

Physical

Haley left Eric and headed to the Kitchen. Along the way I pulled out my phone to call my brother Bjourn, who answered on the second ring, "Well hello sister. I hear a Royal wedding is happening." I smiled, "Yes, Bjourn. Next Saturday. I expect you to be there." Bjourn laughed, "But of course little sister. I doubt that's why you called." I smiled. Despite not growing up together my Hackura brothers knew me well. I answered, "You do get me, brother. I hear you've been training the little ones, which means you're bored."

Bjourn laughed admitting, "It is fun to train, but yes it has been too long since I had a mission." I smiled knowingly and stated, "Which is why I called you. I have someone for you to find and torture." Bjourn was intrigued, "Oh really? Do tell?" I told him, "A warlock named Damien Chamberlain." Bjourn chuckled, "Your hatred of witches is showing. Why do we want him found and tortured?" I sighed, "Because he helped another pack kidnap my soon to be sister-in-law." Bjourn turned serious, "Did he now?" Haley said, "Yes, and what you may find interesting is the circumstances in which she disappeared from her room and ended up three hundred miles away." I knew Bjourn would find it interesting, because for years we had been trying to figure out how Marcus' mate, Torvi, had been kidnapped. Torvi couldn't be pulled by the same magic, but she'd told us a witch grabbed her. The witch could've been pulled that way and taken Torvi with her. This was a big break for us.

Bjourn was silent for several moments. He asked, "Do you think?" I cut him off, "Yes, brother. I think after all this time we have finally figured out how Torvi was taken. If it was not this warlock, then a different warlock or witch bitch aided them in her kidnapping. I was hoping you could find him. I was thinking you could find out if it was him that took Torvi before I tell Marcus about our discovery. Dad said we could investigate if we didn't bring him in too soon. I know dad doesn't want Marcus to focus on the case, but I think we are going to solve it."

Bjourn's voice turned hard, "Consider Damien found, little sister. I will get our answers. No one hurts our family and gets away with it. Torvi's kidnapping has been unresolved for too long. I know you killed those that were present, but there were other players. They will soon feel my wrath." I replied, "I knew you would help. I love you." Bjourn said, "As I love you, little one." I smiled as we both hung up the phone. I loved the relationships I now had with all my Hackura brothers. I rounded the corner to see Darrin, Harold, Jackson, and Nathan standing there smiling.

Jackson glanced at me, "Who were you on the phone with, little fairy?" I smirked answering, "My brother." Darrin asked, "What can't you tell Marcus about? What's

did you solve?" My mouth hung open, "HOW... What?!" I paused for several moments then asked, "How good is your hearing?"

Harold laughed, "Good enough." I shifted from foot to foot. I wasn't sure what to say. They could've heard anyway. I couldn't lie, and I didn't want to. I decided to go with the truth, "Look, all due respect to you, but Marcus needs to know first. I will tell you after I tell him." They all considered my words then nodded. I walked away.

I rounded the corner into the kitchen. A man I'd never seen was hovering over Shana. I raised an eyebrow when he turned to stare me down. Finally, he spoke, "You are next, after you eat. Mrs. Blanch has made that caveat quite clear." I tilted her head, "Next for what? Who are you?" The man turned back to assessing Shana. He answered over his shoulder, "Right. You were out of it when we met the first time. I am Ethan, the pack doctor. Shana is going to get checked out at the hospital after she eats. She's having some pains, and we want to make sure the pups are all right. You are coming with us so I can confirm you are ok too."

I turned red, "Oops... Shana my healing sped up your pregnancy." Everyone turned to stare at me. I sighed and continued, "Well it's just she needed to be healed. I didn't know what happened and the babies.... or her." Cassandra cut off my rambling, "It's quite alright. We can get still get her checked out. If you sped up her pregnancy, then it stands to reason the pup's growth is speeding up, which would explain her discomfort." Ethan's eyes narrowed, "Yes, it would. In any case, she's getting checked out so we can make sure everything is fine. Alpha Darrin would have my head if I didn't make sure she was ok. I have someone bringing up a wheelchair as we speak." He turned to me, pointing his finger sternly, "You little miss are getting checked out as well. Then we need to get a physical on file for you and go over your medical history." Mrs. Blanch smiled at me and gave me a whole pizza for myself. I smiled at her in return silently thanking her.

I asked, "Where's Marcus?" Jessica replied, "He's in the gym." I snorted. I should've known that. I said, "Of course he is. Congratulations Jessica. Ethan, what's a physical?" All heads turned towards me in puzzled confusion. Jessica asked, "Congratulations on what? Knowing where Marcus is? Everyone knows where he is, I just answered before them." I almost choked on my pizza laughing.

I gathered myself, "What? No, not about knowing where Marcus is. I should've known where he was. I meant congratulations because you're glowing." Jessica promptly burst into tears. I frowned. Maybe I shouldn't have said anything. Ethan sighed, "Alright another person to check out. Catherine will be busy. Alpha Harold is just as nervous when it comes to his mate as Alpha Darrin. Sometimes I don't know what I did to the Moon Goddess to be surrounded by five Alpha's that are crazy possessive and worried about their mates." I asked "Five? Aren't there only four?" Ethan said, "No my dear girl. There are five. Alpha's Eric, Jackson, Harold,

Darrin, and the former Alpha Nathan. He may not be THE Alpha but he's still an Alpha. Anyway, Haley, you asked about a physical. Have you never had one before? Surely they did one in Faerie, or the Hackura realm."

