

Fairy Charms

Haley woke up and rolled over to look at her phone, surprised to see it was nine o'clock in the morning. It had been quite some time since I slept in that late. I rolled over and stretched in the bed. I decided to go for a run. Bjourn always preached to keep up your cardio, it had been how he started my training. Running. I snapped on my pink yoga pants and matching bra and grabbed a workout shirt with cut off sleeves. It was one of my favorites. It was white, and you could see whichever sports bra I was wearing through it. I went downstairs and almost ran straight to the door, but then I remembered Mrs. Blanch would probably chase after me if I didn't eat something. I jogged into the kitchen to grab an apple to appease her. Mrs. Blanch glared at me, "I know you aren't about to claim that's your breakfast little miss." I smiled, "Nope. Just grabbing it before I take a quick run. Then I promise I'll stuff my face with your delicious breakfast." Mrs. Blanch nodded

Jim and Miley stood together. Miley smiled asking, "A run? Bjourn said I needed to up my cardio. Can we join you?" I nodded, "Sure. Although I may need to check your temperature, Miles. If you are determined to stick with voluntarily doing cardio just because Bjourn fucking said so." Miley slapped my arm, "He is militant about cardio, you know that." I nodded, "Yes, I do. He's militant about training in general. Since I met you though, you've avoided cardio as much as you fucking can." Jim changed the subject, "Well, let's take this run towards the west side of the territory. You haven't seen it yet right, Haley?" I raised my eyebrows and shook my head no but said nothing. Miley jumped up, "Since that's settled, let's go."

I grabbed onto my cousin's arm as we walked towards the door. I whispered in her ear, "Don't think I don't know somethings up. The signs are all there. You're asking to join me for a run. Jim wants to go in a specific direction... Something, my partner in crime, is afuckingfoot." Miley laughed, "You love Sherlock Homes too much Hales, but I'll always be your Watson. You are one of the least, yet most observant people I know." I frowned, "That makes no damn sense, Miles." Miley smiled, "It does. Sometimes people can sneak an elephant by you, other times you are sharp as a tack." I scoffed, "Oh come on... an elephant? That's a bit much. They are fucking loud and large... Are you going to tell me what's going on?" Miley shook her head, "Not right now." I frowned, "I'm going to run really fucking fast then." Miley grimaced and groaned. Jim laughed. I looked back at Jim, "Are you gonna spill the secret?" Jim shook his head, "It's beans." I asked, "What's beans?" Jim said, "They saying. It's spill the beans." I snorted, "How was that even decided? You can spill so many fucking things! Why isn't spill the sweat peas? Or spill the water? You can spill so much shit." Neither Miley nor Jim could answer because they were laughing.

I sighed, then grinned, waving at both my brothers. Marcus looked at my face and yelled, "You aren't ready for the mischievous fairy Jim." Jim sobered a second before Miley, but I didn't give them a chance to completely recover. I took off like a shot. Miley groaned and started running after me, as Jim trailed behind us. I frowned. I knew he could keep up with us. That meant he was watching our backs. I just had no idea why. I briefly wondered if Vanessa was in the territory. I'd bet she was, and my mate was being an Alpha male about it. We came to a clearing near the edge of the territory. I paused to admire the beauty around me.

Miley fell to ground beside me, heaving. She gasped for air, "Bjourn may have a point about this whole cardio thing. I'm dying. You Cambridge's are crazy. That includes my brothers. I mean what is the purpose in being able to run this far, this fast?" Jim laughed and picked her up. He kissed her cheek, "Don't worry. I've got you babe." I smiled at them, "You guys are fucking adorable. Miles, you know the point, but Bjourn always says one never knows when you will need to run. It's best to have the endurance to do so in case you need to outrun your opponent." A bad feeling crept over me. Oh, for the LOVE of god!

Jim and I both tensed, which told me something was coming for Jim to tense. Miley quickly noticed the change in both of us. I'd officially joined the pack; I should be able to link Jim. I concentrated on him, "Is this working?" Jim hid his smirk quickly and linked back, "Yes Luna, it's working. Do you sense someone too?" I frowned, "It's Haley, you weirdo. Yes, we are being watched, and I've got a bad fucking feeling. I'm going to link Eric." I linked Eric, "Eric, something is up." I waited several minutes, but he didn't answer me. That was not good at all. I looked at Jim, "Eric's not answering me. I know he would if he could." Jim frowned then went rigid, "I can't reach anyone except you and Miley." I grimaced, "Link Miley for me. Tell her trouble is coming, and that she needs to join the damn pack so I can link her." He nodded his agreement.

A voice came from the edge of the clearing, "My, my, my, what have we here? The long awaited Alpha's mate, and some of her friends. You wouldn't happen to be trying to link your Alpha, would you? Fortunately, I have fairy friends who can interfere with that. They can make it so you can't do that in a specific area a few miles out." I turned to face Vanessa. She was, in fact, glowing.

Jim growled, "It's Luna. Don't speak to my Luna with disrespect, Vanessa. I'll rip your throat out." Vanessa was visibly taken aback shrieking "WHAT? She's... you already had your Luna ceremony?" I nodded, "Yes, it's a shame you missed it. It's also a damn shame you think you have fairy friends. They aren't your friends, Vanessa, they will stab you in the back the second you show it to them. You are a means to an end. Trust me. I would know better than anyfuckingone else."

Vanessa growled, "That Luna title is mine! I'm carrying the Alpha's child. He'll pick me now, and we will raise our pup while the vampire suck you dry! You'll be

in agony when he fucks me! The fairies are my friends! Just because they hate you doesn't mean they aren't my friends. They allowed the mind link to fail, so no one is coming to your rescue you worthless whore!" I rolled her eyes, "More like your mate's damn child. Didn't anyone tell you fairies know when someone is pregnant, they glow? You weren't glowing when we last fought; otherwise, I wouldn't have agreed to fight you. Even if that was Eric's kid, he wouldn't pick you over me you fucking psychopath. You are a complete and utter moron to trust a fairy. Think about what you said. They allowed it to work so you could get me. Who is that for again? Oh yeah, for the vampire king. You don't matter to them, if you did, they wouldn't have allowed you to come. They are hoping you die here. They know Eric will fucking kill you if you help kidnap me." Vanessa's jaw dropped.

