

# True Family

Haley woke up early and sighed. I was planning to meet Marcus and Bjourn to train, but Ethan had said I couldn't. I was tempted to ignore him. He wasn't the boss of me. But I knew Bjourn, and Marcus would spout some shit about doctors' orders and not train with me anyway. I looked at Eric's face. He was holding me tightly, gripping me like a vice to his chest. I thought over my mother's warning from yesterday. I sighed in frustration because I had no clue what some of it even fucking meant. If it was truly my choice, I wouldn't be without Eric. I'd be gone for only the amount of time it took to kill my abductors and come back. My eyes filled with tears at the thought of being separated from him.

Why couldn't the universe just let me happy? Hadn't I suffered enough? I needed to figure out what damn book and passage my mother was talking about. How the hell could I even do that without knowing what the situation would be? UGH. What the HELL did my mother mean everything in my body, mind and soul would be fine? I had to consider the fact that my mother was, in fact, insane. My body would not be ok if Fabian raped me again. There's not a chance in hell my mind or soul would be ok either. Did that mean that Fabian wouldn't rape me? That would be a change. Did my mother not mean Fabian when she said I was going to be taken? Surely mother would step in if it was the vampire king. I bitterly thought we weren't fucking related to King Damon.

After several moments, I decided I wasn't going to get anywhere as frustrated and angry as I was about this. I refused to let them beat me this way. I turned around so I was facing Eric in his embrace and traced my fingers lightly over his face. He was so perfect, and mine. I couldn't resist kissing him. I heard his intake of breath, followed by his lips responding to mine.

We made out like horny teenagers running our hands up and down each other's bodies. I bit his lip. He growled softly in response, then he licked across my lips. I knew what he wanted so I quickly opened my mouth to allow him access. He entered my mouth and ran his tongue along my teeth. I shivered and felt him smirk against my mouth. I pulled my mouth away from his, and lightly bit his neck. I trailed my mouth along his neck and up to his ear. I nibbled on his ear lobe and whispered, "Make me feel something, Eric. I need to feel you. Feel us." He pulled my mouth back to his with his hands. I could feel his own need for us to be together pressing at my hip. He surprised me and kissed down my neck. He licked my mark as I shivered in pleasure.

I gasped when he slid down and took my nipple into his mouth. He bit it lightly and sucked hard, running his tongue back and forth. I arched into him as his hands ran down my body. He ran his fingertips in between my legs. Slowly he entered me with a finger, making me buck against him and he chuckled. He released my nipple

from his mouth and whispered, “You’re so wet for me, my angel.” He attacked my other nipple. He circled his finger within me, and slowly began to move it. I felt everything I’d wanted to feel, moving my hips in time with his hand. I couldn’t stop my gasp when he entered another finger, quickening his pace. I moaned, “Eric...” He bit my nipple lightly again. I could feel the orgasm building, tightening in my stomach. He released my nipple and began moving down my body. He laid soft kisses along my stomach and hips until his tongue reached my clit.

I screamed out the second his tongue touched me, orgasming immediately, but he didn’t stop. Eric built my trembling body up again with his fingers and his tongue. I fell apart screaming his name, “ERIC!... Eric please...” Eric looked up at me with blatant lust in his eyes. He demanded, “Please what?” I grabbed his arms and tried to yank him up to me, but he wouldn’t budge. He gave me a daring look then started moving his fingers again. He challenged me, “Tell me what you want, little mate. I could spend all day eating you out, you taste so delicious.” I arched my hips as his fingers began to move faster. My mouth wouldn’t cooperate with me to tell him what I needed. I desperately needed him inside me. I felt like I might combust if he didn’t thrust his long, hard dick into me.

One look at his face told me he knew that. It also told me wouldn’t stop moving his fingers inside me until I answered him. He had a playful smirk on his face. He spoke in a husky, sexy voice, “Answer me, little mate. Please what?” I tried to talk but all that came out was, “Ohh mmm.” Eric laughed and brought me to another earth shattering orgasm. He withdrew his fingers from me, but quickly put his tongue back on my clit.

I whimpered, “Eric... please.... need... you...” Eric stopped licking and entered his fingers again. He said, “Oh, I know you do. I want you to be specific, Angel. You have me at your disposal, what do you need?” I whimpered and he pinched my nipple. I gasped at the feeling of pleasure and pain. Eric growled, “Tell me, now.” I could feel myself getting more wet due to his tone. In response Eric bit my mark. I came again and screamed, “FUCK! YOU! I need you! Inside me, right now!” He chuckled and slammed into me, moaning, “God, Haley.” He started thrusting quickly into me. I couldn’t remember ever feeling so complete. When we both came it was like I was whole again. My fairy family didn’t matter, here with Eric. All that mattered was us.

Suddenly, without warning Eric lifted me onto all fours. He slammed into me again. I was so wet it was almost embarrassing. He gripped my hips growling, “Who does this pussy belong to, Haley?” I moaned without responding. Eric slapped my ass. He demanded in a tone I was sure scared many who weren’t me, “Who, Haley?” I whimpered, “You, god... you. Don’t stop ... right there.” He pounded into me with abandon, like a wild man. He roared as he came, “You are MINE!”

He barely let me recover from my orgasm before he pulled out and flipped me over. He was inside me again, but this time we were facing each other. He pulled me on my side, moving with me, so he was as well. Eric rocked inside me only breaking apart from my lips to say, "I love you, Haley. I will never let you go. Anyone who stands in my way of you will die." I shuddered, feeling butterflies from his actions and words. I said, "I love you too, Eric. I would never choose to be away from you." Both of us came, but he didn't pull out of me. He stayed inside me, holding me close to him. He kissed my forehead and whispered, "I needed that this morning, my angel." I smiled, "So did I, Thor."

He asked me, "Do you want to talk about it?" I buried my head into his chest. I said, "I don't understand her. Why won't she just fucking tell me? Why did she speak in riddles? Telling me my mind, body, and soul will be ok. I don't understand what that means. My own mind is at war with itself. Saying she came to warn me and that means she does care. That having sight doesn't mean she sees everything. She didn't stay long enough to clarify if she really knew everything I suffered, or if she just knew that Fabian was abusing me physically. Maybe she didn't know about the rape until she read my note when I ran away. The other half of me thinks it's fucking stupid to cling to that hope. Fairies always disappoint me, except Bexley. I don't know what stupid fucking book my mother was talking about. Is it one that talked about Fae magic? Is it one that talked about a power I have? It's my fucking choice how long I'm away."

