

## Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 41

### Chapter 41

No one really prepares you for a mate. It's hard to explain the mate connection to someone who doesn't have it. And to someone who has found their mate, they already know and you don't have to explain it. But what they don't talk about is the relationship struggle. Your soulmate, chosen by the Moon Goddess, that you literally just met and laid eyes on. Building that relationship is not as straight forward as it seems. More than that, the connection you two share. The emotional, physical, and mental connection that comes with the bond. It's far different than the connection with your wolf. So vastly different but at the same time, still a piece of you.

Auri was a handful. When I was out on patrols or missions, the guys would talk about their mates. And sure, Auri's cooking was sublime and even the boys whined if she didn't pack a lunch for everyone but it was more than that. They talked about the submissiveness of their mates. Auri was always on fire. While she had stopped complaining about having Bryan or Hector with her at all times, she would burn so brightly that they took up sulking in the shadows rather than standing next to her at times.

Most female mates didn't want to train either. They wanted to produce pups and take care of them but Auri trained every day. Even asking Hector or Bran to train with her. They in turn each did it once and said never again. I hadn't had the time but I wondered what the hell kind of training she was doing. I wondered if my training regimens were too soft. She questioned me at every turn. Sometimes out of annoyance but mostly forcing me to vocalize what I was thinking. It was her way of laying everything on the table because I had gone ten years without anyone hearing my plans but Cato. I would voice then and she would bite back, poking holes in everything.

The thing was though that Auri was a damn good Luna. Everyone respected the hell out of her and the work she put in. We had been so bus with the rogue attacks, we have been reduced to quickies in the office or the kitchen table. I savored the moments though when we could be alone. Each one, filed away in my memory that I would always hold dear.

When she asked to take care of Morgan, I allowed it. Hector was giving me a play by play of the faces when the met for the first time in five months. He wasn't privy to the conversation but he kept mentioning how Morgan looked like shit. As though the life had been sucked out of him. He also warned me

she was going to request a week off to take care of him. Who was I say to no. She was his family. Family was important and it wasn't something I would take away from her.

What I hadn't expected was the fight the day she left. I planned on her taking Hector. He was Gamma and therefore in charge of her protection. But she refused. Her foot came down and the fire started. I was pissed at her for questioning my authority, again. But she didn't back down. Cato said to stay firm but I caved. Livid and I didn't want to lose any more control, agreed. She tried to soften her voice but it pissed me off more and I threw all three of them out of my office. Bryan had chased after her, and while I was left stewing in my anger, I decided to go after her as well. I hoped to catch her before she left.

Bran bounded past me, upset over something and completely ignoring me. She was probably still mad at him. When I came up to the edge of the forest, I watched as my mate was smoking next to Morgan. I was confused. She was smoking a cigarette as she spoke to him, visibly upset. Her eyes locked with mine and I tried to mind link with her but it was closed off; shut down. She got in the car and I watched as they left the area.

I called her every day and we would talk about everything and nothing. We didn't mention the fight we had. Bryan and Hector had been acting funny ever since she left. On edge all the time, they were waiting for her or waiting for something to happen. But her voice soothed me and I reveled in it ever time we talked. It was on the fourth day that I called and there was no answer. I thought maybe she was working on a setlist or down at the club. The next hour I called again and again and again. She still didn't pick up. I could feel the knot growing in my stomach.

The next day, I went out with Team 3 to check the defenses in the Northeast corner of the territory. Somehow there was a hole that the rogues kept exploiting. As the seven of us surveyed the land, my phone rang. Auri's voice shook over the phone line. She said her phone was with Morgan. Which meant she wasn't with him. She wasn't safe. She needed to come home and Cato agreed. But she kept saying she couldn't.

'God, this was a terrible idea. I'll talk to you later hopefully.'

"I love you Auri. I love you, so much." I spoke quickly, afraid that she wouldn't hear me.

'I love you too. Goodbye Logan.'

"Don't say goodbye. Don't say it."

'Tell the boys I love them too, and goodbye. I was too pissed to say it when I left.'

"AURI!"

The phone line disconnected and I stood there. Shock and fear rolled through me. The group of guys I had taken out came over to me.

"Everything alright Alpha?"

I looked at Captain Everett, furring my brow. "Honestly, I don't know but I have a really bad feeling."

He nodded. "Do you want to go back? We can do this later."

I thought about it but we needed to get this survey done. We needed to make sure the pack was protected. Otherwise we would end up losing more people. I felt like I was losing Auri though. My mind raced a mile a minute, trying to decide what to do. I was in the dark again. She had gone off on her own, again.

'Logan, she didn't want anyone to go with her. She planned this. She had to have. You remember how upset she was when she was with Morgan as they left. Something is going on with out mate.' Cato whined at me.

'If this was planned though, Morgan would know. Morgan wouldn't have put her in danger.'

'He wasn't there. He is with her phone, safe probably.'

I growled. 'If he did know about this, I'm going to tear his throat out myself.'

