

Unexpected

Haley skipped to the kitchen. Mrs. Blanch stood there with a woman I'd never seen before, getting food ready for lunch. Shana, Molly, and Cassandra were helping them. Cassandra asked me, "How did the meeting you were summoned for go?" I grimaced, "Not great." I wanted to change the subject, so I did, "Are you guys free to do a wedding planning session with my family on Wednesday?" Everyone nodded but Cassandra frowned. She asked, "Of course dear, are you alright?" I paused, "No, but I will be." Cassandra kept frowning and stared Nathan who had just walked into the kitchen.

She walked over to him and whispered, "Nathan Connors, what happened? Haley changed the subject. She said she's not ok, but she will be." Nathan sighed, "Fairies happened my love, I will explain later. Eric just came back in from comforting her. I just came to grab us all lunch." Cassandra huffed as Nathan gathered the guy's lunch and left. They did realize I could hear whispers near me, right? I didn't have the hearing most supernatural's did, but they were kind of loud.

Mrs. Blanch said, "Ok, for lunch we have fried chicken, Texas potatoes, green bean casserole and rolls. For dessert we have chocolate cake." I smiled, "Sounds delicious! Load me up with a little bit of everything." Mrs. Blanch smiled and gave me a plate.

The other woman I'd never met before cleared her throat, "Hello Future Luna Princess Haley, I'm Emily, Nick's mate. The woman you call Mrs. Blanch is my mother." I smiled, "Hello, I hear a healing session may be needed for you." Emily nodded but said nothing else. I continued my thought, "Do you know what's going on?" Emily eyes filled with tears as she admitted, "I'm really not sure. I have my heat, but the Moon Goddess hasn't blessed us with a pup. I know everyone says it's fine, but it's not. Other she wolves get pregnant right away. It's been a few years for me. Something has to be wrong."

I thought about it. Judging by what my healing light was telling me. I was certain I knew the problem. I asked, "Alright, when you get your period is it painful?" Emily nodded, "Yes. Isn't it for everyone though?" I shook my head, "Everyone has cramps that aren't super fun, but sometimes some women develop endometriosis. That makes your periods more fucking painful than they should be. My guess is that's what going on here with you. Or Nick could have a problem. It's not always the woman with the issues you know." I winked at her continuing, "If it's him having the issue, you'll be good to go. When I healed him, I gave him a little extra boost. Now, the most important question is: Would you like to go into heat today? Or let it happen naturally on its own?" Emily thought about it, "Well since my healing session is after dinner, I'll talk to Nick. We can decide together before I give you an answer." I nodded, "Sounds good to me!" Emily paused, "I

also want to say thank you, for healing Nick and Jim. Nick's my whole world and when he was in pain, I thought I was dying. Jim is like a brother to me. He's been so supportive of Nick and me. I've cried on his shoulder a few times about getting my period after a heat. So, thank you."

I smiled, "It's not a problem. They are both my friends, they even said so." Emily nodded and smiled proudly, "Nick and Jim are good friends to have. I hope we can be friends too." I grinned asking, "Really?" Emily was clearly surprised by my reaction, but nodded her head, "Of course." I replied, "Great! Well, we are going to have that wedding planning thing on Wednesday. How about you and Mrs. Blanch join us?" Both women nodded their agreement.

Molly chimed in, "Changing the subject. Haley, I just want to be healed. I don't want to go into heat right away. Jackson and I discussed it. We want some time to wrap our heads around this. We also want to prepare Saied for the possibility of a sibling. We told her she'd never get one." I nodded, "That's fine." My heart hurt for all of them having to go through this. I replied, "Alright. From what I'm sensing it will take about an hour for me to heal you. Once you finish your lunch, we can start. Do you want anyone to hold your hand?" Molly looked at Cassandra. Cassandra smiled, "Of course, Molly. It was quite a calming experience the first time." Molly sighed, "My mom is out of town, or I'd have had her come over. Thanks, Cassandra."

Marcus strode into the room, "Well look at me, the only male in sight." I laughed, "Hello big brother. Did you have fun at the gym?" Marcus wiggled his eyebrows, "But of course, little sister." Molly was shifting in her seat. She was clearly feeling slightly uncomfortable and wanted to get this over with. She spoke, "Well... I've finished eating all I can, given what's going on. Haley, let's do this." We moved into the main room. It seemed I would have another crowd. Once Molly sat down on the couch, Cassandra sat next to her and grabbed her hand. I began to heal the damage caused by the accident.