I scoffed continuing, "I wouldn't leave, I don't want to be away from you. What if we don't get to get married because of this? I want to be your wife." Eric pulled me up to him and kissed me hard on the mouth. Only when I was breathless did he pull away. He emphatically stated, "You will be my wife, Haley. The wedding will happen. Trust me to keep you safe." I bit my lip, "I do trust you, but I'm worried if she sees this path... Someone fucking betrays us." Eric froze and I continued, "You'd never let anyone we don't trust near me Eric. We know about Vanessa already..." I trailed off leaving the rest unspoken. Who could betray us? Eric finally spoke, "Your mother doesn't know we know about Vanessa, it could be her. She also doesn't know your Hackura guard is here. I won't let anyone take you from me. Any who dares to try it... I am not tossing out meaningless threats when I say I will tear them to pieces."

I sighed asking, "What if it's vampires?" Eric growled, "He can't have you! I will declare war, and they may be physically faster; but I am more cunning." My eyes filled with tears, "Don't you get hurt because of me Eric Connors. I would never forgive you, or myself, if anything happened to you." Eric held me in his arms, "I am not the most feared Alpha in this country for nothing, my angel. People know what's coming when they cross me, it's why few do it. If the vampire king takes you." He spat out and continued, "Then he will die. Along with whatever minions he has standing in my way. Your brothers, dad, and quite possibly your mom will be right beside me." I laughed, "You forgot Miley. She's deadly." Eric smiled,

“She seems nice. Why do you call Alania your mother and Veronica mom?” I shrugged, “Mother always made us call her mother. It was just what she wants to be called. Veronica, well, she always told me to call her whatever I wanted to. Mom just suits her. She cried the first time I called her that and gave me a big hug. Do you... Do you have a lawyer?”

Eric pulled back, “Of course. Why?” I sighed, “Because fairies are given birth certificates in this realm because we come here so often. I have the paperwork to have Veronica adopt me. I have for fucking years the only thing holding me back was the belief my mother loved me. I need to talk to mom about it, but if she wants to I want to file the adoption paperwork.”

Eric stared in my eyes studying me, “Angel, are you sure? I know you love your mother. It is possible she doesn’t know the full extent of your trauma.” I shook my head, “It’s for this realm anyfuckingway. My mother won’t care. I do though because... because I want a fucking mom who would reach down into the fires of hell for me. Veronica has always been that to me. My mother... is my mother. She’s very caring but she would never go out of her way for me. Obviously. I mean for god’s sake the furthest she’s willing to go is a vague warning. I just can’t keep fucking doing this to myself anymore. Even if my mother doesn’t know the full extent of what I went through... It’s just not the same with my mom. Veronica would rip someone to shreds for just one of the things Fabian did to me. She’d do it if they just thought about it.”

I took a deep breath and said, “Logically, I know that both my brothers and my mother do love me. It’s just in the stupid fucking fairy way. I know that’s all they can give to me, and that they truly do love me. It’s very normal for how I was raised. Maybe if I had never gone to another realm and seen the kind of love families have for each other I would’ve been ok with that; however, I fucking did. I saw the love my Hackura family has for me and each other. Then I met you and felt the love you have for me. Not even just me, you love your pack too in a way they don’t love me. It’s just not the same in Faerie. Fairies are all about themselves and selfish love. Whatever gets them closer to what they want is what wins out to them. I just don’t want that anymore. It’s fucking toxic, and it kills me. I have never had to fight three of my brothers to calm down. The fight has never taken longer than twenty minutes when my Hackura side comes out. I just... It has to stop. The whole damn thing is unhealthy, and it breaks my heart when they do this to me.”

Eric rocked me gently for several minutes, and eventually he stiffened. I looked at the clock, realizing what was happening. It was time for his morning run, his brothers were probably linking him asking where he was. I kissed his cheek and said, “Go, Eric. I’m all right.” He studied me, “Are you sure?” I smiled and leaned in for a quick kiss, “Yes, go for your run you big, bad Alpha.” He got up, “What are you going to do since you can’t train?” I groaned, “UGH, that is

unfucking necessary, I'm perfectly fine. I get the feeling Ethan would try keep me sedated if I tried though. Then I'd have to hurt him, and then no one would be happy. So, instead I am going to talk to mom about the adoption thing. Then I am going eat copious amounts of food to prepare to heal the injured wolf. That type of injury will take it out of me. So, I will be lazy, and Ethan will be fucking happy." Eric laughed, "He will not be happy you are healing someone, but he will be quite happy about the rest of your day." He kissed me again then darted away.

I sighed, "Damn werewolf speed." Miley ran into the room snidely commenting, "Now, you know how we feel when you pop away, bitch. I've said damn fairy popping ability more times than I can count." She jumped on the bed and laughed "Smells like sex! Hot, sweaty sex." I blushed and hit Miley with my pillow. I teased, "You're one to talk! I'm surprised you and Jim managed to come up for fucking air. I mean really... you've got to let the man breathe, Miles." Miley smiled, "He's so dreamy Haley! You never told me how hot he is! He's such a gentleman too. Don't worry I'm going to corrupt him in the bedroom, but the holding door open for me is so nice; I never want it to change."

I laughed, "You haven't already corrupted him in the bedroom? You are fucking slacking Miles." Miley stuck her tongue out at me. She looked around and asked, "Are you doing PiYo this morning? I came to talk about boys, but I could be talked into it." I smiled broadly, "Yes, Ethan said no training. PiYo isn't training. You know I love my loopholes." Miley snorted, "Another thing we've all cursed. Fairies and their damn loopholes."

I popped Miley and I onto the deck to work out. Once we were done, Miley grinned at me and inclined her head at the hot tub. I snapped us into bikinis, and I popped in. Miley walked joining me. She said, "God, that is such a handy thing you can do, Hales. Just change your clothes with a snap. I envy that ability I won't lie." I smiled, "It's fun. So, you like Jim? You're happy?" Miley smiled, "I really do. I feel all tingly around him. I'm drawn to him like a moth to a flame. The lightning I feel when we touch is WOW, and GOD the orgasms. The sex, it's so intense, it's the best ever."

I said, "I have so many fucking thoughts. First moths wouldn't go to a flame. Also.... Really? I thought Harris was your all time best ever never fucking changing amazing sex." Miley laughed, "I did too, but he's not even close to Jim. This is... you're such a lucky bitch that mate sex was the first sex you had. It's unbelievable." I laughed, "I know it is. I can't get enough of Eric." Miley laughed, "Of course you can't he's a walking god! Harper has a nickname for him already." We both laughed. Before I could ask her what the nickname was, mom walked into the room.