I shook my head, "No, they didn't. Definitely not in Faerie, and my dad made the doctors in the Hackura realm leave me alone unless their care was absolutely necessary. Even then, two of my brothers are doctors and I can heal myself so...they weren't necessary." Ethan shook his head, "Wonderful. As supernatural's our physicals are different than humans. You have no frame of reference so it shouldn't be confusing for you. What we do is take scans of your body to see your bones, and we do an internal scan as well. Then we will measure your blood pressure, take a sample of blood, and Catherin, our OBGYN, will check you out since you are female." I frowned, "Is that necessary? I would prefer to not do that. I'm fine." Ethan sighed but nodded, "It's required by Alpha Eric. He was quite worried about you after last night and I like my head firmly planted between my shoulders. He's already worse than his brothers combined about his mate. So, you are getting checked out."

I sucked in a breath. I did not want to do this. I wanted to fit in here though. If I agreed they'd know, and if I fought them on it; Eric would question my actions. I sighed. All roads led to getting a physical. Even if I popped away, my dad would ask why I didn't want to do it. Then he'd make it a command, or one of my brothers would. I resigned myself to the horror that was Faerie being revealed. I felt a little bad for my fairy brothers. They had no idea the horrors I suffered, but they would be blamed. So many angry people were going to ask questions. Questions I never wanted to answer. Answers I never wanted to see the light of day. I know my response was quiet when answered Ethan. I hated how small I sounded, "Alright."

Everyone was clearly confused. Mrs. Blanch took my hand and squeezed it lightly. She smiled reassuringly at me, "It's just a check up, Haley. It's nothing to worry or be upset about." I nodded dejectedly. Mrs. Blanch was very wrong. More people than she could imagine were going to be worried and upset. I knew exactly what would show up on the scans. I felt it in my bones, people would die when the doctor shared the results with them. My shame would be

on display, and I felt completely at a loss as to how to stop it. What if Eric didn't want me anymore when he learned how truly broken I am? There no secrets policy was ringing in my ears.

Everyone ate in silence, not understanding my mood change. A woman showed up with a wheelchair to take Shana to be checked out. Even though I told them she was fine. Jessica and Cassandra left with her. Ethan hovered behind me. I'd never eaten slower in my life. The second I ate my last bite of pizza and finished a Dr. Pepper, he practically pounced on me. It was as if he was afraid I would pop away.

It wasn't outside the realms of possibility; I'd do it if I thought it would keep me from getting a physical. Unfortunately, all scenarios led to getting physical and I had no choice but to accept.

Ethan spoke, "Alright, you are finished. Everyone can see that I'm not breaking Mrs. Blanch's rules, so you are coming with me." Jim came around the corner and came to standstill beside me. He observed my demeanor and frowned, asking, "What's wrong Haley?" I spared him a glance as dread filled my veins. I told him, "I don't like hospitals or doctors, and I don't want to get checked out. I already told Ethan I'm fine." Jim stared at me, surprised. He managed to pull himself together to ask, "Why not? I'm sure you are fine, it's just for our records. Everyone here gets one. Actually, we get one every year. It's a whole thing."

I bit my lip, "I've never had one, and I really don't see why after nineteen years one would do anything for me. I don't have a good history with doctors or hospitals. When I lived in Faerie..." I trailed off. I didn't talk about that with anyone but Marcus. Even with Marcus, I couldn't fully discuss it all. It was too shameful. Ethan turned around to face me. He spoke softly as if I were a child, "Haley, we will treat you with the upmost respect here. You are our future Luna."

I sighed. He didn't get it. No one understood. I asked, cautiously hopeful, even though I knew what his answer would be. "Are you going to tell Eric your findings?" Both men were taken aback. Ethan was immediately concerned asking, "What do you mean? What will I find? Are you sick?" I shook my head. I'd told them several times I was fine. I sighed, "No." Ethan glanced at Jim who simply shrugged his shoulders. Their confusion was obvious. Ethan finally spoke, "I do go over physical results with the Alpha's so they know what they can expect from pack members." I pointed out, "I'm not a pack member." Ethan frowned, "You will be, and you are our future Luna." My eyes filled with tears. There really was no way around this. My final bit of hope faded, and I hung my head. I said, "Alright then. Let's just get this whole fucking thing over with then." Jim grabbed my hand and waited until I looked up at him. His worry was evident. He told me, "I'll be right outside the door, Haley. Ethan isn't going to hurt you, I promise." I nodded and followed Ethan inside the exam room.

A woman turned and smiled kindly at me. She very cheerfully exclaimed, "Oh hello Luna! How nice to officially meet you. I'm Rose, one of the many nurses around here. I'm also Ethan's mate." I nodded. I'd never met a nurse before. I simply said, "Nice to meet you, Rose." Rose sent a questioning glance at Ethan. Ethan himself looked utterly confused about what the hell my problem was. Little did he know, soon it would be his problem too. He would probably wish he had just listened to me in the first place about being fine.

Ethan told Rose, "It seems our Luna doesn't like hospitals or doctors." Rose laughed asking, "Well, what about nurses? Do you like us?" I shrugged, "We don't

have nurses in Faerie. Just doctors and Healers." Rose smiled, "Well then, I'll have to make a good impression on you for all the other nurses out there. Here's your gown to change into. Ethan and I will just step out..." She trailed off as I snapped my fingers, changing into the gown she handed me. They both gaped, clearly astonished. They'd clearly never been around a fairy. I deadpanned, "No need to step out. Just do the shit you were talking about in the kitchen." Ethan recovered first. He grabbed some tool that looked like a scanner to view my lung. I sighed. He was checking to make sure it was healed after my fight.