Several vampires appeared beside her. One hissed, "You are just a partial fairy! You shouldn't be able to see the glow of pregnant women." I laughed, "Says who?" The vampire glared, "The fairies working with us." I nodded, "Naturally, but see you're putting all your faith in sadistic fairies. Specifically, fairies who give no shits about asking partial fairies what they see or not. I've been the barometer for several members in this pack."

I turned to face Vanessa, staring her down, "Vanessa, you realize that they didn't even bother to refute anything I said about you. Even the vampires are hoping you die here." The vampires exchanged glances, and another stepped forward. He spoke calmly, "Regardless, you are outnumbered. Come with us and we will let your friends live." Jim linked me, "Don't do it. I smell rogues." I linked back, "I wasn't going to." Out loud I laughed, "My friends? By that you mean the Beta's son, who's a warrior and my cousin, the Duchess of the Hackura? Yeah, I think we can fucking take you." The vampires hissed, "Well, your werewolf friend will be busy with them." He pointed over to the tree line. The rogues stepped forward so we could see them. Jim cursed, "Fuck."

I looked at Miley. We both started laughing. I taunted, "Um hello? My werewolf friend is a fucking warrior. Are you hard of hearing? Didn't you hear me say that like five seconds ago? I think our odds are still good, don't you cousin? In case your selective short-term memory kicked in again vampy vampires... That would be my cousin, the fucking Duchess of the Hackura."

Miley's eyes turned gold she joined in, "Oh yes, cousin. I do think we can send these vampires to their final deaths." The vampire's mouth dropped open and Vanessa started to look nervous. She glared at me, "For god's sake! Just go with them, you stupid bitch." I snorted, "Oh well when you put it that way... sure why the fuck not? Oh wait... That's right because I don't give a DAMN what you want." Vanessa growled, "You are all alone! It's just the two of you." I tilted my head and laughed, "Oh now who's the stupid bitch? You can't even count. You do realize there are still three of us here." The vampire said, "It does not matter. We have the numbers."

I glared at him, "I am the Princess of the Hackura. I am never alone. Why do you even want Eric, Vanessa? You found your mate. Why the fuck are you doing this?" Vanessa glanced around nervously, "There's no one else here, but you three. The Alpha is mine!" I bristled, "Ok... listen carefully. Eric is FUCKING mine! But why do you want him? When was the last conversation you had with him?" Vanessa looked to be searching her thoughts, "That doesn't matter he's... he's just mine." My eyes turned gold, "For the LAST damn time he's fucking mine. Honestly, Vanessa, think about it. Sex with your mate was better, wasn't it? Eric told me you two simply did stress relief, no talking, quick fucks. Why would you want someone who doesn't even want to talk to you? Or spend time having sex with you? You were just one name on roster to him. Why the fuck do you want him over your mate? It's not like you had some fucking great love going on."

Vanessa appeared to be thinking about that. A vampire hissed, "You want to be the Luna!" Vanessa stared at him confused, "I do?" He hissed, "Yes, the partial fairy STOLE the title and the Alpha from you. You WANT to be the Luna." Vanessa turned back me, "Of course I want to be the Luna! You stole the Alpha from me! I will be the Luna." I cursed, realizing exactly what was wrong with Vanessa. How had I not seen this before? I screamed, "FUCKING FAIRIES!" Miley turned to me in surprise, "What? I mean... agreed but what?" I ground my teeth, "She's under a fuckin fairy charm and I didn't see it! GOD DAMN IT!" The vampires hissed, "How the fuck could you know that?!" I rounded on them, "See what underestimating people gets you? I am FAR more than you could ever fucking imagine you arrogant, pompous ass."

One vampire stepped forward and yelled, "ENOUGH! You are coming with us now, or we will kill these two and take you anyway." I tsked at them, "Ah, ah, ah, did everyone forget when I said I wasn't alone?" The vampire's fangs snapped down, "Yes, we see your two friends, who I am going to personally drain." My anger fired on all cylinders at his threat to drain my friend and my cousin. My eyes were blazing gold, "Exfuckingcuse me?! You are personally going to drain the Duchess of the Hackura? You DARE threaten MY family?" The other vampire grabbed the first and pushed him back. He turned to me, "We want no quarrel with the Hackura." Miley scoffed, "No, you just want to kidnap our princess. Are you dumb enough to think that's not having a fucking quarrel with us? You'll start a fucking war! We will obliterate you, and you know it!" They all began to glance at each other, slightly concerned.

Eventually he responded, "The fairies promised her to our King. That's what matters here. Promises were made, contracts were signed. The Hackura will honor that, and we will make a treaty with them as well. We truly mean no offense. We just want what is ours." Jim hissed, "YOURS?! My Luna is not yours!" Miley laughed, doubling over grabbing her legs. I smiled. They were underestimating my dad. It was not a wise move.

Miley gathered herself, “You... dumb... dead... fuckers... think my uncle, King Titus, would let you take his only daughter from her mate? No, let’s just back up. Do you think he’d let you take her because of a contract a fairy signed? Over a fairy promise?” She started laughing again. I sighed, “I’m sure it’s because of my fucking uncle. He can be convincing, and he always believes he’s right. Which means he’s not lying, because HE believes he’s fucking right. That’s the problem with trusting fairies... morons. Well, I do think it’s time they met our friends, don’t you agree, cousin?” Miley nodded, “Oh, you bet your ass Princess.” I nodded and spoke to my guard in Latin, the language of the Hackura, “Ego vos have ut iungere ad pugnae. Veni in sicco. (I think you are going to have to join this fight. Come on out.”

My guard materialized at the edge of the forest. Javi spoke first eyes blazing, “You DARE threaten our Duchess and our Princess? You will die!” Miley smirked and stuck her tongue out at them. The vampires flinched. The calm one spoke again, “We have no quarrel with your people. You are people of honor, and the fairies gave us their Princess.” Javi spoke, “Their Princess is our Princess. You haven’t broached our King for terms. Our Princess wants to stay with her mate, and here she will stay. It’s irrelevant. You will not leave this clearing alive for your threats and your disrespect.”

