Last Minute Details

Haley woke up and Eric's side of the bed was empty. I looked over at the nightstand surprised to see on the clock it was seven in the morning. I usually woke up earlier. I stretched and got up to do some yoga. Once I was done, I took a quick shower. About an hour later, I stepped out of our room to go get food. I ran right into someone, who caught me from falling down. I took deep breaths. I should've popped downstairs. I popped away from the boy I bumped into who seemed worried. He quickly apologized, "Luna! I am so sorry. Mrs. Blanch sent me to tell you to come down and eat." I said, "One moment." I popped to my bathroom and threw up. I sighed, "Get it together Haley, he barely touched you. God! Why am I like this?" I brushed my teeth and popped back to the guy who was still waiting.

I sighed, "Clearly Mrs. Blanch wasn't kidding about being militant about eating. I'm on my way down, and please call me Haley." The boy nodded, "Right, Luna Haley." I sighed, "Nope, just Haley no Luna." The boy smiled. He nodded, "Sure, Luna Haley." He held his hand in front of him as if to say continue on your way. I started walking down the hallway only to have the boy follow my every step. When we reached the stairs, I'd had enough. I turned, "I know you can go faster than me. It's all right, go ahead." The boy shook his head, "No, I can't do that Luna Haley. Mrs. Blanch gave strict instructions. I have to bring you directly to the kitchen. If I don't, I won't get any cookies for two whole weeks."

My jaw dropped, "Are you serious?" He nodded. That was extreme. I frowned, "Well then." I linked Eric, "Mrs. Blanch has lost it." Eric replied, "Why?" I sighed, "She sent this guy to come get me to eat. I ran into him, quite literally. He caught me from falling down." Eric growled. He'd be more upset if our Hackura bond was in place, and he'd felt me get sick. I shook myself and continued, "This guy said he has to follow me to the kitchen, or he doesn't get cookies for two weeks."

Eric finally replied, "And?" I was stunned. I replied, "AND?! What do you mean and?! Talk to her. That's insane. I was coming down to eat and ran into him. Not getting cookies for two weeks is extreme. If I were so inclined, I could pop my happy ass away from him." Eric replied, "One, I wouldn't cross that woman ever. Two, I'm fine with it. I was without you for too long because you hadn't eaten. Earn all our trust back eating your meals and you won't have this problem."

I had nothing nice to respond back to that. I was fuming as I stalked into the kitchen. Mrs. Blanch gave me a look, "Don't you even little miss, here's your plate." Marcus and Bjourn laughed. I tightened my jaw, "Oh, it was about you

before I linked my mate. Now it's something he did." Mrs. Blanch's face dawned in understanding, "Give him some grace. He was a mess without you." I nodded and ate all my food.

I turned to Mrs. Blanch, "Do not threaten pack members with no cookies to come get me. It's absurd. I could pop away from them if I wanted and there's nothing they could do about that." Mrs. Blanch laughed, "Oh my dear... I forgot fairies are so literal. If you'd popped away from him I wouldn't have held him accountable." I nodded, "Alright." I didn't know why she'd threatened the boy with it then.

I finally linked Eric back, "I feel the need to point out the obvious here. This happened not only because I didn't eat breakfast, but because YOU and everyone else didn't tell me what was going on. That's your prerogative as my mate and the Alpha, but this wasn't my fault alone. I did not have all the facts on removing charms. OR that Vanessa was a threat that would be in our territory. To insinuate I did something to lose the trust of those I love is not only preposterous, but incredibly hurtful. So yeah, I don't think so. Saddle your hypocrisy horse and ride it mister." With that I closed off our link. I turned to my brothers.

I stuck my tongue out at Marcus who smirked at me. I twirled my fork and said, "So Marcus, brown, really brother? That's not a wedding color." Bjourn snorted water out of his nose he was so startled. Marcus turned to me astonished, "You heard that?" I nodded, "I heard most of the things said. I just couldn't respond." My brothers nodded. Before they could say anything else, Bexley popped in grinning broadly at me, "Hello cousin. I see you've eaten. That's good. People are so very touchy about that around here. Let's get you off to the conference room so we can go over wedding plans." She clapped excitedly, grabbed my hand, and propelled me off to the room where we'd had the first wedding session.

My mom was unsurprisingly at the helm. She was on the phone with a vendor about the backdrops. I loved that she wanted to do this. They all knew I could just snap it done, but they put all this effort into the planning. It touched me more than I could say. The second my mom caught my eyes she cut it off her conversation immediately. She smiled, "If it isn't my little girl! I'm so happy so see your beautiful eyes. Don't you worry about a single detail for the wedding, everything is on track. Here, let me take you through all the details." She showed me everything they had done. I couldn't deny they'd done everything I wanted. Not that I was surprised, my mom was a miracle worker.

