

Alpha Alec's Redemption Chapter 96

"Sadie?" I hear a voice calling me, but it sounds m**d underwater.

My ears are ringing, and I can barely see anything given that my sight is blurry. I feel dazed and there is this excruciating pain radiating somewhere on my body.

"Open your eyes, Sadie. We have to get out of here."

This time the voice is clearer. It belongs to Alec. It takes a minute or so, but my mind clears and everything comes crashing into me. The accident. The hybrids that were after us.

I open my eyes and realize that I am upside down. Alec had gotten free from his seatbelt, but for me, it was still securely wrapped around my chest. With shaking hands, I unbuckle it and fall to the roof of the car, screaming as I land on my hand.

"Take it easy," Alec whispers, his voice soft, tinged with a bit of worry.

Finally, I pinpoint the exact area the pain is radiating from. I take a deep breath, trying to breathe through the pain in my shoulder.

"Sadie, listen to me," Alec begins and I struggle to focus on him. I'll get out and help you out. Once I do, we need to make a run for it. Got it?"

Nodding my head, I let him know that I understood his plan. Without wasting time, he gets out, rounds the car and moves to my side. Luckily, my door wasn't damaged, and he easily opens it. He gives me his hand, and I place my uninjured one in his. He helps me out, being mindful and gentle.

It's only once I am out of the car that I realize that the hybrids had stopped. We crashed by the side of the road, and they were just watching us. One of them wore a serious look while the other had a sinister smile plastered on their faces.

Alec pulls my hand, leading me towards the forest that wasn't that far away. I look at him, then back to our joined hands. His steps are fast, and if it wasn't for the fact that he was holding my hand, I would have been left behind.

In the distance, I hear a car door slam. I look behind me only to find that the two hybrids have gotten out of their car.

"We have to hurry up," Alec says, not breaking a step. "We need to lure them into wolf territory; that is the only chance we have at killing them."

What he was saying made sense. Like I said before, the council forbade anything that could lead to our secrets being discovered. That includes killing. Even with rogues, we can't kill them in human territory.

I quicken my steps despite the pain. My other hand was bleeding and hung loosely at my side. I suspected that when the glass window shattered, I was cut, and then, when the car crashed, I either broke my hand or dislocated my shoulder.

"I've already contacted Jason and Micah; they are now organizing some warriors," he informs me.

Maybe it's because of the blood loss, but I was starting to get weak. My hand ached and so did my sides.

Let no one lie to you. Yes, we heal faster, but we don't have super healing powers. When I say we heal fast, I mean we heal much quicker than humans. A wound that would take a human five days to heal would take wolves three days. That's what healing fast means. Not the b**it novels talk about. It's a load of c**p to think that healing for us takes a mere second, or is it minutes? Sure, small wounds can heal in a few hours, but not bigger ones.

I stare at Alec's back; he doesn't seem injured at all. Well, I hope he is not, because with one of my arms useless at my side, he's my only defense against those two hybrids.

"Nyx," I call my wolf, who had been pacing restlessly inside me. She hates feeling helpless. Shifting now with an injured hand would only complicate the healing process. "Could you tell our warriors to join Alec's warriors?"

I feel too tired and worn out to mind-link them, but she can communicate with their wolves.

"On it," she answers and disappears.

"How much further?" I ask Alec as I feel my body getting weaker I need to deal with my wound before I pass out from blood loss.

"Not much further," he says before looking back at me. He must have seen something because his jaw tenses right before he stops.

Letting go of my hand, he surprises me when he swings me into his hands, bridal style. I wrap my good hand around his shoulder, afraid to fall.

"What are you doing?" I question him. With him being this close, the bond comes to life.

He resumes walking. "You look pale and like you were about to faint."

"I'm fine," I argue, gritting my teeth against the sparks that had ignited due to the bond.

"No, you are not," he argues back. "And besides, this way, we'll be much faster."

I don't argue, especially when I hear growls behind us. Alec runs, with me in his hands. I hate feeling like a d**n damsel in distress. I can't do anything about it, though. Alec was right; I was about to pass out.

Within minutes I feel the difference, the change, as Alec crosses into wolf territory. We both breathe a sigh of relief, even though it doesn't last long. Seconds later, the growls intensify. I look over Alec's shoulder, only to be met with twin ruby eyes.

