?"

No one says anything. They all drop their heads to look at the ground in shame.

"Look at me!" I demand, and they lift their heads. "This shouldn't have happened. Not just because she's an Alpha's child, but because she's simply a child. You are adults; you had the chance to stop Lucy, but none of you did."

Shock gasps fill the area as they finally learn about Aspen's true parentage. Fear clouds their eyes as they realize they just allowed their Alpha's daughter to be bullied.

"Each one of you that was present is going to face me in the ring for forty minutes. That will be your punishment, and trust me when I say that I won't go easy on any of you... You are dismissed."

The ring is as its name suggests. It's a circle in the middle of the arena. We have our matches there.

A match ends when one of the opponents taps in surrender. This time, I won't be giving those twelve pack members that option. They won't be able to surrender. Not until I am done with them

I watch as they swallow, because they know what this means. They scramble to leave, but soon enough, they'll be back here to face their punishments.

Once they are gone. I turn to Sadie, who had Aspen in her arms. She had stopped crying and was resting her head on Sadie's shoulder with her eyes closed.

I want so badly to touch her, to hold, but I stop myself. I was already on Sadie's s' want to make it worse.

ist; I didn't

"I'm sorry for what happened. I swear it won't happen again," I promise, through gritted teeth, disappointed in those twelve pack members.

"It better not, Alec or this," she points to Lucy. "Will be a regular occurrence."

I nod my head. Without another word, she turns and leaves with our daughter. Aspen snaps her eyes open. She gives me a small smile and a wave before closing her eyes again.

My heart swells at the action. I watch them walk away and it tugs something inside me. I want them in my life. I want them so badly, it hurts. so I make a promise to myself to fix things between me and Sadie. Even if she won't accept me as a mate, at least I am hoping to be in Aspen's life.

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 87

Sadie

The last thing remember was having Alec's burning eyes on me. That and the intense pain I felt. Pain that left me feeling like my head was being split wide open. That was before everything disappeared and I fell into a pitch-black hole of nothingness.

I felt nothing. I saw nothing. I was just existing in whatever dream land I was in. despite everything being dark, I was at peace, It was a kind of dreamless, peaceful sleep. One that I needed given that I had not been sleeping well.

I honestly don't know what woke me up. I just remember feeling the need to wake up. The need to protect. My eyes then snapped open, and I deported. I was confused and disoriented, that is, until I materialized in the fighting arena and saw Lucy shaking my baby girl like a rag doll.

I've always hated that b**h. It's not like my crush on Alec was a secret. She was one of my biggest bullies and would use the fact that I loved Alec to torment me. She would rub it in my face that Alec had f**d her multiple times. She would describe detail by detail what she and he did between the sheets, enjoying the fact that she was shredding my heart into pieces.

I hated those moments. I hated hearing her tell me how Alec was good in the sack, but I would never get to find out because he wouldn't even look at me with a blind fold on. It hurt and tormented me because I

couldn't understand what Alec saw in her. I didn't understand what she had that I didn't. What made him

want a b**h like her, but not someone like me.

Of course, I wanted more from him. I didn't want to be treated like a wh**e. After all, everyone knows that Lucy got around... But I just didn't get what he saw in her. After he found Lola, whatever used to be between them stopped because Lucy never mentioned anything about her and Alec, but she would still rub it in my face that Lola was his mate and I wasn't. TM

Apart from her hurtful words, there would be the occasional tripping me with her foot or bumping my shoulders too hard. There were snide remarks about my body and weight.

I'd accepted that I would never be model thin, and I was okay with that. I just hated it that she body-shamed me. It's not a bad thing to be

curvy.

When I was imprisoned, she was one of my regular visitors. I hated her visits because she would only come to taunt me. She didn't usually hurt me physically, but I don't know which is worse. Physical torture or emotional torture.

Seeing her hurt my little girl made me wonder what Alec ever saw in the b**h. She was nothing but a viper. Maybe her p**y was a pot of honey, and he felt like he'd reached a kind of heaven, I don't know, but I'll never understand.

I am not terrible, though, no matter how much I despised her. That's why I asked Aspen what happened. Aspen can't lie to save her life. Once I'd gotten my answers, it was game over.

I don't know what happened, something just snapped inside me. Even as I watched her die, very painfully, might I add, it was like I was there but at the same time I wasn't. I didn't feel bad for killing her. I needed to make an example out of her. Anyone who dared to hurt Aspen would end up the same.