Emily, who had never seen me in action, gasped as the glow surrounded us. I heard her begin to cry. She sobbed, "Momma, I might finally have a pup." Mrs. Blanch chuckled, "Sweet girl, you aren't even that old, but yes you very well may conceive here shortly. Our Eric's mate is a special one."

I could feel Marcus' joy in our connection, hearing everyone talk about me as someone who was special. I knew he was happy people saw me as my Hackura family did.

Once I was finished healing Molly, Marcus handed me a Dr. Pepper. He had hidden the can behind his back since we left the kitchen. I giggled, "You always did get me, brother." Marcus smiled, "Always, little one. Anyway, let's go spend

the afternoon together. I have missed you.” I nodded and grabbed his hand. We ran out of the house before I popped us deep into the forest surrounding Eric's castle.

Marcus asked, "What are we doing here, Hales?" I smiled, "You know exactly what we are doing. I'm conjuring a treehouse." Marcus smiled and motioned his hands in a 'go ahead' gesture. I paused and imagined a small little house I wanted in the tree. I imagined being a circular house around the tree. I wanted one with a sitting room that had glass panes surrounding it. A bedroom with a bathroom that was a smaller version of Eric's shower. I wanted a deck with a grill and outdoor seating.

Marcus laughing broke my concentration and kept me from continuing. I looked at him and he smirked, "Glamping are we sister?" Haley shrugged, "I don't know what the fuck that means. I'm going to be living here now, so I'll probably need an escape every so often." Marcus said, "People in this realm can rent tree houses to stay in, little one. It's called glamping." He laughed as I rolled my eyes. I grabbed his hand and popped him into my new, fully furnished treehouse. This was the place I would come when I needed to think.

Marcus decided he wanted to sit on the deck instead of inside. He jumped onto the outdoor sofa, and I sat on the love seat to face him. I asked, "So brother, how is Torvi? How are my little nephews?" Marcus smiled, "They are good. Torvi is enjoying Alyssa on our off period. My sons are running around like the crazy Hackura they are. Arthur just started his training; we are very proud of how he's doing. Bjourn was even impressed. He said Arthur will be a fine warrior." I laughed, "Well, that's quite high praise coming from our oldest brother." Marcus smiled, "Yes, it is. I would be proud of Arthur either way, but it's nice to know he's going to be a fierce warrior."

We both sat in a comfortable silence for a while before Marcus spoke again, "I think you will be happy here, little one. Just remember that even when you fight with your mate, he does love you. I saw it myself in that meeting. If I didn't believe that with every fiber of my being, I would take you from here. Alpha Eric would never find you again. You are precious to me, to our entire family and we all want you to be happy. Don't let your past overshadow your future and steal your happiness, little one." I nodded, "I'm trying. It's strange though. Eric doesn't even bat an eye about what I went through. He doesn't pity me in the slightest. He feels rage at what happened to me."

Marcus asked, "You didn't intend to bring on that monsoon, did you?" I cringed, "No, my fairy brothers just... I don't know what is more surprising. The fact that they still don't care about me, or the fact that it still hurts me that they don't care." Marcus frowned, "They don't deserve your love, Haley. Don't let them take your control over the emotions you've worked so hard to control."

I nodded sadly, "I know, but they are still my brothers. It hurts that they don't even care just a little bit about me. They only see me as just a partial fairy. A tool for their use to marry off and nothing more. They didn't notice any of the things I did with the weather. It didn't even occur to them it could be me. Why can't they ever see me?" I burst into tears. Marcus stood up off the couch and came over to me. He wrapped his arms around me, stroking my hair as I cried.

Finally, he spoke, "Little one, I know it hurts you. I believe Aiden does genuinely love you in the way fairies love things. Arion, though, is a typical spoiled brat of a fairy. He listens to Fabian too much. He buys into the rhetoric that fairy blood is the be all and end all, but it must be pure. He loves you as a sister, but you are right he wants you in the shadows. Why did you banish him from this territory?" I sniffled, "You know why Marcus. It was going to be a race between you and Eric to see who could get to him first if he kept fucking talking and disrespecting me. Despite everything Arion says to me, that's hurtful. I don't want him to get hurt. He's my brother. I just wish it meant the same thing to them as it means to you. You love me and no one doubts that. You don't care that I'm only half Hackura. You just love me because I'm your sister. Why can't they just accept me? Why do they still not want me?"