She smiled brightly at me, "This place is spectacular!" I agreed "Yes, it is. You are just the person I wanted to see. Mom, please have a seat." I pointed at the sofa on

the deck. Miley shrugged her shoulders when mom glanced at her questioningly. I popped out of the hot tub and snapped myself dry. Then I snapped out of my bikini and into black yoga pants and a hot pink cami. I popped into the bedroom and pulled out an envelope full of papers from the things I'd conjured from my apartment. I came back and handed them to my mom.

She glanced at me curiously then pulled the papers out. She quickly read them and gasped, looking up startled, "What? Haley? What is this?" I quickly said, "You don't have to do it. I've had them ready to go for like five fucking years; however, the hang up I had doesn't exist anymore." My mom had tears in her eyes. "You are my little girl, Haley. You will always be mine regardless of what some paper says... Are you sure about this?" Miley squealed, "Oh my god! You finally gave her the papers? Fucking finally, bitch."

Mom whipped her head around towards Miley. She asked, "You knew?" Miley smiled, "Of course I did. I know all her secrets." I laughed. Mom turned to me, "Haley, I will always be your mom. I don't want this to be reactionary from that woman's visit." She spat the last words out. I nodded, "It's not. Like I said I've had this for almost five years. The only thing that stopped me was thinking she truly loved me. This realms legalities don't matter to her anyway. You are my fucking mom not her. You have been since the moment I was carried into our realm by Marcus. You've loved me in a way I wished my mother could, but she can't. That's just who the fairies are. I am lucky to have a great other side of my family. You don't have to decide now mom, but I'd be honored if you'd adopt me."

My mom burst into tears. She grabbed me into a fiercely tight hug. She started looking around then asked, "Where is a pen? I need to sign these." I couldn't hide my surprise. I glanced at Miley, baffled, who was smirking. She'd told me this would happen. I conjured the pen. I said, "You... You aren't going to think about it?" Miley scoffed, "Told you so."

My mom looked at me, "Haley, you are my little girl, I've known about you your whole life, I always wanted you to be with us. I tried to get Titus to bring you to us sooner for selfish reasons. He knew your mother wanted her time with you, and I really wish I had pushed him. For not insisting he take you, I will never forgive myself." She finished signing all the papers and gave them back to me. She had a steely look in her eye when she asked me, "Does your mother have to agree?" I shook her, "No, when I was found like I was, after coming through the portal, they had me declared abandoned, a ward of the state. Marcus proved he was my half-brother with Aaron's help. He took custody of me." Mom nodded, "Well, I'm sure your dad has a lawyer for this realm." I smiled, "I already have a lead on one. Eric said he would get his lawyer to file these for us."

I stood and walked into the room as someone slammed the door open. My jaw dropped as I stared in shock at Mrs. Blanch, who was wielding a roller pin with

steely eyes. They narrowed on me, “Young lady, you get downstairs and eat your breakfast this instant.” She waved her roller pin. Mom and Miley were beside themselves with laughter. I stammered, “Umm I... well sure.” I left the room quickly opting to walk instead of popping to conserve my energy for later. I quickly made my way to the kitchen, with a stern looking Mrs. Blanch stalking my every step. Shana snorted when she saw the bewildered look on my face. My brothers had their phones out filming the entire thing. I stuck my tongue out at them and sat down next to Bjourn. Mrs. Blanch handed me a plate. She didn’t walk away until I started to eat.

Marcus pointed to my envelope. He asked, “What’s that?” I smiled, “Papers I need to get to Eric so he can have his lawyer file them.” Bjourn stiffened, “What papers did he have you sign, sister?” I laughed, “He didn’t ask me to sign a damn thing. Mom signed these for me, I asked her to adopt me.” Bjourn and Marcus dropped their forks. After a long silence and what appeared to be a wordless conversation with their eyes Marcus turned to me. He asked, “You did what now?” Bjourn finally spoke, “Oh god... where is mom?” Before I could answer him, he turned to Mrs. Blanch and asked, “How many tissue boxes do you have in this house? I need to call dad and warn him.” Bjourn stood and picked up his phone. My dad must have answered right away because Bjourn said, “Dad, prepare for operation flood.” He walked out to explain so I couldn’t hear dad’s response.

Shana laughed, “Dare I ask.... What is Operation flood?” Marcus didn’t even look over at her as he answered, keeping his eyes firmly on mine, “We have operations within the family, it’s what we do. When mom is an emotional crying mess, happy or sad, it’s called operation flood. When she’s mad, we have a code red. Sister?” I looked at him raising an eyebrow, “Brother.” Marcus leveled me with a look. I knew that look; he wanted an answer. I said, “I’ve had the papers drawn up for years. Seeing my mother again reminded me of the difference in how they love me. Veronica has always been my mom. She protects me, she loves me. I think it would be best for all of us. I can’t keep having this unfuckinghealthy attachment to people who don’t like me, even though they love me. My relationship with all of them is toxic. You know it’s never taken more than twenty minutes to calm my Hackura side. It’s enough. The line needs to be drawn.”

Bjourn must have heard me as he re-entered the room. He said, “That is a very astute observation, sister. We are just worried about you after yesterday.” He wasn’t alone in that. I nodded, “I understand. It worried me too; I couldn’t calm down. They make me feel out of control. They are always scheming and putting me the fuck down. I’m always last on their list of priorities, and I always will be. It’s time I embraced my true family. We may not have had the first years of my life together, but we have from now on. I know that no matter the time of day I can call you... anyfuckingone of you and you’ll be there. YOU are my family. These people here are my family.”

I paused and pushed the pain in my heart away as I continued, “Sometimes you have to let people go. My therapist, the one you guys forced me to go to, often said to me: ‘When people show you who they are believe them.’ I finally understand what she meant. You all have shown your love for me, your willingness to go through fire for me and each other; whereas, they have shown me their level of love is making sure I don’t get fucking murdered. Everything in between is fair game. Even with each other, their lines are don’t kill each other. Aiden loves Arion completely, but it’s the exception in Faerie. It’s not the type of love I want. I understand it’s how they want to be and that’s fine. This is my damn choice. I’m finally listening to them about who they are and letting go of the fact that they will not change.”

I secretly hoped Aiden would change. He was capable of love; I knew he was. Marcus stood and hugged me, “I am so proud of you, little one.” Bjourn wiped a tear from his eye and hugged both of us. He said, “I am so happy little sister! You have no idea how much we love you, and you have made mom so happy.” Mom came into the kitchen at that exact moment with tissues in hand. Miley was trailing behind her with a Kleenex box. Mom waved her tissue in the air, “Bjourn’s right. I’m a blubbering mess, and then your father called me. He’s so happy our little girls is going to be officially ours. I explained everything to him. He even shed a tear, so don’t you boys give me any shit! Now all of you will be my babies, officially.” She joined our hug as did Miley. After a throat cleared, I broke our hug.