"Does it still hurt?" I ask Aspen as I am pulled from my thoughts by her whimpers.

A little he yawns.

How about I apply some nintment, we get some breakfast, then we take a nap?"

's still morning, mama; naps are for noon," she says in amusement, as if I've said the most ridiculous thing ever.

"You can have naps any time of the day, baby... You are yawning."

I hold her tighter, her baby scent calming me in ways that I can't explain. Peace washes over me as I feel her tiny body press against mine.

"I'm tired," she answers with another yawn.

Aspen rarely cries, but when she does, she usually needs a small nap afterwards. For some weird reason, it drains her, leaving her tired.

"Breakfast first, then we can get a nap."

I head to the kitchen, where we find Martha. She turns and freezes, her eyes bulging out in shock and horror.

“Oh, Hecate, what happened to you?” She rushes over, her eyes trained on Aspen’s arms.

I quickly explain to her what happened. When I am done, her brows are drawn down in a frown, wearing an apologetic look.

“I’m really sorry, Sadie. I should have taken better care of her. I wanted to finish with breakfast first, and I forgot that we weren’t in our pack where no one would harm her.” I hated seeing her like this. She was blaming herself for something that was out of her control.

“It’s okay. We both know how adventurous Aspen is. You can’t limit her movements; even if you want to, she can’t stay put.”

Martha nods her head, but I can still see it in her eyes. She’s still blaming herself. She’s still carrying the weight of Aspen getting hurt.

“Is breakfast ready? I am starving.” I ask, trying to distract her and get her mind off the topic.

Martha serves our breakfast, and the three of us eat in silence. It was difficult to get Aspen to eat something since she kept dozing off. By the time she was completely knocked off, she had taken something, though not much.

I stand and carry her, leaving Martha to clean up after us. Climbing the stairs, I head off to our room. I was still tired from lack of sleep and whatever I’d been doing the previous night. Just like I’d said, I was planning to also take a nap.

“Sadie?” I hear her call just as I walk into our room.

“Nyx? Where the hell have you been?”

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 88

“What?”

I put Aspen down on the bed before covering her. Then I turn and just stare at the wall, in utter shock. I can’t believe her. I honestly can’t. She’s been gone since yesterday, and that’s all she can tell me? That’s all she can utter?

“What do you ‘what?’”

“Why are you in a hospital gown?” She asks her own question, dodging mine. It’s only then do I realize that I was in it.

I didn't even know that I was in a hospital gown until she mentioned it. What the hell? Did something happen again? Or did Alec take me to the pack hospital when I lost consciousness? After all, he was the last person I was with when the pain from hell assaulted me.

That was the most likely possibility, but I still found it weird. I still found it impossible to believe. I mean, this is the Alec we are talking about. The same man who tortured me and almost killed me. Then again, he does need me, so of course he would take me to the hospital to make sure I was okay.

Sighing, I shake my head to free it from thoughts of Alec.

"That's not important," I answer, knowing well that she was trying to deflect.

"Where were you?"

"You know, just around," she answers vaguely.

"You've got to be kidding me, Nyx. That's all you can say? That's not a damn answer."

I stand up and start pacing. Something very weird happened to me last night and Nyx was nowhere to be seen. She comes back this morning as if she didn't just disappear on me. What the hell?

"Well, it is and it's all you're going to get," she huffs and says. "Besides, I am not a child. I don't have to tell you what I do and don't do."

I can't help it. I hiss at her so pissed with her attitude. I am tired of her damn secrets. Tired of her keeping things from me and thinking it's okay. We are supposed to be one, yet I feel like we are two different beings because she's keeping things from me. Whatever affects her affects me; why can't she get that?

"Nyx," I growl

Her hackles rise and she snarls back at me. "Why can't you just leave it alone? I told you I'd explain things when the time is right."

"And when is that, hmm? After another three damn years?" I spit, my hands balled into fists by my sides.

She sneers, her eyes narrowing into slits and her lips pursed into a thin line. "You'll know when I feel you are ready, even if you'll have to wait a hundred years for that to happen, Sadie."

"This isn't funny anymore. I've let you get away with this for too long. You need to tell me what the hell is happening," I demand, my voice turning dangerously low.

I am on edge. I am a mess. I am nervous. Every day that we get new revelations makes me go into a panic. I feel like I am going crazy with everything that has been revealed and now this? This sleepwalking.

