

Chapter 1: The Alpha King's Huntress: Hunt The Red Lycan

CHAPTER 26 Don't Pay Her Attention

Kasia kicked her door open as she stormed back to her room. 'How could I have let him do that again?' she scolded herself. Kasia paced her room, trying to forget the way he made her feel. She let out a frustrated scream.

'You should just go back there and get it out of your system,' the voice within her head said.

'You just shut up. You're not helping,' Kasia snapped.

The voice laughed and said, 'When did I say I was going to help you? I remember specifically saying I was going to make you suffer.'

"Got dammit!" Kasia groaned. She needed an outlet for the storm of emotions raging inside her, something to silence the questions that were threatening to drive her even more crazy than she was.

Kasia rummaged through her drawers, hastily grabbing workout clothes. As she tugged the tank top over her head and pulled her hair up into a puff, she was reminded of the many times she had sought refuge in physical exertion. It had always helped her find a sense of peace and order when her world felt like it was spiraling out of control.

Kasia made her way to the gym. As she walked, the voice within her head returned as snarky as ever.

"Look at you, running scared," the voice sneered. "You're more of a coward than I thought. You like him. Accept it."

"Shut up," Kasia muttered under her breath, clenching her fists as she pushed open the doors to the gym. The scent of sweat and exertion filled her nostrils, and she welcomed the familiar environment.

"Alright, Kasia," she whispered to herself, taking a deep breath. "Let's work this out of our system."

As she started to stretch, her mind raced with thoughts of Ethan. She couldn't help but wonder why their connection felt so intense. Why was there a connection in the first place? Despite her suspicion that he was hiding something from her, Kasia couldn't shake the nagging feeling that there might be more to their relationship than she was willing to admit. And that thought only fueled her anger and confusion even more.

Determined to push through her emotional turmoil, Kasia threw herself into her workout, hoping that the physical exhaustion would quiet the chaos in her mind.

As Kasia focused on her workout, she spotted Lana and Janet sparring in the corner of the gym. She was surprised to see Lana there, as Lana never really liked training. Scouting was always her forte. Seeing Lana lessened the anger she was feeling and simply made her feel lonely.

"Hey, Lana," Kasia called out, making her way over to them. "Mind if I join you?"

Lana looked up, genuinely surprised but pleased to see her older sister. "Of course," she replied with a warm smile, extending a hand. "It's...it's good seeing you."

Kasia nodded, accepting Lana's offer. As they began to spar, they fell into a rhythm that felt familiar and comforting. It reminded Kasia of the days when they were younger and when they practiced together.

"Look, Kasia," Lana said sincerely, as they paused between moves. "I'm sorry for lying to you. But I want you to know that I did it because I thought it was the right thing to do at the time. I didn't know how to tell you."

Kasia sighed, understanding her sister's motives but still feeling betrayed. "I won't lie and say I understand your reasoning or that I am still not pissed with you about it. But you're my sister. You're all I have. We need to trust each other, so no more secrets."

"No more secrets," Lana agreed.

The arrival of Deanna and her warriors interrupted their moment. Miraya and Aimee followed them. Kasia noticed Lana immediately tense at the sight of Miraya. 'Was she the one that left the bruises on her?' she thought.

"Hey Kasia! I see you're hanging out with the human trash. I told you it would look bad for your image being around her," Miraya said.

"Well, that is your opinion. I don't care what you or anyone thinks about me or who I associate with," Kasia responded.

Miraya grinned and said, "See, this is why I like you. You are just so damn cool. Come on. Come workout with us."

"No, thank you," Kasia said, though her heart raced with anticipation.

"Is it because you know you simply got lucky the other day?" Aimee chimed in. The tension in the room heightened as Aimee locked eyes with Kasia.

"Come on, Kasia. Don't pay her attention. We can train somewhere else," Lana suggested, knowing her sister's temper.

"So, she's the one that broke your nose?" Miraya said. "I can see why you were upset now."

