

Conversations

Eric was elated. Haley loved me. When she drifted off to sleep, I cleaned both of us up before I fell asleep as well. I woke up a few hours later. I leaned over to pull Haley back to me, but she wasn't there. I bolted up in bed, panicked. I noticed the doors to the terrace were open. I scented her out there and ran. I found her sitting on the love seat staring at the territory. I smiled and told her, "I woke up and you weren't beside me." Haley turned and smiled at me and patted to the seat next to her. She said, "I had a lot on my mind. I don't need much sleep, Eric. One of the perks of my strange supernatural mix."

I picked her up and pulled her onto my lap, "What's on your mind, Angel?" Haley sighed, "I want you to know you can talk to me about things. I know who my father and brothers are, Eric. You can talk to me about the things you have to do to keep your pack and me safe. I'm also just not used to this. I've never had someone. For thirteen years I was told I didn't deserve someone. I was not fucking worthy, and no one would ever want me. My father and brothers told me it wasn't true when I met them. I just never thought I'd have a romantic relationship. Your family has also been nice. My mother loves me. My fairy brothers do love me, but they are embarrassed I'm not a full-blooded fairy. It's all new to me."

She took a deep breath and continued, "I haven't gotten a chance to talk to your brothers much yet, but they've accepted and welcomed me. They want to get to know me, and you... I've never loved anyone this way. I love my family but it's not the same. I'm scared. I've opened myself up in ways I have never done before. I have never shown my powers like this to people outside of my family and a girl I went on missions with. For a while, it was only my family and guard that saw them. I honestly struggle with my self-worth. It's something I still talk to my therapist about. It's hard to overwrite those first thirteen years of my life. I fucking hate it. I hate that I question when you will get tired of me and leave. Those thoughts make it hard for me to breathe. I just needed air."

She paused then teased me, "By the way you are way too hot. Even when you sleep. There's something fundamentally wrong with that. No one looks picture fucking perfect while they sleep. Except you." I pulled her in close, knowing her past would be an uphill battle for us.

I told her, "Haley, I will not leave you. I can only prove that to you over time. I can't promise there won't be times when I get frustrated with this and you. I can tell you; I do truly understand. You have a troubling past. Your childhood never should've happened the way it did. You should've been shown love. A child should never see the ugly side of people that you saw. The bond you feel that makes it hard to breathe thinking of me leaving you; it goes both ways, Haley. When you returned and healed Jim and Nick and they told us what George told you; I was in

physical pain thinking you would wake up and want nothing to do with me. I can't fathom my life without you. So, while you worry about me leaving you; I've made plans that should you ever try to leave me you fail. If you left me, I would hunt you down and bring you back. Even if that meant war with your dad."

Haley gasped and paled. I didn't give her a chance to answer. I continued, "As for what happened with George; if you want to hear about that side of me, I will tell you. I wanted to protect you from my dark side Just know, I won't let you leave me even if you think I'm a monster." Haley put her arms around my neck and moved to face me. She straddled my legs. She whispered, "Please, never go to war with my dad. I won't leave you, Eric. Not permanently. The territory itself, yes but you... I can't. I don't know why, but even the fucking thought hurts me. The thought of you being hurt by my family or them getting hurt. I don't want to think about that. I would stand against them for you, and that kills me. I love them."

She gathered herself before adding, "You can tell me about George only if you want to. I've talked to my brothers and father about their missions. I've had my own as well. I am my father's daughter; I was not exempt from missions. He will probably discuss that with you since I'll still be expected to go out on them occasionally." I growled at the thought of her going on missions.

I told her, "I will tell him I want you here. As for your other concern, I have no plans to go to war with your dad. As far as what happened with Alpha George... We took over his pack. We surrounded them easily. They didn't even see us coming. Apparently, their witch messed up a spell and we came in without them catching our scent..." I trailed off as Haley started laughing.

I asked her, "What is funny about that?" Haley spoke between giggles, "That... wasn't... the witch... I did that." I stared at her and asked, "What do you mean?" Haley smiled at me and lightly kissed my lips. She explained, "Before you left, I used a protection charm. Since you are the Alpha, it extended to your men. When you met up with your allies it extended to them as well. You wouldn't be very well protected if they could fucking smell you coming. Would you?"