Instead of answering me, Nyx gives me a mocking smile before she brings up her mental barrier and shuts me off, blocking me from having access to her.

I'm about to scream in frustration when I remember that Aspen was soundly asleep.

That stubborn wolf. What the fuck was her problem? It wouldn't kill her to just tell what was going on, would it?

I breathe in, then out. In, then out. I am trying my best to stay calm. To relax. I can't lose my shit now, but it was getting hard to hold on.

I was just beginning to calm down when there is a knock on my door. I know it's Raven because of her scent.

"Come in," I call out while casting an eye on Aspen to make sure she doesn't wake up.

The door opens and Raven walks in. She closes the door slowly before casting me a look.

"You look like shit," she mutters, and I roll my eyes at her comment.

Twisting my lips, I reply sarcastically, "Thanks."

"What's with the hospital gown?"

Sighing, I flop down on the bed and tell her everything. After all, apart from King and Nyx, she's the only one I can talk to. The only ones I can share my troubles and worries with.

"Let me get this straight: you went to bed with Aspen and woke up naked in the forest?" she asks, her eyes narrowing. If it were anybody else, they wouldn't have believed. For someone who doesn't sleepwalk, it sounds so farfetched.

"Yes," I said, releasing the breath I was holding, my shoulders sagging in the process.

"And the previous night, you had a dream of you being killed?"

"Yeah, it felt so fucking real. Deep down, I knew the woman and the man. I recognized their voices, though I couldn't see their faces. There is also the fact that she had wings like mine, only that hers were black."

I still shiver at the reminder of that blade entering my body. The pain and betrayal I felt. The cold embrace of death.

I try to picture the woman's face in my head, but it was still blurred. I then concentrate on her clothes and wings. That is when it hits me.

"Shit," I curse, standing up and resuming pacing. This can't be happening. This isn't happening.

"What?" Raven asks, her eyes searching mine.

"I just remembered," I begin. "Remember when I told you about the other alpha female? The one Nyx told me about?"

"Hmm," she nods her head, her searching eyes turning curious.

"Well, she said that the other female is my complete opposite. That her powers are tainted. What if that is who I saw in my dream? It would explain the wings, which are similar to mine, and it would explain why they are black. Maybe they began white just like mine, but when her powers were tainted, they turned black."

My heart is racing at the possibility. The explanation sounds so right. It's like a puzzle piece fitting where it belongs.

"Sadie?" I face Raven when she calls my name. There is panic and nervousness shadowing her eyes. "What if it wasn't a dream you had, but a premonition?"

Shit. Damn it, I hadn't thought of it in that light.

I didn't want to think of it in those terms, but what if Raven is right? What if it's a premonition? A premonition of what's to come. A premonition of my death.

I've never really thought about my death. Sure, I've experienced losing someone, or specifically my parents, but I have never really thought about my own death. Never thought about what dying would be like.

Do people really think about dying? Yes, I know there are some who plan everything in case something happens to them. There are those that plan their burials way before their death... I guess the reason why I never thought about my death is because I can't bear leaving those I love behind.

My mind quickly flashes to Aspen. I turn and look at her peaceful face as she sleeps. She's so young and so full of life. I can't imagine leaving her behind. I can't imagine not being able to watch her grow.

My heart grows heavy at the thought. I feel like someone has it in a tight fist, and it's being squeezed. I can hardly breathe as I think of not being there for her. It brings me physical pain just imagining it.

Then there is Rave, King, Beth and my pack. I've grown attached to them. It's hard to imagine letting them go.

"Sadie?" I pull my eyes from Aspen and stare at Raven. She has become more than a friend to me. She has become a sister.

Like I said, I've never thought about my death, but now I have to, because if Raven is right and that wasn't a dream but a premonition, then it means I'll probably be dying soon.

"I don't like this," Raven says, shaking her head.

"You can join the club," I say with a sigh.

Was this how it was meant to be? Was I meant to die this early in life? There is something about knowing something like this. Knowing you might die. It puts you in a certain kind of sour mood.

"I want to believe that it is just a dream. A bad dream," I begin. "It would make it easier to brush it off, but now..."

I leave the words hanging as my throat clogs because the words get stuck. I just hate this so much. I wish there was another explanation to it. One that didn't involve me dying.