"It was just a fluke. She caught me off guard," Aimee retorted, her cheeks flush with embarrassment.

Kasia clenched her fists, resisting the urge to lash out. "That's what you call getting mopped all over the restroom floor?" Kasia scoffed. "It was no fluke, and I won't have you spreading lies because you can't accept that you lost."

"Then, prove it," Aimee sneered, her eyes glinting with malice. "Or are you scared?"

Kasia looked at Aimee in annoyance. What was this—a high school special? The mean girl antics were getting old, and Kasia believed a little public shaming might do Aimee some good.

Seeing that Kasia had not said no, Janet nervously tried to intervene, concerned that Kasia was getting in over her head. Aimee did not fight fair, and Janet was still unsure how Kasia even beat Aimee the first time. "I don't think that's a good idea, Kasia. She's baiting you, trying to get a rise out of you. Don't fall for it. She's not worth it."

"I see this as an opportunity," Deanna interjected with a wicked grin. "I've been looking for another member for my patrol, and I think Kasia would make a perfect addition. And Aimee, you wanted to be a warrior, right? Here's your chance to prove yourself. A proper

Luna knows how to defend herself and her pack." There was mischief in her voice. The last statement was definitely a jab at Aimee, and Deanna was clearly stirring the pot.

"I can't back out now, Janet. Just relax. I got this," Kasia said, only low enough for Janet to hear. Janet bit her lip as if blood were shed; everyone would know that Kasia was human. Janet immediately tried to reach out to Ethan through the pack link, but he was not responding. She would just have to intervene before it went too far.

"Let's lay down some ground rules," Deanna continued. "This will only be sparring. No shifting, and no intentionally causing harm. Whoever is pinned first wins. Got it?" Both women nodded.

As whispers and murmurs echoed through the packed house, more and more people gathered in the gym to watch the impending showdown. Kasia could feel their eyes boring into her, adding pressure to an already tense situation.

'You can't back down now,' the voice taunted. 'Make that loud mouth regret ever thinking she was on your level.'

"Alright, Aimee," Kasia said, cracking her knuckles and taking her stance. "Let's show everyone how I beat you before."

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Chapter 29: CHAPTER 27 Kasia's Blood

CHAPTER 27 Kasia's Blood

"Kasia, please come back!" Brian called out, but she was already down the hallway, her footsteps echoing off the walls. She didn't hear him. The only thing that was on Kasia's mind was getting as far away from Ethan as possible.

"What is going on? Why do you need Kasia?" he asked as he waved Brian into the room as he fixed his shirt. Ethan took a deep breath, trying to get the lust he was feeling for Kasia under control. This had to be important for Brian to want to tell him information in person.

"Because she needs to hear what I have to say," Brian replied gravely, closing the door to Ethan's office with an ominous click. "But maybe it is best that she doesn't find out now. It will give you time to decide what you want to do next. You should sit down for this." He gestured toward a chair.

Ethan's heart hammered in his chest, but he remained standing, unwilling to yield even an inch. "You must have found out what the pills are made of. Is it worse than I originally expected?" he asked, his concern evident. Ethan clenched his fists at his sides, his muscles twitching with tension.

Brian nodded slowly. "I have, and it is," he confirmed. "They were made from the flesh and bones of Lycans and werewolves."

"Are you sure?" Ethan's voice wavered, and his anger barely contained itself. The thought of the missing pups and attendees of the Moonlight Sanctum being experimented on, murdered, and used sickened him. It all made sense now why they only kidnapped attendees during that attack. They needed them for more experiments, just as Luna Lily had explained to him three years ago.

"Positive," the doctor affirmed, his expression grim. "I've run every test imaginable, and there's no doubt."

Members of his pack-his people-had been not only brutally murdered but desecrated, their very essence torn apart and manipulated for some twisted purpose. Each beat of his heart screamed for justice, for vengeance against those who would dare harm his people.