I turned to Miley, “Miles, want to go with me to drop these to Eric? Jim is probably with him.” Miley’s eyes sparkled, “YES! Let’s go!” She looped her arm through mine. We took off. I looked over at my cousin. She was truly happy. I said, “I love seeing you this way over Jim. He’s really great. He’s been so nice to me since I came here.” Miley smiled, “I like being this way too. I must thank you for saving him that day that stupid Alpha had him shot.” I frowned, “I’m sorry Miles. He was shot because of me.”

Miley stopped mid stride. She turned and faced me, slapping me on the arm. She raised an eyebrow, “Jim was doing his job. Did you have the gun?” I raised my eyebrow back and shook my head. She knew I didn’t have a gun. Miley nodded and continued, “Did you pull the trigger?” I sighed shaking my head again. Miley grabbed my arm and continued walking. Eventually she said, “Then Jim didn’t get shot because of you.” I blew out a breath. That was just factually inaccurate. I nodded, knowing I wouldn’t win this argument with Miley.

Once we reached the war room, I knocked on the door. Eric’s Alpha voice came through in his tone as we heard him say through the door, “Enter.” Miley and I walked in. Miley let go of my arm and skipped over to Jim. He pulled her down into his lap. I laughed as they nuzzled noses, they were too cute. I walked over to Eric handing him the envelope. He smiled knowingly “Ah, so this must be why I was getting mind links about the Queen of the Hackura shouting about needing



tissues. I had an idea, but it's always nice to have confirmation.” He pulled me down into a hard kiss.

When we separated, he asked, “Are you happy, my angel?” I smiled, “Yes.” Eric nodded, “Good.” Caleb entered, “Alpha, Vanessa called Catherine she claims she’s...” Caleb trailed off when he saw me. He looked panicked. He recovered and said, “Luna, I didn’t realize you were here.” He glanced at Eric; they were obviously mind linking each other. I sighed. I didn’t mean to get in the way of their work. Eric grabbed the table, gripping it tightly. It looked like it was about to break.

I frowned and put my hand on his. I whispered in his ear, “Eric, it’s alright.” He growled, “It is NOT possible.” Caleb frowned, “I’m sorry Eric, but it is. Vanessa has some human blood, and I confirmed with our footage.” Eric slammed back down into his seat. I looked between the two, “Eric what’s possible that has you this fucking upset?” He turned to me; the fear was clear as day on his face. He looked heartbroken. He brokenly whispered, “My angel I’m so sorry. Please... please... don’t leave me.” My jaw dropped. How could he think I would leave him? I was starting to get worried about him, he looked completely crushed. I asked, “What? Why would I do that? I won’t Eric, I swear. How could you even fucking think that?” He tensed saying, “It’s Vanessa... She’s claiming she is pregnant... with my child. She’s six weeks along.”

Everyone but Miley held their breath. I met Miley’s eyes and burst out laughing. It was clear everyone else was perplexed. Nathan asked, “Do you... why is she laughing?” Miley sang out, “Wait for it...” I managed to gather myself. I waved my hand, “I’m sorry, but you all do remember that I can tell when people are pregnant, right? So, Vanessa may be pregnant now, but she absolutely was not when we fought each other. I wouldn’t have fought her, but Eric even if she was it would’ve been fine. I don’t really know how it works with her being kicked out of the pack. I guess you could’ve brought her back or had joint custody of your child. I heard people talking about that in the campus lunchroom. I’m fairly fucking sure we could manage that. We could’ve raised your child part time.”

Harold started laughing. Jackson slapped Harold on the shoulder. Harold looked at Jackson. He said “What? COME ON! She’s not even mad, it was a possibility. She’s like a possible kid with a bitchy she wolf who tried to kill me? That’s no problem, we can do joint custody with said bitchy she wolf. We can raise your kid with another woman, that’s absolutely no big deal. She’s not even just saying that she can’t lie! She’s one hundred percent serious. I mean.... COME ON!” I glanced at Harold, confused.

I said, “The mom who raised me when I was her husband’s love child never showed any preference to her other children over me. Nor has she even shown me any type of malice. She might actually love me more than my brothers. If I could

show another child a fraction of the love she showed me once I met her, I would do it. Any child that's a part of Eric would be family. Whether that child is our own or not." Harold's jaw dropped along with Jackson and Darrin's.

Miley chimed in, "You tell them bitch!" Eric growled, "Everyone out! NOW!" Everyone flew up out of their seats and scrambled for the door. I turned to face Eric in confusion, I had no idea why he was upset. I studied his eyes. Once the door had clicked shut behind the last person out, I asked, "What's wrong?" He ripped my cami off and pulled me to him. He slammed his lips on mine, kissing me so hard I knew I'd have bruised lips, but I didn't care. I climbed up him throwing my legs around him. His mouth left mine to suck on my nipple. He was going to leave a mark he was sucking so hard, but I still didn't care. He tore my yoga pants off.

I looked at him indignantly, "Hey! I liked those." He growled, "I will buy you every single pair in that brand later. I need you. Right now." I hooked my toes into his shorts and yanked them down. He smirked, "Handy." He slammed into me. I threw my head back and screamed in pleasure. He used that moment to attack my neck. I knew I was going to have hickeys. I might even leave them instead of using my healing power. I'd had never had one before. Miley said they were a sign of growing up into a woman. The sounds of our bodies slapping against each other filled the room. He began to play with my clit. We both came quickly.

Eric waited until I caught my breath. He rubbed his thumb against my cheek, "You... are truly a wonder, my angel. I thought you were going to be upset, but you surprise me again. You even put Harold in his place. He's not easy to come up with comebacks for. You though... you came at him with your own truth." I frowned, "That wasn't my intention. I can apologize to him. I was just explaining. I didn't mean to..." Eric cut me off, "You were explaining your situation and how you were raised. You simply pointed out Veronica showed you the love you deserve, which he knows. Harold didn't think about who he was talking to." I frowned and swatted him lightly on the chest. I said, "You can't think I'm going to fucking leave you whenever something comes up from your past, Eric. Your past is your past. If you fuck someone now then we'll have so many damn problems." Eric said, "I would never cheat on you. You're mine and I am yours." I nodded.