After several moments of furrowing his brow, he appeared satisfied. He spoke, "Alright, your lung appears to be fine. Thank the goddess. Let's get those scans and see about your rib. If I find it hasn't healed, then you'll be restricted on your physical activity. I don't want the Alpha to be angry with me." I grimaced but gritted my teeth and nodded. I was desperately trying not to go back to that place in my mind. I didn't want to think about my childhood anymore. Ethan stood behind his computer.

He nodded to Rose, and she turned on the machine to scan me. I focused on my breathing, trying not to have a panic attack. Ethan sucked in a breath as the pictures came through. He looked up at me, shock coloring every feature of his face. I looked away and stared at the wall. Rose must have gotten confused and gone to look at what Ethan was seeing because she gasped. I turned back to see her horrified expression. Her eyes met mine as she exclaimed, "Oh my god...you... poor thing. Ethan, what... how...?"

Ethan recovered and cleared his throat asking, "Haley, why did the Hackura never do a scan for a physical?" I answered as wiping tears from my cheeks, "I'm sure it's because I became hysterical when doctors would come near me. Marcus told my dad, who in turn forbade the doctors from upsetting me further." Ethan grimaced, "So you're saying your dad, the King of the Hackura, does not know about this?" I sighed, "I told Marcus about a lot of it." Ethan cleared his throat, "So, I might have to tell King Titus about this?" I looked at him, "I did try to warn you. I told you I was fine."

Ethan looked away, "Well let's do the internal scan." I could tell he was shocked by the damage to my bones. I knew I shouldn't be alive with the damage done to me. The fairies that abused me often said that. The internal scans would shock him as well. No part of me escaped torture in Faerie. Ethan frowned, "You don't have a gallbladder or an appendix?" I grimaced, "No, I do not." He stared at the screen as the scans came through. I knew the next question he was about to ask. His face told me he'd seen what else was missing.

He asked me incredulously, "You're missing a kidney?" I nodded. Ethan was upset, and Rose was crying. He finally asked me, "Why don't you have a gallbladder or kidney? You're quite young to need either removed?" I couldn't stop

my tears; I didn't want to talk about this. Wasn't it enough they'd seen the damage? I asked, "Do I have to tell you?" Rose came over and took my hand, speaking in a soothing voice, "We need to know for treatment purposes. Was there something that happened? An accident? It must have been an accident." I wished it had been an accident. I wished I could lie and tell them that's what had happened. The truth was far uglier and more embarrassing.

Cassandra came into the room smiling. She spoke without looking around, "Well Haley, you were right! Jessica is pregnant and she's having twins too! Shana is perfectly..." She trailed off. She spoke quietly, "Haley? Sweetie? Ethan what happened? It's just a physical! Why is she so upset?" Cassandra ran to my side and threw her arms around me. Ethan's mouth went into a thin line, "Just asking some routine questions, Cassandra. We need the room." Cassandra glanced back at Ethan, "I'll leave when she calms down." Jim hovered outside the door; he must have linked Ethan because Ethan glanced back at him. He said, "Don't. I will speak with the Alpha when we are done." I sighed. Jim must have asked if he should get Eric down here.

Marcus asked, "What did you do to her?" I told him, "It's fine, brother." Marcus told me, "Our bond says otherwise, little one." Cassandra glared at Ethan, "Don't upset her anymore." I put my head in my hands. It wasn't really Ethan that had upset me. It embarrassed me they'd all know things I'd kept hidden my whole life. Ethan was just doing his job. I spoke, "It's not his fault." Cassandra looked back at me clearly worried. She asked, "Do I really need to leave her like this Ethan?" Ethan nodded, refusing to give in to pressure from his former Luna. Cassandra huffed and left the room. I whispered, "Please, brother." Marcus sighed and left too.

Ethan sighed. He ran a hand through his hair in frustration, "Haley, what's going on? Do you have a medical condition? Based on your reaction, you didn't donate the kidney to someone who needed it." I shook my head. I wasn't sure how to say this. How do you say something that's always been a secret? A little voice in my head was shouting at me that something bad would happen. Bad things happen to little girls who tell.

I gulped and stuttered, "I... my... uncle... he did... experiments on me. He wanted to see how much pain I could be in while staying awake. It was game for him. When I managed to take the beatings and the broken bones, he had doctors perform experiments that he came up with. He had them remove my gallbladder and kidneys while I was under a spell. I could feel everything they did to me, but I couldn't move. My appendix burst when they forced me to... to drink lemonade."

Rose gasped, "But... but fairies can die if they so much as touch lemons!" I sighed, "I know. It doesn't affect me like a full-blooded fairy, but I don't have a great reaction to it either." Ethan's face turned red, "They experimented on you by

operating while you were awake? Cutting you open to see your internal reactions?!" Once I'd started, I figured I might as well get it all out before my terror overtook me.

I told him, "The doctors took iron to my kidney. They sliced off part of it, and the rest withered away over a period of time. It was painful to say the least." Ethan was clearly enraged. Rose went over and placed her hand on top of his. Ethan asked through gritted teeth, "Your gallbladder?" I looked away, ashamed, "Fabian said I didn't need one. It's not a vital organ. I did not deserve anything that was not essential. The doctors removed it with iron knives."

Ethan grimaced, "The healed bones on your skeleton?" I closed my eyes in frustration, "I was beaten often for being a partial fairy." Ethan gave me a look that told me he knew I was being evasive. He disagreed with me, "This is more than beatings Haley. This type of damage... Every single bone in your body has been broken. Some were broken multiple times. It looks like they allowed breaks to heal, and then re-broke them. In the same place." Tears streamed down my face. I had no idea doctors could discern that type of detail. I hoped my Hackura family would forgive me for hiding all of this.