Marcus held me and ran his hands through my hair in a calming gesture, "They are stupid Haley. They have years of hate ingrained into them about partial fairies. To go against their people and their opinion of you, is what's hard for Aiden. You can see he wants to, but he wants acceptance. He's meant to be the next leader and going against the grain can cause friction." I replied, "But if Aiden accepted me his people would too, Marcus. I know they would, everyone loves him there. They have been anxiously waiting for him to take over as the king. Everyone looks at him like he hung the moon." Marcus nodded, "I don't doubt you Haley, but there would be those fairies who are older that wouldn't follow that line of thought no matter what. The vast majority probably would. Everyone knows they want Fenilton's son on the throne." Once I calmed down Marcus and I went inside the tree house. We put in a movie, ate popcorn. We had fun together like we always did. I missed these moments when Marcus was on missions where I couldn't see him.

When it was time for dinner, I popped us back to the main house. We walked into the kitchen together, where we saw Mrs. Blanch, Cassandra, Molly, Emily, and Nick. I greeted them, "Hey guys! What's for dinner?" Cassandra studied me closely and seemed to be satisfied that I was in a better mood than before. Mrs. Blanch answered my question, "We are having burgers, fries, and cheese curds." I tilted my head to the side asking, "What are cheese curds?" Emily laughed, "You've never had cheese curds?! GIRL! You are in for a treat." She handed Marcus and I a small, fried piece of food. Both of us moaned simultaneously at the taste. I looked at Marcus, "Marcus, you must tell the chefs back home about these. They are divine." Marcus nodded seriously, "It's practically done, little one. Our realm will

know of these." Everyone laughed at our exchange. I looked at Marcus and shrugged. They didn't seem to grasp we were completely serious.

Mrs. Blanch loaded my plate full of food and gave it to me. Nick spoke up, "Haley, are you sure three healings in one day won't tire you out too much? Healing Jim and I from gunshot wounds made you pass out for hours. We don't want that to happen again. One, because we care about you. Two, Eric is now very scary without you." I laughed, but Marcus looked at me with a questioning glare. I grimaced knowing I was about to get in trouble with Marcus. I sucked it up and answered, "That's only because I hadn't eaten in over twelve hours."

Marcus put his burger down on his plate to give me his full attention. After several beats of silence he spoke, "You what now?" I frowned, "It was fucking complicated. I had just fought with my fairy brothers, after seeing them for the first time in six years. Then I showed up here and met my mate. He brought me into his home, and I met his brothers and their mates. The next day, I had finals. You know how nervous I get before tests."

Marcus shot me a glare then turned to face everyone else in the kitchen, speaking sternly, "We have to stay on top of her in our realm to make sure she eats. She tends to forget her limits, and she wasn't given much to eat in Faerie." I turned red as everyone glanced at me in horror. Marcus didn't pay any attention to their gazes, continuing, "I hope I can count on you all to keep her fed regularly." I snorted but everyone nodded seriously. Mrs. Blanch waved her tongs around towards my face, "Now, don't you worry young man, Mrs. Blanch is on the case." She looked at me, and sternly said "You little miss, will eat three meals a day. If there's any healing being done there will be double portions the whole day." Cassandra added, "Yes, there will be no giving everyone a scare like that again and passing out for hours on end. Do you hear me?" I nodded.

It was harder than they thought. For the first part of my life, I got used to not eating. It was just how things were. Marcus said, "Well, I do think we need a Mrs. Blanch in our realm. Is there another you that I could steal away?" Mrs. Blanch blushed, "Oh pish posh, young man. You hush you little flirt." Marcus chuckled, "I'm afraid I can't do that. You know of these cheese curds. You are taking on the momentous task that is getting Haley regular meals. You my dear woman are a rarity, and I must find one for my realm."

Mrs. Blanch chuckled at my brother's antics, turning away to get Marcus another plateful of cheese curds. He smiled broadly at her before he dug in. I dug an elbow into his ribs. He just laughed. I turned to Emily, "Ok, we can do your healing whenever you're done eating. Did you decide if you wanted to go into heat now or not?" Nick wiggled his eyebrows up and down, "Oh my dear sweet fairy friend. I just might have to have you send her into heat once a week." I laughed as Emily

swatted him. She looked at me, "Yes, I do want to go into heat today." I smiled at her, nodding my agreement to the plan.