Vanessa spoke, “Oh for god's sake! JUST LEAVE! No one wants you here! The Alpha needs a wolf by his side, not some half breed!” I showed her no sign that her words cut me to the core. Old insecurities came flying up at me. Fabian always told me I’d never get a mate. He would go on to say if I did, my mate wouldn’t want me. Jim growled, “Of course we want our Luna here, you dumb bitch! The Alpha loves her, and you know it!” Vanessa growled, “You will die for her then, Jim?” Miley shouted, “YOU TRY IT! I WILL CUNT PUNT YOU TO TEXAS BITCH! Don’t you dare touch him!” I grabbed Miley’s arm as she began to charge forward. Jim chuckled, “Don’t worry babe. She can’t take me on my worst day, even at her best.”

I hissed at them, “Now you have threatened the mate of my cousin. Which if any of you fuckers weren’t paying attention makes him the Duke of the Hackura.” The vampires were looking at my guard who had their swords drawn already. I looked at Vanessa with pity. She was a victim in all this. I appealed to her, “Vanessa, fight the charm. You know you don’t want Eric. I am sorry they used you like this because of me. I’m sorry you’re not enjoying these precious moments with your mate. I’m sorry he’s suffering thinking you don’t love him when you’ve just been placed under a powerful charm. Those fairies, they aren’t your friends. They are using you. You are stronger than this, I know you are. Fight it!” Vanessa grabbed her head and shook it from side to side. She began muttering, “I... I can't, I have to do this... I want the Alpha. I have to be the Luna. It’s my right.” I spoke softly to her, “You don't want either of those things, Vanessa. Don’t you want to be with your mate and raise your child together? Don’t you want to tell him that you never

wanted to leave him?" Vanessa looked up with tears in her eyes and whispered, "Yes."

A vampire hissed. Suddenly he flashed in front of Vanessa, grabbing her by her hair and yanked her to her knees. He looked in her eyes, "YOU WANT THE LUNA POSITION! Alpha Eric Connors is yours! She STOLE him from you! She's not even a wolf!" Vanessa's eyes clouded then cleared. She looked at me glaring murderously. I linked Jim, "This is the problem with this damn charm. It's unpredictable. Now, she thinks she wants to kill me." Jim linked, "WHAT? Get behind me!" Vanessa screamed, "ERIC IS MINE AND YOUR DEATH IS MINE AS WELL! YOU MAN STEALING WHORE!" A vampire yelled, "NO! Do not kill her!! She's meant for the King!" Vanessa didn't pay any attention to them now that she had a single minded focus on me. In a split second, my guard had me surrounded. Javi glanced back at me. He wanted to know what I wanted to about Vanessa. He could kill her before she reached me. This wasn't her fault though, and there was a baby to consider.

I nodded letting him know to let her pass. Javi sighed giving me a look I knew all too well. He didn't like the command, but he knew I could take her. If he had doubt about that... he'd have never looked at me to ask. His job was to protect me, and they all took it seriously. Javi gritted his teeth as Vanessa ran past him thinking she'd outsmarted him. She snorted, "Some guard!" I said, "Don't disrespect my fucking people, Vanessa. I told him to let you through." She laughed crazily, "Bad call whore!" I rolled my eyes, "By no definition am I a fucking whore. That's just a word used to shame women into some weird, antiquated box this realm has. It's fucking pathetic. Women like sex too. So, the fuck what?" Vanessa's hands turned to claws. She didn't bother to answer me.

She swiped out, trying to get me, but I easily moved out of the way. Vanessa caught the seam on my shirt, and it ripped clean off. I was trying not to injure Vanessa seriously since she was pregnant and got claws to my stomach for my troubles. I hissed, "MOTHER FUCKER!" I looked over to see the rogues had attacked Jim. Miley had been forced away from our group by the vampires attacking. My guard was attacking the vampires and keeping them away from me. Miley needed someone to have her back.

I yelled, "Sash! Get on Miley's six!" Sasha nodded. She quickly made her way to Miley's back. She took out several vampires, making sure none of them came at Miley from behind. My guard was taking out vampires left and right. I knocked Vanessa to the ground, giving me another chance to spare a glance at Jim. He was holding his own, but he was seriously outnumbered.

I yelled, "Miley get to Jim!" Miley scowled, "What do you think I'm doing over here? I'm not fixing my make up or making coffee over here!" I laughed, "How could I possibly think you were getting fucking coffee? You aren't a fairy, and we

are outside! You didn't bring your make up with you, bitch. That entire statement was absurd."

Vanessa growled. I turned my attention back to her "Vanessa, you don't want to do this!" Vanessa snarled, "Yes, I do! You took what's mine!" With that statement she completely shifted into her wolf. I hissed. My own possessiveness over Eric flared with her constant declarations of Eric being hers. I yelled, "Oh for god's sake! Eric is my mate! HE IS MINE! In what universe is he yours? STOP SAYING THAT! IT'S REALLY PISSING ME THE FUCK OFF!" I punched her harder than I should've. I reigned myself back. I had to remind myself with a new chant I'd started saying in my head, "She's charmed and she's pregnant. She's charmed and she's pregnant."

A ferocious roar shook the trees. Thomas began laughing maniacally, "Uh-oh the Alpha knows you're here. Which means Princes' Bjourn and Marcus know you are here. Your death is going to come quicker than planned. They will bathe in your blood. You were never leaving here alive anyway, I suppose it does not matter."

A group of wolves and my brothers thundered into the clearing. Several wolves had Jim and Miley surrounded, but Eric's wolves came to their aid, quickly killing them. Eric growled at Vanessa. I was guessing he used an Alpha Command because she began to shake and turned back into her human form. My heart broke for her as she started whimpering. I sighed and went to Vanessa's side. I gathered in head in my lap and started running my fingers through her hair, calming her down.