"I'm going to set you down so I can deal with them, okay?" Alec whispers in my ear. "It's only going to take a moment." Before I can protest, he sets me against a tree before turning to the two snarling hybrids. Alec is overconfident, thinking hybrids are easy to kill. Has he seriously forgotten all I have told him about them? All that the elders told him?"

He snarls back, and I immediately feel Knox's presence. I sit up, but I accidentally scrape my shoulder against the tree's bark. It hurts like a mother. I grit my teeth, refusing to let my whimper escape in the presence of enemies.

"Nyx, have you informed them?" I ask her, not taking my eyes off the three men who were circling each other. Two against one. That doesn't seem fair at all.

"Yes. They are a couple of minutes away," she answers, her attention also on them.

"How far is a couple of minutes?"

"Around thirty or so."

"F**k. That's a lot of time."

"Both Alec and Knox are overconfident. They've never dealt with hybrids, yet they assume it's as easy as taking down a rogue."

She voices what I'd already concluded. Sure, he is an alpha, but hybrids are a different species all together. They have a combination of wolf and vampire powers, and that tr**ps being just a wolf.

I watch as they fight. Alec is strong, but they are stronger. I am not being mean or anything, just stating facts.

His claws slice through the blond hybrid. He's skinnier than his friend. He whimpers and then looks at his partner, seemingly surprised that Alec had landed a blow. I bet he was promised that he'd be invincible when he was turned. What a f**ng idiot.

It's then I realize something He's a newbie, recently turned. He probably hasn't mastered all his abilities. The way he turned to the bulky guy shows that he's seeking guidance on what to do.

"You must act fast, Alec," I mind-link him. "End him now while he's still surprised."

Alec stiffens before twisting his head to look at me.

"Do it now!" I scream via the link. "Cutoff his head; that's the only sure bet to kill them."

This seems to move him. Before the blondie can recover from his shock, Alec pounces. He half shifts, and his large claws slice through his neck, severing tendons as if they were nothing but butter. His head falls to the ground. His body follows next. Even from a distance, I can clearly see his wide eyes staring at the sky, shock permanently etched on them.

The bulky man releases a roar before he starts his attack on Alec The other one was easy to kill because he was a newbie. This one, though, from his movements, I can already tell that he won't be easy to kill because he's been a hybrid for some time. He has mastered his abilities and knows how to use them. Luckily, I have some new powers.

He attacks Alec with intensity, both of them refusing to yield to the other. Punch after punch, kick after kick, they attack each other with a viciousness that surprised me.

The hybrid gains an advantage and swipes his hand, clawing Alec in the abdomen. He releases a roar and stumbles back a bit.

I struggle to stand up, leaning against the tree, using it to support my weight.

"Nyx, take over and do something," I tell her weakly.

She doesn't waste time. Just when the hybrid was about to probably land a fatal blow, Nyx lashes out, sending him flying. He hits a tree.

He recovers quickly and charges towards us.

"Enough," her voice is full of authority and power.

Both the hybrid and Alec freeze on their spot. Their knees buckle before they both fall to their knees.

"Come to me."

He tries to fight against the command, but he eventually succumbs to it. He may be a hybrid, but he is half wolf. His wolf counterpart will always submit to someone stronger than him.

His jaw is locked as he stands up and walks towards me while we release Alec from our hold.

“Who sent you?” I ask him.

He looks at me with a look of defiance and hate. I don’t know the b**d, so I don’t know why he hates me. Maybe it’s because I’ve been killing his kind.

“I asked who f**g sent you!” I snarl before hitting him.

His head swivels to the side at the impact.

“You killed my cousin last year,” he informs me, his red eyes glaring at me.

Huh. So he was after revenge.

“Which cousin? You have to be more specific, since I killed a lot of your kind,” I wave my hand dismissively.

“You f***g b**h!” he tries to come at me, but my power is holding him down.

“I’ve been called worse.”

He starts laughing, the sound mocking. His laugh grows by the second until he is now full-blown laughing.