"Who would do such a thing?" Ethan growled, his voice darkening with each word. "How could anyone be so monstrous?"

"Unfortunately," Brian said solemnly, "the depths of human cruelty know no bounds."

Ethan's thoughts raced, the impact of this revelation hitting him like a physical blow. The hunters- Kasia's people- had gone too far. He couldn't stand idly by any longer; something had to be done.

"Who would be that stupid to work with humans? To create such pills?" Ethan asked, his voice a low rumble.

Brian raised an eyebrow. "Or who would be that smart? Humans are easily deceived if they don't know how to tell who is human or not."

A chill ran down Ethan's spine. He hadn't considered the possibility of a supernatural traitor lurking in their midst. The thought was unnerving, and it added another layer of complexity to an already tangled web.

"Tell me," Ethan demanded, his voice heavy with urgency, "what are the side effects these pills have on a human?"

"If the recommended dosage-twice a day-is maintained, none, as I am getting this information from Lana. We don't have any other humans here to confirm," Brian explained. "From what Lana has told me, taking them for a long period of time or even taking one more pill causes increased aggression, permanent heightened senses, and

reliance on them. She had never seen anyone abuse the pills as much as Kasia has. The recommended dosage-twice a day-is maintained," Brian replied.

"Then what does this mean for Kasia?" Ethan asked.

"It means that being here and keeping her here was the best thing that could've happened to her," Brian answered.

"What does that mean?" Ethan's concern for her overshadowed everything else, a testament to the bond forming between them.

Brian hesitated before speaking, weighing his words carefully. "Her bloodwork- Kasia- she's turning. I didn't want to believe it. I've run so many tests and cross-compared them with Lana's blood samples. Kasia is no longer human, but not yet a werewolf or a lycan. It shouldn't be happening. This has never happened before. Humans can't be turned; it goes against everything we know about our kind. But somehow, it is happening."

Ethan's heart hammered in his chest, the implications of this revelation washing over him like a tidal wave. The woman he had been inexplicably drawn to was transforming into one of his own kind. His mate. The knowledge both awed and terrified him, stirring a mix of emotions he couldn't yet comprehend.

"Is there anything we can do to reverse the process?" he asked. Ethan couldn't help but feel relieved that Kasia potentially would no longer be human, but he also knew how devastating that would be for Kasia. She should be the one to make the choice to change, not have it forced on her.

"Right now, I don't know," Brian admitted, his expression filled with regret. "I will do everything in my power to try if that is what Kasia wants."

The implications of this were far-reaching. Humans turning into werereatures would shift the power structure. Was this what they wanted from the beginning? What if they aligned themselves with rogues? What if there were already turned humans? They couldn't possibly be able to handle the stress of a change on their own.

Before Ethan could process this information further, Janet's voice pierced through his thoughts via their telepathic link. "Ethan, you need to get to the gym right now!" Her tone was urgent, leaving no room for hesitation.

"Janet, what's going on?" he asked, but she had already severed the connection.

Ethan sprinted towards the gym, with Brian right behind him. He burst through the doors and skidded to a stop, taking in the chaotic scene before him. Blood was in the air- Kasia's blood.

In the middle of it all, frightened pack members surrounded Kasia and Aimee. Lana lay unconscious on the floor, her body limp and unmoving, while Janet cradled her. Aimee was crying on the floor, holding her ripped-open arm that was not healing properly.

Ethan's voice boomed with rage, and his eyes were ablaze with fury. "What the hell happened here?"

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Chapter 30: CHAPTER 28 That's Your Problem

CHAPTER 28 That's Your Problem

Aimee rushed towards him, her eyes brimming with tears as she looked up at him. "Ethan, Kasia...she's a monster! She shifted in the middle of our spar and attacked me!" Her words were hurried and desperate. Brian began tending to Aimee's arm.

Ethan's gaze flickered between Aimee and the disheveled state of the gym, disbelief etched onto his features. He knew Kasia's capabilities, her strength, and her character, but he couldn't fathom her losing control like this without cause. She hadn't been taking the pills for over a week now. His instincts told him there was more to this story.