I started thinking over removing charms. I'd never done one, but I'd read about them. If a powerful fairy placed this charm, removing it would take it out of me. It was going to take it out of me. This had to be my damn uncle's doing. Fucking Fabian always trying to ruin my damn life! I whispered to Vanessa, "I'm going to help you, Vanessa. I'm sorry, but it's going to hurt. The baby will be ok, be strong." Vanessa whispered, "Please... I feel like I'm losing my mind." I nodded and put my hands in between her ears. I began to chant, "Za call upon Uise earth Den Yevce Ze decmove Sefre charm Den decturn Sefre Zre wolf Ze herself. Spirit Fren Uise earth grant Uyla Zecka sanity again (I call upon the earth and sky to remove this charm and return this she wolf to herself. Spirit of the earth grant your child sanity once again)." I repeated the words several times.

I smiled in triumph when I felt my light removing the charm off Vanessa. I knew I could it. Take that uncle, I'm fucking stronger than you. If only someone could tell him. He'd shit his pants. I felt myself fading. I smiled when I heard Eric yelling. He really did love me something stupid. I was sad to realize how powerful this charm was though. The longer it took the more it was confirmed. A member of my family cast this charm. My uncle really was working with vampires, and using whoever he could to get to me. I felt an extreme amount of guilt for that. I knew

Fabian was powerful, but he hadn't stepped into this realm here. My father would've known. Someone was helping him. That wasn't surprising, just sad that people still followed his orders. A charm could be placed on an everyday object. Someone must have brought my uncle something of Vanessa's and returned it to her here. I felt the last traces of the charm leave Vanessa. Her body stilled beneath me. I was fading fast. I managed to whisper, "Eric, she ruined my shirt," before my world faded into darkness.

Waiting

Eric waited as Jim opened his mouth to explain. Miley spoke first though. She pointed at Vanessa and screamed with her eyes blazing gold, “That fucking bitch said she was going to kill Jim! I will flay her ass.” Bjourn laughed, “Miley, you can’t flay her.” Miley hissed at him, “Why not, Bjourn?! You’re going to have to give me a DAMN good reason!” Bjourn chuckled, “For starters, she didn’t actually hurt Jim; or I’d let you. Second, it appears my little sister is of the belief the she wolf wasn’t doing any of this of her own volition.” Bjourn pointed over to Haley. Miley huffed, “Yes, yes, yes, Haley said she was under a charm. Haley’s quite pissed off that she didn’t realize it sooner.” I looked at Jim. I was trying to keep my anger under control, but I needed a damned explanation. I questioned, “A charm?” Jim shrugged, “Haley said Vanessa was under a fairy charm, we didn’t get a chance to get details.”

I nodded then leveled Jim with a glare, “What exactly is the reason you didn’t answer your dad’s links? Or link a single one of us when there was danger that turned into a battle?” Jim shuffled his feet at my tone knowing how angry I was. He bared his neck in submission and said, “Alpha, we tried. Haley tried to link you. I tried, you, dad, Nick, Liam, and our warriors. Vanessa said the fairies did something so that our mind link wouldn’t work with anyone outside this area. I could link Haley and Miley and that was it. Haley could only link me. Anyone further out it felt like we hit a wall.” Goddamn fucking fairies!

I rounded on Liam, “Get Bexley here, now.” Liam nodded quickly. In the next moment, a smiling Bexley popped in. She giggled, “Hey Pook....” She trailed off when she saw Haley. She gasped, “What in the... HALEY!” She ran over towards Haley her mouth hanging open, but Liam grabbed her around the waist when I growled. My mate was in a vulnerable position, it was instinctual on my part.

Bexley yelled, “WHAT IS SHE DOING? Removing a charm is hard for a full-blooded Fae!” I did not like the sound of that at all. I growled, “EXPLAIN.” Bexley turned to look at me, “She’s removing a fairy charm off that she wolf. That’s hard even for me. Someone tell me she at least ate a buffet for breakfast.” Jim groaned, “She woke up late. She ate an apple before our run. She was planning to eat breakfast once we got back.” Bexley sighed, “Well poop.” I growled, “Why does that matter?” Bexley glanced at me, “She’s going to be unconscious for a while. A full-blooded fairy would be knocked out for a few days. Haley... I can only assume will probably be out longer. To be fair, she also probably didn’t know that. I doubt she’s removed a charm before. She said she learned by reading, and the books don’t make it sound overly complicated. We learn in school and well... Haley didn’t get to go to school.” She didn’t go to school?! FUCKING FUCKER! I growled, “How long do you think she will be unconscious?” Bexley shrugged, “I don’t know. I can only tell you about fully blooded fairies. Partial don’t train on

their powers... hell I didn't even know partials HAD powers. They might not. It could be just her."

I looked over at Haley who was still busy with Vanessa. She was an amazing and caring Luna. She was so unlike other fairies. She didn't need to be asked to help Vanessa remove the fairy charm. No one had to barter with her so that she'd agree. She just did it without asking, knowing it was to the detriment of herself. She had such a big heart. I sighed "The actual reason I had Liam bring you here is because Haley mentioned to Jim and Miley that Vanessa was under a fairy charm. What does that mean? The second reason is Jim said that fairies were able to do something to this area so they couldn't mind link the pack. How is that possible?"

Bexley tilted her head, "Well, there are many fairy charms that could've been placed on Vanessa. How was she acting? The linking deal... that would require an earth fairy. They simply enchant the area to be still. After they do that, no communications can go in or out of a specific area. It's meant to be for creating a calming area, not to be used for an attack. It's dangerous to go against the earth this way." Miley exhaled loudly, "As for how the bitchy she wolf in question was acting, obsessed. She was overly obsessed with Eric and being the Luna. When Haley questioned her, she didn't really know why she wanted that. She got confused and she wanted her mate and to raise their child together. Then a vampire hissed at her saying she wanted to be the Luna." Miley bit her lip then added, "To be honest, for a moment there when Haley was trying to get Vanessa to fight the charm... she looked insane."