I was stunned again. I managed to ask, "What else does that charm do?" Haley smiled, "Had you run into a witch, their powers wouldn't affect you. Unless they used dark magic. A sword could hurt you, but they would find it harder to hit you." I was dumbstruck. Her power astounded me There's no way the regular fairies could do that. Or winning any war with them would be quite difficult.

I asked, "So, is that something only you can do?" Haley admitted, "No, it is a power of the Royal line. They would have to do a lot of research to know that. I found it in a book in the library. It's old but powerful Fae magic. Anyway, they couldn't detect your scent. Then what happened?"

I had to laugh... a book. A simple charm in a book. I shook myself and told her, "Well, we listened to them for a while. I found a member of my pack was going to betray me. She planned to try to seduce me and bully you. We made our presence known. Nick and Jim identified those present at the school. Caleb lost it when they said they shot Nick and Jim with silver bullets. We took some prisoners and left the rest in the hands of their new Alpha, Nathan McDermont. He is my ally's Steven's son. I am sure most lived through the takeover. Unless they challenged him. I will get an update from Steven today; however, not hearing from him tells me it went well."

I continued, "I let Nick and Jim take their revenge on all except Alpha George. The whole way I thought of many ways to torture him to send a message to leave you alone. That I protect what is mine. The strongest message was to blood eagle him." Haley nodded, "I'm sorry a pack member betrayed you. They would find it hard to bully me though. I fight back now. For performing a bloody eagle, you came back fairly clean and pretty calm. When Hackura men go out like you did and end up doing a bloody eagle... well, orgies sometimes follow when they return."

She thought about it then said, "We had one round of rougher sex followed by much more tender rounds. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoyed both. Is battle not the same for werewolves?" My jaw dropped. I asked, "Umm... what?" Haley looked back at me. She said, "Well, I usually had to run and lock myself in my room after the army back if my brothers weren't with them. Figuring out popping in their realm took some time to get right. If my brothers were in a monogamous period with their mates, then they headed straight for them. They didn't return with everyone else. If they came quite a few men got beaten by my brothers for looking at me. I learned to defend myself while I was with them. Which was a good thing." She shivered as if remembering something unpleasant.

She continued, "You guys came back, Nick and Jim were calm. They sat down and talked, then ran off. You came in without a trace of blood. You were pretty damn calm. Is... is that how werewolves are? Do... do you not want to do rougher stuff like that with me? Do you have someone else that you work that aggression out with? Is that why you weren't at the house right away?" I growled, "I only have you now Haley. I showered before I came to the main house. My dad said I should use the pack house to clean up. Being with you calmed me down after our first round. If we had fought together, and both been amped up... That could've been quite a wild night." Haley nodded.

She quietly pointed out, "You know we haven't talked about that, right? I wouldn't be upset with you if you were with someone else. I may not like it one damn bit, but we haven't talked about how this will be between us." I growled menacingly, "I will kill anyone who tries to touch you. No one will have you but me." Haley laughed and kissed me. She said, "I wasn't talking about me, Eric. I like the way the Hackura are versus the Fairies with their mates. When a fairy finds their mate,

the males are brutal with the females the first time they mate. They think there should be pain to conceive. Their mates often beg them to stop. The females tend to bleed a lot, even if they aren't a virgin. I think it's why their females have such trouble getting pregnant with their mates. Their lovers prior to their mates are kind; whereas mates that first time are quite cruel.”

I was shocked. She continued, “Hackura’s on the other hand are very loving towards their mates. Even when they aren't on an exclusive period. They don't condone acts of violence or roughness without consent. The women can be with other females on those off periods, but that has never appealed to me. I'm not curious about it. You are the only man I've wanted to kiss let alone do anyfuckingthing else with.” I had no idea the fairies were cruel to their mates.

I cleared my throat, "I will only be with you now, Haley. To be with someone else is unfathomable. It would cause you and I actual, physical pain. I won't do that to us. So, we will have a type of relationship you have not seen. Fairies harming their mates is barbaric. I can't imagine. It hurts me to think of hurting you. If I hurt you physically, I couldn't bear that." Haley grabbed my face in her hands. She quickly told me, "I don't think you would hurt me, Eric. I won't complain if we have a passionate night and wake up with some of the bruises or marks. I've seen on the Hackura women post orgy night. I can heal them anyway."