She’s coming for you,” he states, a sinister smile forming on his lips. “And when she does, I hope she rips you from limb to limb, slowly, before she tears your f**king heart-”

He doesn’t get to finish before I rip out his throat, cutting off his voice. Blood spatters on me, but I don’t f** care. I look at Alec and he understand my silent communication. Seconds later, the hybrid’s head falls next to his body.

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The little energy I had leaves me, and I sag against the tree. Alec catches me before I can fall down to the ground.

The hybrid’s words keep playing in my head. Not about his cousin, but about the woman who was apparently coming for me.

“You are bleeding,” Alec’s voice cuts through my thoughts.

I give him a weary smile. "So are you," I tell him, pointing at his midriff.

His black V-neck shirt was torn, and you could clearly see where the hybrid had ripped into him.

"This is nothing. I've faced worse," he says so c**ly that I feel like wiping his f**g smile with a slap.

So have I, especially at his hands, but I have a low tolerance for pain. I just hate it so much. Pain is pain. Whether it's a small cut or a huge one. None of them feel good.

"You don't look too good," Alec murmurs, leaning down beside me.

I scoff at his words, "Speak for yourself. I look amazing. Always have, always will."

My words were slurred, and I could barely hold up my head. I just wanted to sleep for maybe a few days.

When I decided I needed time alone, I never thought that my day would end this way. I was supposed to eat some ice cream, catch up with Mrs. Walter, and then go back to the pack. Now, Micah's car was totally ruined. I was hurt, and so was Alec, and we had two dead hybrids to deal with.

"What are you doing?" I snap as Alec's hand reaches for my shoulder.

He doesn't answer me; he just rips off the top part of my blouse, exposing my wound. I turn from him and look at my shoulder. It was bleeding at an alarming rate.

"Glass must have cut through an artery," he said while ripping off the bottom part of his own shirt.

Anatomy is a mandatory class to take as a werewolf. As you have guessed, we get into a lot of fights. Sure, we can't treat diseases, we are not doctors, but it comes in handy when identifying cases such as this.

Taking the piece of cloth, Alec presses it to my wound. I scream as excruciating pain slashes through me.

"F**k, sorry!" He takes the cloth away and looks closely at my wound. "You have a piece of glass stuck inside. I'm just not sure if pulling it out will cause you to bleed faster."

I listen, taking in slow, shallow breaths because it hurts to breathe. I breathe through the pain, cursing myself for deciding to go to town today. I should have just stayed in the f**g pack. I wanted space, and see how that turned out.

"Don't pull it out," I finally tell him through ragged breaths.

It needed a doctor to do that. Ripping it out will only cut through again, causing more damage than before.

We are quiet for a while, with him holding the piece of cloth loosely on my shoulder. "How far is the calvary?"

"Five minutes away

I nod my head before leaning it against the tree and closing my eyes.

"I want to apologize." Alec's voice interrupts my peace, making me snap my eyes open.

"It wasn't your fault. They were after me."

"I'm not talking about the hybrids, Sadie," he sighs. "I'm talking about what happened three years ago and how I treated you."

"This isn't the right time for this. We are both wounded, and all I can think about right now is cuddling next to Aspen and taking a really long nap."

He turns to face me fully. I don't want to look at him, so I just face ahead, staring past the dead bodies.

"You may not want to hear it, but I'll apologize nonetheless... I should have done it the moment I realized I was wrong." "Alec," I warn, even though my voice comes out more of a whimper than authoritative.

"I was f**g wrong! I should have investigated the whole thing instead of jumping to conclusions just because you had a crush on me. I should have dug deeper when you told me you were pregnant instead of assuming you were just lying. I should have done a lot of things and for that I am f**ing sorry

Sighing, I glare at the bulky hybrid. I didn't want to listen to his apology. If I could, I'd run as far away from it as I could. It was already too late for him to apologize. The kind of damage he did isn't something that can be undone with a simple apology,

"I'm sorry for the hell I put you through in the dungeons. The hell I let my pack unleash on you. I know words aren't enough to fix what I did, but it's all I have for now," he finishes.

I take a deep breath before slowly releasing it. "I already agreed to help with your pack, Alec. This-" I say pointing to the space between us "-is pointless. I don't need your apology nor do I want it. I'm here to keep my end of the bargain. That's it"

Dizziness consumes me, but I talk through it. I seriously need the convoy to get here quickly before I pass out. I need to make sure they deal with the dead hybrids properly.