Bexley gasped, "They charmed her to be obsessed with Eric?" Jim shrugged, "Yes, and the Luna position." Bexley frowned, "That's a powerful charm to make her leave her mate." I sighed. It was like pulling teeth to get information from fairies. GOD, I needed my angel to answer our questions. I asked, "What does that mean?" Bexley shrugged, "If Haley can't remove the charm... I will try. I will likely have to try for my cousin's sake, but it had to be a royal fairy that placed the charm. That's too powerful to be placed by anyone else. Someone had to get them an object of Vanessa's, an everyday item that she uses. If it had been jewelry, Haley would've sensed it and the problem would've known immediately. If it were me, I'd have used a hairbrush or a toothbrush." Marcus glared at Bexley, "The only royal fairies that have been here in this realm are the Queen and the Princes."

Bexley open mouth gaped, "My aunt came?! Here? To this realm? She's not supposed to be able to leave Faerie anymore! No... she couldn't have come." I informed her, "The queen can apparently leave whenever she wishes. She showed up to speak in riddles. That's why you had to sit with Haley last night. THAT was what upset her." I turned to the group, "Vanessa was already this way when the queen came though. She challenged Haley before she even arrived. So that leaves us with suspecting the princes did this?"

Bexley shook her head and jumped into the conversation, “Not necessarily. Any fairy could’ve taken an object and brought it back to Faerie.” Bjour ground out, “So you’re saying Fabian sent a minion to do his bidding. Then charmed the object and sent it back with the minion.” Bexley nodded, “That’s an option. He’s powerful enough to do this; however, so are the Princes. The rub there is they don’t directly do anything to harm Haley. So, I highly doubt they did this.” Miley scoffed, “Are you kidding me? They hurt her all the time.”

Bexley frowned at her, “With their words and their actions. This charm would’ve directly caused her harm. Vanessa challenged her. As far as the Prince’s or I knew Haley should’ve lost that fight. With the charm Vanessa would’ve gone for the kill. Neither Prince has ever caused Haley physical harm. They both always look physically ill when anyone ever did, and they always took care of her afterwards. Sometimes they would even mention reasons for her beatings to stop. Reminding someone they were needed in court or had an appointment. They would always get her treatment afterwards if they saw it. Their sorrow about the entire thing called out to everyone around. They do not like seeing her hurt.”

Marcus sighed, “She’s right in a way. Physically, they haven’t done anything to her. I will never understand how they just stood by while someone hurt her and did nothing. Bexley, do you think they could have given an item of Vanessa’s to be charmed and brought it back?” Bexley thought about it then said, “I mean... they could’ve taken it, but to bring it back... or even to let it be brought back knowing what would happen. I sincerely and truly doubt it. Charms aren’t an exact science. As I said, Vanessa could’ve killed her or tried. The princes wouldn’t allow her to die.” Miley’s voice dripped with derision, “Well it’s good to know where their line is for their sister. Death isn’t allowed, but everything else is all good and fine. My brothers would eviscerate someone for ONE of the things that happened to her. That’s counting my brothers on my mom AND dad’s side. All of whom are Hackura’s and can kill as easily as they breathe. I know Arion and Aiden can kill easily too.”

Bexley sighed, “Yes, Arion and Aiden can kill easily. I’m not saying they are right in how they acted, nor am I defending them. I’m just telling you how the princes think, and my thoughts on the matter. I could be wrong, but I just don’t think so. That’s what I’ve seen from them, and I’ve felt their genuine sorrow for Haley’s suffering. I know for a fact neither of her fairy brothers want her dead. I know they love her. They would have had to have been given a guarantee that she wouldn’t die as a result of this charm. No one could’ve given them that, and both are smart enough to know that. I think a minion taking it to Fabian is the most likely option.”

I rubbed my fingers into my temples trying to sort all this information out. Suddenly, Haley's whisper broke into my thoughts, “Eric, she ruined my shirt.” I turned and saw Haley was about to hit her head on a rock as she fell to the ground. I used my supernatural speed to make it to her before she hit the ground. I cursed,

“FUCK! What shirt? You’re not wearing a shirt... again.” She didn’t move in my arms. The only thing keeping me sane was the rise and fall of her chest. Miley pointed to Vanessa, “Haley had a shirt on. That bitch clawed it off.” I turned and glowered at Vanessa.

Vanessa’s eyes opened and shrank from my glare. I growled at her as she cowered away. She bared her neck and held up her hands, “Alpha, I’m sorry. I don’t know what was wrong with me. I just want to go raise my pup with my mate. Please Alpha! Mercy!” Vanessa begged me. I knew my eyes were hard, “You weren’t in control of yourself, Vanessa. I know that, but right now I want to kill you. You challenged my mate twice. You tried to kill her twice. You cut her.” I growled. Jackson came over to me. He spoke quietly, “Eric, we need to get her to Catherine. We need to make sure the pup is ok after the charm was removed.” I seethed, silently knowing they were right. It was hard to focus on that with my unconscious mate in my arms. The fact that I did not know when she would wake up made me want to make Vanessa suffer.

Thor agreed with me. Rationally, I knew this wasn’t really her fault. I gritted my teeth, “Liam, Jackson, Darrin, and Harold escort Vanessa to Catherine. She NEVER leaves your sight, and she is not alone with Catherine. Once she has been examined and it’s confirmed the pup is fine, move her to the ward in the hospital for those that need treatment but are considered an enemy. I have no doubt the pup is fine; my mate would’ve made sure of that. Caleb, contact Alpha Deering. Let him know the situation. He can relay the truth of the situation to her mate about what’s really going on. Once we have their decision on what they want to do about this colossal fuck up, we can decide how to go from there.” Caleb nodded and wisely said nothing.

I linked Ethan, “You’re not going to get your wish.” Ethan replied, “About?” I ground out, “My mate. I’m bringing her to you now.” Ethan sighed, “Of course, what happened now?” I replied, “She removed a fairy charm off of Vanessa that was placed on her by most likely a royal fairy.” Ethan sighed, “Of course she did. The Luna is very generous. She needs to stop, Alpha. She’s going to run herself into an early grave.” I roared at the thought. I turned to Bexley and Haley’s brothers, “Bexley pop us to the hospital so I can get her to Ethan for treatment. Marcus, Bjour, and Miley are you coming with us?” Jim grabbed Miley, “Miley and I are coming. She needs to get checked out too.” Miley rolled her eyes, “Only if you do as well.” Jim grinned victoriously, “Deal!” Miley sighed, “I’m not the member of our family with an aversion to doctors. My brother is a doctor. It’s not a huge accomplishment to get me to agree to get checked out.” Marcus laughed, “Hey... Bjour and I are doctors too.” Miley said, “And there’s that.” Jim kissed her on the forehead. Marcus and Bjour smirked.