I laid my head on his chest, "So, saying I'd raise your love child as my own gets me hot, hard sex?" Eric growled, "Yes, evidently it does. A child with someone else isn't a small thing." I snapped our clothes back on. Good thing I could just snap my outfit back together as if he hadn't ripped them to shreds. Eric traced a finger along my breasts and added, "Besides, I've never seen you in this top. Your boobs were practically begging for me to play with them. Who I am to deny them such a request?" I laughed, "I'll keep that in mind. It could be really fucking handy later. Just remember Eric we are a team. Now and forever. I'm on your side, always. I'll stand by you in public and have our arguments in private, because

those are no one else's damn business. I love you. I would never keep you from your child or your child from you. I would love your child as my own... Even if that child's mother is a wannabe man stealing bitch. I of all fucking people know we are not our parents."

Eric laughed right as Caleb knocked on the door. He cracked the door open and said, "Umm Eric?" Eric never took his eyes off me. "You can come in Caleb." Caleb opened the door wide. We could see Eric's brothers and dad in the hallway behind him. Jackson asked, "Can we come back in now?" Eric nodded. I smiled up at him, "See you later. You should let Vanessa back into the territory to see Catherine. We could easily figure out what's going on with her." I tapped my head, "I would gladly use my truth seeking power on that bitch." I kissed him and walked out.

I spent the rest of my day planning the wedding. It was very exciting. My dad really was making things happen so I could have everything I wanted. I was a big daddy's little girl. Bjourn and Marcus were even happy helping us plan. Miley whispered, "They are so happy to see how happy you are." After lunch Cassandra walked into the kitchen announcing, "Haley, you have some guests in the main room." I finished my last bite of lunch and hopped up out of my seat. I said, "Alright, let's go see them." I entered the living room smiling. This was the first time I was greeting an ally of Eric's. I welcomed them to our home, "Good afternoon. I'm Alpha Eric Connors Mate, Princess Luna Haley." Alpha David stepped up and nodded to me, "Hello, Princess Luna Haley. I am Alpha David, and this is my daughter Caroline. On my right is my Beta, Daniel, and this is our future Beta, Tyler." I looked down at the werewolf who was laying on the makeshift stretcher they carried him on.

I could sense his pain as a healer. It was bad. He couldn't even hide the pain in his eyes, it broke my heart. Even if I hadn't already agreed, I would heal this man. I looked to Caroline, the Alpha's daughter. She looked like she hadn't slept in days. I looked at her neck where a brown wolf with Tyler's name was. I wished I could ease her pain as well, but I could only heal the physical issues. Her pain was emotional. I pushed past the formalities, "Alright, it's nice to meet you all. I'm not sure how long you are staying, but I would like to get right to work healing Tyler. I can sense his pain, and that is my priority. I won't have him suffer a moment longer. We can get to know each other better during your stay." Everyone looked surprised but nodded. Cassandra frowned. I'm sure they had a protocol, but they didn't understand like I did. I knew the extent of Tyler's agony. They laid Tyler down on the couch and he groaned in pain. Poor Caroline whimpered and knelt beside him, taking his hand.

Caroline looked at me, "I know it's not the right thing to say but thank you for not going through the typical greeting an Alpha and Beta spiel. I can't stand how much pain he's in." Her eyes filled with tears. I knelt beside her and quickly squeezed

her hand, letting go quickly. I whispered to her, “Would you like to hold his hand while I heal him?” It was the only way I could help her. It was not much, but it was all I had.

Caroline whipped her head around, “I... I can do that?” I nodded, “Yes, you will feel very calm. You might even get in a nap.” Caroline sniffled. Miley quickly handed her a tissue. I didn’t dare meet Miley’s eye, or I would’ve laughed

at the wrong moment. Miley and I both knew why she was walking around armed with tissues. It was in case my mom started crying again. I pushed that thought from my mind and focused on healing Tyler.

The damage was even worse than I had suspected. I could feel my light pushing me to stop and rest. I was sweating profusely. I refused to stop though. I needed to do this for this family and this future beta. I glanced up at the clock on the wall. It was coming on three hours I was almost finished. Caroline had practically fallen asleep as soon as I started healing her mate. I was glad she was getting in a good nap. I was even happier when Tyler also fell asleep.

After four and half hours, I had finally finished healed Tyler completely. I slumped back onto my butt from my knees and sat back. I glanced at Miley as I stood. She didn’t bother to hide her worry. I would’ve hit the ground as my legs collapsed under me if Miley hadn’t caught me. Tyler woke up at the sudden noise.

He sat up quickly and got to his feet. He glanced at his dad in surprise. You could hear the wonder in his tone as he said, “It... it doesn’t hurt anymore dad. I...” He took several steps and tears filled his eyes, “I can walk again.” Beta Daniel let his tears fall as did Alpha David. Beta Daniel ran over to Tyler and embraced his son. Caroline’s eyes snapped open. She looked to the spot on the couch where Tyler had been. She jumped up in a panic and searched the room for him. When she saw him standing with his dad she yelled, “Oh than the goddess!” She jumped on him.

Mrs. Blanch came in with several pizzas, and a drink that she handed me. She whispered, “This has a lot of electrolytes in it. Don’t think I didn’t see that you would have collapsed without your cousin here to catch you. You drink that right now.” I would’ve argued but she was right. I downed the drink and picked up a whole pizza for myself. I sat back smiling. I’d done it. My healing power was getting stronger. I felt really good about that as I took my first bite of pizza.

# As You Wish

Eric had linked his brothers he wasn't joining their run. After Haley told me to go, I figured I'd have to catch them. When I ran outside my suspicions were confirmed, they were already gone. I caught up to them easily. Jackson snorted and linked me, "I thought you weren't coming?" Darrin chuckled, "Yeah, something about being whipped." I growled, "I was just giving you a head start. Terribly sorry for wanting to comfort my mate after the day she had yesterday. It was an emotional mess for her."

Jackson sighed, "We were just joking Eric. How is she?" I frowned, "Confused, but mostly fine." When we made it back from our run we shifted back and grabbed our clothes, headed inside, and got to work. I got a link from several pack members about Veronica. Liam linked "Umm Alpha. The Queen of the Hackura is sobbing and asking for boxes of tissues. Her niece, Jim's mate, is collecting them from around the house." I laughed out loud and answered, "It's fine. I'm sure Haley will let me know if Veronica is upset."

My dad looked up from his paperwork asking, "Son, what's so funny?" I explained, "Haley was going to ask Veronica to adopt her today. I just got several links about the Queen of the Hackura sobbing, and the Duchess collecting tissue boxes." Everyone laughed and we kept on working. Haley stopped by with the adoption papers. I put them on my desk and made a mental note to get my lawyer to file them.