“But that’s the thing; I don’t want you to lea-”

He gets interrupted when Micah and Jason break through the forest to where we were.

Thank the goddess.

“What happened?” Jason asks, looking from us to the two dead hybrids.

“I’ll explain later. First, I need you to take care of the bodies. Then arrange for someone to go clear out the crash on the road. Get someone who can mess up the cams on the road if there are any,” Alec commands, standing up.

I struggle to keep up with the conversation. I was feeling drowsy and my eyes were already closing on their own accord. The last thing I heard before passing out was Micah’s word.

“Too late for that; last we heard, cops were already at the crash site.”

Well, that just spells trouble for us.

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Alec.

When I saw Micah’s car today, I never expected Sadie to be the one using it. I also never expected the day to end the way it did.

I had some business in town with some of the neighboring Alphas. I also went to my company to check how things were running, given that I had not been in the office for weeks. I trusted my officials, but it was also good to personally handle some things regarding my own company. I couldn’t just leave it in the hands of others.

I’d told my personal bodyguard to go back to the pack when I saw Micah’s Jeep. He was also my head warrior. I found it odd that Micah would be hanging out in a little ice cream shop, but I thought that either way I would catch a ride with him back to the pack.

It was clear that Sadie was pi**d and irritated when I invaded her space. For some reason though, I couldn’t leave her, even though she insisted that I should. Maybe it was the bond warning me or some s**t like that, but I couldn’t leave her. I didn’t understand why. Not until she noticed hybrids following us.

Seeing her hurt did something to me. It twisted my heart in a painful way. I felt suffocated. Felt like I couldn’t breathe properly. I felt like I was dying just seeing her in pain. Her pain became mine, and all I could think about was how I was going to make her feel better.

The bond pulled me to protect my mate, but I have to admit that both Knox and I wanted the same. Even without the bond between us pulling the strings. I wanted to be near her. I wanted to be surrounded by her scent. I wanted her in ways couldn't explain.

Seeing what it is like with my fated mate made me realize just how things were off with Lola. Whatever bond existed between Lola and me was fake. That's why things never felt this intense. If it weren't for the fact that I fell for her, I doubt our relationship would have survived.

When the hybrids caught up to us, I thought it would be easy to get rid of them. Sadie was losing blood and becoming weak by the second. My focus was on dealing with the two b**ds so that I could rush Sadie to the hospital.

I was the fearless Alpha Alec. Rogues trembled at my name. I have to admit that I underestimated the hybrids. Fighting with them was a different experience. They were faster and stronger. I doubt any of the vampires or alphas I've fought could compare. Well, except for Sadie. The way she brought him under her command even in a weakened state amazed me and left me in awe of her.

There is still the matter of her being able to mind-link me, but that doesn't matter right now. What matters is getting her some help.

"Sadie?" I kneel next to her. I gently shake her and try to wake her up. "Open your eyes."

They remain closed. I tap her cheeks, but still nothing happens. She doesn't wake up. "S**t. I need to get her to the hospital. "The car is this way," Jason points me in the direction, and I begin walking towards it.

"You are bleeding; let me carry her," Micah voiced, stopping me in my tracks.

I snarl, both my agitation and that of Knox pushing me to the edge. "Touch her, and I'll cut off your f**king hands."

F**k. I was going crazy. B**t crazy. Even with Lola, I've never reacted this way. The thought of another man (even a friend) touching my mate while she's hurt agitated me.

Micah steps back with his hands raised up in surrender. He then bows slightly, a show of respect to his Alpha, and as a way to show that he had not meant any disrespect.

I resume my walk, not really bothered about anything else except Sadie. My warriors knew the drill. In a few minutes, there won't be any evidence that there had been a killing there.

Living among humans and hiding our nature, we've learned to clean up our messes. That's why there has never been a string of suspicious deaths, even though we kill rogues all the time.

We soon get to the vehicles, and I get in, still cradling Sadie's form in my arms as if she were a lifeline.

I look down at her, staring at her angelic face. Her scar glares accusingly at me. Mocking me for the care I was showing her when I was the one that put that scar on her face.