I smiled at her, "It's perfect mom. Thank you for keeping this all going. I also want to thank you for not letting Marcus turn it all brown and grey." My mom snorted, "That boy... thinking he could get around me like that. Men make no sense princess, remember that. It will serve you well when you are trying to figure out why your mate has done a certain thing." Everyone laughed. I joined in helping them with the rest of the plans.

I read over the invoice for the lanterns. I grabbed Bexley's arm. She turned to me, "Hey Bex, about the lanterns..." Bexley smiled, "You want them enchanted so they don't pollute the earth?" I nodded. Bexley smiled, "Already done! My earth side would allow nothing less when they arrived." I smiled, continuing to look through the plans. I noticed one thing I wanted that was missing.

I turned to Eric's mom, "Cassandra, are there horses on the property?" Cassandra shook her head, "No, we don't have any." I nodded then turned to my mom, "Do you think you could convince dad to bring my horse here? I really want to do a horse and carriage ride around the property after the ceremony. I want to have just a moment that's just Eric and me." Shana smiled, "Oh, that would be beautiful!" My mom smiled, "Consider it done princess."

After a few moments Molly asked, "You have a horse?" I smiled, "I do, he's beautiful. My dad gave him to me as a colt. I trained him and everything. He's a thoroughbred. His coat is midnight black, and he has a white diamond on his face." Cassandra smiled, "He sounds like a very handsome horse. Just a warning, though, he might not like Eric. Horses sometimes don't mix with the wolf half in us." My mom laughed and waved her hands, "Oh if Haley likes someone, Pirate will like them. That animal loves anyone who Haley loves. Your problem is if she doesn't like you or is uncomfortable around you. He's very attuned to her moods. He also bites people she doesn't like. Quite viciously." Miley smiled, "Like the true Hackura he is." I smiled, "Pirate is a great horse."

Bexley bounced around, "Ohhh horses! I love animals! Did your dad give you the horse because fairies love animals?" Cassandra responded, "All fairies love animals?" Bexley nodded, "We have a strong connection to animals. I have many animals from our forests that I miss. They were mine in spirit." She got a sad look in her eyes. I grabbed my cousin's hand quickly, wanting to help ease her sorrow.

I explained, "My dad gave me Pirate because the Hackura all have battle horses. Bex, I'm sure there's a shelter around here. You could visit one and adopt a dog for you and Liam." Bexley's eyes lit up, "Yes... a dog, that's perfect!" With that she popped away.

Jessica laughed, "Umm some dogs don't do well with us since we are wolves. You should've told her to get a turtle or a fish." I laughed, "We aren't water fairies!" Shana looked really confused, "Why would that matter?" I thought they would understand. We liked animals that matched with the element of our fairy side. I shrugged, "Water fairies love animals in the water. Fire fairies are drawn towards lizards and snake like creatures. Sky fairies like anything that can fly. Earth fairies feel a pull towards most animals, Bexley loves dogs though. I know Liam wouldn't let anything happen to her dog this time. So, it's safe for her to have one." Cassandra frowned, "This time?" I looked away. I remembered the day Fabian killed Bexley's dog. She was inconsolable. Her father was irate. I said quietly,

"Fabian killed her last dog." My mom's hands clenched, but she said nothing. Everyone continued working.

Someone knocked on the door. I laughed, "Oh lord! Mrs. Blanch is probably going to pound the door down if I don't get out there and eat." I opened the door quickly, stunned to see Eric instead of Mrs. Blanch. He was holding a picnic basket and a blanket and looked nervous. He smiled tentatively at me, "I'm taking you out for lunch. Would you care to pop us to the spot we were at on the lake? The one we went to after your Luna ceremony." I smiled. This was sweet of him to do. I grabbed his hand and popped us to the spot he'd asked me to.

I turned to face him, "This is a nice surprise." He grimaced, "It wouldn't have been a surprise if you hadn't blocked our link." I stuck out my tongue at him, "Then don't be a turd, and I won't block it." He looked guilty so I added, "I also may not have realized I still had it blocked. You could knock on our connection, you know." Eric turned to me in surprise. He seemed to be contemplating my words.