When Caleb burst in and paled at the sight of Haley I was confused. I linked him, "What did Vanessa say?" Caleb winced, "That she's six weeks pregnant... with your child." My mind blanked. No. She couldn't be. I told him, "We didn't have sex on her heat." Caleb responded, "She's half human, Eric. Sometimes they get pregnant without having a heat."

Pain gripped me. Haley would be pissed off. Who could blame her? What if she left me? What if that's how the vampires got her away from me? What if that's what her mother meant it was up to her. I could because no one was taking her away. She didn't want to be near me because I'd gotten someone else pregnant. My heart hurt so much I almost clutched it physically. Haley surprised me again. She told Harold off saying she'd raise my child as her own. I was so hard it was painful. When Haley said she would love any child that was a part of me I couldn't take it anymore. I needed everyone out so I could pound myself into her. Which I did. Hard and fast.

She chided me for thinking she would leave me. In the heat of the moment, it made more sense than someone taking her. Who was dumb enough to try to take my mate from me? It was a suicide mission. I blamed the fairy queen, pushing doubts into my mind. I was thinking about every feasible option. I just needed to cast the fairy queen's word out of my mind. My reaction to the doubt she'd put in my mind had been to cling to Haley. I was going to blow off my run for her this morning. If she'd wanted me to, I would've spent the whole day in bed with her. Fuck everyone else. Caleb came back saying we needed to get to work. Haley went off to do whatever she was going to do today besides heal the injured wolf that had come to see her. Not before saying we should let Vanessa in and use it to trap her.

Caleb quickly explained to me as soon as Haley left, "I didn't mean for her to be here and hear that. She handled it quite well. She's not wrong either, this is a great chance to grab Vanessa." My family came back into the room. I stared out the window in wonder. Finally, I said, "I will never understand her, she would be fine raising my child with another woman." Harold cleared his throat, "I didn't mean to offend her. I know how she was raised was unorthodox." I interrupted him, "She wasn't offended by what you said, she was explaining her position. I offended her by thinking she would leave me."

Jackson scoffed, "That's not your fault. Her way of thinking is different from ours. We will have to adjust when we are dealing with her. We just weren't raised how she was." I nodded, "I... it's just when the fucking fairy queen said we would be apart that didn't make sense. Who would dare stand against us? Not even King Damon is stupid enough to be so blatant as to take her. He's more underhanded. When Caleb told me what was happening, it just made more sense that she would leave me. Leaving me made far more sense than her being taken with our warriors on alert, this group on alert, and her guard being here."

My dad nodded, "It's a reasonable conclusion son, but she's right. You do have to trust her and have faith in your love. She is quite different from what we know of fairies. She was made for you, Eric, the goddess designed you for one another. She is what you need, and you are what she needs. I'd worried about your mate for a long time, never having met anyone capable of handling your past or you, yourself, to be honest. You're independent, you always have been. You need a specific type of woman. The moon goddess chose perfectly for you." I nodded. I wasn't really surprised by his words. I'd seen his relief many times when one of his friends paraded their daughter's I hadn't met before me, hoping they'd be my mate. I'd also seen my mom's disappointment. She she'd hoped my mate was a few of her friends' daughters, but she'd gotten over it.

Caleb cleared his throat and winced, "So, Vanessa." I growled, "I don't want her within one hundred yards of Haley, but you all are right. The pack, outside of our trusted circle, do not know Haley can tell when people are pregnant. Vanessa wouldn't have known Haley can do that."

I called Catherine's number and put her on speaker. Her amusement came through the phone loud and clear, "Hello Alpha. This is not the kind of day I thought I was going to be having. Nor is Vanessa the woman I thought would be carrying your child." She chided me at the end. I growled, "She's not carrying my child. My mate can tell when people are pregnant. My mate is positive when she fought Vanessa, she wasn't glowing. Haley says she would not have fought her otherwise" Catherine chuckled, "Yes, I did wonder if you would ask your fairy about that." I stared at the phone, "You knew fairies can see a glow with pregnancy?" Catherine laughed, "I'm a Doctor, Alpha, of course I know that. You are not the only one whom fairy's intrigue. There is just so little known about them. I'm hoping your mate being here can change that."

I growled, "And you didn't tell Beta Caleb this information because?" Catherine was amused, "You deserved a moment of panic. You've been sleeping around for decades without one single scare. Besides had you called me, I would've told you your fairy would've already known. You should've known. You weren't with Vanessa during her heat. I realize she has human blood, and that's why you wondered if it was possible. It's truly not. As you were not with her on her heat, it couldn't have happened. Now are we letting her in?"

My eyes narrowed. I reminded her, "I do not take disrespect lightly, Catherine. You should remember that." I let that healthy dose of fear in before I continued, "We are allowing Vanessa in. There will be warriors stationed with you. We are going to take Vanessa into custody and question her." Catherine's responded, "I do want to examine her. Even though it's not your pup, she could be pregnant with her mate's child. The pup is innocent, Alpha." I sighed, "Fine. But it will happen under guard. I will not risk you, Catherine. Vanessa is collaborating with vampires; we do not know what she is capable of anymore." Catherine agreed then hung up. I nodded to Caleb, "I want Vanessa escorted into the territory. She's not to be alone for even one second, and she's not to be near my mate and your Luna at ALL. Make that understood to our warriors." Caleb nodded.

With that situation handled, we moved onto other things. We worked for several hours before a knock interrupted us. Alpha David and his Beta entered, tears streaming down both their faces. My dad stood, his tone concerned, "Is everything alright?" Alpha David nodded, "More than. Thank you, Alpha Eric. Your Luna is amazing. Truly. She's an asset to you." I didn't like the term. She was a person, not a thing. I agreed, "She is amazing. So, everything went smoothly? Your future Beta is healed now?" Alpha David smiled warmly, "He's walking around now with no pain. He took my daughter to their room. I doubt we will see them again until we leave."

His Beta spoke, "I'm sure you know me. We've never met, but it was my son Tyler that your mate healed. He couldn't even lay down without pain, let alone walk. I know he would've killed himself if he couldn't shift. Your mate... she was the

only thing he was waiting on. He held on for his mate. For the hope that your Luna would try to heal him once the rumor reached our pack. When Alpha David told him he would ask her I could see his relief. I can never thank you enough for my boy. He's my only child, the light of his mother's life. She wouldn't have survived his loss. My Alpha's daughter would've been distraught." Alpha David bristled, "You did not tell me it was that dire, Daniel." Daniel shrugged, "I would've if Alpha Eric wasn't willing to let his mate try to heal him." Alpha David's jaw ticked but he turned to me, "Your Luna almost passed out. It took over four hours for her to heal him." I stood, "Everyone break for the day." I was going to take care of my mate.