I laughed and told her, "That's not quite the same, Haley. I promise you will wake up with those marks in our life. Especially if we are somewhere and a male who's not me is touching you or giving you attention. I am very possessive, Angel." Haley smiled, "Well, I don't tend to like people I don't know touching me. Particularly men. So, if it happens, I'll probably be really damn uncomfortable."

I growled and pulled her in for a kiss, pulling her back to our bed and laid her down. I felt this desperate need to be inside my newfound heaven again. We made love again. Jackson linked, “Where are you? It’s our morning run time.” I groaned and replied, “Give me a minute.” I begrudgingly told Haley, "I have to go run with my brothers; you've made me late." Haley smiled lazily, "I'd apologize, but I'm a fairy and I can't lie. So, I'm not even remotely sorry, Thor." I smiled and kissed her again then ran off to meet my brothers.

Meeting the King

Eric ran out of his wing and down the stairs to his brothers. They were smirking at the entrance of our home. I didn't give them a chance to mess with me, "Let's go brothers." I shifted and they joined me. Darrin of course linked me, "So, you get a mate and now you're late for runs. Tsk tsk, brother." I huffed, "We were talking and she's too damn irresistible. Darrin, you missed the take down of George to fuck your mate in heat. I didn't even think about giving you shit." Darrin laughed in response.

We continued the rest of their run-in silence. We made it back and shifted then headed into the war room. Jackson smirked and teased our younger brother, "So Darrin, did you enjoy your mate's fairy induced heat?" Darrin grinned, "Yes, I did. It was more intense than her regular heat. I'm scared to hope for a pup." Harold, Jackson, and I all clapped him on the shoulder.

I spoke, "We will all just wait and see what happens, brother. We will be here for you no matter what." Darrin smiled, "I know. I just she... went into heat right after being healed like Haley said. We can have a pup even if it's not this heat, the next maybe. I never... I never thought I would get to have a pup. I gave up on that dream after their accident." Harold and Jackson nodded. Harold admitted, "We all did. Who knew Eric finding a mate would give us all hope for a family with our mates?" Everyone nodded.

My dad walked in, "My boys. Good morning! Based on Eric being covered in blood when you came back, I am guessing everything went smoothly with the take over." My brothers nodded, I replied, "Yes, it did go well. We had no casualties. It was as smooth as we could've hoped for. I need to call Steven to confirm, but I haven't heard of any problems."

I stepped away to make my call. I quickly confirmed everything went smoothly and returned to my family. I announced, "Everything went smoothly. They only had to kill two more wolves in the pack. The rest pledged loyalty to Nathan. Does everyone remember how they couldn't smell coming? Or sense us in any way?" Harold nodded, "Yes, of course. Their witch messed up the spell which was to our advantage." I shook my head, "No, Haley did that." Everyone was shocked into silence for several moments.

Jackson finally asked, "Um, excuse me. What?" I smiled, "I said something similar. Before we left Haley performed a charm on me. She spoke in fealish my skin glowed afterwards. The protection went to our men gathered on the lawn immediately. When we met up with Steven it extended to him and his men as well. Apparently, according to my mate, we wouldn't be safe if they could smell us coming. Or if they were able to know if we crossed into their territory."

My dad muttered, "Good Lord. What power is going to drop on us tomorrow? Maybe you should ask her for a list of what she cannot do. It has to be shorter than listed out what she is capable of." I laughed, "Apparently any royal fairy can perform that particular magic. They just don't know about it. They hadn't been at war for quite some time, and the protection charm was forgotten. She read about it in a book in the library there."