Unable to look at the evidence of my cruelty towards her, I look up just as Micah gets behind the wheel and starts the car. "Explain to me how the cops got to the scene before you did." I demand, trying to distract myself.

I couldn't look at Sadie's face without feeling guilty, but I refused to let her go. She is going to stay in my arms until we get to the pack.

"We honestly don't know," Jason answers. "By the time our guy got there, the cops were already on site. They couldn't do anything."

"Is there any CCTV footage?"

"Fin said he'd get back to us if he finds something." This comes from Micah. "Though he did say that now that the cops are involved, if there is any footage, he can't erase it or tamper with it. It would cause more suspicion and bring unwanted attention."

**n it, this is what Sadie and I were afraid of. We need to handle it before the police start to dig into our business.

"Jason, get in touch with our contact in the station. Tell him to keep his ear to the ground and, if he hears anything, to let us know immediately."

He nods his head before fishing out his phone to probably dial one of them. He wasn't from favors for other packs.

"You know what this means, right?" Micah asks, his tone somber.

our pack, but he's is known to do

With the cops involved, it meant that I'll be hearing from them soon. Sure, the Jeep was Micah's, but it's registered under my name. He has his own personal car, registered in his name, but the jeep is curtesy of the pack. Think of it as a company car. All the top officials (that is, Jason, Micah, and me) have one. The rest of the pack are given funds to buy cars.

Right now, though, I couldn't be bothered. My focus was on Sadie and making sure she was alright.

It doesn't take long to get to the pack. The moment Micah parks the car, I am out of the door and heading straight for the pack hospital. With my speed, it only takes minutes.

"Get me a doctor!" I shout as I walk inside the hospital.

The nurses rush to do my bidding. Two of them grab a stretcher and rush towards me, They silently ask me to place Sadie down.

"Her shoulder is cut, and she may have broken her hand."

"Lay her on her side, Alpha. I promise we'll take good care of her," one of them says.

I have to literally fight myself in order to let her go. My entire being screamed against it. The only reason that I don't rush after them is because I know she needs treatment.

"Alpha, you are also hurt. Let me look at it." Doctor Jacobs walks towards me.

"No need. I'm fine and I'll heal. Make sure she's okay first." It's a command, and he can't go against my order, so he turns and follows Sadie and the two nurses.

I watch them wheel Sadie away, my eyes focused on her. I don't know how the hell I am going to do it, but right there and then, I vow to make things right between us.

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Sadie

I woke up with a headache, ending all headaches. I squinted as my eyes tried getting used to the bright light. Why the f**k was everything so bright when I felt so dull? Don't you just hate it when that happens? It's similar to when you are sad and depressed, but everyone seems so jovial and happy.

I feel like I've been hit by a truck, oh wait. Something close to that happened. We crashed and I ended up hurt.

I knew I was in the hospital the moment I was conscious. The smell of antiseptic is hard to mistake and miss. My room was just like the one I woke up in when I fainted after the dream. Plain white walls, a small TV in the corner, and a bedside table with a glass of water on top of it.

Groaning, I struggle to sit up straight. That's when his scent registers. Alec was asleep on a chair next to my bed. He sat on one of the two chairs available in the room.

“What is he doing here?” Nyx asks me; I just give her a look.

“How am I supposed to know that? We’ve been out for who knows how long.”

My hair was getting in my face; I moved to push it away when I noticed the cast on my hand. I let out a frustrated growl, which wakes Alec up.

This was going to be a pain. Sure, I’ll be with it for probably a maximum of three days, but it means that I can’t train in those three days. For the past three years, I’ve used training as a form of release. It’s been my way of letting out the aggression that has been seated inside me since Alec locked me in the dungeon.

People say that time heals all wounds. I call that b**hi*etter days than others, but that’s all there is. Healing isn’t as easy as people say it is. Letting go*isn’t a walk in the park, as they make it seem.

“What is it? Are you in pain?” His throaty voice pulls my attention to him.

I just stare at him, not really sure what to make of him being here. There was something in his green eyes. Something akin to worry and concern, but I wasn’t really sure. I brush it off. This is Alec we are talking about; he feels nothing when it comes to me. He made that clear three years ago when he was torturing me.

“No”

“Any discomfort?”