I went to find Haley and found her eating pizza. She was far too pale for my liking. I knelt beside her, "My angel. Alpha David said you almost passed out and it took a long time to heal his Beta's son." Haley nodded, "It's not a big deal, Eric. He had a lot of damage, and the spine is tricky. I'd never healed an injury like that before. My light just wasn't sure what to do. If I heal something like that again, it will be faster. He's all good now and I'm fine." I shook my head, "You are pale." She stuck her tongue out at me. I quirked an eyebrow and picked her up. I threw her over my shoulder. Miley cackled, "You've done it now bitch!" Haley squealed, "Eric! Put me down!" I swatted her ass and carried her to the kitchen.

Mrs. Blanch turned and pressed her lips together to avoid laughing. She crossed her arms, "My boy, what are you doing?" I grabbed a pizza and asked, "Did she eat enough?" Mrs. Blanch laughed, "I think she needs another pizza. I made some brownies for dessert." Haley squealed, "BROWNIES? Eric put me down! Right fucking now!" Mrs. Blanch lost it and started laughing.

Marcus walked in and took in the scene in front of him, grinning broadly. He walked around to face Haley. He asked, "What did you do, little sister?" Haley huffed, "Nothing! I healed the future Beta guy. I ate all the fucking food Mrs. Blanch put in front of me. Eric came in and said I was pale. I stuck my tongue out at him and now he's carrying me around like I'm an unconscious fucking person. Help me big brother!" Marcus put his hands up, "Sorry little one, you're on your own with this one." He grabbed a pizza and walked out of the kitchen. Haley yelled after him, "Traitor!"

I chuckled and turned to Mrs. Blanch, "I can't carry all the food and her. Please have it sent up to our room." Haley grumbled, "You could carry it all if you put me the fuck down, you brute." I set the pizza down and slapped her ass again. She yelped. I picked the pizza back up and looked to Mrs. Blanch. She nodded to me, "I'll send someone to follow you." I winked at her and headed towards our bedroom.



Haley glared at me once I set her down on the bed. I told her, “Stay here and eat.” Her eyes narrowed, “Exfuckingcuse me? Do I look like a Saint Bernard to you?” I laughed, “No, my Angel. You would be a much smaller dog, but still adorable.” Suddenly, I was soaking wet. A bucket hit me in the head. I caught it as it fell. I yelled, “WHAT THE FUCK?!”

I smelled someone else and whirled to see an omega, the kitchen worker Mrs. Blanch sent up with food, was staring at Haley. Her mouth hanging open in shock. I turned around and Haley just smirked at me. Why, that little mischievous fairy. I asked her, “Did you conjure a bucket of water over my head?” Haley smiled, “Yes, I did. I hope that fucking teaches you not to call me a small, adorable dog and carry me around like that.” I growled and the omega scurried to leave.

The second the door was shut I dove at Haley on the bed. She snapped her fingers so that I was dry before I touched the bedsheets. I easily wrestled her down. I pinned her to the bed. I let my frustration come out in my voice, “Do you see how easy that was? You’re weak from the healing. I’m just taking care of you. I know you healed that wolf for me, so just let me help you, please Angel.” I flipped her over and spanked her hard on her ass. She cried out.

I lowered myself down to her ear and whispered, “I will always take care of you, Angel.” Haley rolled over and glared at him, “Fine, just don’t carry me like that in front of people.” I stared at her completely baffled, “Huh?” Haley sighed, “You carried me like I was unconscious. You could’ve at least carried me bridal style, jeez. Why is it called bridal style? You can carry plenty of other people that way, not just brides. This realm is so damn weird.” I stared at her, “Are you serious?” Haley spat out, “Yes, I’m fucking serious. You made all the blood rush to my head! I was seeing spots.”

I winced, “Haley... why didn’t you say anything? I was just trying to have some fun with you.” She wiggled away from me. She got out of bed and went over to her pizza. She sat down in a huff at the table in our room, “I’m sorry. I’m just out of tired after that healing. I’m also cranky and moody as fuck.” I went to her, “I’m sorry too. In the future, I will only carry you that way for short distances. I will never do it after you’ve healed someone” I winked at her and added, “Unless it’s really funny.” She swatted me on the arm. I smiled and we ate our meal in comfortable silence.

I stood and picked her up out of her chair. I kissed her forehead, “Let’s watch a movie in bed together.” Haley smiled, “Ok, what do you want to watch?” I shrugged. I’d watch paint dry beside her. I said, “You pick.” Haley laughed, “Daring man. I like it.” She ran over to my video collection. She worked her way through the videos then squealed in delight. She ran back to the TV and loaded the moving into the DVD player.

I couldn't stop my smile or my laugh, "Angel, what did you pick?" Haley laughed, "The Princess Bride. I fucking love this movie! Miley told me I had to watch it. We watched a lot of TV and movies together in the beginning. It's what got us to start talking. I love this movie, and the love Wesley and Buttercup have. It's fucking beautiful how even though they were apart he was doing everything to get back to her. It's a fucking amazing movie. Miley and I love it! I've lost count of how many times we've watched this damn movie. Daddy had to buy a new copy." I laughed, "As you wish, my Angel."

Haley gasped and pulled me in for a hard kiss that quickly turned heated. My desire for her was pulsing in my veins. As hard as I was, I pulled back, "Haley, as much as I want you, and you will never know how much that is, you were drained today. Just let me hold you tonight." Haley giggled then cuddled into me.

I started the movie. Haley looked up at me, "It's your own damn fault, you know? You're so sexy, then you go and say that fucking line out of all the other movie lines. That was so one hundred percent your fault." I laughed and pulled her closer into me. It was a moment I wanted to capture in time. Cuddling in bed with my mate, my Angel, watching her favorite movie together. She fell asleep as soon as the movie was over. She seemed to be keeping her eyes open by sheer force of will until the credits rolled. I couldn't take my eyes off her peaceful form for several minutes. Eventually, I untangled myself from her to go find Caleb.

I found Caleb in the main room with my brothers. I cleared my throat, "Is everything set for tomorrow?" Caleb nodded, "Yes, Eric. Did you tell the Luna to stay away from the hospital?" I frowned. I'd forgotten all about it to be honest. I was going to tell her the plan, but her needs took precedent in this situation. I sighed, "No, we didn't get around to it. It's not like Haley is going to voluntarily go to the hospital anyway." Jackson frowned, "I see that ending badly for you, tell her." I replied, "I wasn't keeping it from her, I just forgot all about it. I needed to take care of her and then she fell asleep. We were enjoying pizza and a movie. I haven't gotten to have a normal night with her. I haven't even gotten to take her on a proper date yet. Everything has been going full speed ahead since she arrived." Jackson held up his hands, "You're right. You guys deserve little moments like that. Hell, she'd probably understand anyway." We discussed the plan a little bit more before I went back upstairs to our room. I quickly slipped into bed and pulled my sleeping mate back into my arms.