He shook out the blanket and laid it down on the ground. He began to take the food out of the basket. Once he finished, he looked up asking, "Knock on our connection?" I smiled, "Give it a tug." He still looked confused, so I decided to show him. I closed my eyes, "Like this." I felt through the strands of my mind. It was easy to do, as the truth seeker, I filtered through people's minds often. I found my link with Eric and pulled. I opened my eyes. He was staring at me completely stunned. Eventually he asked, "Is that a fairy thing?" I shrugged, "I don't know. It just seems easy to me as the truth seeker. It seemed logical you could just knock, and it works. So..." Eric nodded. He handed me a BLT sandwich.

He then took out two wine glasses and poured me a glass of Rose. I quirked an eyebrow, "Giving alcohol to a minor is frowned upon in this realm, right?" Eric laughed, "Yes, but we are supernatural's, their rules aren't really for us. Plus, you are far more mature than most who can legally drink anyway. I wanted to talk about what you said before you cut off our link. I should've told you about Vanessa. I was honestly going to tell you everything. I just wanted a normal evening with you. We ate dinner and watched a movie; it was really peaceful, and I didn't want to ruin that. We haven't gotten to have those types of normal moments. Then when I woke up the next morning you were exhausted from healing the future Beta, I wanted you to get some sleep. It wasn't a perfect decision making by any means. I am sorry you didn't know or have all the facts. I should've made time to tell you. I'll do better next time."

I sighed and took his hand in mine. I waited until he looked in my eyes to say, "Eric, I'm not upset you didn't tell me. I understand that there will be things you know that I don't. It's your call if you tell me or not. I'm used to that with my family, and I understand the chain of command. That goes both ways with you and me. Obviously, never on pack issues because you're the Alpha but personal

decisions sure. I was only upset you acted like I had to earn everyone's trust back. That hardly seems fair when everyone chose not to give me all the information. Had I known about Vanessa being around, I would've made other choices. I would have gone to the gym with Miley instead. I would've run some laps or gone swimming. Hell, I might have made a girl's day of it. Miley and I could've watched a movie. I don't know exactly what I would have done however to be condemned for something when I wasn't given all the information isn't fucking fair."

Eric thought about what I'd said and nodded, "Logically Haley, I do understand what you're saying; however, my heart can't go through that again." He rubbed his thumb across my cheek, "My Angel, I need you with me. I am fine with Mrs. Blanch making sure that you eat however she chooses to do that." I huffed, "I don't mind if she hovers about eating... with my past, it's probably for the best because I forget sometimes. No matter how long my life has been different it's not a habit. I just don't want our pack members threatened with lack of sweets for weeks on end. I don't like being touched and I don't need to be followed around into the kitchen. I am not a liar. I can't even lie. If I say I'm going to the kitchen, I'm going to the fucking kitchen. I don't need to be followed around."

Eric considered that, "Alright, that makes sense, I will speak to Mrs. Blanch. Solely about the threatening of pack members. What do you mean by your past?" I smiled taking the win. I said, "Good, I talked to her too." I sighed when he waited for me to continue. I bit my lip, "Sometimes I didn't get fed in Faerie. I was definitely not fed regularly. I didn't even know there were three meals you should eat every damn day until I went to the Hackura realm. If Fabian saw me eating what he considered too much at a meal he would punish me. So, because of that, I didn't tend to eat much. I've been much better about it since Marcus brought me to the Hackura realm. Old habits though you know?" Eric's eyes hardened but he nodded.

We finished our food in a comfortable silence. When Eric poured me more wine I decided to tease him, "Are you trying to get me tipsy, Alpha?" Eric smirked, "No I am not." I smiled broadly, "Hmmm, I'm not sure if that was truthful. Either way I feel buzzed." I leaned in and kissed him softly on the mouth. His arms wrapped around me and moved me to straddle his lap. We lazily made out; our hands were lightly pawing each other until Eric broke our kiss. He looked me in the eyes and tucked my hair behind my ear. He whispered, "You are so beautiful." I giggled and conjured my wine glass to me. I took a sip, then leaned forward and nipped his ear whispering, "You are very handsome. We will have really cute kids."

Eric raised an eyebrow, "That we will." I laughed, "Which side I take after during pregnancy is the question. Fairy or Hackura. Bex isn't pregnant yet. I'm not sure if I will only be able to pregnant during my concupiscence like her. The Hackura can get pregnant whenever, they ovulate like humans. I'm just really not sure which

way I'll go." Eric looked deeply into my eyes, "I can't wait to see you pregnant with my pup." I blushed and he laughed, "Well my Angel, you best pop us back so we can both get back to work." I sighed and popped us back to the kitchen. He gave me a quick kiss, and we went our separate ways.

