

Finders Keepers

Eric's wolf was seething with rage. I was barely containing him from tearing the room apart after what we just learned. Caleb returned to the room. I hissed, "Report," Caleb winced, "I'm sure you heard them, but they cast a charm to nd their sister. She ran away six years ago. Not that it's surprising, but you were right. Princess Haley had been mistreated in Faerie for being a partial fairy. Her brothers were distraught that they never defended her, and now have to track her down for a marriage proposal that their survival hinges on."

I snorted. Jackson said, "I personally cannot believe they talked about this much out in the open. In our territory. They must have been in shock. The princes are not dumb men." Harold snorted, "They barely made it out of the damn door before they were talking. No wonder rumors about her stopped. She left. Smart girl." I stood and paced. I was trying to calm Duke down. He snarled in my head, "I want them to bleed!"

Alpha Steven spoke, "We could try to locate the Princess, Alpha Eric. If the Princes are unable to convince her to marry for peace; we could bring the girl here to you. If all she ever wanted was acceptance, your pack could show her that along with ours. Her mother is the Queen, and it has been said she adores her daughter. If we made her daughter happy that would garner goodwill. Plus, the Queen would know where her daughter was. Clearly, she doesn't now. She would have to be grateful to us. Even if we kill her nephew."

Jackson countered, "According to the Princes, they think Haley might hold out until Hexxus is dead. Along with their uncle, Fabian." I spoke, "Bring Hexxus here to me. Caleb, make sure the fairy princes are followed. If the Princess refuses to marry me, we will go with Alpha Steven's plan to bring her here. We can speak to her ourselves." Caleb smiled, "I already have men following them, Eric." I nodded to him. He quickly left and went to bring Hexxus up from the dungeons.

A few minutes later, Caleb shoved Hexxus, shackled in iron, into the seat his cousin Prince Aiden had recently vacated. My wolf growled at the man who dared harm our chosen bride. I glared at him and offered a greeting, "Hello Hexxus. I have good news. Your cousins were just here. A treaty has been arranged. I will be marrying your cousin, Princess Haley, in two weeks. Which means you will be released. Unless of course your family does not deliver Princess Haley to me. Then I get to send you to them. In pieces." Hexxus visibly paled at the mention of Princess Haley. He nally spoke, "You... you mean my life is in the hands of that abomination?!" All the werewolves in the room started growling. Hexxus shrank back into his chair. I demanded an answer when I spoke, "Why would you call her that?" Hexxus snorted, "Because it's what she is. An abomination. She is only a partial fairy. She should never have been allowed to draw breath. She was conceived by magic not a concupiscence. She shouldn't exist."

Alpha Lucas Lyons was disgusted. He joined the conversation, "She is a Princess. Her standing is higher than yours by birth alone. This is the fairy's problem! You look down on everyone and everything. Apparently even family." Hexxus smirked, "Oh, you just wait until you meet the abomination..." He trailed off and went pale. My brother, Darrin, enjoyed Hexxus' discomfort. Jackson linked me, "I think our prisoner just realized no one knows where his cousin is."

Former Alpha Frank Daniels spoke, "Is there a problem, Hexxus?" Hexxus glared at him. He stammered, "No... she... why? Why would you want her, Alpha Eric? Isn't she a little young for you? She's only nineteen years old after all. Aren't you thirty-two or something?" I growled menacingly. Hexxus shrank back again. He was pathetic. I spoke, "She's a Princess, and I need an heir. I have no mate. You correctly surmised I am thirty-two years old. We are not humans. Your people want an end to this war. What problem could you possibly have with your cousin marrying me? She would be out of Faerie, and away from you. Which would be a good thing, since you clearly hate her. I've known a century old fairy to have a relationship with a thirty-year-old so you cannot possibly care about our age difference either." Hexxus lowered his head and admitted, "That's true...."

Darrin taunted, "So, your life is in Princess Haley's hands. I hope she likes you more than you like her." Hexxus' head snapped up. He hadn't realized that. He stammered, "Wwwwhat?" Darrin continued smirking, enjoying the fairy's confusion. Harold commented, "Princess Haley does have to agree and show up to save your pathetic life." Hexxus forced his eyes shut and sighed.