Marcus handed me a Dr. Pepper. Nick raised an eyebrow asking, "What's with you and Dr. Pepper? I seem to see one in your hands constantly." I laughed and looked at Marcus I told them, "That would be Marcus' fault. I'd never had Dr. Pepper until I met him. The night that I escaped Faerie, I wound up in a hospital relatively near where Marcus was on a mission. He came to take me to the Hackura realm. He was trying to get me to talk when he noticed my interest when he got a can of Dr. Pepper. He poured some into a cup for me to try. He stipulated I had to talk to him to get it. It was a life changing moment for me. It started a daily tradition. He would bring me a can and we would talk for a few hours."

Mrs. Blanch turned away, but not before I saw she had tears in her eyes. I sighed. People always feel bad when they hear things about my life. It's part of why I didn't usually talk about it. Nick nodded looking at Marcus, "Very nice man. I love me a good bribe." Marcus smiled and threw him a wink. I scoffed, "It was a mutually beneficial arrangement people. Anyway, are you ready to get going Emily?"

Emily nodded then skipped out to the main room to sit down on the couch. Nick grabbed her hand, nodding to me. Nick purred while I healed her. I was able to heal her mild case of endometriosis in fifteen minutes. I gave her an extra boost to send her into heat.

When I was done I sat back on my feet. Mrs. Blanch seemed startled as she asked me, "That's it?" I nodded, "Yup she just had a mild case of endometriosis. It's all cleared up now, and she is good to go." Everyone nodded at me. My eyelids grew heavy. I laid my head down on the adjacent couch from Emily and Nick. Everything slowly faded from my view. The last thing I saw was Marcus covering me with a blanket. He whispered, "Sleep, little sister. Well, it's been nice seeing everyone. I'm off the gym." They waved to him and slowly left the living area.

I woke up twenty minutes later when hands roughly grabbed my breast. I choked down the bile in my throat and threw an elbow into my attacker's face. I pushed the person with everything I had and jumped away. I didn't feel sparks, so I knew it wasn't Eric. I was desperately trying to put off the panic attack. It wasn't the time. Surprisingly, the voice of my attacker helped me. He yelled, "YOU BITCH! YOU BROKE MY NOSE." I scoffed, "You're lucky I only broke your damn nose. Who the fuck are you? And what the hell were you doing putting your hands on me?!" The guy held his nose as he growled. So, he was a werewolf. He hissed, "I wanted to put my hands on the fairy princess, so I did. Do you know how many members of my pack were killed by your people?" I levelled him with a glare, "They are NOT my people. Should you ever say that near another fairy they will tell you the same. I am sorry for your losses; however, I had nothing to do with it. I came here

to stop the bloodshed. If you think Eric will take kindly to this, you've lost your damn mind. There's never a good excuse for putting your hands on anyone unwilling. Especially the unconscious, you sicko."

The man smirked, "You think Alpha Eric cares for fairies? How stupid and naive are you, little girl? You don't get to call him by his first name. Show him respect, fairy." He charged me, taking me by surprise. I knew better, but I felt safe in Eric's home. I felt a rib go when he tackled me to the ground. God he was fucking heavy. Are all werewolves a mass of muscle? He growled at me, "Now sit back and take it like a good girl, princess." I screamed in anger. What an ASSHOLE! I kicked him in the balls reversing our positions in an instant. I threw up on him. He yelled.

I flipped him onto his stomach holding his arm behind his back as he screamed in pain. Not enough pain in my opinion. I needed a shower. I could still feel his hands groping me. I was choking back more vomit when Eric, Darrin, Jackson, Caleb, and Nathan burst into the room,

Eric yelled, "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? HALEY! You can't just attack people!" I was instantly hurt he assumed it was my fault. I hadn't done anything wrong. I kept the man in the same position I'd had him in as he screamed. I rolled my eyes. This idiot. I told him "If you keep moving, you'll separate your own shoulder you jackass." He stopped moving immediately.