Darrin shrieked, "A BOOK?!" Harold reiterated, "A BOOK... just blasé she read it in a book. Jackson is right, the fairies are stupid. There is no doubt, I wonder if all the partial fae can do magic. No one has tried to teach them. We assumed they couldn't because the full-blooded Fairies said so." I laughed, "You want blasé? After talking to her about what happened yesterday based on Jackson's advice, thank you by the way brother, Haley thought I was so calm afterwards she asked quite casually if I had someone else to relieve that stress for me prior to coming to her." Jackson sputtered, "WHAT?!" I nodded, "Yes, apparently in the Hackura realm, after a blood eagle orgy are not uncommon." Harold laughed, "Well slap my ass, and call me Shirley. You waited so long for the world's most understanding mate. Does she not understand you can't be with others now that you have her?"

I nodded, "She does now. Here's another thing I learned; fairies are brutal with their mates the first time they have sex. They believe the more pain their mate is in, and the more blood they draw; the higher the chance of a child being conceived." Jackson snorted, "Morons." Everyone was contemplating my words when Caleb came in practically bursting at the seams.

Caleb announced, "Eric, King Titus of the Hackura is here with one of his sons." I looked at the time. They were about fifteen minutes early. I shrugged, "Let them in, Caleb." Caleb nodded and left to bring them into the war room. Titus entered with his son at his side. I only knew this wasn't Prince Bjourn. I hoped it was Prince Marcus since Haley wanted to see him. Both had an intimidating presence, but I wouldn't cower to it as an Alpha. Both men were over six feet tall with blonde hair and blue eyes.

I stood to welcome them. King Titus spoke first, "Hello Alpha Eric, it's a pleasure to meet you. As I said on the phone, I had planned to meet with you eventually about marrying my princess. Obviously, the fairies have forced that plan to accelerate." He said the last bit with contempt.

His son grimaced. Titus continued, "I know you have a treaty with the fairies. I would like to work on one between our people as well." I nodded, "I'm sure an agreement can be reached; however, Haley is already mine. She is my mate and the fairies have already agreed to our marriage." Titus's son's lips went into a grim line. He joined the conversation, "A right they do not have." Titus looked at his son and said "Haley has agreed already. Had she not come here that night and met you, we would have brought her home. We would have started our own negotiations

with you. We wouldn't have let them give her to you. I wouldn't care if you wiped them out for it. The fairies have no right to her after what they did. The only reason they are alive for you to fight werewolves is because she doesn't wish to condemn a whole race of people for some of their actions." I looked back and forth between both men.

I admitted, "I can understand your position. If I hadn't met her that night, I would've been open to your negotiations. An alliance with the Hackura is not something anyone would turn down." Titus nodded and he took a seat. His son remained standing beside him.

Titus said, "I would like to propose that we pass some contracts to your pack. Sometimes we receive a contract in this realm that is a waste of time to bring our people here for. It could be handled by another supernatural group. I would like to pass these contracts to you. You would receive ninety percent of the payment for the contract. In exchange, should you ever need us and our aide we will come to you."

I raised an eyebrow countering, "Would you not already come to our aide for your daughter?" The son's lips almost reached into a smirk. Titus outright laughed, "This is why I have always liked what I have heard about you. You're smart. Yes, I would come to your aide because of her. Haley is my only daughter and I love her dearly. I will spend my life making up for her childhood. I would've spoiled her rotten. I should've taken her when she was born. I mistakenly thought she would be treated well as their princess. I had heard her mother was thrilled after Haley's birth." The son's eyes started to glow gold.

I responded, "From what I've heard, her mother does love her. I am not sure if she knows the extent of Haley's abuse. We heard the rumors, as you did, that the Queen was thrilled to have a little girl." The son's eyes now glowed golden, "I would imagine you do not know the extent to which my sister suffered. The queen's feelings do not matter. Alania

had to have turned a blind eye to some of what happened to my sister. She is responsible for her people. Haley is their princess. Anyone who looked at her sideways in our realm was dealt with harshly. My father wouldn't ever have allowed harm to come to her. Neither would my brothers or me."

I stared at the Hackura Prince in shock. What more could Haley have suffered? It made me furious he was probably right. I admitted, "I am sure there's more detail I do not know. Haley and I are still getting to know one another. Haley mentioned all her brothers have found their mates except her youngest brother, so you know the bond that brings. I know more than you probably think I do, but you are right. Right now, I am not sure if I want to hear more. I would probably cease talks of peace and continue the war. I'd slaughter fairies until I reached Fabian."