I looked up at Everett. "We need to continue. I'll deal with it later."

"Yes Alpha."

We continued the survey but I hung back, knowing my mind wasn't fully invested. As I walked, my skin started to tingle. Not the same electricity that

happened when Auri touched me. It prickled, like someone was poking me with thousands of tiny needles.

"Alpha, I don't think we are going to find anything today." Everett was looking at me, concerned.

I nodded. "Alright Captain. Let's head back then."

I sat in the passenger seat with my head in my hands. The tingling got worse, it was stinging now. I thought my skin would be red and irritated but it wasn't. Even brushing my skin didn't help. It was like it was internal. Suddenly, there was a flair of pain in my arm. I felt like something had stabbed me and I leaned over, coughing.

"Alpha?"

"Take me to the packhorse Everett." I managed to say between coughs. I held my arm tight but it wasn't helping. I wasn't bleeding. I didn't know what the hell was going on with me.

Everett drove quickly and I felt more pain. My back first, being hit in the back with a bat. Then my legs, getting torn apart. While my head was down, I tried to fight off the painful tears that were filling my eyes. What the hell was wrong with me? My chest felt like it was getting torn apart and I finally cracked. I let out a strangled cry. Everett pulled into the driveway and Bryan was waiting outside the packhouse for us.

"What the hell is going on?"

"I'm not sure Beta. He just started to double over in pain but nothing happened." Everett sounded as confused as I was.

"Can you go pick up the doctor? Bring him back. I'll take care of Alpha." Bryan pulled me out of the Jeep and into the house. Hector came in as well, worried.

"Alpha, can you explain what the hell is going on?"

I shook my head. "I feel like I'm getting beaten the fuck up. It fucking hurts."

They both looked at each other, confused.

"I'm having Everett bring the doctor but I think we should get him up to bed."

"Do you think this has to do with Auri being gone?"

Bryan shrugged and put my arm over his shoulder. We made our way up the stairs when I felt a burst of pain unlike anything I had ever experienced tore through my whole body. I fell to my knees, Bryan let me slip as he wasn't expecting to hold up my full weight. I let out a scream, wrapping my arms around body. Everything hurt. Every muscle and bone, every nerve in my body felt like it was on fire. I was aware I was convulsing but I couldn't stop. Never in my life had I felt this much pain. For a moment, the pain radiated in my body but it leveled out a lesser degree. I choked out a cry as I took deep breaths.

"Fuck. Hector! Help me!" Bryan called from the stairs.

With the two of them, they were able to get me into my room. They got me on the bed when another wave of excruciating pain hit me. I let out another strangled cry and curled up into a ball. It was tearing through me, crushing me all over again. I started to dry heave when Bryan lifted me up, holding a container up. I threw up, shaking all over. The pain ebbed back to the lower level, still there, still hurting, but it was manageable comparatively.

"Justin, thank the goddess."

Bryan got up after waiting to see if I could continue throwing up but I shook my head and laid my head on the cool sheets. I realized I was covered in a layer of sweat. Justin was our pack doctor and the only one I ever trusted to take care of the three of us. I was glad he never had to take care of Auri. Hector was explaining to him all that Everett had said, as well as what had gone on. Justin sat on the edge of the bed and looked me over. I was whimpering at this point. He used the light to look at my eyes and took my pulse but I could see his face fall. He stood up from the bed and looked at Bryan and Hector. "Where is Luna?"

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His question threw me off guard but another painful surge ripped through me. I thrashed against the pain and Bryan tried to hold me down against the bed. Justin rubbed his neck as he stepped away from the bed, his brow knit.

"I can't help him."

"What the fuck Doc? He's in pain! Literally writhing in it!" Hector gestured to me.

He shook his head. "It's not him...it's the pain trickling through the mate bond."

Everyone grew quiet for a few minutes. I took a couple breaths, the pain subsiding for a moment.

"What the fuck do you mean?"

He looked at me with an emotion I hated; pity. "The mate bond transfers a lot. Feelings, emotions, and sometimes sensations. Especially when a mate bond is strong. One of the reason why mates go crazy when the other mate has died is because the mate bond will transfer the pain, the feeling of death over to the other mate. Albeit only a tenth or so of what that mate is actually feeling, but it's enough. Sharing a tenth of their pain, their death, can sometimes be enough to drive a werewolf mad."

I screamed out again as the pain flared up. How was this a 10th of what she was feeling? I cried, sobbing uncontrollably. I cried for her pain and mine.

"She must be slipping in and out of consciousness. Which is why you're not feeling the pain constantly."

He gave everyone in the room a once-over again. "Honestly. There isn't anything I can do. From how much pain he's in, I hope Luna funds relief in the Moon Goddess soon."

Hector fell to his knees and Bryan put a hand on his shoulder, steadying himself.

"FUCK. SHE'S DYING." I yelled, screamed at them. "MY MATE IS FUCKING DYING."