“No”

“Can you give something more than a one-word answer?” he asks, his voice a bit taut.

I take a deep breath. In, then out. “What do you want from me, Aléc? You’ve never really been interested in what I have to say before, so I just don’t get it.”

“You got hurt; I just wanted to know if you are okay. Is that so wrong?”

I shut up. What the hell am I supposed to say to that? This side of him is new to me. He’s showing care, and I don’t know whether to trust it or not. It could be doing this because if something happens to me, then his pack is doomed. It could also be because of the mate bond. It’s all just consuming

“Look, you’ve never given a s**it about me. So, showing your concern right now is a bit suspicious.” I mumble, pulling my

from his intense ones.

eyes

It's difficult for me to reconcile the monster he is in my head to the man he is portraying.

He moves and leans back in his chair. I shift in the hospital bed, feeling uncomfortable with the way his piercing eyes are drilling into the side of my head.

The tension is palpable. You could cut with a knife.

It was driving me crazy, and I wanted nothing more than to flee from this room. Flee from him and the bond that was driving me to crave things I shouldn't. It took a long time for me to accept that Alec wasn't the man for me. It took a long time for me to realize that we were all kinds of wrong. I accepted that and moved on. Now, with us being mates and the bond working tirelessly to push us together, I felt like I was back to square one.

"Maybe we can teleport to our room?" Nyx suggests her anxiety feeding into mine.

"A good idea," I begin. "But what brought that on?"

"Knox is trying to reach out. It's p**g me off because he won't stop trying to knock my barriers down."

I should have been surprised, but I wasn't. Knox and Alec are Alphas. They are used to getting what they want. This time, though, it won't happen. The love I had for them died in the torture room three years ago, along with my heart.

I closed my eyes about to escape, like the coward I am, but my concentration is interrupted by the sound of the door opening.

"Hello Luna," the cheery voice of a male doctor greets me.

I grit my teeth against the unwanted title. "I'm not your Luna."

He looks between me and Alec in confusion. "I thought you were our Alpha's true mate. He said so."

"I am not."

"B-but"

"Doctor Jacobs, can you give us the diagnosis?" Alec asks through clenched teeth, his eyes sharp on mine.

I don't understand why the hell he was so angry. He shouldn't have told his pack that I was his mate, since I didn't plan on being his mate for long. He should have also corrected the doctor when he called me Luna.

I don't allow his glare to affect me; instead, I focus on the very confused doctor.

"The glass cut an artery; that's why you were bleeding a lot. We were able to stop the bleeding and sew the wound. You have two bruised ribs. You also fractured a bone. We had to set it in place before putting it in a cast. Don't worry though; with your healing, you'll probably be back to normal in two days."

I nod before sinking back on the soft pillows. That isn't so bad. I can wait for two days before I am back to training and hitting punching bags.

"Do you feel any pain or discomfort?" the doctor asks

"Yes. My shoulder hurt a bit."

I turn when Alec growls, his eyes switching colors. "Why the hell didn't you tell me? Why did you lie when I asked?"

Frowning, I glare at him, not really liking his tone of voice. "I didn't feel anything then. I feel it now. Is there a freaking problem with that?"

We have a staring contest, both of us glaring at each other, refusing to back down.

The doctor clears his voice nervously. "I'll send a nurse to administer some painkillers."

Alec breaks the stare first before looking at the ceiling and sighing. It's as if he was praying for patience, which we both know he doesn't have.

"She'll be here in a minute," Doctor Jacobs says before quickly leaving the room.

I expected Alec to follow suit and leave the room, but he doesn't. Like I said, I don't understand what he was doing here.

I'd forgotten to ask the doctor how long I was supposed to stay in the hospital. I hoped it was only a couple of hours because I was dying to see my little girl and hold her in my hand.

The silence stretches on. It fills the air with an awkwardness that makes me really uncomfortable.

"Any update concerning what happened?" I am unable to take it anymore.

"Yes," Alec answers. "But it isn't good."

“What is it?”

He runs his hands down his face before answering. “The cops want us to come in for questioning.”

D**n, that is the worst news ever. Especially if word reaches the council.

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Sighing I lean back against the bed. Like I said, this is the worst news, and I hate it. Nothing good has happened since we got here, and I was starting to wonder if this pack was really under a real curse, because it just doesn’t make sense why I’ve only been receiving bad news since I got here.