When I woke up, Haley was still out. I wanted to talk to her, but I couldn't be selfish after that healing yesterday. She'd done it for me. So instead of waking her, I kissed her on the forehead, and slowly extricated myself from her to run downstairs for my morning run. Darrin laughed when he saw me, "This is the first day since you met your little mate that you've beaten us out here. Is she pissed at you or something?" I knew I had not given them this much shit when they met their mates, and they were far worse about everything. I slapped Darrin on the

back, “No, she’s sleeping, and I didn’t want to wake her. Thee healing yesterday really took it out of her. I know she did it for me, and I want her to rest.”

Jackson asked, “She’s ok though, right?” I nodded, “She’s fine, I think. After Vanessa leaves the territory, I’ll have Ethan check on her.” Harold scoffed, “He would be irate. He told you he didn’t want to see her for three days.” I narrowed my eyes, “I don’t care what he wants. She is my priority, and his job is to look after the pack. His happiness about seeing her is not on the list of shit I care about. As long as Haley is ok that’s all that matters.” Jackson laughed, “I’m sure she’s fine, brother. We can check on her later.” We shifted and took off on our run.

Once we’d done our regular route we returned to our clothes. Dressing quickly, we made our way to the war room where Caleb had breakfast brought in. He nodded to me, “Vanessa’s appointment is at nine this morning. The warriors should have her over here to meet with us directly after Catherine’s exam.” I nodded and began to pace.

After two hours of watching me pace my dad sighed, “Son, will you knock it off? You’re going to wear the floor down to the foundation.” I shook my head, “I feel something is off.” Jackson stiffened asking, “What is it?” I rounded on him, “If I knew what it was, I wouldn’t be worried. Where is Haley?” Caleb shrugged, “I have Jim and Miley on her today, Eric, she won’t be alone.” I continued to pace, “I need to know where she is. Exactly” Harold raised an eyebrow, “Why not link her then?” I shook his head, “She would know I’m worried about something then. I want her to relax after yesterday. No stress.” Caleb spoke, “She’s on a run with Miley and Jim, she’s fine.” I frowned, “That’s not relaxing.” Jackson said, “She is part Hackura, it probably is relaxing to her.”

When my warriors hadn’t seen hide nor hair of Vanessa when nine fifteen rolled around, I wanted to pull my hair. Catherine called my office at nine forty-five. She sounded annoyed, “Alpha, I have other appointments I need to get to today. Can your men leave now? Vanessa appears to be a no show.” I ran through all the scenarios. It would probably be fine if they left, but I would not leave it up to chance. I told her, “They can go and guard from the hall, but you will not be unguarded today.” Catherine sighed, “Is that necessary?” I simply said, “Yes.” and hung up.

I was exasperated, “Why wouldn’t she show, after calling to say she was pregnant with my child? She has to know I won’t chase her down. I’m not even her goal. Or is that the goal? Getting me out looking for her so they can attack us here. Could they know that we figured it out?” Caleb frowned, “I don’t think so.” Jackson braced himself, “I think we need members to run the borders.” I asked him, “Why?” Jackson sighed, “Vanessa knows the area, she could slip in. She was raised here.” I cursed myself for not considering that. I ordered, “Caleb, get Jim to get Haley back to the house now.” Caleb nodded and then stood up quickly looking

panicked, “Jim’s not answering. It’s almost like... a wall. I don’t think he knows I’m talking to him.”

I growled and Bjourn and Marcus ran into the room. I spared them a glance as I ran past them, “We need to go find Haley! NOW!” Neither asked questions as they followed me out of the house. I used my mate bond with Haley. It wasn’t much help. Marcus pointed, “She’s that way.” I wanted to be able to have the same bond they did. It was more helpful. I linked her, “Angel? Are you all right? What’s going on?” I felt the same wall Caleb had with Jim. Someone was going to have to hold me back from ripping Vanessa to shreds. My brothers and several warriors trailed behind Bjourn, Marcus and me. The smell of blood hit my nostrils. I let a roar loose, shaking the trees around us. I came to the top of the hill, and then I saw a battle come into view.

Haley’s guard was moving around her, killing vampires. Jim had shifted and was engaging rogues. FUCK! The vampires were teaming up with rogues? Miley was surrounded and forced away from Haley, but she was holding her own. Sasha was at her back. The vampires were trying to separate Haley from her guard but failing miserably. My gaze fell on my mate. She looked beautiful in battle. My possessiveness hummed in my veins when I realized Haley was not wearing a shirt... AGAIN. She had a scratch over her abdomen. I recognized the wolf she was fighting. It was Vanessa. Anger coursed through me at the very sight of her. I growled and linked Vanessa. I was an Alpha I could link anyone I wanted to. I used my Alpha Command on her, “SUBMIT AND SHIFT!” Her wolf whimpered and tried to fight the command, but she couldn’t. Vanessa shifted and went down to the ground. I allowed Thor to take over and obliterate rouges and vampires alike.

It was over in just ten minutes. The vampires and rogues didn’t seem to think they would be met with much force or resistance here. Probably because they thought they had the inside track, having Vanessa tell them about our weak points. Morons. As if Haley wasn’t formidable on her own. They should’ve known the Hackura were here. Between the Hackura and my men, their group was more of an annoying gnat, easily squashed.

Miley’s eyes were golden. Jim wrapped his arms around her, trying to calm her down. Her nails were digging into her palms as she took deep breaths. Bjourn asked her, “What the hell happened, Miles?” I glanced at Marcus, but he was staring past me, his mouth set in a firm line. I turned to follow his gaze and said the first thing that came to my mind, “WHAT THE FUCK?!” Haley was seated with Vanessa’s head in her lap. She had her hands between Vanessa’s ears and her hands were glowing; however, unlike when Haley had healed others, Vanessa was contorting in pain. Silent screams were clearly on her tongue, but they never escaped her lips. I didn’t want Vanessa near her. I could give a shit less about Vanessa’s pain. Haley had just healed someone yesterday, whatever the fuck this

was could wait. I yelled, “Haley!” and ran to her. Haley’s guard was simply staring at her, though Blade looked pissed. Haley didn’t answer me, intent on whatever she was doing. I closed my eyes and counted to ten. I rounded on everyone, “SOMEONE EXPLAIN THIS SHIT RIGHT NOW!”