I know why Raven came to that conclusion, It's normal for deities to communicate with us through dreams. They don't always send their messages through oracles. Sometimes they communicate directly to us through our dreams.

Once again, I try to get through to Nyx. I am hoping that she will tell me something, anything really. Her walls are still up though. There is no way for me to get through to her when her mental blocks are up.

Sighing, I sit down on the bed and run my hand through my hair. I feel exhausted. Both mentally and physically. I just wish that things were easier.

"Don't stress too much." Raven sits down beside me and takes my hand in hers. She squeezes it reassuringly. "Maybe this is a good thing?"

I frown and look at her. "How, Raven? How is this a good thing?"

“If it’s a premonition, then your goddess is trying to help you. I think that maybe she’s letting you know what will happen because she wants you to change it. Remember that destinies aren’t always written in stone. You can change it.”

My shoulders slump as I think about her words. A glimmer of hope begins to form deep inside my soul.

“Maybe this is the reason why you had it, so that you can stop it from happening,” she finishes.

I just stare at the wall, thinking it over. Can you really change something like that? Can you really stop death? Where or how will you even start? It sounds easier said than done.

I let go of Raven’s hand and begin pacing. I was so antsy that it was driving me to the brink of madness. I feel like nothing has gone my way since three years ago. Since I ended up in bed with Alec.

I had so much going on that I didn’t know where to start or what to do. It was starting to get too much, and I am starting to hate it.

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 89

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I stop in my tracks as it suddenly hits me like an over-speeding train.

"What?" Raven asks, squinting her eyes as I turn to face her.

"Nyx told me that I need to prepare for what's to come. That I need to get stronger and learn to use my powers. In my dream, there were dead bodies s**ed around and blood soaked the ground. What if Nyx meant war? That I need to prepare for the war that is coming?"

She's quiet for a while before her eyes widen. "Oh, my goddess. The other woman was there, meaning whatever will happen is between you and her."

"And for there to be war between us, there must be beef. Which makes me wonder what exactly is going on. Nyx is mum about the whole thing, so I have to try and figure things out on my own." I tell her, trying to keep the panic down.

Even as I think about things, I can't help but wonder if something went down between me and the other female... but when I think about it, I don't really know the woman. How can I have a problem with her or her with me when I don't even know who she is?

Unless, like, I'd suspected, Nyx is older than I thought she was, and whatever problem exists is between that other female and Nyx. That is the best explanation. The only one that makes more sense.

It would also explain why Nyx is insistent on me training and knowing how to use my powers. It would also explain why she always seems to know so much. I swear, the wolf knows more ways to fight than anyone alive should know.

Then again, if Nyx is older than I had suspected, then it means she probably had another host. What happened to that human? And how old is she exactly?

"Do you believe in reincarnation?" I suddenly ask, Raven.

"No, why?"

“Just wondering about Nyx.”

“Do you think she’s reincarnated?” she asks, her curious eyes studying me.

Alpha Alec’s Redemption Chapter 90

I wake up with a start, gasping for breath as I sit up on my bed. It takes a while for my brain to start functioning and that’s when I realize that Aspen isn’t next to me where she was when I went to sleep.

I jump off the bed in panic as I remember what happened earlier. Like I said, Aspen is a free and adventurous spirit. You’ll rarely find her in one place.

I start looking for her while trying to stamp down the panic surging inside me. I stop and stand still. My brain must not be working well. I am a damn werewolf; the first thing I should have done was sniff for her.

Sighing, I finally do that and realize that her scent is faint. Meaning she hasn’t been here for a while. I move to my nightstand and pick up my phone. Checking the time, I realize that I slept for close to five hours. Despite that, I still felt a bit tired.

I slump down on my bed and take a deep breath. Have you ever felt like you don’t have the energy to do anything? Like, all you want to do is lie down all day and do nothing? That’s how I feel right now. I don’t want to think about anything or do anything. I just want some peace and quiet.

Despite what happened earlier, I know Alec won’t let it happen again, even if his pack doesn’t heed to my warning. That being said, I still need to know if she’s okay. If only there was a way to communicate with Martha via mind-link. It would make things a lot easier.

“Sadie?”

I freeze on the bed, my heart racing when I hear her voice. At first, I am confused and look around my room. Maybe I’d missed something. Maybe she was helping Aspen in the bathroom... Then again, I would have heard the water running. I would have heard something given that Aspen isn’t really a quiet kid.