I informed Ethan, "That's why I don't like doctors." Ethan shouted, "A DOCTOR?! A DOCTOR DID THIS?" I nodded, "Some of it. Or they would scan my injuries to see where my bones had broken before. They would inform a fairy who paid for time to torture me how to re-break it." Ethan slammed his hands onto the desk. His eyes were black. He finally spoke when his eyes returned to normal, "I am sorry. I am so sorry that happened to you."

My voice broke as I pleaded, "Please don't tell them." Ethan looked at me with pity. He had the knowledge at his fingertips that it was a miracle I was even alive. He sighed, "I'm sorry Haley, but I have to tell Alpha Eric. It's a policy in the pack, in fact it's his policy. I will tell Alpha Eric we should speak alone."

I choked out a sob, "He'll say no. They told me they have no secrets. Marcus is going to find out, since he's here. He's already upset. My dad and my other brothers will know too. They will kill all the fairies. There will be no stopping them." Rose ran over to soothe me. I wanted to tell her it was a futile endeavor. Ethan ran a hand through his hair and told Rose to get a sedative. She left quickly.

Ethan came to me, "Catherine will be in here next, Haley. I'm going to give you a mild sedative. It won't knock you out, just calm you down. We need you to be a little calmer." I nodded, "Fairies don't react the same to medication." Ethan told me, "I know. I've studied the fairies since Alpha Eric wanted you here. The sedative won't make you a mischievous fairy."

If I knew where Bex was I'd have her grant me the peace of the earth. Rose came back in the room and held a pressure syringe out for Ethan. He took it and placed it under my thumb and pushed down. Immediately everything quieted in my mind. I watched Ethan make a note that I didn't have an adverse reaction to the medication he gave me. He motioned to Rose. She drew my blood. I no longer cared what they did. I was numb. I felt concern in my connections again. I managed to send them peace.

Catherine came in and stared at me in shock. She turned and asked, "What the hell, Ethan?" Ethan sighed, "You will read it in her chart tomorrow, Catherine." Catherine scoffed, "Sure I will. Provided you live through the debrief with Alpha Eric." Ethan and Rose left the room.

Catherine sat on a chair with rollers and came over to me. She spoke quietly, "Haley? I'm Catherine the pack OBGYN. From my understanding you have an IUD. My notes say we have an appointment next Saturday morning to remove it." I nodded to confirm her information. She realized I wasn't going to say anything. Catherine continued, "Alright. Do you have any history of anything reproductive wise that I should know about?" I shook my head and answered, "No. The Hackura OBGYN said I'm fine." Catherine nodded, "Great. Let's get some scans, and I'll do a basic screen." She completed it all quickly. She looked up after reading the scans. She announced "Well, the Hackura OBGYN is correct. Everything is perfect. We should have no problem getting a pup out of you."

I snorted, "Well, at least there's that. If you have to report to Eric like Ethan does, you should go first." Catherine stared at me in surprise. She said, "Of course I report to the Alpha. I will let Ethan know that I'll be going first today. Judging by the look on his face when I came in, I'm sure he already knows that. You can stay in here for a while." I shook my head. I was not spending one minute more than necessary in a hospital.

I said, "No, I'm going to my treehouse..." I sighed. Eric couldn't get to me there. He'd want to discuss this, and I'd promised not to hide. I corrected myself, "No, I'll just go to Eric's room." Catherine laughed, "You might as well call it your room too. I'll have Jim get a wheelchair to take you back up to the main house." I frowned telling her, "I can walk." Catherine shrugged, "I'm sure you can. I'm just not telling the Alpha I let you walk around after you were sedated. No siree. Currently, I only have good news to give him. I'll not be adding any sort of bad news." She left the room.

Jim came in moments later with a wheelchair. He paused briefly, and I saw him take in my appearance. He was shocked. He didn't seem like he was going to say anything any time soon, so I offered, "Jim, a wheelchair is really not necessary. I can walk." Jim recovered, "Nope, docs orders. In you go." I sighed and got into the wheelchair. Jim wheeled me in silence up to the main house. Then he took us to an

elevator I had no clue existed. I was grateful for his silence. He told me, “Marcus was upset. I think he went back to the gym, but he’ll go see Eric.” I nodded to him as he left.

I got out of the chair to walk into the bathroom. I decided a nice soothing bubble bath was in order. I put music on and searched through the stuff I’d conjured from my apartment. I smiled slightly when I found the bubble bath mix. I poured it into the tub and conjured herself a strawberry martini. I’d earned this damn drink. I sat back into the tub knowing Eric was likely to be pissed the fuck off very shortly. Along with my family, even my fairy brothers.

Bad News

Eric nodded to his brothers when they joined him in the dungeons. What surprised me was my dad joined them. Jackson linked me, "Haley called one of her other brothers to handle something. Something Marcus doesn't know about. Evidently, they can't tell him until they have all the pieces to the puzzle." I raised an eyebrow and responded, "I will have to ask her about that later. Right now, we need to deal with these two pieces of shit."

Darrin stepped further into the dungeons, so he had a better view. He growled at Scarlett who backed into the wall in her cell. I teased my brother, "Now, now Darrin it's not her turn yet. We have to deal Alpha Oliver first. He has been keeping secrets from us. He also bruised my mate. HE PUNCTURED HER LUNG!" Alpha Oliver shrank back muttering, "Her brute of a brother got me back for that. I had no idea she was partial Hackura. Her brother said that didn't matter."