Justin left the room swiftly but Bryan and Hector stayed with me.

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As hours passed, wave after wave of pain hitting me, I imaged Auri alone going through this pain. I couldn't move; could barely breathe. I had nothing left to throw up, nothing left but to scream in a hoarse voice. Another wave of pain, this one the worst of them all just left me screaming incoherently before

it stopped completely. My body felt nothing. No pain. No tingling. Nothing. I laid there, breathless.

"Alpha?"

Bryan asked timidly. I pushed myself up weakly, my arms shaking. Looking at him, fresh tears falling down my face. "I can't feel anything anymore. It's just gone." I started sobbing. "It's all fucking gone. She's gone. Bryan, she's gone."

I was wracked with sobs that I couldn't breathe properly. I could hear Hector wailing. Bryan was crying with me, holding me, as I rocked back and forth. She was gone. In the most painful and excruciating way, my mate was dead.

I didn't leave my bed. At some point, Bryan and Hector had left. Bryan had told some of the guys who had stuck around from the survey group to go home. Only Hector and him remained in the house. I could still here Hector's strangled sobs in his bedroom. I could hear Bryan destroying his room before breaking down in tears. I just cried out everything. My body shaking. Only Auri could bring out my true weakness.

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It was three more days before Bran came into the bedroom. He stood at the doorway. "Border patrol just checked in. Morgan's at the south border."

I snapped up to look at him. I was shaking, not eating, not moving for days I felt the weakness creep into my bones. My anger flowed out of me and my eyes went black. I shifted before I even left the house, destroying multiple chairs and tables as I ran out of the house. I was aware I wasn't alone but it didn't matter. I was going to kill him. I was going to tear his throat out and kill him. It was going to be the first pleasure I would feel in days.

I jumped out of the forest line, shifting into human form. "YOU FUCKING BASTARD!"

I threw a punch at his face and he didn't block it. Morgan didn't do anything. I just watched as he stumbled back from the blow. He looked up at me and I saw the depression, the sadness, the utter defeat in his eyes. It made me angrier.

"YOU WERE HER FATHER. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT HER!" I screamed at him. Bryan and Hector had shifted behind me but they didn't interfere.

"You're right. I couldn't protect her. Not this time." His voice was hoarse and shaking.

"SHE'S DEAD. MY MATE IS DEAD. MY AURI DIED PAINFULLY FOR HOURS." I watched as he just fell to his knees, his head bent down.

"She left notes. They are in the passenger side of the car." I grabbed him by the throat and lifted him up. He didn't try to squirm away or push against me. He just continued to speak. "She knew. She knew as soon as she got it but she took it anyways." He was crying but like me, there was nothing left to cry. It was just dry sobs.

Bryan had opened the passenger door. "There is a letter with each of our names on it. In Auri's handwriting and this..."

I looked over and my nails elongated as they wrapped into Morgan's throat. "Why do you have a blue scroll?"

"It's not mine, it's Auri's. It's the Huntresses request." I let go of his neck and he fell to the ground.

I strode over to Bryan and tore the scroll from his hands and opened it. I read it over. 'The High Council requests The Huntress to proceed with the mission provided against the Bloodhunter Coven.' I froze.

"The fucking Bloodhunter Coven? Why didn't they just ask her to fucking slit her own throat? It would have been faster!" I was livid.

"She succeeded." I barely heard his reply.

"HOW IS IT A FUCKING SUCCESS WHEN SHE DIED, IN PAIN, ALONE?"

Morgan stared at the ground. "The compensation will go to you. Since you are her next of kin. So expect a visit from one of the high council..."

"If any of the sleazy fucking ass-wipes step onto my territory, I will fucking tear them to pieces personally.



"She didn't want them to go after the pack. After you. She knows the consequences of refusing, Logan. If she told you, you wouldn't have let her go."

"FOR FUCKS SAKE OF COURSE NOT. IT'S A GOD DAMNED SUICIDE MISSION!"

"She wasn't willing to take the chance on the consequences."

"So fucking what! We couldn't have faces those consequences together!"

"Then your pack would suffer! You all would! She wasn't about to repeat history Logan!"

"My pack has been through worse and we survived!"

This time, Morgan got up and strode over to me. "No Logan. Your pack went through EXACTLY this scenario because your parents denied a blue scroll." I froze, looking down at Morgan's angry face. "You will not try to belittle my daughters sacrifice for you and her pack because you feel like you could weather the fucking consequences."

"My parents denied a blue scroll?"

"Yes, they did and you know what? They not only died for their decision but so did half your fucking pack. For their SINGLE decision. Auri was not about to take that chance. She couldn't. Not after the pain you suffered from the first one."

Bryan put his hand on my shoulder and handed me a manilla envelope. My finger traced over my name in her perfect handwriting. I used to make fun of her because it looked like a teenage schoolgirl but it was perfect. What I wouldn't give to hear her say my name again. I choked out a sob and dropped to my knees.