Titus interrupted me, "Get in line, Son." His eyes began to glow gold. I got us back on task asking, "What is your real offer should our pack take side contracts?" Titus smiled, "I would allow your people into our realm for short periods of time. Your unmated males and females could possibly find their mates in our realm. Or just have a child with someone they are found of. You would then have Hackura blood in your pack to balance out my grandchildren you plan on having. I do believe that's quite the incentive."

Jackson linked me, "Our pack would be quite powerful, Eric. Your children already stand to be ridiculously powerful. This would strengthen us greatly." I agreed out loud, "I have final say on rejecting the contracts you offer. We would only take a maximum of fifty contracts per year, and Haley does not go on any missions."

Titus laughed, "I agree on the maximum number of contracts; however, Haley will go on missions. She's the princess of the Hackura. I can agree to day missions only for her." I growled, "A minimum of three per year, and none while she is pregnant." Titus shook his head, "A minimum of eight per year. I of course agree, no missions while she is pregnant." I grimaced bartering, "Five missions per year." Titus smirked, "Six." I huffed but nodded, "Agreed. I don't like it at all though. I will send my warriors to shadow her when she goes."

Haley's brother laughed. "You can try, but if she doesn't want them to follow; she will lose them. We tried that too, but you can only follow someone who pops away for so long." I growled, "She needs to be protected." Titus laughed, "My daughter can handle herself, but as we said you can try. You will know what her missions are so you will have to get creative with your shadows. I think that was the easiest negotiation I have had in some time. Don't you think so, Marcus?" Marcus laughed, "It was. Had the fairies not already given Haley to him there would have been more to discuss."

Titus's face grew hard, "Ah yes, the fairies. Do you plan to allow Fabian free reign in this realm?" I growled, "No, I do not. If Fabian steps out of the portal an order to seize him and bring him to me will be put out." Marcus smiled, "Only if you find him first." I glanced at Marcus as Titus spoke, "Should you get him first, we would like a call. We are quite adept at torture. For what he did to my little girl. Well, I have many ideas. As do my sons, even my niece has plans. So do her aunt and uncle. My nephews do too. Then there's my wife. Honestly, there's a line of people that want a piece of him."

Titus paused then chuckled, "He should be most afraid of my wife, I think. My dear Veronica loves Haley as her own. Veronica loves our boys, but she always wanted a girl. There was a parade thrown when we heard Alania had a girl. Veronica was devastated when Haley came to us so broken. Haley spent her first few weeks in the hospital. That wasn't what Veronica had envisioned at all, nor

any of us for that matter. That bastard raped her so badly that last time.... She needed a colostomy bag while she had surgeries to repair her anus. Her healing powers weren't what they are today at that point."

Titus teared up as he told us that. He continued, "For quite some time Haley would only speak to Marcus. Eventually, she started speaking to Veronica and Miley. She was less scared of women. It broke all our hearts. I used to take her to the ocean and tell her she didn't have to talk to me. We would just sit there for hours. She loved it there so much I put permanent chairs there for us. That's actually where she first spoke to me." Titus smiled along with Marcus as they remembered.

Marcus said, "You will have to be careful with her Alpha Eric. She is much better, but sometimes things trigger her. It sends her back to that place mentally. She is strong, and you can fight with her, yell even. Don't think you have to walk on eggshells with her. Just watch for her to withdraw. When she does, you are more than welcome to call me. I will come anytime day or night. Or you can navigate how you handle this with her. Sometimes, you need to get in her face to make her talk to you. Other times you just have to give her space. You can call me while you figure this out with her. You WILL be good to her, or I will take her home." I growled and stood up, "YOU WILL NOT TAKE HER FROM ME!" Titus and Marcus were surprised by my intensity. They shouldn't have been. I am an Alpha, and she is my mate.

Titus looked at Marcus, then he spoke "We have no intention of taking Haley from you Alpha Eric. We have a vested interest in keeping her happy. I will never see that broken little girl in my baby again." My eyes were hard, "She will stay here, she is mine. To hurt her would hurt me. I will never intentionally hurt her." All three of us stared at each other until someone knocked on the door.