My wolf enjoyed that, and so did I. I asked, "Do you think that will be a problem, Hexxus? You don't seem to think your cousin will save you. Not to be egotistical, but I am quite a catch. I am powerful, handsome, and quite wealthy." Hexxus looked defeated. "I guess we will nd out if she will or not. The abomination has never been interested in any man, Alpha Eric. She's meek, timid, pathetic, and weak. You'd be wise to have her provide you an heir, and never let her be seen. As far as saving me, I'm sure my father will convince her. He's always had his ways." I growled in anger. I hissed, "Get him the f**k out of here before I rip his head off!" Caleb quickly grabbed Hexxus and returned him to the dungeon. I sat back in my chair. I'd give Princess Haley the life she deserved.

Haley POV

Haley Holloran had returned to the human realm a year ago. I'd spent most of my time in my dad's realm. Ironically, my father was a King. His full title was King Titus Cambridge of the Hackura. For ve years I'd thrived with my father's people and my family there. I was no longer a weak little girl. I had nine half-brothers on that side of my family. All of whom loved and accepted me. My father loved me ercely, and his wife was lovely. She made me miss my mother, but Veronica Cambridge had become much more than my stepmother. She was my mom. My mother showed some affection, but it wasn't the same as the affection Veronica showed me.

My brothers trained me how to ght with my ghts and weapons. Now, I was a erce ghter. My father's people were feared and brought to the human realm as protectors at great cost. They could come here anytime they liked, but for others to bring them cost a large fee. I was lost in thoughts of my family when something inside me told me to stop.

I had just arrived at my apartment after my college classes concluded for the day. I was being paranoid because my brothers and dad were all out on missions. They'd all gone dark, and I missed talking to them. I tried to shake the strange feeling off, but I was on high alert. The closer I got to my apartment door. I sensed two people were inside. They were fairies. Great this was just what I needed. It has been six years. Couldn't they just stay the f**k away? I pulled out my dagger from my shoe. A trick my Hackura brothers had taught me. I went around to the re escape of the building to enter my apartment. I silently opened the window and entered the room. I stopped staring in shock at the two people who were here to see me. It was Aiden and Arion. Shock lled me that of all the people to come looking for me, it was them. Unable to stop myself I spoke up, "What in the actual f**k are you two doing here?"

Aiden and Arion whirled around to see me standing behind them. Their eyes widened on my weapon. They each looked as if they wanted to hug me but refrained. Aiden spoke rst, "Haley, you look beautiful. You... look just like our mother." Arion echoed him, "Truly sister, you are stunning. Still short as ever. I was worried you'd grown taller, and we missed it." That actually made me smile. I'd enjoyed their teasing when I was little. Sadly, they weren't wrong. I was short for a fairy. I was only ve-foot three. I had curves though. My gure was slender, with an hourglass gure, my bust was a generous size C. Thankfully, all the workouts with my dad's side of the family gave me that apple shaped butt. I looked good.

I stared at them in confusion. I said, "It took you six years to show up, and that's what you say. You tracked me down to say I looked good and didn't get taller? Well, thanks guys, I guess. It was nice to see you, but I've got homework to do. I also have dinner to eat." Aiden cleared his throat admitting, "To be honest, we wanted to pop to you as soon as you left. When we read your letter, we thought you deserved to be left alone by us. We have tried to pop to you a few times, but we were unable to get to you. Why Haley? Why didn't you tell us what Uncle Fabian was doing to you?" He looked sincere. I shrugged my shoulders, "You wouldn't have done anything. He always said you wouldn't believe me. That you would believe him over me. He was right. He always was. Besides, why would you give a damn? You knew he beat me, and you did nothing to stop him." Arion and Aiden clearly wanted to protest, but they both knew that I was right. They had allowed me to be beaten.

Eventually Arion replied, "We would've believed you, Haley. If you had said something, no one would have doubted you. You cannot lie. Uncle Fabian would've had to evade. It would've been obvious." I sighed, knowing they would've have doubted me. Uncle Fabian would've convinced them as a partial fairy, I might be able to lie. Then he would've made my life hell. I told them, "We will just have to agree to disagree, brothers. While I am glad to see that neither of you have died in the war with the werewolves; I would like to know why you're here. It's not to comment on my appearance and we all know it."