"She wouldn't tell me the specifics of her plans. She stayed up late. Scouring through the notes. I read through them as well. It was fucking horrendous. They might as well have given her a banana and say go kill the entire coven with this." Morgan dropped to his knees as well near me.

"Do you know..." I asked, pleading.

He narrowed his eyes at the ground. "She knew it was shit too. They didn't have anything. The place had an elder and a leader which were her targets. But there were over 500, maybe 600 vampires living in the compound as well." He paused before continuing.

"They don't need sleep or worry about the sun. There isn't an shift change or place you can sneak in. She knew it " He chuckled to himself. « She just ran in, guns blazing. Threw grenades like it was confetti. Both the elder and leader died, along with over 450 other vampires in the compound."

"Did they find her. her body...?" I could barely get the words out. Hector turned his back, his hands covering his face.

"They did. Her..." He closed his eyes hard, tears streaming now. He took a few haggard unneeded breaths. "She was too close to the final blast. The blast shattered her insides. She was buried beneath debris from the building after that."

I thought back to the pain; the indescribable pain. It was the pain of having your entire body blown to pieces. "If she was human, she would have died instantly but her wolf, her genes, kept her alive. Kept bringing her back into the pain, torturing her." I remember each time the pain flared up. Every time for hours being in utterly miserable pain. My nails tore into my skin. I could feel the slick blood before Bran yelled and grabbed my arm, pulling it away.

"Stop it Alpha. You're gonna get blood on her letter." I looked down, the very last thing I had of my mate. I nodded and wiped my hand on the grass.

"What are you going to do now?" Bryan asked Morgan.

"Truthfully, I hadn't thought past dying at the hands of your Alpha." He looked over at me. "But I don't think there is anything left for him to be able to go through with it. So I'll probably go back home to Italy. There isn't anything here for me now." He whispered the last sentence. I understood his feelings.

## **Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 43**

### **Chapter 43**

It was a while before we managed to pick ourselves up off the the ground. Morgan left and I knew I probably would never see him again. He have given me something more. I looked at the note I was holding. The three of us

walked back in silence to the house. Our whole pack was in mourning but no one bothered us. Knowing what we were going through being the ones closest to her. That we felt the pain more than they ever would.

I made my way to the bedroom and locked the door behind me. With the letter safely on my bed, I showered and cleaned up. I was afraid to get the letter dirty. I broke the seal and poured out the contents of the envelope. There was a note wrapped in twine and a pressed Starflower tucked into the twine. There was also a secondary package wrapped in brown paper. On the package it read 'Read note first. Nice try.' I chuckled. She was bossing me around still. Untying the twine, I gingerly placed the flower to the side and unfolded the pages of the letter. It explained what happened. Why she made her decision.

It even went into a slight rant about how she didn't know the best way into the compound before she stopped writing. Put a smiley face and just wrote. 'I'm ranting again aren't I.'

The next section was filled with her sweet words. Her love for me, describing it in a way I thought words would never be able to capture. She described my scent to her. What it felt like when I touched her. What it meant for her for me not to reject her. The feeling of caring for someone so much more than herself. How she would do everything in her power to protect me.

The last part of the letter was her requests of me. Help Bryan and Hector find their mates. Make sure the Pack was safe. If I hadn't killed Morgan when he delivered the letter to check on him once in a while. She made a note to say he was alone now, while I still had the pack and she worried about him. She also asked me to be happy. She knew it wouldn't be right away and she wasn't asking for miracles but she wanted me to live. To be the best Alpha without her. To be happy without her.

I couldn't breathe. My heart was in my throat and I tried to swallow but it wouldn't go down. I choked out the sobs as I gasped for air. I held onto the pages, crying with a whole new fever that I didn't think I could still manage. The pages shook within my hand. The bottom of the letter was slight 'Your mate, your love, always and forever' and in her perfect signature 'Auri'.

There was a small PS down at the bottom and I had to squint through my tears to read it. 'You can open up the present down but only put it in when you think you are ready.'

I unwrapped the package and opened up an old CD case with an ordinary CD inside. It had an 'A' written on it in her writing. I couldn't bring myself to even entertain the idea of putting it on. I had to be ready and I wasn't. Not yet. I didn't know if I could ever be.

I reread her letter over and over and over again until I fell asleep. When I would wake up, I would reread it again and again. Hearing her voice in my head reading it to me. At some point, Bryan unlocked my door with the master key.

"Alpha, you need to eat."

He pulled me up off my bed and threw my arm over his shoulder and helped me walk to the kitchen. He sat me on a stool at the kitchen island as he began rummaging through the refrigerator.

"What did yours say?"

He stopped his rummaging for a moment. "She said to take care of you. That right now, you needed a strength that you hadn't built up yet and that I needed to be the foundation for a while." He smiled. "She also gave me a bunch of her recipes. So I'll be able to make some of our favorites still."

Hector walked in and sat down next to me. He put his arms out on the table and laid his head down. "She told me to man up." He grumbled.

