

Alpha Luka And His Human Mate Chapter 46

Victoria's Pov

"Thank you all for joining us today" Chris started once everyone was settled.

Like before, the Alpha, Beta and Gamma were present on stage. So were Ashley and myself, standing to the side. But this time, instead of being behind Luka, he was standing in the middle of the stage, a few feet behind Ty.

"I'm sure you all are wondering what the purpose of this meeting was, since it wasn't communicated to you as usual." He continued. This piqued my interest, since I too didn't know.

"Instead of telling you, I'll show you" He stepped to the side and turned his attention to Luka and Ty. Almost instantly, they started moving towards each other.

Ty still had his back to Luka, so he was walking backwards, while Luka walked closer to his brother. Slowly, the crowd started to gasp and shout, but I still didn't get it.

I thought they'd do a dance number or something.

Caleb and Lincoln were beaming beside me, and Chris had a proud look on his face.

When they met, they faced each other and grasped their forearms firmly. With a curt nod, Luka took the place where Ty stood and Ty took Luka's former place also. And that's when it hit me.

Luka was getting the pack back.

I gasped in shock, throwing my hands over my mouth. His eyes met mine for a while as he smiled at me before heading to mic.

"Members of the Brightwater Pack, I'm pleased to announce that from this day on, I'll be resuming my duty as your Alpha" He said confidently and the pack erupted in loud deafening cheers. That's when I saw how much they loved him.

They all had excited and pleased looks on their faces. It made me even more eager to see how he runs the pack.

"As you all know, a little over a year ago I lost my first mate and it caused me to be deemed unfit to lead you. For this I'm truly sorry" I could see that it really hurt him to let his pack down, but they all seemed to understand.

"I must thank my brother for filling in so excellently, we couldn't have chosen a better man" He threw a smile at Ty, which he immediately returned. "But for some unknown

reason, which I'm entirely grateful for, the moon gave me a second chance" He then turned to me with loving eyes and a huge smile, and so did everyone else. My heart raced at the sudden attention.

"Victoria, will you come here please?" He asked softly.

With shaky legs and a thumping heart, I slowly met him at the podium.

"This wonderful woman has made me the person I thought was lost. She picked me up, brushed me off and opened my eyes to life again" He gently kissed my hand. "And now, she'll rule beside me, as your Luna"

Cheers and shouts erupted through the crowd again, and I wondered if my ears were bleeding yet.

"Do you accept? " Luka asked softly. I was taken a little off guard since I didn't know he would actually ask.

"Yes. Yes of course" I smiled brightly at him, and he quickly pulled me into a kiss. This started the crowd again and I suddenly felt shy.

Chris handed Luka a small dagger, one like which they used to recruit the new pack members.

He held out his hand and I slowly placed mine in it. He made a small slice through my palm and did the same with his, then joined the two wounds together.

"Just repeat after me" He whispered.

I nodded in response and did just that, swearing my life and loyalty to the Brightwater Pack. It felt so weird, yet so good. It felt absurd, but yet it felt safe.

It felt right.

Luka was Alpha again, and I was his Luna. Did I know the first thing about being a Luna? Nope. But I made a promise to them, and I have a responsibility.

So even if I didn't know what I was doing, I'll try my best. I also have Luka to guide me along the way, and that's all I needed.

He's all I'll ever need.

"Cheers to working beside my pain in the ass best friend again" Caleb shouted as he raised his glass. We all laughed at his toast, but Luka just rolled his eyes.

“Like you didn’t miss me” Luka scoffed, taking a drink from his own glass.

We were back at the house and celebrating, since Emma insisted. I ensured that I gave him an ear-full about not informing me of the purpose of the meeting before, but as always he just loved surprises.

“Here’s to my brother for filling in so perfectly” Luka raised his glass at Ty, which was followed by a series of agreements from the others.

I had to admit, from what I saw since I got here, Ty was actually really good.

“Aahh, but I’m not nearly as good as you bro” Ty dismissed casually. “I’m glad you’re back where you belong with your Luna” He smiled at me, which I returned brightly.

“There is something else I would like to say” Ty continued, but this time he looked more serious. “Since I now know my family is happy, I’ll like to travel in hopes of exploring the world and finding my mate. I don’t know how long I’ll be gone for” He announced and I heard Emma whimper lowly from beside me as we all gaped at him.

It was only fair and reasonable, since nothing else was holding him here anymore, but I knew it affected Emma. Even though they had their bickering now and then, their love for each other was boundless.

“When will you be leaving? ” She asked in a tone that she tried to make sound flat, but it came out shaky instead.

“I was hoping to go tonight”

“Tonight!?” She sounded exasperated.

“Em...”

“Tonight Ty? “

Everyone knew the seriousness of the situation when a tear rolled down her cheek, because Emma doesn’t cry. Ever.

“I mean, don’t you wanna have a proper goodbye? Get some new stuff from the town? And-and-and don’t you wanna meet Victoria’s sister? And oh my at least stay until after Caleb’s birthday. And-“

“Emma” He cut her off, holding her cheek gently. “I have to do this. Please understand”

She didn’t say anything else, just jolted out and up the stairs in a flash. Seconds after we heard her door slam shut and I could see that this affected him as much as it affected her.

"I'll go talk to her," He sighed. "But can I talk to you for a second please Victoria?" I wasn't expecting that, but I agreed anyway.

I followed him to the bottom of the stairs, away from lingering ears.

"I just wanted to thank you for what you did and have been doing for my brother" He started, looking really grateful and at peace.