I growled, "He is not me. He got you back for the offense against his family. I am going to contact your Beta let about your offenses. I'll tell him he's taking over your pack, unless he feels your son is ready." Alpha Oliver gasped, "You... you're taking my pack." I didn't bother to confirm his statement. I'd already told him what I was going to do. I was a man of my word.

Instead, I asked him what I wanted to know, "Why do you hate fairies so much? It's more than the attacks on your pack, we all know that. What is it?" Alpha Oliver said nothing. I grew impatient waiting for him to answer. I reached down and snapped his wrist. He screamed in pain. I said, "Just so you know, that isn't for not answering me and making me wait. That's for using that hand to bruise my mate. Now back to my question, why do you hate them?" Alpha Oliver was howling in pain. He begged me, "Alpha Eric, please..." My eyes turned black.

I couldn't stop Thor from taking over. He began to punch Oliver repeatedly. I only stopped when my dad put his hand on my back. I took a deep breath. My dad linked me, "Son, he can't answer your questions if he's dead." I nodded, taking back over from Thor.

I told Alpha Oliver, "Tell me why you hate the fairies. I will not ask you again." Alpha Oliver sobbed, "Because my mate was a fairy." I stepped back in astonishment. I asked, "What do you mean was? Who? When?" Oliver cried, "My son is a partial werewolf fairy. I lied saying I had him with female warrior who ended up going rogue. I met my mate, my beautiful fairy, one night on a run. She was beautiful and kind. She told me her concupiscence was coming up, so I put my Beta in charge. She got pregnant afterwards. It was a wild time."

Alpha Oliver smiled then shook himself, continuing. "I wanted to bring her home to the pack, but she loved living in the forest. I went to visit her often. I was late one day, and I'll never forgive myself. We were having a rogue issue. When I arrived dying. She'd just given birth. Some other fairies had found her and tried to kill Clyde when she was in labor. The Sky fairies despise partial fairies. She fought them off, but they stabbed her with some iron. She died in my arms. She literally turned to dust. I brought Clyde home and made up a story about his mom to protect him from the full-blooded fairies."

Jackson scoffed and sarcastically retorted, "So you decided to try to rape a nineteen-year-old girl? Sure, that makes sense. I'm following your logic." Alpha Oliver sobbed, "I'm sorry! Losing her, my mate, I've been losing my mind slowly. I held it together to raise my son, but the war is pushing me to lose my thread to my sanity. Just let my son take over the pack. He's already got his Luna; they met last month." I sighed, "Alright Oliver. I will call your son and explain the entire situation. Does he know who his birth mother is? What he really is?" Alpha Oliver shook his head, "No, I lied to him. He used some fairy magic as a child, but I kept him to myself. No one noticed. Just give me a good death, Eric."

I shrugged, "My mate didn't want you to die. I cannot imagine the pain of losing your mate, Alpha Oliver. We will talk to Clyde and figure out the best course of action on what to do with you. For now, Ethan is sending a nurse to bring you to the hospital. We will keep you conscious but sedated." Oliver sobbed, "Thank you Eric. I... tell her, your fairy, that I'm sorry." I nodded. I honestly had no intention of saying Alpha Oliver's name to Haley ever again.

I stepped out of his cell and walked over to Scarlett's. She launched herself at me, wrapping herself around me sobbing. She begged, "Please Eric! I didn't know the fairy princess was your mate. I just miss you so much. We had some good times. I know we had fun together. I would be a good Luna, I swear. I didn't know they wanted the other Luna's hair to hurt them."

Darrin growled. I threw her off me. I asked, "Why did you think they wanted the hair? To make a wig?!" Scarlett picked herself up off the ground. She looked at me with panicked eyes and shrugged. Her voice shook as she said, "I didn't know... Maybe I didn't want to know. They offered me twenty thousand dollars per hair. It was really good money, and it was harmless." Darrin's wolf took over. His eyes turned black. He didn't hold himself back. He hit Scarlett and threw her into the wall. He growled in anger, "HARMLESS?! I ALMOST LOST MY MATE AND MY PUPS! SOMEONE BRING ME THE SILVER WHIP."

Our dad went to the wall and grabbed a pair of protective gloves. Next, he grabbed pair for Darrin, and grabbed the silver whip. Darrin ignored the gloves and grabbed the whip. His hands started to burn as he whipped Scarlett's back into ribbons.

Eventually, Jackson stepped forward, "Little Brother, your hands are burning." Darrin started crying, "I could've lost her! She's my everything! She tried to help them take her from me." Scarlett was sobbing, "Please... I ... just wanted the money. I didn't know they wanted to hurt them. They said they just wanted to ransom the most powerful Alpha's mate's hair." My dad growled, "You sold out our pack, and my family for money?!" I couldn't hold back my growl. I walked around to look her in the eyes, "Scarlett, you will die for your betrayal." I quickly snapped her neck because I couldn't watch Darrin hurt himself anymore.

I took the whip from his hands, immediately passing it off to my dad as my skin burned. I put my hand on Darrin's shoulder, "You should shower, brother." Harold grabbed Darrin and took him out of the dungeons. The rest of us cleaned everything up and put it away. Afterwards, we all made our way back to the war room. Harold and Darrin joined us after a few moments.

All our heads snapped to the door as Shana, Jessica, Molly, and my mom burst into the room. Jessica ran to Harold unable to contain her excitement. Her face was radiating joy. She shouted, "WE ARE HAVING TWINS TOO!" Harold grabbed onto her and pulled her in for a hug. He started crying, and that set Jessica off. I looked at my mother who was staring at me her face told me she had something to say. Right before I could ask what was wrong, Shana cut in with her own news, "Haley healing me from my kidnapping shortened my pregnancy by a month. The pups are tracking bigger. On a separate note," She turned to Darrin and put her hands on her hips and shouted, "DARRIN FITZ CONNERS! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO OUR ROOM?!" I snorted and linked Darrin, "I did warn you."