Both of us chuckled, for the first time in days. He looked at us, wounded.

"She's not wrong Hector."

"Says the one who couldn't last an hour during her training."

"At least I lasted that long. You blacked out in ten minutes!"

I listened to both of them bicker, smiling slightly. I thought back to her letter.

- Rely on them my love. It's okay to ask for help. It's okay to need help. Hector and Bryan will be there for you. I know because I told they needed to be. Hehe.

"I'm... gonna need your help guys. For a while." I looked up at both of them as they looked back at me in shock.

"Of course, Alpha."

"We will be here for you, whenever and whatever you need us for."

I gave a sad smile to both of them and nodded to myself. Of course she was right. Auri was always right. My eyes filled with tears again and Hector put a hand on my back.

"We didn't deserve her anyways right?" I choked out.

Bryan took a deep breath, looking up and I could see he was fighting tears. Hector just let his tears fall.

"She loved us and died for us. Always protecting us the best she possibly could." Hector chuckled. "Whether or not we wanted her to."

"I don't know if I can forgive her for this." I looked up at them. "Auri was the one who was easy to forgive but I don't know if I can do it this time."

Bryan slammed the door shut and looked away. "She still has meals prepped for us."

I couldn't hold it in and I ran to the bathroom and threw up. Shaking, I sat on the floor of the bathroom. I looked up at Hector, who was looking down at me.

"One day it will hurt less. One day we'll forgive her. One day we'll be able to remember her smile, her laugh, her words and not find only pain. It's not going to be today, it's not going to be tomorrow. But one day, together, we are going to be what Auri wants us to be." He left, slamming the door to his room after walking up the stairs.

I got up from the floor and smelled smoke. Bryan was out the door of the kitchen, smoking a cigarette. I sat back on the island.

"I ordered takeout." He was quiet for a while. "He's right you know. I hate to admit it, but he's right."

I took a deep breath. "I know. But I don't think I can be what she wants me to be. I can already feel everything going numb. I can't even feel Cato anymore."

Bryan let out a puff of smoke. "We have to. We owe it to her. She gave her life for us. Whether or not we wanted it, she did it. So now, we have an obligation."

"She wanted me to help you find your mate."

"Fuck that."

I chuckled. "So much for that speech."

He sighed and put out his cigarette, coming into the house and closing the door. Sitting down next to me, he leaned back. "I miss her Alpha. I miss my best friend. But I can't imagine..." He looked at me, worried.

"Somehow I'm still alive. If I feel even the definition of alive but I'm still here." My voice shook. "We have to try. Fuck, we do owe it to her to try."

Bryan nodded and sighed. "She was the best of us. Now we have to be the best for her."

"Starting with forgiveness." I nodded. "Starting with forgiveness."

## **Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 44**

### **Chapter 44**

Days turned into weeks, weeks turned into months, and months turned into a year. Time was a cruel mistress. She continues forward with or without us. Whether or not we are ready for it. Three months after Auri's death, Bryan found his mate. To say everyone walked on eggshells for weeks was an understatement. I was happy for him though, as happy as my emotions would allow for him though, as happy as my emotions would allow me to be. There wasn't really much left of me outside of Alpha. I just continued forward. For the pack, I continued. Just like Auri wanted.

Hector turned his grief into training. He had become a beast. The man could even best me on a good day. He still hadn't found his mate but he said he never wanted one. Not after seeing the pain I went through. I didn't want to force him either. Still, I felt like I was letting Auri down a little bit in regards to my Gamma.

Almost as quickly as they had escalated, the rogue attacks stopped. Part of the 'compensation

' that was provided by the High Council is that they sent the Alpha King to reinforce and destroy the rogues around my territory. Not a single rogue dared

to cross my border again but I made sure that not a single member of High Council stepped foot on my territory as well.

I was currently staring at the paperwork in front of me when Denise, Bryan's mate, opened the door.

"Denise, don't you dare..." Bryan was holding her arm in the hall, trying to pull her back.

"No! I'm gonna ask him." She hissed at him and yanked her arm away.

Denise was a spitfire. It made me happy to see her fight Bryan sometimes. A spark of Auri that made me smile when I watched the two of them.

"Alpha, I'm sorry to bother you."

Bryan came in after her. "No, you're not."

She glared at him. "Shut it." She turned back to me. The fire suddenly dropped into hesitation. "Alpha, you wouldn't happen to know the Luna's favorite flower?"

Now I saw why Bryan had tried to stop her but I smiled. Thinking all the way back to our 20 question drive when I had first met Auri, I closed my eyes. Trying replay the scene in my head. It took a minute, remembering her voice again. The way she looked at me. That silver dress that draped over thighs.

"Starflowers. The ones that grow in the forest." I said after a while.

She nodded. "Thank you, Alpha." She walked out of my office and hit Bryan in the stomach as she headed out. He doubled over in mock pain. She closed the door behind her with a huff. I couldn't help but let out a chuckle.