"Ty you don't have to. Luka's much a saviour to me as I am to him"

"I knew that he had those thoughts. I couldn't find peace knowing he was somehow hurting inside. But now I know he's okay and I can move on. So thank you" He pulled me into a hug which I returned warmly.

"I'm happy you've made this decision. You deserve it. I hope you find your mate" I said truthfully.

"I do too. Take care of my brother, won't you?"

"You know I will," I chuckled. "And Emma?"

"Aah I'll talk to her. It hurts me as much as it hurts her you know? We've been together since conception so believe me when I say, this is the hardest thing I've ever done."

"I understand" I gave him a reassuring side hug before releasing him to go talk to his sister.

It's so beautiful, the love of a sibling. As much as you fight and fuss sometimes, they seem to be some of the only human beings that you'll bury the Earth for.

I could only imagine what the connection they had was like. I felt like I would do anything for Zoey, and I just found out about her existence this week.

All in all, I just hoped they'll come to some common ground before Ty leaves tonight.

Alpha Luka And His Human Mate Chapter 47

Victoria's pov

So Ty didn't leave that night.

Emma just wouldn't let the poor guy go. She somehow convinced him to stay until Zoey and Daisy got here. And that he did.

He actually went with Luka and Lincoln to go get them that Friday, and since I had work which I couldn't get off of unfortunately, I heard that she still had a hard time letting go.

Everyone at home was extremely happy to see them, and I got home early so I could greet them.

Zoey settled in quite well before I came, and I was more than happy.

Emma was torn between sad and happy. We could see it on her face. I felt horrible for her, but in life we have to let some people go.

I learnt that the hard way.

I woke up the day after with a weight on me. I groaned and threw my hand on the weight, thinking it was Luka again. But to my surprise, I was met with a soft bundle of curly fibers.

My eyes shot open, but my surprise subsided when I saw Zoey laying on top of me, grinning like Cheshire cat.

“You’re awake” She beamed before climbing off me.

“I didn’t really have much choice” I chuckled as I rubbed the sleep from my eyes. “How are you? “

“I’m great! Auntie Emma made pancakes for me.” She showed me her very full tummy. “She’s nice”

I laughed and pulled her into a hug. It was so cute how she called them aunty and uncle. She didn’t have to, but I guess she’ll grow out of it.

“Where’s Luka? ” I looked around the room when I noticed he wasn’t in bed.

“Here I am”

He emerged from the bathroom with a huge smile on his face. He was shirtless with a few beads of water on his ripped chest. I bit my lip as he kissed Zoey’s head then sweetly kissed me.

“Okayyyy I’m gonna go” Zoey giggled as she spun on her heels and bolted out. She really acts like twice her age sometimes. I chuckled when the door closed and smiled back at Luka.

“Hello Mr sexy wolf”

“Mr Bad wolf, Mr sexy wolf. Where do you get these names from? ” He asked with a teasing smirk.

“Inspiration” I whispered.

“Want me to inspire you some more my Luna? ” He ran his hands up and down my thigh while staring intensely in my eyes.

I moaned in confirmation when his fingers tugged at the hem of my underwear.

“Hhmm yes please, my Alpha.”

“Good morning Daisy” I beamed once I saw her and pulled her into a warm hug as she greeted me.

“Morning sweetheart. You have a beautiful home with wonderful people ” She said for the like the fifth time since yesterday. It was nice that she was adjusting.

“Thank you” I chuckled and grabbed an apple. “By the way, Luka and I would like to talk to you. It’s about Zoey”

She perked up at this, nodding frantically at my request.

Luka and I decided that we would take a chance and ask Daisy about Zoey’s werewolf gene.

I originally was against it since I didn’t want to bring her into a whole new world that could probably stress her out. But Luka convinced me that since Zoey is her daughter, she’s already in our world.

It was only fair that she knows if she doesn’t already know, and Zoey could take advantage of the schools here for werewolves. It will only be for her benefit.

I led her to my room where Luka was waiting on the couch. We sat in silence for a while before we started.

“Um Daisy.. I know this is probably a touchy subject for you, but can you tell us about Zoey’s father?” I finally asked and I saw her tense.

“He-he was kind at heart and he really loved Zoey. He protected her with his life and he was...nice”

She shifted uncomfortably in the spot she sat. My guess was that it was really touchy for her, or she was contemplating telling us if he was a wolf or not if she knew.

“Where was he from? ” Luka asked.

I elbowed him discreetly since he was just jumping to the point. I knew that he just wanted her to name a location so he could analyze if a pack was there.

I was all for jumping to the point, but times like these we had to be subtle.

“I’m not sure. He didn’t really talk much about where he’s from” She looked down as she mumbled. I could see the truth in her words, so that led us to the conclusion that he was a rogue.

Luka suggested it earlier, since he happened to ‘know’ that his pack members wouldn’t go after a human.

“Daisy” I held her hand tightly as I continued. “Did you know that Zoey is..different?” I bit my lip as I ogled her reaction.

She looked as if she was about to cry, so I tried my best to calm her. “Hey hey don’t be scared. We won’t take her away from you, nor will we harm her. We just want to know what happened “

She was quiet for a good five minutes, and though I wasn’t the most patient person, I waited nonetheless until she was comfortable.

“He was a wolf” Her muffled words were still so clear when she spoke into my shoulder.

I gave Luka a look which he was already giving me. We were about to hear the whole truth.