Bjour spoke, “We will walk back later. I need to talk to Haley’s guard and call dad.” He turned to Haley’s guard. Bjour ordered, “Sasha, go with them then fade

into the background. No one gets near my little sister that you don't know or trust." Sasha nodded and walked over to our group. Bexley smiled, "Everyone hold hands." She pushed us to get into a circle. Once everyone grabbed hands Bexley grabbed mine on her right and Miley on her left. She smiled, "Next stop, the hospital on the fairy express." She popped us away.

Next thing I knew, I was looking into the steely eyes of Ethan. Behind him was Rose with a few of his orderlies. Sasha walked off and disappeared. I shook my head. It would always be strange how they just vanished. I nodded to Ethan, "Ethan, the orderlies can tend to the Duchess and Jim. There was a fight with rogues and vampires. Vanessa scratched Haley. Once I arrived and forced Vanessa to submit, Haley then removed a charm and has been unconscious since." Ethan sighed, "Go on," he said to the orderlies waving them off with his hands. He turned back to me, "We have the same room she was in last time set up for her. I'll need to check on Vanessa ne..." He stopped as my menacing growl filled the room. Rose looked at me wide eyed as I hissed, "You will take care of Vanessa when you have time. She is with Catherine. My mate is the concern."

I nodded to Bexley who was the only one unperturbed by my attitude, "Bexley here said a full fairy would be unconscious for a few days after removing a charm. She was unsure about what it would mean for Haley." Ethan had paled but replied, "I would defer to Liam's mate on this one Alpha. I do not know anything about fairy charms. I understand that Catherine is going to check on the pup, but we need to make sure she herself is all right as well. Rose, have another orderly do an exam of her as well since..." He looked at me before adding, "I will be busy. Apparently." I nodded as Rose took off to fulfill Ethan's orders. I laid Haley down on the bed.

Ethan grimaced, "Well, we will have you all step out. I guess since I sent Rose on an errand, I'll have to change the Luna into the hospital gown." I picked Haley back up, enraged. He would not see my mate naked. I yelled, "YOU WILL ABSOLUTELY NOT DO THAT!" Bexley stepped forward, "It's no problem, Kujo, and soon to be cousin in law. I've got this. I hear you all are VERY territorial about your mates and their nakedness." She snapped her fingers. I looked down to see Haley was in a hospital gown.

Ethan sighed in relief, "I never thought I'd be glad to be overrun by female fairies." He muttered, "Thank you Bexley." Bexley nodded, "No problem, Balto." Both Ethan and I turned to her confused. I said, "His name is Ethan, Bexley." Bexley chuckled, "I know what his name is. Balto is a cartoon wolf. He saves the children in this village in Alaska by bringing them penicillin from another village." She turned and ran her fingers up Haley's arm, "Haley loves that movie. I snuck it to her one time when her legs were broken so she would have something to do. You Mr. medicine man, are who I will be calling, Balto." Ethan sighed, "Fairies... I've been called worse I suppose."

He got to work putting ointment on Haley's wound. I assumed it was so it wouldn't get infected. He did a thorough job, taking over an hour to run tests. At last, he spoke, "Well, she's exhausted, but she's fine otherwise. Rose will come back in to reapply the ointment to her stomach, so she doesn't get an infection." At the look on my face he immediately continued, "I'm not concerned about an infection at all. We are simply acting with an abundance of caution. I'm going to put her on an IV, so she's getting fluids." As he finished his sentence Mrs. Blanch thundered into the room. She banged the door against the wall. Ethan stared at her in shock.

Mrs. Blanch had tears streaming down her face, "Oh my boy. I failed you. She was supposed to be coming back to eat her breakfast. I should've woken her up earlier. I am so sorry." My mom came in the room and held her, "Alyssa, it's not your fault. No one could've seen this coming." Marcus entered behind her, "Now my jewel, this isn't your fault. You've done a great job of getting her to eat. She may not have eaten a full breakfast this morning, but she's had full meals for days. I'm sure she will wake up sooner than she would've at any other point in her life because of that." His words had their intended effect. Mrs. Blanch gathered herself and went to Haley's bedside.

She lovingly petted her hair, "They say that sometimes people can hear what's going on around them, so you listen to me. You're going to wake up and then I will harass you constantly to eat. You're worrying my boy. You can't save the world. The weight of everyone's suffering is not on you. We are going to work on boundaries and limitations when you wake up. Do you hear me?" Bjourn chuckled, "If you accomplish that... I'm going to have to clone you." Mrs. Blanch glared at him, "I WILL accomplish it. My boy has waited for her. He longed for her. Then he gave up on finding her. I will not have her galivanting around like a one woman army carrying the weight of the world. Why haven't you boys talked any sense into her? From what I've seen, you are among the few she listens to." Marcus smiled sadly, "She listens to us, but if you haven't heard the fairies say she has a soft heart... she does, and they are right. She can be hard and tough, but her heart leads her to act without thought for herself. I don't think anyone can change that about her, or even that I want them to. She would give someone the shirt off her back if they needed it. After everything she's been through, it is honestly amazing that she still has that capacity within her to be the way is."

Jackson entered the room, "Vanessa and her pup are fine." I was about to respond when Bexley huffed, "Well la di dah. The bitch is fine. Did anyone in this room give a care?" I couldn't hold in my snort, "Not really." Bexley grabbed Haley's hand and spoke quietly to her, "Did I not tell you often enough, cousin? No good deed goes unpunished. You're here unconscious and that monstrous, wannabe man stealing wolf is just fine." Bjourn smiled, "I may have to decide to like you, fairy." Bexley smiled broadly, "Of course you should, I am the good member of her fairy family." Marcus shook his head.