"Enough!" he barked, silencing the murmurs of the gathered crowd. His voice reverberated through the room, commanding attention. "Janet, tell me what happened."

Janet's voice trembled slightly as she began to recount the events. "Aimee challenged Kasia to a spar. Kasia defeated her fair and square, but Aimee refused to accept it. Then something changed in Kasia. She wasn't herself anymore. Aimee took advantage of her when Lana and I tried to stop her," she finished, visibly shaken.

"No, you're lying! I did no such thing," Aimee snapped heatedly, interrupting Janet's account. "Tell them, Miraya." But Miraya only shook her head, refusing to get involved as she stepped back from Aimee.

Other pack members began chiming in with their versions of the story, some confirming Janet's account while others added their own twists. Ethan felt a deep rumbling within him that he hadn't felt in years—the low growl of his wolf. They were normally in sync on all decisions, but the fact that he hadn't reprimanded Aimee physically was causing his primal side to assert itself.

"Janet, continue," Ethan demanded.

"It was like something just snapped inside her after she drank some water. She halfway shifted and struck Aimee before running away. Kasia had control of the situation. She wouldn't just lose her mind like that," Janet said.

"Whatever the reason," Aimee interjected defensively, "she's unstable, Ethan. This isn't the first time she has lost her mind and attacked me. She's not safe for our pack."

Ethan's eyes narrowed, his anger threatening to boil over. He gripped Aimee's wrists and pulled her hands off him. "You have forgotten your place, Aimee. It is Alpha."

His response caused Aimee to pale and back away from him. Ethan continues, "I want the truth, Aimee. What did you do to Kasia?"

"Nothing!" Aimee insisted, her voice breaking as she tried to maintain her composure. "She just... went crazy! I swear!"

As Ethan stared into her tearful eyes, he could see the flicker of deceit hidden within their depths. He knew there was more to this incident than met the eye, and that Aimee held the key to unlocking the truth.

"I have to agree with Janet," Deanna added. "Kasia seemed just fine before the Omega brought her the water."

Brian went over to the dropped water bottle. He sniffed at the bottle and frowned. Brian knew the smell. It smelled like one of the pills, but how would anyone have gotten it from his office? "Alpha, her water was laced."

"Deanna, bring the omega who gave Kasia the water bottle," Ethan instructed, his voice cold and unyielding. Deanna nodded as she left the gym to track down the omega.

"Where did she go?" Ethan asked.

"She ran off into the forest," Janet answered. Ethan began walking to leave the gym when Aimee caught him by the wrist.

"You can't be serious about going after her. Let her go. She is a rogue! She is a danger to all of us!" Aimee stated.

Ethan's patience snapped. In one swift motion, he grabbed Aimee's wrist, twisting it mercilessly until she cried out in pain. "You know the rules, Aimee! You think I am an idiot! You think I don't know that you had something to do with this and you harmed a pack member?" he snarled, his eyes darkening with fury.

"She's not a pack member! She's just a stupid rogue!" Aimee exclaimed, snatching her wrist free. "She is not fit to be a pack member, let alone our Luna."

"Who are you to decide who should be my Luna?" Ethan snarled.

"I have the right to decide, and so does everyone else here. You have an insane junkie amongst us that you have involved in our pack's business," Aimee continued, causing hushed murmurs in the gym. "That's right. The female that our Alpha is courting is a damn junkie."

Janet began to approach Aimee, but Ethan shot Janet a glare. She stopped in her tracks, as Ethan did not want Janet to intervene. 'Why?' she thought. 'Why was he allowing her to continue to go on this smear campaign?'

"You have forgotten your place, Aimee. Perhaps a visit back to your father's pack will refresh your memory," Ethan growled.

"No! You're not going to bully me into silence. I am not going to sit here to allow some junkie to fool you into believing that she was fit to be Luna," Aimee responded.