“It’s okay Daisy. We’re on your side”

“But-but how did you know?” She looked at us expectantly and Luka flashed his eyes to his wolf’s as an answer.

Instead of looking scared or shocked, she looked at him longingly and in awe.

“It’s been so long” She whispered as she gazed at Luka’s wolf eyes. She then looked to me in confusion, but before she could say anything, I beat her to it.

“He imprinted on me” I told her. A blush crept up my cheeks as he kissed my forehead gently. “This is his pack, and he’s the Alpha.”

Again, she surprised me by looking at me in awe rather than confusion, as if she knew everything that I was saying. It made me more curious about Zoey’s dad. It seemed like he told her quite a lot.

“My baby’s a Luna?” She looked between Luka and I with adoration and I even saw a bit of relief. No doubt it’s about Zoey.

I didn’t say anything else. I just smiled at her as she got ready to tell me her tale. Luka got comfortable on the couch and I got comfortable on him as she started.

"I met Reagan six years ago in town. Michael didn't get better, he just got more and more obsessed with wolves to the point where he started taking out his failures on me" She started as she gazed at nothing in particular, no doubt remembering the day.

"Reagan seemed as if he was in a hurry to get out of town, but he stayed that night when I asked him to. He stayed the other day, and the other, and the other one after that because of me. He had a good heart" Her voice cracked a little before she composed herself quickly.

"For some reason he wouldn't tell me why he was always eager to get out of town, but after a while he stopped fighting. We fell in love" My hand found its way to my heart as I saw the pain in her eyes. It must've been hard.

"Of course, Michael had no idea, but then, I got pregnant" A gasp escaped my lips as if I didn't see that coming. "I freaked out, and that's when Reagan told me everything. He told me everything about wolves, packs, mates and he told me about his genes. The baby would've been a wolf too, even though I was human. I went crazy, since I had no clue what to do. I was still very much married to Michael, and now I was pregnant with a wolf's baby" She chuckled lowly, but there was no humour behind it.

"I ignored Reagan for months, pretending that the baby was Michael's. Michael toned his craziness down after I told him I was pregnant, and he became a husband again. But I didn't love him anymore. I was just stalling till I figured out what to do. Reagan didn't like it, but he kept his distance and watched us.

"The day I went into labour was the hardest day of all. Michael brought me to the hospital, but Reagan was already there. I was panicking the whole time, wondering if the baby was gonna be dark skinned like Reagan while Michael was in the room."

My breath hitched as I anticipated the rest of the story. I knew this was serious, but it was quite interesting.

"Zoey was born with Reagan's complexion" She whispered, though there was no regret in her voice. "Michael freaked, and tried to fight the nurses off to get to me. Reagan was right outside the room, so when he heard the chaos he barged in and yanked Michael out.

"Reagan came back to my room and told me he left and I was confused. Why would he just leave like that you know? Then Reagan said his eyes changed when Michael threatened to kill me and the baby, so Michael knew he was a wolf." She stopped and met my eyes.

"He knew Zoey was a wolf"

“That was how his obsession with wolf blood started,” Luka said to me softly. “He thought injecting a human with wolf blood would cause a change, when in reality it’s all about the genes”

Fear crept up in me even though I knew it was over. It was all in the intensity of the moment.

“He called me countless times, suddenly wanting to claim Zoey as his. When I wasn’t giving in, he started to hunt us down. I knew I shouldn’t have left Reagan and go back to that psycho, but I was just so confused”

Throughout the whole time she’s been talking, this was when I saw her start to spill tears. I was about to go comfort her, but she continued talking.

“Reagan didn’t want any harm to come to Zoey so we ran. We went to New York for two years. It wasn’t good for Reagan since his wolf needed to be let out, and he knew the same would happen to Zoey. He wanted her to grow up in a pack and be happy, so he decided to come back.

“He knew a pack was here somewhere, so his plan was to go to the Alpha in peace, tell him the situation and ask him to take in Zoey when she comes of age. He had planned to try his very best to get Zoey into the pack, even if the Alpha wasn’t willing to accept him”

“I would’ve been in ruling that time” Luka mumbled to himself.

“We got back here and we were able to stay unnoticed until Zoey turned three. Reagan decided to take action that time; but first, he had to kill Michael ” Another gasp escaped my lips even though I knew it didn’t happen.

“He knew that she would never be at peace if he’s alive, so he tried to lead him into a trap. ” I could see water building up in her eyes again. “But Michael outsmarted him. ” She sighed and shook her head. This was when I finally got up and hugged her comfortably. She needed it.

“I was home when a knock sounded on my door. When I opened it, I saw a girl” Her eyebrows scrunched in thought as she gently pushed me back to gaze at me. “The day you came to my house, I thought you were her”

I looked to Luka in shock, and his expression was already mirroring mine.

“She brought him home. He looked awful and sick. She said she found him in the woods with countless wounds made with silver, and wolfsbane was abundant in his blood.

“She said there wasn’t anything I could do for him, and that she offered to take him to her pack doctor, but he asked her to take him home instead. She was such a doll. She

listened to our story and offered to help Zoey when she comes of age since she was the Luna at that time” She smiled slightly at the memory.

I could see a ghost smile on Luka’s lips too. Ella must’ve been a doll indeed.

“Reagan said Michael wasn’t after Zoey anymore, he only wanted him dead—which happened not long after” I held her tighter as she started to tremble.

“We buried him the same day, just the three of us. The last thing she did before she left was promise Zoey to take her into her pack when the time is right. Whatever it takes” A stray tear rolled down my cheek at that.