Both Arion and Aiden's jaw hit the oor. Arion yelled in disbelief, "You know about the war?!" I scoffed, "Every damn person in the supernatural world knows about the ridiculous war the earth fairies started. I've had to avoid werewolves while I've been here. Most leave me alone though since I'm just a partial." It hit me. Marriage was often the way peace was reached in Faerie's history. I yelled, "OH MY GOD! You're here because you need me! You need a marriage to seal the treaty! YOU GUYS ARE SUCH ASSHOLES!" Aiden cut me off, "We are your brothers, Haley. I know we have a lot to make up for, but... Hexxus' life is on the line. Along with our people. Mother misses you. It's as if a piece of her has been missing for six years. We want to make up everything we let happen to you."

I glared at him. He nally admitted, "You aren't wrong though. We are here because Alpha Eric Connors brought a marriage proposal. He is specically requesting your hand." I gaped at them yelling, "Alpha Eric Connors?!" I knew who he was. I was in his territory for a reason. My father knew he kept this area safe. Alpha Eric was a fair man. Arion nodded, "Yes. Haley, we know he has a reputation, but he could keep you safe. You would be his wife and Luna. You wouldn't have to come home to Faerie with us. You could remain here in this realm. Aiden secured the Alpha wolf's word that he would not harm you." I was actually touched by that gesture on Aiden's part. I whispered, "You did?" Aiden said, "Of course. You are my sister. I do not wish for you to be unhappy."

I'd longed for him to say those words to me for so long. After thinking it over I scoffed again, "And you guys wouldn't have to give him a full-blooded fairy female. You are truly unbelievable." Arion and Aiden fell silent. My words were obviously true, but it didn't make it hurt less. Aiden spoke, "He asked for you. We did not offer you as an answer. I swear. Please Haley, for our people." I glared at them, "Our people? What a joke. They are your people. Your people hate me. Now, you all want me to save your asses. I'll consider marrying Alpha Eric to save you all. That's the best you're getting from me right now." I'd have to talk to my dad. Honestly, I had no f****g clue what to do. I couldn't let Arion or Aiden be hurt. It seemed like a forgone conclusion that I would be getting married to an Alpha.

I took a breath. My dad would know what to do. I asked, "When do you guys need a decision?" Arion and Aiden exchanged a sharp glance and winced. Aiden said, "The wedding is taking place in two weeks on Alpha Eric's pack lands." My anger exploded. I felt the concern of my dad's family. We had a connection and could feel each other's emotions. I quickly controlled my feelings through our bond. I closed my eyes and took deep breaths so my brothers wouldn't see my eyes blazing gold. It would give me away. They would know my other half, and it might be petty of me; however, I wasn't ready for them to know I wasn't human at all.

I yelled at them, "WHAT? YOU ALREADY AGREED?! Without even asking me?" Aiden sighed, "We had to Haley. If we didn't agree, then and there they were going to torture and kill Hexxus." I rolled my eyes lamenting, "Oh and what a damn tragedy that would be! You cannot be serious! This is ridiculous! Is anyone with fairy blood capable of not ruining my god damn life?" Arion and Aiden sighed.

Arion said, "Just let us know soon, Haley." We stood in silence while I tried to contain my anger. Arion asked, "Can we stay here in your apartment while we wait for your answer? We don't have anywhere to stay. We'd like to stay in this realm with you." I yelled, "UNFUCKINGBELIEVABLE! The two of you know as well as I do that, I can't no. You already agreed! If you back out of a verbal agreement with Alpha Eric Connors the Fae will cease to exist. He would slaughter you all! He'd probably nd a way into Faerie when you closed yourself away because he's that damn determined. You cannot just give your word to a man like him and back down. You are truly the worst family ever. As for your request, yes. You can stay here. I'm going out!"

I stormed out of the room. I really was furious. I vaguely noticed some werewolves outside my apartment, but I didn't really pay attention to them. I slammed into my car. I driven the engine to life and drove on autopilot. When I stopped the car, I realized I'd driven to the outskirts of Alpha Eric's home. My dad had made me memorize this location in case I ever needed to come to the Alpha for help. The irony of that was not lost on me in this moment. I snorted as I looked at my soon to be home thanks to my foolish fairy brothers. I got out of my car and sat on the trunk. I oddly felt at peace here... One might even say, I felt at home. How odd.