"I told her not to bother you with any of the anniversary details." Bryan sat down in the chair across from my desk. He was rubbing his eyes. "She is gonna be the death of me."

Denise insisted that we have a remembrance for Auri. Frankly, the pack had been behind this idea wholeheartedly and I couldn't say no. I knew the pack mourned her loss. She wasn't Luna for very long but she made a lasting impression. I looked back down at the paperwork in front of me. Choosing to grab my glass of bourbon and take a sip before picking up my pen again.

"Don't worry about it Bryan, it's fine."

He nodded. "Why don't you take a break? You've been at that desk all day. Let me make up for my mate barging in and I can take over."

I looked up at him, eyebrow raised, seeing if he was serious or not. The look on his face showed he was.

"Are you telling me I work too much Beta?"

"I am Alpha. Take a break. Isn't it your monthly call away?"

I looked at the calendar. Shit. He was right. It had taken me four months to follow Auri's request of checking in with Morgan. It had taken another month to even find a way to contact him. But now I called once a month, just checking in. He had taken control back of the Italian mafia. We chatted about work mostly. Sometimes discussing joint missions in regards to pack business. The man had his hands in everything. It was truly impressive.

"Alright." I set my pen down. "I'll leave it to you then."

He was a little surprised I gave in so quickly but I got up and headed to the door. Lately, the listlessness had been getting to me. I figured maybe a call to Morgan would help.

Walking into my room, I ran my hands through my hair. It had gotten long. I needed to cut it but just like the disaster my bedroom had turned into, I didn't really have time to deal with it. I fumbled around the desk and the top of the dresser, looking for the burner phone I used to call Morgan. I knocked things off the top of my dresser and something hit the floor with a sickening crack.

Looking down, I saw a CD case, a crack now running through the top of it. I bend down and picked it up. Flipping it open, I stared at the 'A' on the CD. I chewed on my tongue for a minute.

"Hey Bryan! Do you have a CD playing somewhere in this place?" I yelled out into the hall.

There was a long pause. "A fucking CD player? Who the fuck uses CDs anymore?"



Hector was walking up the stairs. "I think there is one in the living room. Why?"

I made a face at the CD. In her letter that I had memorized ages ago said to listen to it when I was ready. Was I ready? It had been a year. If I wasn't ready now, would I ever be?

"Auri left me a CD with her letter."

Hector froze mid-climb up the stairs and Bryan came out of the office, arms crossed.

"Have you listened to it before?"

I shook my head.

"Fuck man. What have you been waiting for?"

Hector just looked between Bran and I. I just shrugged, not really knowing what to say. It was a mixture of not being ready and then genuinely burying it so deep that I forgot about it.

"I think there is one attached to the sound system in the living room. If you want to pop it in."

I nodded and made my way down the stairs into the living room. A huge sectional faced the fireplace where the giant TV was mounted above it. Next to the fireplace was the a new sound system Hector brought home a few months ago. For a while he was using it to drown out Bryan and Denise but lately it had gone unused since he was out so much.

Pulling it open, I read each of the levels of the player and found the CD player. I popped it open and placed the CD in. I looked back at Bryan who was leaning against the far wall, his arms crossed over his chest and his lips pursed in a thin line. Hector was leaning forward on the back of the couch, looking at the player. They would hear it anywhere in the packhouse anyways so I didn't mind they were next to me. I leaned back on my feet and pressed play.

'Hey Logan'

My heart dropped in my chest. Her voice rang out from the speakers. Her saying my name. I had almost forgotten the sound of it.

'I don't know how long it's been since you felt ready to put this CD in. But I'm proud of you.'

I took gasping breaths. Bryan had stood up from his lean and Hector was frozen in place.

'Not proud you managed to find a CD player and put it in of course.' She laughed. 'But managed to find the strength to listen. Proud that you're still there, taking care of the pack.'

Tears started to form. I hadn't cried in months but now they streamed down my cheeks. I could hear Denise walk in but she stood frozen in the archway, reading the room. Seeing three grown ass werewolves with tears in their eyes.

'The boys better be taking care of you! You work too hard. You need to take a break once in a while. It's not good for you.'

Denise gasped and whatever she was holding dropped to the ground. Bryan walked over to her and pulled her into his arms. He was shaking. She just held onto his arm.

'I know it's not much. I couldn't prepare much for you but I wanted to give you a little piece of me. In case, some day, you needed it. Needed to hear me.' She chuckled again. 'Max is helping me because frankly I don't know how any of this shit works.'

I coughed out a strangled laugh between my sobs at her cursing. I was on my knees, my hands curled up into fists, staring at the floor. Listening to my mate, my Luna.

'Well, no one wants to listen to me ramble on! That's not what this is! This is for you, my mate, my love. A specially curated set list just for you.'

There was a pause and then the piano started to play. My head bowed to the floor as I listened to Auri sing. Her words washing over me, the music filling my soul with a sense of love but also despair.