It made me think. Even beyond the grave Ella kept her promise. I couldn’t help but think that she had a part to play in Luka’s and I meeting. I didn’t believe in the dead interfering with living affairs, but this can’t just be fate.

“Wait” Daisy said all of a sudden as she looked at Luka in suspense. “If you’re the Alpha and this was her pack-“

“She was his mate” I said for her. “She died little over a year ago”

She gasped in shock and looked at Luka in pain and understanding.

“Michael was the one who killed her,” Luka said gruffly. “He used her as his experiment.” He pursed his lips in thought before he spoke again. “He must’ve seen her take Reagan that day, and targeted her specifically “

“My dear I’m so sorry. I- I “

“It’s okay Daisy” He smiled sweetly at her. “I don’t blame you or anyone “

“Michael took someone important from everyone I love” I mumbled out of the blue, as my own rush of guilt entrapped me. I knew Luka said I shouldn’t feel guilty, but I couldn’t help it.

“He took my mom’s love, my sister’s father and my mate’s...mate?” I chuckled a little at that. “That sounds weird “

“Victoria” Luka started. “You know that -“

“I know Luka. But what if Zoey hates me for it”

“She won’t” They both said in unison.

“If she’s gonna hate anyone, she should hate me. I’m the one who married the lunatic.” Daisy assured. Michael was indeed a lunatic.

“She won’t hate anyone” The sternness in Lula’s voice made us both shut up. “When she’s old enough and if the story should ever come to her knowledge, she’ll love you both too much to blame you”

His words calmed me a bit, but if I had the chance, I would raise that mofo from the dead and kill him again.

He was a monster.

Poisoned two wolves just for some crazy obsession.

Perfect definition of sick.

Sick. Sick. Sick.

“I hope you know that Zoey will be more than happy here. She’ll grow up around people like her and she won’t have to ever feel like she’s different or in danger” Luka assured Daisy.

She smiled through happy tears and engulfed him in a hug. “I was so worried about how this would all work out.” She smiled to herself as she released him. “I guess that lovely girl is really working somewhere in the sky”

“Indeed she is” I added even though she wasn’t saying it to us.

“What was her name again? Ris- um”

“Risella,” Luka said for her as he smiled a little. She gave him a sympathetic smile which he immediately brushed off.

“She’ll always be important to me, but Victoria has my heart now” I giggled when he dropped a kiss on my temple while my heart did a backflip.

She stared lovingly and happily at us. Despite just telling us the saddest story, she managed to be happy for us. Even her eyes seemed brighter, and her back straighter as if she’s just gotten rid of a huge load.

Zoey was safe and I was happy. I assumed it’s all about the heart of a mom.

“Give me one moment, I’ll be right back” She announced before rushing to the door. She returned shortly after with a neat pink envelope.

“Reagan gave this to me the day we left New York. He told me to give Zoey when she turns sixteen if anything should happen to him. The day he died, I couldn’t help myself and I read it.” She handed it to us with a calm look on her face.

"If anything should happen to me before that time, I want you to give it to her. I trust no one else more than how I trust you guys. Thank you for everything" She kissed us both on our cheeks and walked out before we could say anything.

Luka and I exchanged a look before looking at the envelope in my hand. I knew it wasn't my place, but my nosy ass wouldn't wait ten years until I knew what was in there.

I slowly opened it without any protest from Luka, meaning he was thinking the same thing.

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My Dearest Zoey,

If you're reading this, it means I'm not in your life when you initiated your first shift. I do trust that you're well and happy in a pack with people who love you. That's all I ever wanted for you.

If by now you didn't know, I was a rogue. I ran away from my pack when I was 21 for reasons I wish for you not to worry about.

If your mom ever told you anything about me, I hope she told you that I love you, and that the rogue life was never what I wanted for you. The constant running and looking over my back was never how I wanted you to live. And so, I'm trying my best to get you into a pack.

Maybe the reason why I'm not with you is because my lifestyle got me to the grave, or maybe it's some other reason.

But I want you to know that being a wolf is more than just shifting.

You'll find your mate and live the happy life I always wished for you.

Have my grandpups and make me proud.

I hope you know that I loved your mom. She changed me for the best and gave me the best gift I could ever wish for.

My precious Zoey.

If by some unfortunate incident you learn that my death wasn't natural and was by the hands of someone else, please don't try and avenge me.

I've done a lot of bad things in my life, and I don't want that for you. It's not worth it in the end. So always choose to be good Zoey.

Be good and do good. I know your heart is bigger than mine and your mom's combined. And I have faith that however and whoever you grow up with teaches you the right way to be a wolf.

You are and will always be the most precious jewel I was given. I want you to remember that and always stay true to yourself. Be happy and live life to the fullest. I will still be with you through every milestone.

Know that you're strong Zoey. You're stronger than you'll ever know. And I hope you use your strength to be the wolf you're destined to be.

I love you my dearest child. My blood will always run through your veins.

Zoey Isabella Boysen.

My love, my heart, the reason for the most joy I've ever known in my life. My baby girl.

Your dad, Reagan. Forever in my heart.

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Tears were already rolling down my cheeks by the time I ended, and I slowly folded the note and put it back in the envelope.

I leaned more into Luka as he pulled me closer and kissed my head to offer me comfort.

All I could think about was how much love I'm going to give her to make up for what was lost.

No doubt she'll be heartbroken when she reads this.

But she'll be okay, she has us. She has me.