Eric looked at me with pleading eyes, begging me to understand. I had no damn clue what he wanted me to understand. Eric spoke softly, "Haley, let him go. That's Alpha Oliver. He's our ally." I scoffed and leveled a glare at Eric clarifying, "He's your ally Alpha Eric, not mine." I knew Eric was not a man used to commands going ignored. He reminded me a lot of my family. I wasn't surprised when he growled, "Let him go, now!"

It still stung even though I knew it was coming. I looked at him unable to keep the hurt from showing on my face. I was usually better at hiding that. Somehow, I could keep the hurt from my features when anyone besides Eric hurt me. I'd have to work on that. I leaned down and said, "Well Oliver, apparently you are right. Know this you piece of shit. If you EVER touch me again, I won't just break your nose. I'll break you damn hand." With that I popped out of the room to my tree house. I had my panic attack. I could feel concern in my bond with my family. I pulled back slowly so they wouldn't panic. The physical pain from my rib, and the pain in my heart at Eric's reaction was the last thing I felt before I passed out.

Misunderstanding

Eric left Haley and walked back into the war room. My dad laughed, "Well now son, your mate gave us quite a show. I must say her take charge attitude was impressive. She does lack control around fairies though. She'll make an excellent Luna for you, Eric." I nodded, "I think they made her so angry that she lost her control. We will have to work on that." My dad nodded but Jackson laughed, "Why work on it? It was awesome, and the fairies didn't even notice. They don't even suspect her, poor thing. I did not like the glimpse we got into her time there. I can't believe we didn't even get a whisper of it." I growled, "I do not care for how they treated her while they were here. They hurt her." I trailed off as Darrin walked back in the war room.

He reported, "Aiden spoke to Lucinda. She refused to see him because she said if she saw him, she'd go back home with him. She told him she needed to protect Aiylee. I believe he's going to follow Haley's advice to take his rightful place. He wants Lucinda back. He was broken after their call, and incredibly angry at his uncle. Angry might be the wrong word. If he manages not to kill Fabian, it may be a miracle. Haley was right about why Lucinda fled. Lucinda noticed Aiylee was acting weird and convinced her to tell. Aiylee told her bad things happen to little girls who tell. Fabian had started touching her. Prince Aiden's face turned purple when she told him." I couldn't find it in myself to feel sorry for him after the pain he caused my mate. Aiylee and Lucinda had my sympathies and my support. I would reach out and offer to pay for Aiylee's therapy should she need it.

I said, "While I don't want to imagine the pain of being separated from your mate..." I trailed off shivering at thinking of being away from Haley, I put that aside continuing, "After the pain he caused my mate, I do not feel sorry for him." Caleb spoke, "It was quite astounding how much they dismiss her. I agree with Nathan. After seeing how Haley managed the disrespect and treatment of Hexxus, I think our Luna will do quite well in her role. The Moon Goddess chose well for you, Eric." I smiled.

The Moon Goddess did choose well for me. I put that aside and we got to work. We had the large task of letting our allies know a treaty agreement with the Fae was imminent. I had to throw in who was currently ruling in Faerie. I also let them know to not kill any fairies in their prisons for now. I was exhausted. My dad had gone to get our lunch and dinner from Mrs. Blanch for us. All that was left for the day was awaiting Alpha Oliver's arrival.

I knew Alpha Oliver would be the angriest of all my allies about the fairies being off limits. I was hoping he would understand since this has been the plan for two

years now. He'd had a long time to adjust. A growl and scream interrupted my thoughts. We all heard a fight start, followed by thuds. I was out the door along with the rest of our group that had been in the room.

I was stunned at the scene we came upon. On the one hand, it was hotter than I could've imagined; my mate was completely dominant and in charge of the fight. She'd taken down an Alpha werewolf. What the hell did they teach her in the Hackura realm? I wanted to flinch at the pain on her face, but I needed Alpha Oliver to know that we were still allies. He was the one we needed to be calm during the treaty talks, not worked up. Losing to my mate in a fight was not going to help calm him in any way, shape, or form.