"And you think you should be Luna?" Ethan asked.

"Of course I am. I come from a prestigious family. I know what it takes to be Luna. Why would you have been sleeping with me if you thought that wasn't true?" Aimee responded. "I don't know what she did to you, but the Ethan I know would not be courting a drug addict. How could any of us follow a Luna, let alone an Alpha, that would allow such behavior? What would they do to help her get her next fix?"

Ethan began laughing, which caused the gym to become silent as it was not a laugh of joy. "Every time I believe that you can't be even more stupid, you find some way to surprise me."

"I don't think this is a laughing matter, Alpha. Is this true?" one of the pack members said.

"The Hunters created the pills that you used against Kasia. Kasia had been experimented on, and we collected those pills when we rescued her," Ethan explained.

Aimee paled and began stammering. "I didn't know. How would I have known that?"

"That's your problem. You never think which is why you will never be my Luna and goddess save whoever is fated to you. Throw her in the dungeon for three days, so she can think about her actions," Ethan responded before leaving the gym.

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Chapter 31: CHAPTER 29 Be Careful

CHAPTER 29 Be Careful

Kasia's legs pumped, propelling her further and further away from the pack house. She felt as though her very bones were on fire, an insatiable urge for water consuming her thoughts. Trees blurred past her in a dizzying dance of dark shadows, their bark scratching at her skin as she tore through the dense forest. A waterfall in a small lake shimmered ahead, a beacon of salvation that beckoned her closer and closer.

With the last ounce of her strength, Kasia reached the water's edge and dove in headfirst. She swam underneath the waterfall, allowing the water to pelt her body. Cool, refreshing relief washed over her, enveloping her burning body like a soothing embrace. She then submerged herself completely, reveling in the sensation of the water swallowing her whole.

"Get out of the water," the voice said in her mind. "Now."

Kasia hesitated, not wanting to part with the only thing that offered her relief from the relentless heat. "I need this," she thought back defiantly.

"GET OUT!" the voice roared, its command reverberating through her very being. It was a scream that could not be ignored, driving her to obey against her will.

Kasia burst through the surface of the water, gasping for air, her heart pounding wildly in her chest. Her limbs trembled as she dragged herself onto the shore, droplets cascading off her saturated clothes and glistening on her dark hair. The cold comfort of the water evaporated, leaving her feeling more exposed than ever before.

The burning intensified, coursing through every fiber of her being like molten lava. A gut-wrenching scream clawed its way up her throat, but instead of the human cry she expected, it emerged as a garbled, distorted howl. Panic seized her, confusion and fear churning within her.

"Focus on me," the voice urged, almost apologetically. "I'll help you."

Kasia's vision blurred, her surroundings dissolving into a vortex of shadows and light. She clung to the voice in her mind like a lifeline, praying for an end to her agony.

"Trust me," the voice said.

And she did.

As Kasia surrendered to the voice, the pain surged anew—a storm of fire and ice that ravaged her body. She writhed on the damp earth, feeling her bones shifting and contorting in ways that defied logic and reason. Her skin stretched, tearing at the seams as her form expanded, her fingers elongating into claws that dug furrows into the soil beneath her.

"Let it happen," the voice whispered, offering solace amidst the torment. "The quicker you give in, the faster this will be over."

And then, as abruptly as it had begun, the transformation was complete. Kasia lay panting on the ground, every nerve ending alive with sensations she couldn't comprehend. An odd detachment settled over her, as if she were observing herself from a distance.

She felt herself rise unsteadily to her feet. She felt taller. Her legs, trembling beneath her weight, felt powerful. "What happened to me?" Kasia asked.

"See for yourself," the voice responded. Kasia moved towards the edge of the water, her heart hammering in her chest.

Reaching the bank, she looked down at her reflection, only to recoil in horror at what stared back at her. The creature gazing up at her possessed the same hazel eyes she knew as her own, but the face they belonged to was covered in thick, dark reddish-brown fur; its features were a fusion of human and wolf.