She always will.

Alpha Luka And His Human Mate Chapter 48

Victoria's pov

"Happy birthday to you!"

Caleb grunted as I landed on him with a thud and wrapped him in a bone crushing hug.

"Happy birthday, happy birthday, happy biiiiirrrthhdaaaaaay!" I repeated as I gave him a huge kiss on his cheek.

“I can’t wait for my birthday to come” I heard Luka mumble as he sat on the opposite couch. With a short laugh, I hopped off Caleb and sat beside Luka.

“Thanks Tori,” Caleb said with a chuckle. “I’m grateful for all the love toda-“

“Happy birthday uncle Caleb! ” He was tackled again by Zoey after she emerged from thin air it seemed.

“Thanks Zozo” He gently kissed her head as she cringed at the nickname.

“I made this for you, but you only get to keep it if you find a new nickname for me”

“No promises there Zozo”

She flashed him a toothless grin nonetheless and handed him a paper that seemed to have a painting on it.

Caleb’s laughter immediately stopped as he stared at the picture with surprise, adoration and awe all in one. Ashley, who was beside him, had the same expression as they gaped at the picture.

“Zoey, you made this?”

“Yup” She beamed, then her face suddenly changed to hurt. “You-you don’t like it?”

“Yes Zoey of course I like it” Caleb gushed as he pulled her in another tight hug. “I love it actually! You’re so talented”

“She always had an artistic hand, so I got her all the supplies she needed to grow” This came from Daisy as she entered the living room. “And happy birthday Caleb” She gave him a hug when she sat beside him.

“You didn’t make a mistake, and thank you Daisy”

The picture finally passed to me, and I gasped in shock when I saw it. It was a painting of her with Caleb’s brown wolf, her hand resting on his nozzle. She even caught his white ears and paws.

Yesterday after our talk with Daisy, we thought it would be good for Zoey to actually see her first wolf since she already knew she too was a werewolf.

Caleb volunteered to shift for her and to my surprise, Zoey was amazed and excited instead of scared. They spent the whole afternoon playing.

She happened to get the perfect picture of them in the backyard. It was as good as a six year old could paint, and even better. It looked like something a twelve year old would do.

She has so much talent.

I handed it to Luka, though he already could see it from beside me. I felt pride welling up in me for my sister as everyone ogled over the painting.

It was finally passed back to Caleb, and he let out a content sigh as he gazed at it again.

“I’m framing this” He announced before disappearing up the stairs.

I giggled and made eye contact with Emma and Ashley. Today was the day we will surprise Caleb about Ashley’s pregnancy. Luckily he hasn’t picked up any of her changes yet.

Ashley told him that we’re going shopping for a few hours, but in reality, we’re going to the pack house to get all the decorations ready for the big announcement at his party.

We already got our dresses that Emma ordered last week, so all we had to do now was get everything in place. The party would be at the pack house which was more convenient.

The only other persons who knew about the pregnancy were Luka and Luka’s parents. Luckily, we had the Alpha on our side, so we could do what we had to without any distractions.

Lincoln and Luka would be doing some bro tradition birthday outing that they always do with Caleb, so we were good until 5:00.

“Ready?” I eyed them excitedly.

“As ready as I’ll ever be” Ashley clapped her hands eagerly and ran out the door.

“Let’s go people!”

“I told you she would look hot in that dress!” I gloated to Emma since I was actually right for once. She always won at everything.

“Yea yea you were right. You won this time, but we’re still straightening her hair”

I rolled my eyes at her. "Every time we're dressing up to go somewhere you straighten everyone's hair"

"Actually no. Our last girls night out, your hair was curled"

"Yea but if I hadn't already planned-"

"Um guys" Our bickering stopped at the sound of Ashley's voice, and we turned to see what she had to say.

"It's 4:30 and my mate's party starts at five. So I'll do my hair this time, and you guys do yours"

"But Ashley, we always do each other's hair," I whined, feeling disappointed.

"And we do this all the time. You and Emma fight about keeping my hair curly or straightening it, and it usually ends in thirty minutes. So since we don't have that time, I'll do it today okay? "

"But Ashley-"

"My mate" She gritted. Emma and I immediately shut our mouths at her tone. We knew how important this was so we let it be.

"Can I at least straighten your hair? " Emma asked me with puppy eyes. How could I say no to puppy eyes?

"Only if you let me curl yours "

She cringed at the suggestion and I had to bite my lip so that I didn't laugh. I knew she had nothing against curls, but her hair was always straight and Emma was not the person for change.

In fact, she hated it.

"Come on Em it'll be cute, and we won't have to break tradition"

"You have ten minutes guys" Ashley announced. I knew she was over exaggerating, but it would get us moving.

"Fine, but if I don't like it, you're the one answering to Ashley when I'm late"

I squealed in excitement and sat in the chair so she could straighten mine. Twenty minutes later, we were all dressed, prepped and ready to go.

The new look on Emma was refreshing, and not to mention cute as hell. It suited her more than we thought it would, but we knew she still preferred her naturally straight hair.

Unlike the pack barbecue days, the boys actually waited on us this time. Since it's Caleb's party, his mate on his side would be a good way to enter. Zoey and Daisy were also ready when we entered the living room.

"Well, happy birthday to me," Caleb said with a smirk when he saw Ashley. He pulled her to him and ate all her lipstick from her mouth. Fortunately, Emma and I thought of it and brought extra.

He rubbed his hand up and down her ass, looking quite ready to ditch the party and rip Ashley's dress off.