Jackson linked me, "Brother, Alpha Oliver obviously did something to her." I linked back, "I know, but it's not like he would've hurt her. She can't just attack people for their words." I hadn't realized Jackson had included the group on our link. My dad grimaced, "Son, you put too much faith in him. Alpha Oliver hates fairies more than anyone else. Despite what the fairies said to her, Haley never attacked them. She only retaliated against Hexxus because he disrespected her in front of another supernatural race." I brushed that off, "They were her relatives, she'd suffered at their hands for years. He shaved her head, and she retaliated once she had the backing and was in neutral territory. She couldn't retaliate in Faerie, obviously, her fucked up family wouldn't have backed her up." Jackson responded, "Ask her what happened with Alpha Oliver. If she overreacted, then we can deal with that."

I growled; annoyed Haley didn't let him go of Alpha Oliver after I told her to. When she looked up at me, my heart constricted at the look on her face. I would never forget that look for the rest of my life. Her parting words to Alpha Oliver registered in my head as she popped away. My heart stopped. She can't be gone. NO. I yelled, "WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER? WHAT DID YOU DO?" Alpha Oliver cowered at my tone, "I need a pack doctor Alpha Eric. My shoulder and nose need to be reset before they heal." I linked Ethan. "We need you in the main room of the house. Alpha Oliver is injured." Ethan replied, "I'm on the way." I told Alpha Oliver, "He's on the way. Tell me what you said and did to her." Oliver smirked, "I told her the truth. Who knew she could fight back?" Jackson got in his face, "My brother asked you a specific question. Tell us what you said to her."

Oliver smiled at our group, "After everything the fairies did to us the past two years, I decided to pay one back. I came in and she was just lying there, sleeping. I was so enraged. It was as if she owned the place. She should be in the cells Alpha Eric, with the other prisoners. I see why she's not, though, she's quite young and her body is supple. I just wanted a little taste. I could smell you on her Alpha Eric, so I knew you'd had your turn. I grabbed her breast..." I saw red.

I roared and grabbed him by his neck, "YOU DID WHAT?!" Alpha Oliver was taken aback, "She's just a fairy. I was going to enjoy her body, but she fought me from the moment I touched her. She said you would be upset with me for touching her. I told her you don't care about fairies. Those pieces of shit have been a thorn in all our sides for two years. You all burst into the room and defended me. She got the message that you are on my side. What's the problem?"

Pain and anger burst through me like a light. I snarled "She's my mate Alpha Oliver. YOU PUT YOUR HANDS ON MY MATE. SHE IS MINE!" Alpha Oliver was shaking, "WHAT?! Why would the Moon Goddess do this to you? Just reject her." My wolf took over. He was furious with me for not asking Haley what had happened. Thor glared at Alpha Oliver telling him, "You will be put in the dungeons until I can deal with this. You KNEW she was to be my wife before you knew she was my mate. I know the fairies have hurt your pack. I also know there's something you're keeping from me about it. Until you are in a sharing mood, and I have found my mate; enjoy your cell. For your sake, you'd better hope I find her quickly. I've been waiting over a decade for her. If I can't find her, you WILL pay. Get him OUT of my sight."

Alpha Oliver hung his head. Caleb led him away to the dungeons. The girls came running into the room. They'd probably heard me yelling. My mom looked at the broken vases, the couch overturned, and damage to the drywall. She turned to me asking, "What happened?" I couldn't speak. I tried reaching out to Haley through our mind link, "Haley." She didn't answer. I tried again, "Haley please I'm sorry. I'm so fucking sorry." I waited for what felt like hours but was only minutes. I got nothing in return.

I sank to my knees. Did I lose her already? I howled in pain. I could see pack members stop and stare through the window, concerned. My dad grabbed me by my shoulder, trying to comfort me. He said, "We will find her it's alright. Calm down son, it will all get sorted out. She's your fated mate." My mom's eyes widened, "What do you mean find her? Did someone take Haley?! Prince Marcus will help you track her down. That boy loves his sister." Jackson looked at me with pity.

I knew the mighty Alpha looked broken. I was broken without Haley... I was nothing. In such a short time she had become everything. I fucked it up already. Jackson sighed, "There was a misunderstanding, mom. She thinks Eric took another Alpha's side over hers. Alpha Oliver attacked her. When we came into the main room Haley was holding him down. His nose was bleeding and clearly broken. Eric ordered her to let him go, but she didn't follow his order immediately. You know Alpha's can't handle an order being ignored. Eric reiterated firmly, in his no nonsense don't defy me tone. She said that Oliver was right and popped out. Turns out Oliver told her Eric didn't care about her."