Darrin put his arms around her. His eyes pleaded with her, "Baby, you just disappeared from our room. I heard you scream. I was beside myself. You can use our credit card to replace anything you want. Besides, we need to decorate a

nursery." Shana laughed, "You bet I will use the card to replace the things you destroyed." She smiled and teased, "Who am I kidding? I can't stay mad at you, and I have a bump!" Darrin rubbed her stomach as Harold did the same to Jessica.

We were all lost in the moment until Catherine, walked into the room. I nodded to Marcus who came in the room right behind her. He looked angry. I turned to Catherine raising an eyebrow questioning, "Catherine?" Catherine sighed, "Hello Alpha's. I have the report on your mate's check up. For my specialties she's fit as a fiddle. She can give you a pup no problem." I was still confused but responded, "Ok. Where is Ethan? He usually comes in first with the physical information." Catherine shuffled her feet. My mom snorted, "He's probably hiding." Catherine rolled her eyes, "He's not hiding. We thought I should go first today. Ethan is in the hallway."

I looked to my mother confused, "Why would Ethan hide, mom?" Before she could answer Ethan walked in. My mom pinned him with a glare as he came in and took a seat. My mom spoke, "Because he upset her." Marcus asked, "What upset my sister so badly? I know she doesn't like doctors, but this wasn't that." My head snapped to him, then my gaze narrowed on Ethan. Marcus asked, "Where is she?" Ethan sighed, "Jim took her to her and the Alpha's room. Alpha Eric, we need to clear the room." Everyone stopped and stared at him in shock. My dad was able to respond first, "We have no secrets in this family, Ethan. You know this." Ethan nodded, "I do, and with all due respect, I am saying to Alpha Eric that we need to clear the room."

Marcus glared at him, "No fucking way will I leave the room. What happened? What did you do to her? I shouldn't have left when she asked." I stared and Ethan evaluated him. Finally, I said, "Ethan we always go over the physicals with all the Alpha's." Ethan nodded, "I know we do. I'm telling you just this once, let's discuss this just the two of us." I continued to stare at Ethan unable to hide my surprise. I reminded him, "As my dad said, we have no secrets, Ethan." Ethan sighed, "When Haley said you'd say that I told her I would explain that you and I need the room." I closed my eyes thinking.

I decided the best way to handle this was to talk to Haley like I promised. I linked her, "Angel." Haley giggled in reply, "Well hello there, Thor." My eyes narrowed I asked, "Are you drunk, little mate?" Haley giggled again, "I can't actually get drunk, but I was sedated. Then I decided to snap myself some drinks. Miley says a strawberry martini can fix everything. I think she's onto something. I feel much better" I wanted to groan, but Haley continued, "I'm naked in the tub by the way, Thor." I got hard in a second. I warned, "Haley, Ethan is here. He told me we need the room. Did he do anything to you?" Haley sighed, "No, he did his job. He wants to tell you about my results." I frowned asking, "Are you sick? Why were you sedated?" Haley sighed, "You are harshing my mellow, Thor. I was sedated because I was hysterical. For what feels like the millionth time, I'm not fucking sick." I sighed confused about her mood. I answered her, "Alright."

I looked at my family unsure of what to do. Jackson asked, "Did he do anything to her?" Ethan frowned, clearly annoyed by the accusation. I replied, "Haley said he didn't." I paused then decided we didn't have secrets so we might as well all stay. I cleared my throat, "Ethan, it's fine. Just tell us all what you need to say."

Ethan tried to give himself time by asking, "Prince Marcus, why didn't the doctors insist on getting scans for her physical? She says the King wouldn't allow it. Is there more to the story?" Marcus sighed, "When I first brought her home, she wouldn't go near the doctors if she didn't have to. She still doesn't like doctors or trust them. Her Uncle Fabian had a doctor that would treat her injuries. I'm guessing they never helped her escape his abuse. My father just wanted her to be happy. He commanded them to leave her be. My brother and I are doctors. She let

us treat her if she needed it. When I brought her home, she was so far retreated into her shell, he didn't want anything to stand in the way of her progress. She only talked to me for the first several months she was with us. She could be in the same room with others, but she wouldn't talk to anyone except me."

Ethan sighed, "I'm sorry to say, that's not why she doesn't like doctors." Marcus' jaw dropped he asked, "My little sister told you why she doesn't like doctors? She's hasn't even told me." Ethan put his head in hands, "She didn't have a choice. I didn't realize what I was asking of her. For god's sake, it's just a physical." I stood up asking, "What do you mean, Ethan?" Ethan stared at the window, "The damage done to her was... extensive." Marcus tensed.

My dad cut in, "Ethan, we already knew she was abused. What you're saying doesn't make sense." Ethan rubbed his face, "It's ... I've never seen anyone who was abused anywhere near this level. Even prisoners tortured here. To be honest, she should be dead." I couldn't stop my growl in anger. Jackson grabbed onto my arm. Marcus went deadly silent.

Harold cleared his throat, "Why don't you just put up the scan? Like we always do" Ethan looked at me, "I really would rather not do that, Alpha Eric." Marcus spoke, "Do it Doc." Ethan looked at him, "She's terrified you'll kill all the fairies." Marcus' eyes narrowed, "It's that bad? I don't understand. I already know most of what she went through." Ethan nodded, "It is that bad. It's horrific." I frowned commanding, "Put her scans up, Ethan." Ethan lowered his eyes. Then he pulled up her scans.