"Okay bro" Luka patted his back a little too hard. "Remember there are kids present"

I laughed as I saw Zoey hiding her face in Daisy's dress.

"But damn bro, look at my mate" Caleb drawled as he bit his lip and buried his head in her neck again.

I had to agree with him, she looked stunning. The velvet bodycon wrap dress looked like it was made perfectly for her. She wore gold open toe heels and a gold choker.

Her hair was caught up in a semi formal updo, held together with a gold pin. I had to admit that I was actually surprised that she did it on her own. Since she always just had it loose or in a messy bun, we would've never known she could've done it this nicely.

Finally, her makeup that Caleb practically ate off, was just right and enhanced her beauty.

He brought up his head from her neck and regarded her weirdly.

"You smell kinda different, but in a good way" He mumbled.

My heart raced when he looked like he was racking his mind for answers, but Ashley just smiled casually and shrugged.

"I borrowed Emma's perfume. You know, the one she never uses" She then checked her phone and called to everyone. "We're already late. Come on guys"

I breathed out in relief when he let it go and followed behind her without questioning it.

It's party time!

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“And many more! “

We cheered as Caleb blew out his '23' candles after our song. I found it so funny that his birthday party was like a ten year old's, but then I remembered that Celeb was a baby at heart.

Luka said that after this part, it would emerge into a more adult-like party. It all didn't matter to me though; it was all fun so far, and Caleb seemed more than happy.

Most of the pack members were out to celebrate their Beta's big day and it was heartwarming. Decorations hung from all possible places in the pack house's backyard, and our little surprise display was nicely tucked away where it should be.

Gifts sat on a huge table at the side, and everything seemed to come together so nicely.

Everyone seemed happy so far but little do they know the surprise they're in for. After Caleb and Ashley cut the cake, Ashley snuck off to her position for the surprise.

This was Emma's idea since she's the one who's lived here all her life.

On the Alpha, Beta and Gamma birthdays, they always got a bunch of 'happy birthday' balloons filled with helium, and they would float them away as a symbol for a long and happy life.

She said it started when they were just kids, but they never stopped even when they outgrew it. But this year had a little tweak to it.

“Where's Ashley? ” Caleb frowned as he looked around for her.

“You'll see her soon enough. But for now.. ” Luka trailed when he walked up with the balloons.

Caleb's face changed from excited to confused when Luka handed him a bunch of pink and blue balloons and one big gold one.

He turned them around so he could see the writing on them, which only seemed to confuse him even more. The pink ones had 'it's a girl', while the blue ones had 'it's a boy'. The big gold one in the middle had 'congratulations' written on it.

Everyone was quiet, as they too watched curiously and confused.

“What's this? Are these balloons for me? ” Caleb asked, breaking a sweat. Deep down he sorta knew, but he just needed confirmation.

As if on cue, Ashley burst through the big birthday banner at the backdoor steps, holding the huge teddy bear I picked up in town.

Gasps echoed throughout the crowd when they put it all together, and Ashley slowly walked up to Caleb with a huge smile on her face.

His expression was priceless. It was like he couldn't comprehend what was happening in that moment.

"No way " I heard him whisper to himself when Ashley stopped in front of him. The bear had a heart in its hand with the words 'Hi dad' written on it.

His eyes popped out of his head as they moved from her face, to her tummy, to the teddy and back again.

Finally he seemed as if he got it, and he let go of the balloons and threw his hands over his mouth, sending them floating in the sky.

That didn't seem to faze him, instead he took a few steady steps towards her. Everyone watched in anticipation as he dropped his hand from his mouth and watched her in adoration.

"Are-are you, is there a baby, pregnant?" She giggled at his jumbled question and held the teddy closer to him.

"Hi dad" She answered sweetly, and finally he seemed to register it all, as his shock was replaced with excitement and love.

He grabbed her a little too hard for my liking, and spun her around as he laughed in joy. I think I even saw a little tears in his eyes.

"I'm gonna be a dad! " He announced proudly to everyone as held her by the waist, though they all got it before he finished registering.

"I love you, I love you, I love you so much" He repeated before his lips captured hers after his declaration, and I made sure I got it all on tape for Ty and for memories.

"And I love you" He mumbled against her belly and placed a kiss on it.

It was such a beautiful moment. You could really see how overjoyed he was about his baby, and everyone present was sharing in on that joy.

Lincoln, who also didn't know, seemed to have just come out of his trance and pulled Caleb into a hug. Not a casual bro hug like what they always do, but a genuine heartfelt hug.

"Congrats man! " He cheered. He too looked as if he was about to cry. "I'm gonna be an uncle! "

“Hey but you were already my uncle” Zoey whined from beside me. I guess I’ll have to have the ‘attention and love’ talk with her before the baby comes. I knew how sensitive kids were with this kinda thing.

“I know pumpkin, and I always will be. But we’re also really happy about the new baby. Aren’t you?” Lincoln asked sweetly.

She pursed her lips and tapped her chin with her index finger before smiling at them. “I guess it’s okay. I’m happy for you uncle Caleb and aunty Ashley. I promise to be nice to the baby and teach it how to paint”

“I’d like that very much Zozo. Thank you” Caleb said with a smile. She once again cringed at the nickname, but hugged him anyways.

He received a lot more congrats and happy birthdays from pack members. We didn’t even get to transitioning into an adult party. Too many people were too busy giving their love.

The time trickled away quickly and we decided to wrap it up and continue our celebrations at home.