My mom's face fell, "Son, it's alright. She will be back. Can you sense her in your mate bond?" I hung my head, "I can tell she's not in another realm. She's... it's muted. I haven't had enough time to figure out the mate bond yet. I just found her. I've already royally fucked it up after waiting so damn long to find her."

Caleb burst into the room, before anyone could respond to me. His worried eyes reached mine and I got a very bad feeling. Caleb spoke, "Eric when I locked Oliver up, he was coming back to himself. He told me he didn't mean to but felt her rib break when he tackled her." I roared in anger. My dad grabbed me, along with Darrin and Jackson. I was fighting myself not to go and beat the fucking shit out of Alpha Oliver. I took a deep breath and commanded, "Someone bring me Marcus. NOW!" Molly offered, "He's at the gym." Caleb nodded, "Jim is there too. I'll link him and get them both up here. Jim does the evening training sessions. He's told me Marcus is a remarkable sight when he's fighting. Even when he's just working on the equipment."

After a few moments, both Jim and Marcus burst into the house. Once the situation was explained, Marcus' face went to stone. Jackson linked me, "Damn. I have no idea how to read him." Before I could answer him, Marcus, asked, "And where is this werewolf? The one who hurt my sister?" I replied, "In the dungeons." Marcus nodded, "Obviously. Which is where?" I frowned, "After we find Haley, I'll have someone take you down there. We need to find her, especially since she's hurt."

Marcus looked at me, "I know where she is. She's likely passed out from healing herself. She had already healed three of your pack members today. That takes it out of her, and she doesn't tend to realize that. She does not understand her limits, she leads with her heart. Someone show me to the dungeon where this fucking wolf is." I growled, "Tell me where she is. She needs medical attention." Marcus smirked, "In her treehouse. Dungeons?" I glared at him, "What treehouse? How can she have a treehouse?! Where is it?" Jackson linked me, "Let's keep in mind here Eric, he's a Hackura prince." I ignored my brother.

Marcus sighed, "She will show you her treehouse eventually. I don't know how to get there exactly. She popped us to the spot she wanted earlier when she conjured it. Haley is fine. She will come back once she's healed, conscious, and she's collected herself. I can tell you her treehouse is in the forest in your territory. Now, where are the Dungeons?" I motioned to Caleb who started to lead Marcus away from the group. I called, "Don't kill him, Marcus." Marcus smiled asking, "Is that my only stipulation?" I nodded and they walked away.

My mom and Molly looked at each other. Molly said, "Why don't we go look for Haley?" I nodded. I already had trackers searching that we could join. I had already planned to join them myself. I kept trying to reach Haley in our link, but she never replied. My men, my family, and I had been searching for hours but hadn't found a treehouse.

Caleb linked me, "Eric, Marcus said you won't find her treehouse. She casts a fairy privacy spell on her treehouses." I roared, "HOUSES?" Without seeing him, I'd known Caleb had flinched when he answered, "Yes, apparently she does this a lot. Marcus believes she will be out for a while. He brought Ethan down to speak with Alpha Oliver. Based on the description of the tackle, Ethan believes Haley punctured a lung. Marcus said healing that would wipe her out after all the healing she did today."

I growled, "WE NEED to find her and get her to Ethan." Caleb sighed, "I'll ask Marcus if he will join the search." I paced. I couldn't find her, and she could be seriously injured. What kind of mate was I? A fucking useless one, that's what kind. Marcus and Caleb showed up while I was pacing. I could feel Marcus evaluating my state my mind. He could join the club. My brothers were worried about my state of mind, and they should be. Anyone who moderately crossed me right now would die.

Marcus spoke, "Eric, Haley will be fine. I promise you if I had any doubt, I would've found her by now. She will come back when she's awake." I growled at him, "She thinks I don't care about her. She thinks I took another Alpha's side when he attacked her. I didn't know the fucking story, and I didn't fucking ask because I'm an idiot!" Marcus looked at me, "Haley knows you care about her, Eric. Her past may cause her to doubt that at times. Especially when you combine her past with your actions. That may temporarily cause her to doubt your love, but eventually she will sort out the truth. It hasn't been that long, but she loves you. I can tell. She wouldn't be able to stay away even if she wanted to. You gave her an order, and she didn't follow it. Your response is perfectly normal to my sister. She would've gotten a worse response had she not followed my fathers, mine, or our other brothers' orders immediately. She will be upset you assumed she instigated the situation, but the rest isn't going to be a problem. She will apologize for not obeying your order."