“Sadie?” her voice comes again, this time making me sit up straight.

It’s then it hits me that I just heard her voice in my head.

“Martha?” I was completely stunned by what was happening.

“What the hell is going on? How are we able to communicate like this?”

Vege stare at the wall ahead of me, my eyes wide open and my jaw dropped. Her question rings over and over in my head, but I am too stunned to piece the puzzle together.

This, whatever is happening, should be impossible. Martha is a witch, and I am a wolf. We should not be able to communicate via mind-link even though I am her alpha.

“Sadie, what’s going on?” she asks again, confusion filling her voice.

My hands are shaking. There have been so many changes since Alec rolled back into my life. It’s getting very difficult to keep up with all of them. Some of them, like this current one, should be impossible.

“Before I answer, is Aspen with you?” I ask, remembering why I wanted to talk to her in the first place.

“Yes. I came to your room to get the dirty clothes for laundry. I found her awake. I didn’t want to wake you up since you looked like you needed some sleep, so I took her with me. Don’t worry, she’s with me, and she’s okay.”

Is it still weird that even though I am literally talking to her right now, I still can’t believe that this is actually happening? It’s almost like I am having an out-of-body experience where I feel I’ve detached from myself and the world around me.

I nod my head at her answer, but then I realize that she can’t see me. See, old habits die hard?

“It’s okay. I woke up and didn’t find her next to me. I was worried a bit.” I finally say, getting my brain to work like it should.

“But, how is this possible?” she asks, repeating her former question.

“Honestly, I don’t know. I am not even sure if this is real, or I am still asleep,” I reply, getting off the bed and standing up. Running my hand through my hair, I start pacing. It seems I’ve been doing a lot of that lately.

“It’s not a dream. It’s real,” Martha pauses before continuing. “Did something happen before? What were you doing or thinking right before it happened?”

I take a deep breath and calming breath. Closing my eyes for a bit, I open them before answering.

“I still felt tired and didn’t really feel like doing anything. I wanted to know where Aspen was, but I didn’t want to leave the room, so I just thought of how easy it would be if I could communicate with you through mind-link like I always do with wolves. Minutes later, you called my name.”

“Interesting,” she murmurs, her voice low and full of curiosity. “I’ve never heard of werewolves and witches communicating telepathically. Even among witches, it’s not possible.”

I stop pacing and look at feet. My toes and pink-colored nails stared back at me. I’ve never been a girly girl, but I’ve made some efforts these past few years. Thank the goddess for gel nail polish, otherwise, my polish would have been chipping off by now.

Maybe what I need is a relaxing break. One where I don’t have to think about anything, even if it’s for a couple of hours.

“Sadic?”

“Sorry, my mind wandered off for a while there,” I tell her softly, getting my mind to focus on the present.

“Have you told Raven about it?”

I laugh a little. “I’ve just discovered it, Martha. I haven’t really even had the time to think about it, let alone discuss it with Raven.”

We are both quiet for a while.

“Don’t tell anyone for now. I’ll reveal this to Raven, but for now no one should know about this. Not until we get more information.” I command, breaking the silence.

“I won’t utter a single word.”

With that, assuming this works the same as the one between wolves, I cut off mind-link.

“I see you have discovered one of our many powers.” I jump in surprise, my heart racing at Nyx’s unexpected voice.

I press down a hand on my chest, trying to ease my racing heart. “Nyx, you scared me.”

“It’s not my fault you are lost in thought,” her bright eyes stare at me calmly as if we didn’t have a fight a few hours ago.

After my heart rate goes back to normal, I speak. “You mentioned something about new powers?”

“Yes, I’ve been waiting for you to discover it. For us, mind-link isn’t limited to just wolves. You can talk to anyone, even humans.”

My mouth drops open. “You are serious?”

“Yes

“How is that even possible?”

Her eyes narrow at me suspiciously. It's not that I was trying to fish for information. I am just curious about how this works.

“It just is,” comes her vague answer.

I roll my eyes, not surprised by her lack of answers. I have to get used to the fact that Nyx won't tell me anything about what is going on until the time is right. Or until she thinks I am ready.

I can't really control what's going to happen, but I can control what is happening now. I can choose to focus on what is going on now.

“Fine,” I grumble, yielding to her.

“You can try it with others. We do have some of the vampires from our pack,” she tells me before she slinks off and cuts off our communication.

I am not in a hurry, so I decide to put it off for now.