"No...NO! How is this possible?" she demanded, her voice a guttural growl. "I'm human. How is this possible?"

The voice within her mind, now sharper and more distinct, responded bitterly. "I thought the Moon Goddess was blessing me with the opportunity to torture a huntress, but I see now that it was I, the fool, and not you. The Moon Goddess bonded me to you instead. What did I do in my previous life to deserve this?"

"Wh-what do you mean?" Kasia stammered, confusion mounting in her frantic thoughts.

"What do you think it means, Kasia?" The voice snapped, its tone tinged with resentment. "You see, just like I can see, what is happening. You are no longer human, Kasia. You are a Lycan, and I am your wolf counterpart."

Kasia's mind reeled, grappling with the implications of what she had just heard. All her life, she had despised werewolves and Lycans, dedicating herself to hunting them down and eradicating their kind from the world. And now, she found herself transformed into one of the very creatures she so vehemently loathed.

"Why? Why would this happen to me?" Kasia asked, raw anger bubbling up within her.

"Perhaps this is your punishment for being a bigot," the voice said.

"But this still shouldn't have happened," Kasia argued. "A human cannot be turned. You have to be born a werewolf or a lycan. How is this possible?"

"Perhaps the Moon Goddess grows weary of our endless war," the voice mused. "Or perhaps she seeks to teach us both a lesson. Whatever her reasons, it doesn't matter now. We are bound together until death."

"Bound... together?" Kasia asked, struggling to comprehend the enormity of the situation.

"Yes," the voice confirmed. "You and I must learn to coexist and work together if we wish to survive. You cannot deny your new nature, nor can I separate myself from you."

Kasia's heart raced as her newly heightened senses picked up distant sounds and scents that she had never noticed before. It was causing her to have a headache.

"You will get used to it," the voice said.

"Can I... Can I change back?" Kasia whispered, her voice barely audible even to her enhanced hearing.

"Only when you have learned to accept this part of yourself," the voice replied solemnly.

Before Kasia could respond, laughter echoed through the trees, drawing her attention. She turned around to see four men approaching her, their scent offensive and making her cringe involuntarily.

"Look what we have here. It seems that our contact was right about finding a lone she-wolf in need of some attention," one of the men said as they approached.

"Rogues," the voice within warned. "Be careful."

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Chapter 32: CHAPTER 30 Mine

CHAPTER 30 Mine

Kasia's eyes narrowed as she assessed the situation. The rogues were sizing her up like a piece of meat, their intentions clear in their hungry gazes. She knew that even in her Lycan form, she couldn't take them all on alone. But backing down was not an option for someone like Kasia Thorne.

"Nice night for a swim, isn't it?" One of the men sneered. "You look like you could use some company."

"Thanks, but I prefer swimming solo," Kasia replied, her voice laced with disdain.

"Aw, don't be like that," another man chimed in. "We're just looking for a little fun, and you're exactly what we're looking for."

"Find it elsewhere," Kasia growled. The burning sensation surged through her body again, causing her to almost double over in pain. What was happening to her? Why was she still feeling like this? Why did the rogues not smell as bad anymore?

"Feisty, aren't you?" The third man taunted. "I like that in a woman. Let me quench that burn you're feeling."

Kasia's heart raced as she faced off against the four rogue werewolves, their menacing forms circling her like hungry predators. She braced herself for an attack, but was taken aback when one of them spoke to her with a mocking tone.

"Too bad, I don't like anything about you," Kasia taunted. "I think you'll probably burn me in a different way that would require antibiotics."

"We got ourselves a smart mouth. Let's see what else we can do with that pretty mouth of yours. Why don't you shift back? Let's see that pretty form of yours," another rogue chimed in, his eyes filled with lust and malice.

But Kasia stood her ground, refusing to give in to their demands. "No, thank you. You are intruding on pack territory. You need to leave," she retorted, though she wasn't sure where her confidence came from.