He projected them to the wall and pain gripped me. Marcus threw a chair and screamed in anguish. I couldn't stop the tears from running down my face. My brothers were in shock, along with the girls who were all crying. My mom spoke through her tears, "Oh that poor little girl." I finally found words, "Ethan, that... can't be right. Are all those healed breaks?" Ethan nodded, "Breaks and re-breaks. The doctors, and mind you I use that word loosely, either helped break her bones in the places it had healed. Or scanned her to show other fairies where to break her bone. The goal seems to have been to cause her more pain." Darrin broke in, "But there are what look like healed breaks everywhere. This... it... This just this can't be right." Ethan nodded, "I know but it is."

Marcus turned back and his eyes were blazing gold, "Eric, bring Hexxus to me." Darrin and Jackson exchanged glances. I linked Caleb, "Go get Hexxus from the dungeons." I told Marcus, "Caleb will bring him. Ethan is that all?" Ethan sighed, "I wish." Marcus threw up his hands in exasperation, "What the hell do you mean you wish?" Ethan stammered under his stare, "We... we also do an internal scan, your sister..." He broke off to face me, "Alpha Eric, your mate was missing her appendix, gallbladder, and a kidney."

Marcus frowned, "She's never been injured that badly on a mission. What happened?" Ethan looked down, "She was experimented on." I roared and used my Alpha command, "Ethan spit it out for the love of god! Tell me NOW. What happened to my Angel?" I needed to know. Ethan said, "Fabian wanted to see how her body reacted to different things. He had a doctor place her under a spell where she couldn't move, but she could feel. He forced lemonade down her throat and her appendix burst."

Jessica gasped, "But... but lemons kill fairies." Ethan nodded, "Apparently, not partial fairies. They obviously have a reaction though. They took iron to part of her kidney. Eventually the iron ate away at the rest of it. Fabian deemed her gallbladder as unnecessary. They cut it out with iron knives. She should not be alive. Her healing powers must have kept her alive, but to be frank Alpha, I don't know how she's functioning. What has been done to her is barbaric. Some of those bones breaks had to be traumatic and quite forceful."

I couldn't stop the tears from streaming down my face. I had no idea. We should've heard rumors of treatment like that. I would've gone to the council myself to demand they step in and save her. I turned to Marcus who was crying as

well. I asked, "You didn't know?" Marcus stated, "If I had, there would be no fairies for you to have a war with. I will hunt down everyone who had anything to do with this. They will die slowly and painfully. My brothers nor I will rest until this is done."

My mom shuddered along with Jessica, Shana, and Molly. Molly asked, "Can you tell how old those breaks are?" Ethan shrugged, "My best guess most happened when she was ten but started when she was six. The arms breaks I'm guessing were the last of what happened before she left. I don't see any breaks for the last six years."

Marcus confirmed, "That's accurate. I found her with dislocated elbows, broken arms, a concussion, and broken ribs." Ethan paled, "Yes, that would be conclusive with what I've found." Marcus told him, "My dad will want a copy." Ethan shrank back, "I can't do that. She's the future Luna." Marcus stepped towards Ethan. His tone hard as he spoke, "You seem to think I was asking. I was not."

I stepped between them, "Marcus... stand down. Ethan, it's fine. Titus can have copies. Should Haley get injured in their realm. I want them to have all the details needed to treat her. Is this why Catherine came in first?" Ethan nodded.

Hexxus was led into the room. I dismissed Ethan quickly. He fled from the room as if it were on fire. Caleb shoved Hexxus down on a chair. Marcus strode forward, "Tell me what you know about what was done to Haley. I want details and names,

or so help me I will rip you apart limb from limb; slowly and painfully." Hexxus scoffed, "You're just her guard. What do you care about the abomination?"

Marcus ripped off one of Hexxus' fingernails. Hexxus screamed. Marcus taunted, "You scream quite easily. That is good to know. Now answer my question." Hexxus sighed, "GOD! What is it with the werewolves and Hackura? She's an insignificant partial fairy!" Marcus' eyes turned gold, "She's your princess. Besides, my little sister is FAR from insignificant to our family. Especially my dad." Hexxus shrank back and paled. He stammered, "She's your sister? YOUR FATHER?" Marcus grinned, "Yes, Haley is my sister. She is my dad's only daughter. Answer me you sniveling little prick. I want to know who did it to her too."

Hexxus didn't reply and Marcus broke three of his fingers. The girls fled the room, but my dad, brothers and I remained. Jackson jumped in, "You know Hexxus; I would answer him. He just saw the scans of Haley's bones from her physical. I'm not her brother yet, and I want to kill you. He's at least asking you for information. Me? I'd just rip out your throat."

I growled, "You will answer him eventually. Besides, accidents do happen with prisoners who try to escape." Hexxus stared at me confused asking, "What? I'm not trying to escape! This psychopath is trying to kill me slowly." Marcus chuckled, "Oh you fairies. This is nothing Hexxus. I assure you; I am quiet adept at torture. Answer my questions or I will show you what real pain is." Hexxus shrank at the glint in his eye.

He admitted, "I mean she was beaten a lot. My father felt she was his own pet project to do with as he pleased. I don't know everything. I know he sold time with her to some of the rougher fairy males. They took their evil out on her instead of full-blooded females." Marcus replied, "I do believe I told you I wanted names." He broke his thumb. Hexxus screamed, "I AM TELLING YOU WHAT I KNOW!" Marcus calmly answered him, "I want all the names you have. Did you know your father cut her open? He made her drink lemonade to watch the reaction!" Hexxus shrank back, "She told you that?! Stupid girl. I know my dad sold time with her to Drexsi, Harvlo, and Perrius." My jaw dropped. I snarled, "He sold time with her to them?! They are brutal, and that's coming from me."