The next few days passed in a blur. I felt like I barely I saw Eric. He was constantly working, and my schedule wasn't any less hectic. The girls had me working on wedding plans. I really missed him. I tried to wait up for him but ended up falling asleep before he came to bed. I smiled when I woke up and reached my hand over to his side of the bed. It was Saturday. Today was the day we were getting married.

I frowned when I felt nothing but cold on his side of the bed. I sat up stunned and a little hurt. He never came to bed. I conjured my phone to check if there was a text. It was five thirty in the morning. I had no text, and it was well before his run with his brothers. He should still be here. I linked him in a panic, "ERIC?" Groggily he replied, "Haley? What's wrong?" My relief that he was ok lasted for a moment before confusion and hurt filled me.

I asked, "Where are you? Why didn't you come to bed last night?" Eric immediately answered, "Angel, nothing is wrong, it's our wedding day. I was on my way up to our room when the girls cornered me. They said it was bad luck

to see the bride on the wedding day. I'm sorry, I didn't think it would upset you." I pouted, "I've barely gotten to see you these last few days. I really wanted to wake up together. Now, because of some silly fucking superstition I can't have sex this morning? UGH." Eric's barking laughter filled our link, "Oh don't worry, little mate. We will be having lots of sex later this evening. We are going to your island remember?" I sighed. I guess I could do other things, but I wasn't happy about it. I answered him, "FINE. I'll just go get my IUD out early. Just so you know this has thrown off my whole damn plans for the day." Eric laughed again, "I love you so much, my angel."

I stuck out my tongue as if he could see me. I realized I was being silly then told him, "I love you too. Even though some silly superstition is keeping you from me." Eric groaned, "Talk to the girls. It definitely wasn't my idea." I rolled my eyes, "Oh, they WILL be hearing from me. You're not off the hook though, Mr. Big Bad Alpha who can't tell his sisters in law and their crazy superstitious asses to shove it. The fairies and Hackura have wedding traditions too, you know?"

Eric was trying to hide his amusement but failing. His mirth came through in his next statement, "Oh yeah? What would those be?" I sighed, "Well the fairy ones, I don't really want to discuss those, but the Hackura weddings are basically a day filled with fucking. I suppose I'll have to make do without you. I can start my day off with a bang all on my own." Eric growled, "Little mate..." I smiled. This could

be fun. I laughed, "I have needs Alpha. If your silly superstition is going to keep you from helping me... well, I have hands." I left our link open so he could hear me. I slowly slid my hand in between my legs. I moaned and ran my other hand across my breasts, pinching my nipples.

Eric growled. I continued slowly building my climax on my own. Eric begged me to tell him what I was doing, but I refused to give in since he wasn't here because of a superstition. When I reached my climax, I sighed in satisfaction. I sat up and linked Eric, "Well, not what I was hoping for, but satisfying. I'm off to see Catherine. I'll see you later I guess." Eric growled, "I have a tent in my pants." I smirked, "Aww sad. Too bad you let your sisters in law and mom tell you what to do. I would've been more than happy to help you with that. I would suck you so deep. I'd cup your balls and fuck you hard after I'd swallowed you first." Eric groaned. I smiled and popped to the hospital.

Catherine was startled by my appearance. She shook herself, "Good morning, Luna." She paused and studied me closely. She raised an eyebrow, "You look... different." I frowned, "What do you mean?" Catherine shrugged, "It's probably nothing. I'll run some tests just to be sure though." My frown deepened but got ready for my IUD removal. Catherine came in and handed me a specimen container. She nodded towards it, "Go to the bathroom, and pee in this cup." She pointed at the bathroom and left the room without further explanation. I went into the bathroom and peed into the cup. I popped back and sat on the table waiting for her to come back. A woman in a lab coat came in to collect the sample and left. A few moments later Catherine came in frowning.

She announced, "Well, the test says you're not pregnant. You just look so different. I could've sworn..." I laughed, "I looked in the mirror in your bathroom, Catherine. I would've seen the glow." Catherine nodded, "You see your own glow?" I shrugged. Technically I was guessing. I just felt I would've known. Catherine contemplated then said, "We will do an ultrasound to check the position of the IUD." Once everything was said and done Catherine was still puzzled as to how I looked different. It was clear that I wasn't pregnant. Once she removed my IUD, I got up to go.

I conjured a mirror then shrugged, "I don't see a difference, but thanks for getting that removed." I used my healing powers so there would be no bleeding. That wouldn't make for a fun wedding night. I popped back to my room. The appointment took longer than I was thinking since Catherine was determined to prove I was pregnant. We had clearly and decidedly proven I was not. It was now almost nine. I was about to jump in the shower when I felt an intense need for Eric. I was confused by it, but we hadn't been seeing much of each other lately. My body missed his body, and I missed him.