Caleb said his final thank you to the last person who left, then turned around to face us. He watched Luka, Emma and I with a glint in his eyes, and I knew what he was about to say.

“You guys knew, didn’t you?” He asked and we nodded with huge grins on our faces.

“Emma and Tori I understand, but Luka? Babe come on” He whined as he turned to Ashley.

“I didn’t tell Luka” She defended quickly. “He found the pregnancy test.”

“You took a pregnancy test!?”

“Long story” She added, and we shared a laugh at the whole memory. Caleb being Celeb just brushed it off.

“Well it doesn’t matter because I really enjoyed finding out this way” He pulled her in for yet another kiss, and I knew I’ve hit my max for seeing them kiss for one day.

“You know, I’m glad you’re human” Luka whispered in my left ear. I turned fully to him and gave him my attention.

“Yea? Why is that?”

“Because, my Angel, I’ll know when you’re pregnant before you do” I gave him a confused look, which he read quite well. “I’ll sense the change in your scent before you even realize that your period is late”

“That’s no fun!” I whined. And after I’ve already planned my own baby surprise for him in my head.

“But it’s convenient”

I gave him a deadpanned look. “So why were you so pissed about the pregnancy test?”

“Because I’m stupid” He smirked as I laughed at his statement.

I matched his smirk and pulled him into a hug. “I’ll find a way,” I whispered in his ear before running off to catch up with the others who were heading to the cars.

“Hey” Caleb bumped my shoulder as we walked.

“Hey” I returned the gesture while I smiled at him.

“I knew you were kinda the mastermind behind this whole plan, so thank you”

“You’re welcome. Though it was the three of us all together”

“I know. I already thanked Emma, and I have my plans of thanking Ashley later” He gazed off in the distance with a look on his face that made me gag.

“Okaaaayyyy... Too much information” He laughed at my expression and pulled me into a side hug.

“But for real, thanks Tori”

“I guess that means you enjoyed your day?” I beamed.

“Best birthday ever.”

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Victoria’s pov

Three weeks went by in a flash, and things only got more interesting by the day.

Caleb was finally able to sense Ashley’s scent change, and whenever he’s not working, he’d have his nose lodged into her neck.

I was quite happy for them. They seemed so content.

Emma seemed to come to terms with the fact that Ty was gone, though they practically talked every night. It was good to see her accepting the change since she was so sensitive about it.

Luka and I enrolled Zoey in a class for her age, where she'll learn basic knowledge for her age group while getting enough time to practice her art.

I've come to learn that they only start learning about werewolf theories and shifting when they are ten. But for now, they'll keep things simple.

Luka has become so busy with his pack work, and I'd help him sometimes. I actually got to see what everyone meant when they said he was a great Alpha; it was like he was programmed for it.

I, on the other hand, have finally settled in at the pack hospital. The nurses and doctor were very welcoming. I found it weird that such a big pack only had one doctor, but being there a couple days made me see why. Wolves don't get sick like humans do. So, you'll only see patients there with physical injuries, or women coming in to have their babies.

Some kids might come down with a few viruses and such, but it wasn't much. The few days I went in for work are always so exhilarating.

At first I was nervous, since I was only trained to be a nurse and here I was taking the role of a doctor. But after a day or two, I realized I've never felt so comfortable at my previous job.

"Have a good evening Doctor Deslandes"

I smiled warmly at Tasha, a nurse who's been much help to me since I started here.

"You too Tasha. Say hi to your mate for me"

She smiled sweetly and waved as I opened my umbrella to set out in the pouring rain. I cursed lowly at the weather since it was bright and sunny this morning when I left home, so I didn't bother to drive.

The mud splashed on my white scrubs as I walked by the side of the hospital towards the woods, deciding to take the shortcut home.

I thought about calling Luka, Caleb or Lincoln, but they were always so busy nowadays. I could handle a little mud.

"Luna! Luna! " A small voice called out.

I whipped my head towards the sound of the voice that called me. She sounded like a little girl and she sounded very scared. I spotted her clinging against a tree and I quickly made my way towards her.

“No don’t come any closer” She rushed out. I stopped dead in my tracks and watched her in confusion. “It’s quicksand, you’ll get stuck if you come closer” She added, giving me clarity.

A frown took over my lips as I watched the mud in front of me as if it just committed a crime. My eyes then darted to the girl that clung to the tree with fear in her eyes.

I frantically looked around for something that could help her, umbrella long forgotten as it floated away in the light wind.

I sighed in relief when I spotted a log.

“I’m gonna throw this half-way in the puddle, and the minute it lands you’re gonna hop on it with one foot and jump to me okay? I’ll catch you!” I shouted over the splashing of the rain.

“What if I fall?”

“You won’t fall. I promise that I’ll catch you okay? You gotta be brave and trust me” I urged with carefulness and confidence in my voice. The last thing I needed was for her to panic.

I offered her a reassuring smile while she nodded with a determined look on her face. She wasn’t that far away, probably about two meters.

I used all the strength I had and threw the heavy log as close to her as possible. She didn’t hesitate to leave the tree, and I braced myself for impact.

She leaped in my arms with full force, making me land flat on my back. But that didn’t matter to me because she was safe.

She clung to me for dear life, trembling as I walked towards the pack house. In the middle of my journey, I saw a young man about my age running towards us with a worried look on his face.

“God, Emily I’ve been looking everywhere for you” He said as he rested his hands on his knees while he caught his breath. He too was soaked, so it was obvious he had been outside a while.