“Did they say anything else?” I asked, feeling the pounding of my head increase.

Where was the *d*n nurse? Didn’t the doctor say she would be here in a minute or so? My hand was killing me.

I like the way humans portray us in their novels as these invincible creatures who are only defeated by death, but let’s be real. We are not invincible, and we do feel pain. It’s a b**h.

“Nothing,” Alec answered, pulling me back to the present. “They said they were doing some investigation, and it was confidential until they heard our side of the story. I told them we couldn’t come in because you were hurt, so they suggested coming to us.”

I was never afraid of human cops. They were easy to fool because most of them were lazy and didn’t really want to get involved in cases. Especially if it is complex. Look at how many people go missing and they do nothing about it. They simply tell you that they must have been tired of home and will come back when they are ready. Well, that is until someone turns up dead. Everyone is shocked, but the police didn’t do anything when they went missing in the first place.

Like I said, I am not worried about them. What I am worried about, though, is the council. If this reaches them, then they will be breathing down on us, and with no proof of the existence of hybrids, there will be a lot of chaos.

I know what you are thinking. I am powerful now; I don’t have to be afraid of a bunch of old men. True, but you remember what I told you about these men, right? Can you imagine what would happen if they found out that there was a woman out there more powerful than them? Yes, that’s right. I’ll be hunted, and so will everyone I love.

They’ll want to make me bow to them, and that is something that will never happen. Why the hell do you think no one except my pack knows that the Alpha of The Hope Pack is a woman? I didn’t just hide it because of Alec. I also hid it because of the

council of b**s. I didn't want a war, and that's exactly what would happen if they found out, and I refused to surrender to them.

For now, my powers remain a secret. It's what is best for everyone I care about, including my pack. You think Alec is bad? You haven't met the twelve members of the council.

"Sadie?"

"Sorry. I zoned out a bit." I mumbled, shaking my head to get myself to focus on the current issue. "So, they'll be coming here? Don't you think that's a bit risky?"

He rolls his eyes at me. Can you actually believe that? Alec Ashford, a whole Alpha Male, rolled his eyes at me as if he were a child.

"I'm not that s**d. I gave them an address to one of my houses in town. Which reminds me, we will need to be there tomorrow for them to take our statements."

The quicker we take care of this, the better.

"Fine," I answered. "And the bodies?"

"You were right. They revert to the original species once they die. One was a vampire, and the other was a wolf. The bodies were brought back to the pack and cremated so they would not leave any evidence."

"Good... And Raven? I haven't seen her since I woke up."

"Apparently she left after you left, and no one has seen her since."

That's strange. She wouldn't have disappeared like that. Maybe something is wrong. I'll wait till evening before I begin hunting her down.

I pace the room, anxiety eating at my insides. We had just arrived at Alec's house a few minutes ago. It's a large six-bedroom mansion set on acres of land among the rich and affluent. If I wasn't so worried, I would have appreciated how good the house looked.

It was a bit cold, but maybe because there was nothing of personal value in it. It was just a house, not a home.

"This is where I escape too when I need to be alone and away from the pack," he said when I asked him why his house was on the opposite side of the pack.

If I were me from before, I would have been jumping at the idea of turning this house into a home. Just the idea of bringing warmth to it would have made me all giddy. I wasn't that girl though... and right now I can't even imagine a life with Alec as my mate, let alone turning this cold house into an inviting warmth.

"Will you stop pacing? It's giving me a headache," Alec demanded in a taut voice.

"I can't. I'm worried about Raven."

She didn't come home yesterday. As if that wasn't worrying enough, Raven wasn't picking up her phone either. I tried reaching out to her through my newly discovered mind-link powers, but it didn't work. Either it doesn't work when someone isn't in proximity or something terrible has happened to her.

"She's probably fine," Alec said, waving his hand dismissively.

"What if she's not? Those hybrids were after me yesterday. It might be because I've been hunting them, and their leader sent them to capture me. What if the same thing happened to Raven, but unlike us, she wasn't able to fight them off?"

The more I thought about it, the more worried I became. All sorts of scenarios played in my head, and none of them were good. My breath started coming in rapidly, and I felt like I was being suffocated.