Marcus looked back at me asking, "You know them? How brutal are they?" I ran his hand through my hair, "They are well known for their torture techniques. They've returned some werewolves to us. After spending only two hours in their company we had to sedate and put them in a supernatural mental health facility." Darrin added, "They were chewing their hair. How often was Haley sold to them?" Hexxus hesitated.

Marcus broke his wrist. Hexxus winced, "Dude....will you chill? She was sold to them at least once a month for half a day." I couldn't stand any longer, my knees had buckled underneath me. My poor angel. Marcus asked, "Did her fairy brothers or the Queen know?" Hexxus scoffed, "Of course not. They never would've stood for that kind of treatment. The Queen loves her daughter." Marcus scoffed, "Don't use words you don't understand, Hexxus. How could they possibly not know?" Hexxus shifted in his seat, "My father runs a don't ask don't kind of thing. The ones that know keep it quiet for their own safety. Aiden and Arion were purposely kept busy and out of town. Particularly if she was hurt badly."

Marcus stared at him, "Your days are numbered fairy. I hope you enjoy them." Hexxus paled then argued, "What?! I answered all your questions!" Marcus turned back to Hexxus letting his gold eyes show. He said quietly, "You allowed the princess of the Hackura to be tortured. You yourself broke her bones. You made her life a living hell. You can live with the fact that now you will have to keep an eye open and look over your shoulder. Because one day I WILL be there. You will pay for what you did to my sister. The only thing standing between you and your death was her. Now that I have seen your depravity with my own eyes. No one will be able to save you especially not once my dad sees those scans." Hexxus yelled, "WAIT! I didn't know she was Hackura!" Marcus scoffed, "Ignorance isn't an excuse." Caleb dragged Hexxus back to his cell kicking and screaming. The rest of us sat in silence absorbing everything that had happened.

I got a link from Haley, "Eric, did Ethan leave yet?" I answered, "Yes, Angel he did." Haley whispered, "Do you still love me?" My heart broke, "Angel, of course I do. You are stronger than anyone I know. I'm so proud of you, and I'm so happy you're my mate." Haley cried, "Ok... I love you Eric." Eric replied, "I love you too, Angel. I'll be with you shortly." Haley told me, "The girls just came in with ice cream."

I told the room, "Apparently the girls took ice cream to Haley." Harold spoke, "They should've brought drinks." I sighed, "She's already had those." Marcus started, "What?! Haley doesn't usually drink." I repeated, "Miley says a strawberry martini can fix everything." Marcus sighed, "She does say that. I need to call my dad. I will not kill Hexxus while he's in your custody. Unfortunately, no one would believe that ass wipe would try to escape. He's far too cowardly." Everyone nodded in agreement.

Jackson spoke, "I can't even imagine her pain. How could he do that to his own niece?" Harold scoffed. Darrin hung his head. I said, "A question we will ask the fairy princes when they return to go over the treaty. I will show them those scans. I find it hard to believe she suffered like that without them knowing anything. IF they knew... there will be no peace."

My dad shook his head, "Son, I don't think even Arion would've allowed this. My concern is if they could do this to a Princess, what else are they doing? Who are they rounding up? She was just a child." I agreed, "I will speak to Haley about it. We will decide what we want to do together. This was done to her; she should be part of the discussion. Though it may not be in our hands." Darrin was confused he asked, "What do you mean, brother?" I mused, "Marcus isn't going to rest until anyone who hurt her is dead. Titus may just wipe them all out. Her oldest brother Bjourn is not someone you cross. He's going to be angry about this. They've all said Haley is Titus' only daughter. From what I know, none of the brothers have daughters either. It's just Haley. You heard Titus when he was here. He already feels bad about her childhood, seeing those scans isn't going to help. This is going to end badly for the fairies."

Everyone nodded. I stood announcing, "I'm going to see Haley. I'll send your mates back to you." The closer I got to our room; I heard her laughter. When I reached the door, I paused. When I saw Haley, tears filling my eyes. My beautiful special, mate. Those wretched fairies tried to take her from me before I even met her. I didn't think I could forgive them for that. I didn't think I had it in me to let that go. Anyone who hurt her would die.

I wondered if her uncle could still be doing this to fairies? Did Bexley suffer this way? Liam would join me on my warpath. I linked Ethan and Liam, "Bexley needs a physical." Liam replied, "Of course." Ethan sarcastically said, "Wonderful."

Haley looked over to the door and smiled at me. My heart melted at her smile. She said, "Well hey there, Thor! Did you come for ice cream?" I smiled, "No, Angel. I came for you." Haley smiled, "Aww, that's so damn sweet! Isn't he sweet?" My mom agreed, "Yes, to you he is. We will leave you two alone." She shooed the girls out and turned to me. She whispered, "She's a little tipsy. Apparently, she doesn't have a normal reaction to medication." I nodded and closed the door when she walked out.

I immediately told her, "Haley, Marcus was there when Ethan told us his results." She groaned, grabbed a pillow, and held it over her face. After several moments she threw it. She said, "Well, there went six years of keeping the Hackura and fairies apart. It was going so well." I laughed and laid down beside her. I looked over asking, "Do you want to talk about it?" Haley rolled onto her side to face me. "Ask a question then and I'll answer it, Thor." I smiled at her cupping her face I kissed her, then pulled back to ask my questions.