Caleb entered the room. He nodded to me, "Alpha Deering wants to come speak with Vanessa. The real, uncharmed version of her; to see if he still wants her in his pack. His omega is thrilled she didn't really want you and is carrying his child." Caleb shrugged and added, "He's reacting like a mate." I nodded, "Fine, after he speaks to her; he can speak to me." Caleb shuffled his feet, "We... we really need to get back to work, Eric. I received word the supernatural summit will be six days after your wedding. We have arrangements to make for it. It's in Alpha Steven McDermont's territory this time." I nodded knowing I had work to do. I looked back over at the bed. I couldn't leave Haley.

My mom spoke sensing my thoughts, "Son, I will sit with her until you can come back." Bexley nodded, "Me too!" I shook my head, "No, I won't leave her. This was my fault. I didn't tell her what was going on with Vanessa. She never would've left the main house if I had. I'm staying with her." Ethan had just entered the room again and heard me. He sighed, "Not to disagree with you Alpha, but given what we know about your mate, She would've wanted to see Vanessa anyway." Jackson nodded, "He's right. We would've wanted her to do her truth seeking thing." Ethan nodded, "So, this would've happened anyway." I sighed. It didn't alleviate the guilt I felt. I looked at my Beta, "Caleb, bring everything we need here. We will set everything up in her room. I won't leave her."

Marcus and Bjourn went over to their sister. Marcus grabbed one hand while Bjourn took the other. Marcus said, "Now you come back to us quickly you hear, little one? Or I will make sure your wedding color scheme turns to brown and grey." Bexley gasped in horror, "YOU WOULD NOT!" Bjourn chuckled, "He would certainly try. Come back to us soon little sister, or I fear your dream wedding will become a nightmare. Then you will have to scramble to fix it." They both kissed the side of her forehead then left the room.

That left me alone with Bexley. She smiled at me, "Kujo, there's a few other things you should know." I raised his eyebrow at the nickname and the comment. I decided there was nothing I could do about her calling me Kujo. Reacting to it would make it more fun for her. I asked, "What are the other things I should know?" Bexley smiled, "Well, there are some things to know about when she wakes up." I moved my hands in a proceed gesture. Bexley smiled, "She will be sexually insatiable. For several hours." My jaw dropped and I asked, "Excuse me?" Bexley's smile got wider, "She removed a powerful fairy charm, and she is a royal Fae. Her fairy side will demand she mate with you since you have found each other. Her eyes will be clouded, but once they return to normal the sexual insatiability piece will be over. It will be replaced by a different need. She will be VERY hungry. My advice is before she pulls you into her sex haze, link Mrs. Blanch to whip up a ton of food." I stared at her, dumbfounded, as she walked out of the room with a swagger in her hips. She paused at the door and turned back, "Mmm thinking about the state she will be in has got me all excited. I must go find

my mate. I've never had sex in a hospital closet." She laughed as she closed the door. I was finally left alone with Haley.

I stroked my finger on her face, "I'm so sorry, Angel. I wasn't trying to keep the situation from you. This is all my fault." I put my head on her forehead, my tears falling onto her face. I stayed like that for who knew how long. A knock on the door alerted me to someone else's presence. Caleb entered and looked worriedly at my face. He cleared his throat, "We are getting a table brought in and some phones so we can get to work." I nodded my agreement with his plan. My pack members brought in the supplies. We organized everything and were getting to the summit items when Veronica barged into the room.

She didn't even look at us and went directly to Haley. She squeezed Haley's hand "Oh my little girl, you are too kind. Don't you worry about anything. I will keep everything on track for your special day. Miley and I will handle it all until you wake up and show us your beautiful eyes. Now, I've heard Marcus has been making threats about color changes. Don't you worry one beautiful little hair about that baby, Mommy put him in his place. He will not touch a single wedding detail. I have Gunner watching over his cyber movements. I'll call your daddy if I have to. Now, you just get better and come back to us. You hear me baby? Just rest and get better." She turned and nodded to me saying aloud, "Apologizes, Eric for the interruption." I shrugged, "No apology is needed Queen Cambridge. We moved operations in here. Visitors are expected." Veronica smiled, "That is kind of you. Now none of this Queen Cambridge business. You are my son in law. In our realm that's how we view things. It's mom or Veronica." I smiled, "That's very kind of you." Veronica snorted, "Kind has nothing to do with it. If you were not everything to my little girl, or if you didn't treat her like the princess she is.... I would gut you like a fish." Jaws dropped all over the room as Veronica marched back out.

My dad laughed, "You don't want to be pissing off your in-law's son. They are... vindictive." I snorted, "No joke. Reasonable, but quite a deadly lot." Marcus entered smiling, "Dad spoke with the vampire king. He let him know that if he tries to take Haley, he will be declaring war with the Hackura. King Damon is... unhappy. To put it mildly." I glanced at Bjourn who followed, also smiling. Darrin asked, "Then why are you both smiling?" Bjourn answered, "Because I have been given free reign over vampires that get near my sister. The definition of near is... murky. Open season on vampires has been declared for all Hackura." Jackson sputtered, "But... war wasn't declared." Bjourn shrugged, "Doesn't have to be, the saying is you mess with the bull you get the horns, yes?"

I nodded, "Yes, that's the saying." Bjourn smiled broadly, "I knew it! We are a group you do not want to act against. We do not care for talks of peace. You upset us and we act against you, it's as simple as that. This situation has us well past upset. There will be interrogations and executions if the fanger king doesn't let this go." I felt much better about everything now.

I couldn't keep the hope in my voice as I spoke, "Maybe this is what her mother meant. Haley had the power to remove the charm. Since Haley chose to use her knowledge from a book... she's technically not with me." Evin entered and said, "It's a possibility. That certainly sounds like the type of shit fairies would do, make you worry for no reason. Like you couldn't just say she'd be exhausted and use too much power and fall unconscious." Bjourn sighed, "I would like for that to be true, but I feel it is not." Marcus turned to him, "Why, brother?" Bjourn sat, "Because the Queen came herself. She has never come to Haley when she overexerted herself or was going to. She could've just wanted to see her with her mate, but I'm not discounting something else coming." Marcus begrudgingly nodded knowing that made sense. I hated that Bjourn had a valid point.