I put my hand against my chest, trying to calm myself down, but nothing happened. I felt like something heavy was set on top of my chest. I couldn't breathe.

I was so lost in my worry that I didn't see Alec move. Without warning, he grabs me and pulls me against his chest. One of his hands is wrapped around my waist while the other is holding the back of my head. Gently, he pushes me forward so that my head is on his chest.

I try fighting him, but he doesn't let me go. Eventually, I give up as the beat of his heart begins to calm me down. I close my eyes for a brief second and inhale his scent.

I can feel every inch of him. Every hard ridge of his body. Alec was taller than I was, so my head just touched his chest, unlike Lola, who was tall enough to reach his neck.

The need to wrap my hand around his waist and stay in his arms is riding me hard. I also can't ignore the urge to reach up on my toes and seal our mouths together.

The bond comes to life, this close to each other. It's needs demanding to be fulfilled.

Alec's hand around my waist tightens, pushing us closer together. Closer than we were a few seconds ago. He places his chin on top of my head, and I feel him inhaling my scent.

For a minute, I forget what has happened between us, and I get lost in the moment. Get lost in the feel of his body against mine and his hand around my waist. I get lost in the 'what could have been' as I drown in all that is Alec Ashford.

I melt in his arms as I give in to the demands of the bond for the first time since we learned that we were mates.

I close my eyes for a brief second. The moment I do, though, flashes of the past enter my mind, reminding me that Alec isn't the same man I built my dreams and hopes around.

F**k. What the hell was I doing? Why was I allowing him to hold me like this?

I aggressively pushed him away. He wasn't prepared for my actions, so he stumbles a little bit, but releases me. I pull away, breathing hard, trying to clear my head from the spell that had been cast on me.

"Sadie?"

I raise my finger, indicating to him to give me a minute. When I calm down, I pull myself together before facing him. "Don't ever touch me like that ever again, Alec."

"You are my mate, Sadie? How can I not touch you?" he asked, advancing on me while I took steps back.

"Touch me? Remember how you were disgusted by my touch when you realized we slept together? And mate? You had a mate, Alec... Or have you forgotten that you told me Lola was the love of your life, and you wouldn't touch me with a pole even if she wasn't in the picture?"

"I believed she was my mate. What the hell was I supposed to do? I believed I betrayed her with you. How would you wake up and learned you slept with someone else? Someone who wasn't your mate, and in doing so, you hurt the one you feel if you were in love with?"

I do get it. If things were different and Alec and I got together. It would have shattered me to realize he had slept with another woman a few days before our mating ceremony. The old me wouldn't have retaliated in the way he did, but it would have hurt the same.

"That's not the point," I told him, taking more steps away from him. "The reason you want me now is because of the mate bond and what I can do for your pack. You never wanted me before. Hell, you never gave me the time of day. I am still the same woman I was back then, so it's a bit pretentious for you to want me now, when you didn't back then."

He stops in his tracks. "So, you're telling me that what I feel right now isn't real."

“Yes. You don’t get over the love of your life easily, let alone fall for the one woman that you could never stand. The one woman you were never attracted to. Whatever you are feeling is courtesy of the bond. Once you accept the rejection, it’ll fade away, and you won’t have to pretend anymore.”

Something moves in his eyes, but I ignore it, refusing to dive into what it is. I don’t want to see the truth in them.

“And what about you?” he surprises me by asking. “Are your feelings towards me also because of the mate bond?”

“My feelings don’t matter, here.”

“And why the hell not?” he demanded. “You are good at telling me what I feel is courtesy of the bond, yet you don’t want me to dive into your feelings?”

I sighed, already tired of this conversation. “What do you want from me, Alec? I loved you; is that what you want to hear? I did. I loved you, and you shattered me. The love I had for you died in the dungeons three years ago. I feel nothing for you except for what the bond wants me to.”

“I see,” he breathed in a husky voice.

Deep down, I know it’s a total lie, but I won’t admit it. I refuse to. This is for the best. Whatever I felt for Alec is buried deep down in the darkest depths of my soul, and I refuse to revive it.

We stay in silence. Well, that is until the silence is interrupted by a sharp knock on the door.