I called, "Enter." To my surprise Haley bounded in, "Eric I just finished healing Jessica. Molly wanted Jessica to be healed next since Molly already had a baby. So, I was told to let Harold know he's got forty-five minutes until heat time...." She trailed off when she saw Marcus. A smile broke out on her face. She yelled, "MARCUS!!" She ran to him, and he caught her in a hug, twirling her around. I knew it was her brother, but a low growl escaped me.

Titus, my brothers, and my dad chuckled. Marcus smirked at me, he spoke to Haley, "I have missed you my little one. You knew I was here though. You could feel me." Haley stuck out her tongue. Haley looked over her shoulder and squealed. She jumped into Titus' arms. In that instant, gone was the hard man that had been in the meeting. He was replaced with a man who only thought of his love for his daughter.

Titus laughed and squeezed her into a tight hug greeting her, "Hello my little princess. How are you?" Haley replied, "I'm good dad! Everyone here is nice. I've

made friends! Eric is amazing. I still can't believe you guys were right. I have a mate."

Marcus raised his eyebrow and looked at me when she said made friends. I nodded. Marcus smiled. Titus replied to Haley, "Of course you made friends, princess. Anyone would be a fool to not want you as a friend. Eric is a good match for you, I'm glad you are happy and that he's your mate. He is worthy of my princess, and I would accept nothing less."

My Dad couldn't smile any broader that the King of the Hackura wanted me for his daughter. Caleb came into the room smirking. He informed me, "Alpha, the fairy princesses are here." Marcus growled impressively for a non-werewolf, along with Titus. Haley looked nervous. I smiled and asked them, "Would you like to meet Haley's fairy relatives?" Haley responded quickly, "I can pop us out of here, dad. We could spend time together! I haven't gotten to see either of you yet or spend any time with you." Titus looked down at her, "Once this meeting is over princess, I will send Marcus to spend time with you. Since I cleared my calendar for your wedding, I am quite busy, but we will spend time together soon. I promise." Haley glanced at her feet, "Ok." She hugged both men. She whispered to Marcus, "Don't be too mean. They won't understand why. I didn't tell them I wasn't a partial human fairy mix."

Marcus snorted. Haley popped over to me. She offered, "Have a good meeting, Eric." She lightly kissed me on the lips. She gave me a quick hug before she popped away. Harold and Jackson choked back a laugh at Titus and Marcus' expressions. Their jaws were on the floor at Haley's open affection toward me.

Darrin asked, "What? You guys act like you've never seen her kiss anyone before. You should've seen the kiss they had after she woke up from healing two of our men." I cut him off, "They haven't seen her kiss anyone before." My brother's eyes snapped to me. Jackson laughed, "You suck Eric, A partial Fairy Hackura double princess who has never even kissed anyone. It's not fair. Darrin, Harold, and I had to growl at half the pack when we found our mates. Darrin almost had to fight Shana's ex for her. But you? No... your mate has only ever kissed you. Goddess, you suck."

Marcus recovered first, "He's right. We haven't seen her kiss anyone ever. Let alone allow another male outside our family touch her without a mental and physical break down. You'll have to watch her. She needs to eat regularly if she's going to heal people. As much as we've tried to drill eating regular meals into her, she forgets sometimes. Those damn fairies barely fed her." His eyes turned gold again.

Titus laid his hand on Marcus and spoke, "Well, let's meet these fairies, shall we? I'd say it's long overdue." Marcus smiled, "Oh yes, it is. I've wanted to meet her

piss poor excuses of fairy brothers for quite some time now. Has Haley really made friends here?" I replied, "Have your fun with them Marcus. If you want to hurt them, take them out of my territory please. We are having a cease fire at the moment with any non-captured fairies. To answer you question, yes. Haley has made friends here." Marcus smiled then his eyes narrowed. He clarified, "Captured fairies can be harmed then? Do you have anyone of interest?" I smiled, "To you? Yes. Hexxus is currently in our dungeons." Both men's eyes narrowed. Titus clapped his son on the shoulder. Titus glowered, "I would like to speak to him." I nodded, "Of course. Caleb, bring in the fairy princes."