As the rogues took a menacing step forward, Kasia braced herself for a fight, ready to defend her life and prove that she wouldn't be undone by this unwanted transformation.

"Let's see you make us, she-wolf," one of the rogues sneered, flashing his sharp fangs.

The sound of a ferocious snarl echoed through the forest, causing all eyes to turn towards its source. Ethan, in his massive Lycan form, emerged from the shadows like darkness

itself took form. He bared his teeth, exuding an aura of pure power. His eyes locked on the intruders, daring them to make a move against Kasia.

With one swift movement, Ethan descended upon the rogues. Two were able to shift and put up a fight against him, but it didn't last long as Ethan tore them apart with ease. The other two had no chance against his brute strength and were quickly tore limb from limb.

As Ethan finished off the last rogue, Kasia felt the urge to flee but also go to Ethan. But before she could even move, Ethan turned to look at her, his maw covered in blood. His eyes were dark and wild. Ethan's nose flared as he took in her scent. His long tongue licked his maw.

"Come to me, my she-wolf," he growled at her.

Kasia's breath came in short, shallow gasps as she stood frozen in the shadows. Her body was still trembling from the adrenaline rush that had surged through her veins just moments before. She could feel the heat radiating off of Ethan even from this distance, his black lycan form towering over her. With every fiber of her being, Kasia wanted to run towards him, to feel the warmth and protection of his embrace. But at the same time, she couldn't shake the feeling that she was nothing more than prey in his eyes.

"Kasia," Ethan growled again, his voice low and guttural. "Come to me."

Kasia hesitated, torn between her desire for closeness and her instinct to flee. How could she let herself be drawn to him?

Seeing that Kasia was not coming to him, Ethan took a cautious step towards her, his massive paws crushing the undergrowth beneath them. Instinctively, Kasia lowered her ears in submission and backed up, her heart pounding in her chest. She couldn't help but feel a deep sense of vulnerability in his presence.

"Kasia," Ethan said softly, his voice human once more as he shifted back to his normal form. "You don't have to submit to me. I would never force you."

Her hazel eyes looked into his, searching for any deception. But all she saw was sincerity and concern. "Did you know this was happening to me?" Kasia asked.

Ethan shook his head, the moonlight casting shadows across his chiseled features. "No, I just found out. I promise you, everything will be explained, but first, we need to head back to the pack house. Can you shift back?"

Kasia's heart ached at the thought of losing control of herself completely, but she couldn't find the strength to transform back into her human form. "I can't," she whispered. "I don't know how, and my...my wolf says I won't be able to until I accept this."

Ethan straightened up to his full height, his powerful Alpha presence washing over her. He focused all his energy and intent on a single command. "Shift back, Kasia."

The sheer force of his Alpha call left her no choice but to obey. Her body began to contort and shift painfully as she transformed back into her human form. The pain tore through her muscles and bones, causing her to cry out in agony. As soon as the transformation was complete, Ethan moved closer but kept a respectful distance, allowing her time to recover.

"Next time, it won't hurt as much," he reassured her gently. "Your body will adapt."

Kasia panted, her breath coming in ragged gasps as she tried to steady herself. "That's not it," she managed to say between breaths. "It feels like my body is on fire."

Ethan's nostrils flared as he picked up on Kasia's scent again, his mind racing with the implications of what she was experiencing. Could she be going into heat? The thought

sent his own desires surging, but he fought to keep his composure. Kasia needed him now more than ever.

Before he could consider the situation further, Kasia suddenly pounced on him, her arms wrapping around his neck as she pressed her lips forcefully against his. Caught off guard, Ethan reflexively kissed her back, their passions fueled by the primal urges coursing through them both.

"Control, control," Ethan chanted in his mind as he struggled to regain some semblance of restraint. But Kasia would not be denied-she growled possessively, her breath hot against his skin, as she whispered just one word: "Mine." And with that, she sank her teeth into his neck, claiming him as her own.