We worked until I called for us to break. Mrs. Blanch was being quite militant about meals. I never left Haley's side. My mother begged me to take care of myself since it had been three days. To make her happy I showered, slept,

worked, and ate in Haley's room, refusing to leave. My mom came by to try again. I told her, "I can't leave her mom. I just can't." My mom sighed, "Well, I'm here. At least go take a shower while I sit here." I dragged myself off to the shower. I turned and saw my mom take Haley's hand. I smiled. I turned on the shower and heard my mom spoke, "Haley, I hope you wake up soon. The pack misses you. We miss you and most importantly of all my son misses you. He is lost without you." I heard Haley in our link, "ERIC!" I linked back, "Haley? I'm here Angel!" I got nothing back.

I bolted out of the shower. I heard my mom say, "Come on Haley! Open those eyes!" Nothing happened. I grabbed a towel and wrapped it around my waist. My mom looked over at me. I said, "She... linked me... she said my name but then she didn't answer me mom." My mom nodded, "She grabbed my hand. She squeezed it too. I'll go get Ethan."

Ethan came running moments later as I held Haley's hand. My mom stood in the doorway as Ethan checked everything. He frowned, "She's not ready to wake up yet, but this is a good sign, Alpha. She's coming back to us." I ran my hand through my hair, "It's been three days Ethan!" Ethan nodded, "I understand that Alpha. I spoke with Bexley about this. I am learning more about fairies now that we have a couple. I believe with this little movement from her... I think she will be awake either by Wednesday or Thursday." I growled. Ethan left the room quickly. My mom squeezed my arm, "It's a good thing. We have some news." I looked at my mom with red rimmed eyes, "I miss her mom." My mom eyes were filled with compassion as she nodded, "I know you do. She's right here though Eric. You heard Ethan. She's coming back to you."

I nodded and left to continue my shower. I quickly went through the motions. When I came back, fully dressed, Alpha Deering and Caleb stood in the room. My

mom was still here. I nodded to her. She sighed, "I'll just take my leave then." Alpha Deering nodded to her, waiting until she was gone. He turned to me, "This is a bit unorthodox of a meeting place, Alpha Eric." I glared at him, "I won't leave my mate in this state, and let's not forget why it is that we are here." Alpha Deering nodded, "I understand. I've spoken to Vanessa at length. My Omega wants her back in our territory to raise their pup. I'm inclined to grant this request provided you have no problem with it. I do not want this to cause a rift between our packs. The Vanessa I just met is much more agreeable than she was before. Is this the real her?"

I was still so upset with Vanessa I really wasn't the best judge of her character right now. I closed my eyes and took a breath to steady myself, "I will harbor no ill will towards you, or your pack should you choose to accept her and the pup. I haven't spoken to her at this time, but prior to her interactions with Haley; she was a model pack member. Currently, I just want her the fuck off my land." Caleb winced. Alpha Deering smiled, "I understand your feelings. We will leave today with her, and she will be out of your hair. I hope that this is the end of your conflict with her. If this is not the last altercation, we will keep her pup and banish her. I hope your mate wakes soon, Alpha Eric." He left the room.

Caleb looked sadly at me, the worry clear as day in his tone, "Eric, we know Haley's ok. She wouldn't want you to do this to yourself. This is not your fault." I sighed, "I know she wouldn't. I am really worried though, Caleb. I can't leave her. I just can't." Caleb frowned, "Why? Why are you so worried Eric? We know she will wake up." I shook my head, "Not about this. I don't like this one bit, but if this isn't the trial her mother was talking about, then someone takes her from me Caleb. I can't live without her now. She's my world. I feel as if the sun setting and rising has stopped these last few days. I am only functioning knowing that my pack needs decisions made. If she's truly taken from me..." I trailed off. Caleb came over to me, "Then we will tear realms apart, if need be, but we will return her to you. You aren't just my Alpha, Eric, you are my best friend. I will not let you suffer that way. I couldn't imagine anyone taking Luce from me." I nodded. We both sat down and got back to work.

On Wednesday morning, Bexley entered the room with incense. She began to light it. I eyed her suspiciously, "What is that for?" Bexley giggled, "To guide her back to us. I'm tired of Liam having to constantly be on border patrol. We've had to have sex outside getting sand in places where sand should not be. You've said that she squeezed your mom's hand and linked you for a moment, so I'm changing her body's timetable. It won't hurt her, and everyone needs her back. So, you sit there and shush, Kujo." I glared at her but let her flit about the room. She kept lighting incense and saying chants. I linked Caleb, "You are missing Bexley doing fairy crap." Caleb snorted, "Oh no. Whatever will I do with my life now."

Bexley bowed to the room. I assumed that meant she was done. She smirked at me, "If I were you... I'd keep this room clear. Remember what I said would happen when she woke up." I nodded, "Fine, but if she doesn't wake up today, I'm coming for you." Bexley giggled, "WHEN she wakes up today, you give Liam training duty in the mornings, so our evenings are free. For a month." That was easily doable. I nodded, "Deal." Bexley clapped her hands and left. I linked Caleb, "Keep everyone away from the room. I'm available by email." I kept working from my phone and laptop.

I almost jumped when hands snaked around my waist. I smiled as tingles erupted all over my skin. Well played Bexley, well played. I held Haley's hands tight, "Haley, I missed you, Angel." I whispered. I turned around. I was startled to see that Haley's eyes were clouded like Bexley had said. Her expression looked like she was ready to devour me. I quickly linked Mrs. Blanch, "Haley's awake. We are going to need lots of food in a few hours." With that I cut off my link. In the next second Haley shredded my pants. I was surprised. Normally she just snapped my clothes off instead of ripping them. She said huskily, "I missed you too, Eric." She threw off her medical gown, climbed onto my lap and kissed me for all she was worth. I groaned when she impaled herself on me. I knew I was in for it. I smiled, "Oh shit."