Darrin, Jackson, my parents, and Molly joined us. Darrin's mouth was hanging open. He spoke for us all when he said, "You think she's going to apologize to him?!" Marcus glanced at Darrin, "I don't think. I know she will. Haley knows if she is given an order she obeys, or there are consequences. Now, she may decide to disobey and accept the consequences of that, but she will still apologize for not listening." Marcus laughed mostly to himself then added, "That apology usually sounds like 'I know I shouldn't have but I still think I was right, but I am sorry I undermined your authority.'" My mom smiled at his words. It was written all over her face she thought I would calm down now because Marcus wasn't worried. Molly spoke, "Sounds like a strong woman. Admitting where she messed up but pointing out she only did what she felt to be right." I glanced at everyone, "We need to keep searching for her. She still needs medical attention."

Marcus grabbed my arm, "I know when your mate is missing you are worried about every possible thing that could be happening to them. You want to do everything to bring them back to your side. My mate, Torvi was kidnapped once. I got the news after I'd found out she was pregnant with our sixth child. She was at her most vulnerable. I went crazy, my dad refused to allow me or any of my siblings bring her home. I could not refuse his order, even for my mate. It went against my very nature, but I was trained to never disobey an order from my him. Because of our bond I knew Torvi was hurt. I was in agony. She was my mate. Guess who found and saved Torvi?"

I already knew the answer, which was completely obvious to me. I answered, "Haley did." Marcus nodded, "Yes, it was the first time she did something on her own. We were all so focused on Torvi that no one noticed Haley slip away from us. She defied a direct order, but she saved Torvi and my unborn child. She slaughtered everyone who had held them using her fairy powers and Hackura training. Haley had to heal them both, and I will never be able to repay her. Torvi would've never recovered if she had lost our child. She would've continued on for our other children, but the light in her eyes would've dimmed. I say that, so you know that when I say Haley is fine; I mean it. Truly, I promise you Haley is fine. I would tear through realms for my sister. I would call and gather all our people for her. I'd call all my brothers, and our father. I know she's ok. Go get some sleep. Your pack is exhausted. I will continue looking and bring her inside when I find her."

Thor was fighting me. I needed to think of the pack here too. Thor growled, "And what about our Luna? Whom you allowed to pop off goddess knows where, while she was hurt. What of her?" I answered him, "I think Marcus knows where the treehouse is, but he won't tell us. If we head in, he will go to her. He can take care of our mate and bring her

back to us." Thor growled, "If she's not ok, I will never forgive you." I sighed, "You and me both Thor. I can't believe I already messed this up." I took a deep breath then linked the pack, "We need rest. Prince Marcus is going to continue the search for our Luna. If he hasn't found her by first light, we will continue searching with him."

My dad linked me, "You're doing the right thing, son." Darrin joined in, "You are brother, I know how you feel. If Shana were missing, I would need you to keep me sane. I think Marcus knows where she is though." Molly joined in, "I know he does. Haley said he found her when she entered this realm from Faerie. Marcus can feel her through some bond the Hackura have." I was angry that Marcus didn't just go to her earlier. I would've had my mate with me now, and she would've been evaluated for her injury. Darrin said, "She must be fine then, Eric. You know Marcus wouldn't let anything happen to Haley. He's fiercely protective." I sighed and went inside.

I went directly to Haley and my room. I grabbed her pillow and inhaled her scent, then I laid there. A few tears trickled down my face. I wasn't able to sleep without her. After several hours of laying there Thor finally spoke to me, "Mate will come back to us, Eric. Mate loves us." I replied, "We have been waiting so long, and I already messed up." Thor sighed, "She loves us. We will fight with her, but then we will talk through it. We will work it out. She's never been in a relationship before either. I'm sure if Oliver hadn't hurt her, she would already have come back to us. Mate said she would always answer us in our link and fairies cannot lie. Mate was already passed out. Marcus didn't threaten to take her home with him, he understood. Mate will come back." I just absorbed Thor's words and laid there, watching the time click by. By seven o'clock in the morning, Haley still wasn't back. I heard my brother's enraged roar. I bolted out of bed not hesitating for one second and ran to my brother.