For the first time in months, I felt Cato stir. He had been unreachable. Inconsolable over the loss of our mate. I felt him whine and howl within me.

How could I have forgotten this, let this sit for so long. The packhouse filled with her voice, her music and for a moment I thought I smelled her. That deep forest and spicy smell that I craved.

All of us stayed in silence as the CD played out. There were seven songs. Each curated for me. Each eliciting an emotion that I had buried deep inside. The last song played and there was a pause. I looked at the player, scared it was over already when her voice came through again.

'Logan. Don't be afraid to live.'

"No!" I yelled, making the others jump. "Not without you." I breathed out. But also as if on queue her voice came over.

'Yes, without me. Don't argue with me, Alpha.' You could hear the smile in her words. 'You are the strongest person I've ever met and I know you can do it. I know you can be happy again. Live happily. I'm not saying it will be easy but you need to, for me.'

There was a pause.

'I will always love you, my mate. That will never stop. I know you will always love me. But it doesn't mean you can't love someone else too. Love Bryan, love Hector, love their mates, love yourself and love someone you choose.'

The quiet stretched out again and I whined. I whined like a wounded wolf until the stereo sounded again.

'I have to go. It's time. But know I'm thinking of you. Know I love you more than anything. Goodbye my love. My mate. My Logan.'

The player stopped. The whirl of the CD quieting. No one spoke or moved for a long time, just letting the tears fall.

"Alpha..." Bryan was the first to break the silence. We all looked at him, his eyes were red and it looked like he were holding onto Denise for dear life. "We had the best Luna."

I smiled, more tears falling down my face. "We really did Bryan. We really did."

## **Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 45**

\*\*\*Max's POV\*\*\*

"Good to see you, Maximillion!"

A hand clamped down on my shoulder as I walked into the grand ballroom. It was lit with chandeliers and candelabras but somehow the room still felt dark and dreary.

"High Councilor Oran, lovely seeing you." I forced a smile, shaking the man's hand.

"We were worried you weren't going to make it!"

I could hear the underlying threat. "There was some business that needed to be finished off before I was able to leave my post."

Oran tsked. "I heard you were dealing with some drug smuggling vampires in Russia, nasty business. I'm glad you were able to make it though! Enjoy your time this evening!"

He strode off into the crowd and I quickly grabbed a glass of champagne, not even letting myself taste it as I threw it down my throat. I grabbed another one from a stunned waiter and made my way through the crowd. They were dressed in evening wear, laughing and some even dancing near the back of the room. I leaned against one of the six pillars that were surrounding the room as I surveyed the disgusting display of fake smiles.

The Alpha King was in the corner furthest from me. He had quite a few Alpha's and some Luna's around him chatting casually. They were from the biggest or the most influential packs from all over the world. Though invited, Alpha Logan never replied nor came to a single one of the meetings.

Scattered around the room were groups of vampires, like me. Different leaders or even whole covens of the more powerful or influential vampires. There were a few younger faces, as the new generation started to step up but mostly it was vampires Morgan's age or older.

The fey were the ones that stood out the most against the crowd. While you might mistake the vampires and werewolves for humans, you had a mix of fairies, nymphs, and other creatures coming in all shapes, sizes, and colors. They flittered about the room and many of them were the ones dancing and enjoying the live musicians. I took another sip of champagne.

All the High Council members were in attendance already. Three elder vampires, three werewolves, four fey, and surprisingly enough, two humans. Though the humans were half breeds, they still had a say at the table. Their attire could be picked out from the crowd in an instant, with their long white and gold robes.

High Councilor Oran was one of the vampire elders. He had taken the most offense to Morgan skipping out on meetings. After Auri had died, Morgan wanted nothing to do with the High Council. He missed a handful of meetings but the came back with a very nasty threatening letter saying if it happened again, there would be consequences. Morgan was the most influential vampire, managing to not take sides and was held in high regard amongst the covens that even the High Council couldn't deny him. That's when he tasked me with going and I had been attending the meetings for over a year now.

The Russian bust of vampires, that had been using their own venom to create a drug that effected humans, had taken a little longer than anticipated. Morgan had been MIA ever since Auri's death anniversary and that was three months ago. I was late by a week but these things lasted anywhere between one month to three depending on what was on the docket to be discussed. The High Council was not one to rush anything. Not even when it was actually time sensitive.

"Maximillion, nice to see you."

I smiled a genuine smile, clasping arms with another vampire. "Young, it's good to see you. Miss Gianna, you look even more lovely." I bowed my head to the young female hanging into Young's arm.

"Oh Max, you're such a flirt." She smiled as she whipped a black feathered fan out and covered her mouth.

"How are you doing? How is Morgan?" Young looked around the room for a moment before saying quieter, "The anniversary just passed, did it not?"

I nodded. Young was a good one. He had a small coven in Seoul that he and Morgan had a long standing friendship with. They were good friends and I considered him a friend as well. He knew much about Morgan's life and even had met Auri once or twice.