“I’m sorry Jordan. I ran away when you didn’t give me the muffin and I got stuck” Little Emily mumbled in my shirt, still clinging to me.

I gently placed her in his hands once he caught his breath. He didn't look the least angry, just happy he found her.

"Thank you so much Luna. I'm sorry for all the trouble."

"That's okay Jordan, I'm happy to help. Just get this little one a muffin and we'll call it even" I smiled as I ruffled her hair.

He smiled brightly at me and thanked me again before heading to the pack house.

The rain was starting to ease up while I headed back to the area I found Emily. I gathered a few logs and boarded the area so that no one gets stuck again.

Feeling satisfied, I got ready to finally head home when something unusual caught my eye. 'That doesn't look like it belongs to the woods,' I thought as I slowly walked over to it.

I stopped suddenly when I realized what it was.

A body.

It looked like it had been buried in a grave too shallow, and the heavy rain washed away most of the dirt. Whoever it is was wrapped in white sheets that were now stained with mud.

I trembled as I took slow steady steps towards it. Is he a wolf? I doubt it. Luka hadn't gotten any missing wolf report.

The first thing I noticed when I opened the sheets was that he was wearing a red uniform. He looked like a kid, about 16 years old.

And that's when I remembered.

Flashback

"Hey Kera what's this? "

I gazed at the flyer of the missing boy who I've surely never seen before.

"Sad story actually. He went missing like a month ago or more, but his foster parents just thought he ran away again. When they noticed he didn't come home like usual, they finally called the police"

That's awful actually. Even if he had a history of running away, they should've contacted the police immediately.

“He was last seen leaving Bennie’s Restaurant, he worked there part time” She added.

“What’s his name? “

“Leon”

End of flashback

Leon.

The name tag read Leon.

Without taking my eyes off him, I quickly dialed Luka’s number.

“Victoria? Where are you? I was so worried, you were to get back an hour ago”

I ignored his worried rambling and got to the point.

“Get your ass down here. We’ve got a problem”

“Now, I’m only gonna ask one last time. Who killed that boy?! “

Luka was furious when I filled him in about Leon. He called a pack meeting immediately to find the culprit.

It was definitely a wolf attack. The bite was evident in his neck when they cleaned him off.

Apparently, whoever did this was in serious trouble, since killing a human without cause or informing the Alpha was a serious crime here. It only puts them in danger of being found by the humans.

Whoever killed Leon, for whatever reason, should’ve come to the authorities so it could be dealt with. Maybe then they would’ve gotten a slap on the wrist. But now, I don’t even think I can save them from Luka’s wrath.

“So no one in Brightwater Pack killed him then?” He asked firmly. Still no answer. Everyone just looked around at each other.

“Good.” Luka said much calmer. “But if I find out that any one of you were responsible for this, just call it strike three. You are dismissed”

Without a second thought, they all scurried away and I didn’t blame them.

It was just Lincoln, Caleb and Luka's parents left on the stage, and I couldn't help but notice how anxious Mama bear seemed.

"So what now?" I asked him in frustration. He ran his hand over his face and sighed.

"For now, we'll find a good spot in the pack cemetery to bury Leon. Finding who killed him is gonna be harder than I thought"

"Wait, what do you mean by burying him? You do know that people are looking for him right?"

"Victoria it doesn't work that way. We can't return him without drawing suspicion to ourselves. Because one, the bite mark is in his neck. And two, no one in town knows our faces. So if we return him, they will think our guys did it." He explained, but I wasn't having it.

"But he's just a kid Luka. He has friends and family in town who would like to see him off properly. It's not fair for you to cover up your people's dirty work while people like me are out there worrying"

This seemed to push him even more to the edge as he gripped my shoulder and pointed to my neck.

"The minute you took on this mark, my people also became your people. As the Luna your first instinct is to protect your people" He almost growled.

"We can still protect them," I snapped. I too was getting irritated. He was only thinking about the pack, he didn't care for Leon.

"Let me bring Leon in. I have a few friends at the station, I doubt they'll suspect me. Have one of your trackers hunt down a mountain lion or something that can bite like that. Spear it, and I'll show that as evidence." I suggested, trying to find a believable alternative.

"And what happens when they realize he's been dead for weeks?"

"I'll tell them the truth." I simply shrugged.

"Are you crazy!"

I rolled my eyes at his impatience and held my hand up, telling him to wait.

"There's a spot up in the hills that aunt Sophie used to take me as a kid. It's a perfect getaway for someone who wants to be alone, and it's miles away from the pack. I'll tell them that I was going there to clear my head and saw him. The wolves already cleaned him off, so it's perfect. You can even lodge the body there and I send in a report. Just

please let him have a normal teen-age funeral. His friends will decorate his locker and his Foster family will feel at ease. You owe him that much.”

In any other case, my plan will seem faulty. But maybe, just maybe, they wouldn't push the investigation too much. I doubt they will, but keeping him here will never give anyone peace of mind.

It wouldn't even give me peace of mind.

“Okay” He breathed out, pinching the bridge of his nose. “Okay. I'll have my men place his body there and you can give the police the location. I'll have them pitch an old tent there too to make it seem more believable”

I smiled brightly and lunged at him. It may seem small for him, but I'm still human. I'm still a small town girl who values her people. Wolves or not.

“I have a headache. I think I'll take the rest of the day off” He muttered in my neck as he held me close. I snuggled deeper into him as he carried me home.

Agreed.