"I haven't seen him for three months."

"It's amazing that one death can take such a toll on him." Gianna pipped up, fan still out.

Young laughed and patted his woman. "You never met Auri but to say that the when she moved the world turned to watch would be an understatement. She was a force. One that Morgan took great care in protecting."

Young understood what it meant to lose people, all vampires did. If you didn't change them, you watched your family, friends and lovers die of old age as you just stood a statue in time. Unmoving and unchanging. Someone like Morgan, who has lived over 500 years old, was expected to move on because how many times had it happened. Auri was different though. The people who met her understood and the ones that didn't, never would.

"Still, she was a werewolf. Death is inevitable for them."

I just smiled and nodded. I didn't feel like arguing, not today.

Young changed the subject. "Did you get the list of what was up for vote and discussion this time?"

I shook my head and Young took out a paper from his inside jacket pocket. Phones were not allowed and even the Alpha King had to wear a silver bracelet to cut off the mind connection. What transpired in the meetings was not to leave until the meeting was adjourned. In case the subject needed to be not aired.

looked down at the list. Thank god it was a short one. Only three things were scrawled in absolutely terrible handwriting. The last one caught my attention but I handed the notepad back to Young.

"Were you a doctor before? Your handwriting is terrible!"

Young laughed and shook his head. "No, but I take offense to that Max! Not all of us have the finger dexterity you do."

"Will you be playing the piano anytime, Max?" Gianna mused, "I would love to hear it."

I picked up her hand and kissed it. "I'm sorry Miss Gianna, I don't play anymore."

"Gianna, dear, I think I see Christine in the far corner. Do you mind grabbing her real quick and seeing if her husband is around? I'll come over in a second, I need to speak with him."

Gianna looked from him to me and then nodded. Both Young and I watched her disappear into the crowd of people. Young turned back to me and stepped closer, leaning into my ear.

"Someone from the BloodHunter Coven is coming at the end of the month."

I growled. "Do they really believe they can make a treaty with them and have them actually keep their word?"

Young looked at me and made a face of I-dont-know. "I think the High Council finally realized they can't get rid of them as easily as they thought and so they are trying this way to control them."

"They are uncontrollable."

"I agree but that's where we are at. I just wanted to warn you." He stepped back and smiled. "For once, I'm glad Morgan isn't here." Giving a curt bow, he made off in the direction Gianna walked to.

Pinching the bridge of my nose, I took another gulp of my champagne. I suddenly wished I hadn't come.

"Maximillion!"

I groaned as the Alpha King made his way through the crowd over to me.

"How are you doing my undead friend?"

We had worked with the Alpha King over the past year in regards to some rogue and even some pack business. Now, he thought we were friends. Morgan still cursed the man under his breath every time we had to work with him.

"Ah! Alpha King! Great to see you as well." I plastered the earlier smile I used with High Councilor Oran.

"How's my trusted companion Morgan? I haven't heard from him in a bit!"

It took all my strength not to roll my eyes. "He's been traveling. I'm not sure if he was visiting Alpha Logan's pack a few months ago, but he hasn't come back to Italy yet."

The Alpha King's face changed to solemn and he nodded but I could see it held no sincerity. He didn't give a shit. "Yes, yes. His pack had an anniversary for his past Luna's death. I sent him over a gift a month later." He smiled, mischievously and leaned in. "Leandra was my most beautiful pet. She will take good care of Alpha Logan."

I clenched my fist, my first reaction was to grab the throat of this werewolf and snap his neck. He must have sensed the anger rolling off me because the smirk on his face fell.

"You sent a woman from your court to a man mourning the death of his mate?" My voice was low, and gruff. It made people in the vicinity turn their heads towards us.

"As an Alpha, while losing your mate is heartbreaking, we still have a duty to our pack and the future generations. He should at least have a pretty one to have pups with, don't you think?" He smiled and the women that had followed him over, giggled and cooed over him.

"You haven't found your mate, have you?"

Before he could reply, my name was called from across the room. I mumbled 'excuse me' as I left the presence of the Alpha King and wove my way through the crowd. High Councilor Cyra, another elder vampire, though the only female of the three of them, stood alone near the entrance.

I bowed my head.

"I think people would take offense if you killed the Alpha King in the ballroom." She chuckled as she handed me another champagne.

"You saved his life. If anything he owes you one." I took a sip, taking a deep breath.

"I'll make sure to collect when I need to." She smiled at me. Not everyone in the High Council were terrible but one voice wouldn't win against the majority.



"Well, get your head on straight, Maximillion. I don't need my kind duking it out in the castle." Cyra gave me a poignant look.

She was talking about the BloodHunter Coven meeting. I chuckled. "I can't promise anything but more patience than Morgan would show."

Cyra laughed this time. "That's enough for me. Have a good evening." She walked away and down the stairs but she paused to steps down. "Same time?"

I smiled. "Same time, same place."