I could find a loophole. Fairies loved our loopholes. Smirking I linked Eric, "So, this rule... it's just that you cannot see me, correct? That's the extent of this ridiculous superstition?" Eric replied, "Yes, that's all I was told. Why?" My smile broadened. I asked, "Are you alone?" Eric replied, "Yes, I'm in the library. Again, why?" I snapped a blindfold on him. He linked, "What the hell?" I popped to him.

I bit his ear and he growled. I was vibrating with need. My voice was shaking as I said, "I need you, Eric. I can't wait all day. I missed your arms holding me last night. I really missed you this morning." I snapped his clothes off. Eric gripped my waist pulling me to him. His hands trailed my body. He asked, "Are you already naked, little mate?" I bit my lip. I told him, "I didn't want there to be time for someone to come in and tell us blindfolded sex isn't allowed either." Eric chuckled.

He reversed our positions. I whimpered feeling him between my legs. I begged him, "Please Eric, I need you... now... it's been too long. I need to feel you." I barely registered the fact that he looked surprised. He immediately entered me. Everything clicked into place, and I felt whole. We fucked against the wall. My orgasm only made me need him more. I threw him onto the ground and quickly got on top of him. I began riding him. I set the pace, hard and fast. I reached behind my back and started to play with his balls as I rode him. Eric growled, "SHIT HALEY... FUCK!" Eric came and I followed shortly after. I yanked him to a sitting position. I turned around so my ass was facing him. I began to ride him that way. I felt something deep within me pushing me to keep going. I couldn't stop for three more rounds. When I finally calmed down, we fell onto each other panting.

Eric chuckled, "Well, that's a fabulous tradition. This is, absolutely, how all wedding days should start. I'm a fan. In fact, this is the best tradition of all time." I smiled, "Yes, it really is." A knock halted our conversation.

Jackson's voice came through the door, "Uh Eric? No idea what's going on in there but it's your wedding day. We have shit to do." Eric frowned yelling, "Just a minute, Jackson." He turned to me, "How is it no one is looking for you, little mate?" I laughed then shrugged, "I can pop my makeup and hair done. They are probably letting me sleep in or something." I kissed him one more time. I pulled back, "See you at the chapel. I'll be the one in a whitish dress with blush undertones." Eric smiled, "I'll be the one in the suit." I laughed and popped back to our room to take a shower.

I had no idea what the need was that hit me out of nowhere, but it was fun. It was probably just my Hackura side wanting to be with my mate on my wedding day. At least now I felt like I could get ready for our wedding. I smiled. I couldn't believe it was my wedding day. I had a mate who loved me, and we were getting married. I couldn't stop smiling if I tried. This was going to be the best day. I was going to become Mrs. Conners.

Intoxicating

Eric woke from his dream with the Moon Goddess. I gave Haley a quick kiss on the forehead, careful not to wake her up as I got out of bed. I threw on some shorts and ran outside to meet my brothers for our run. I couldn't help but smile as I joined them. Jackson quickly glanced at me with an eyebrow raised asking, "What is that face?" I smiled, "Oh, nothing much. I just had a conversation with the Moon Goddess. I learned we are getting nieces." Darrin and Harold paled. I smirked continuing, "Beautiful nieces. She specifically called them beautiful." Jackson grinned broadly. After several moments, Darrin gathered himself, "I'm having twin girls? Beautiful twin girls?" I grinned, "Not just you. Harold too." Harold frowned, "We need a moat built, Eric." I smiled, "Somehow I knew this would be so fun to tell you." Darrin and Harold grumbled. Jackson chuckled, "FINALLY, someone will understand my pain."

We all shifted and took off running. Once we'd finished our run for the day, we headed to the war room. I briefly stopped when Haley linked me about Mrs. Blanch. I didn't see the problem, she clearly needed to eat regular meals. When she mentioned she didn't have all the facts prior to deciding to go for a run I winced. She pointed out how she would've made other choices with all the information. Guilt came at me hard and fast. She was right, I had forgotten to tell her. I instantly tried to link her back, but our connection was blocked. I growled my annoyance. I didn't have time to go to her now right now and explain.

Jackson looked at me questioningly. I sighed, "Haley linked me about Mrs. Blanch threatening a kid to make sure Haley had breakfast. After a few exchanges, I told her that she needed to earn our trust back by eating." Darrin burst into laughter, "Please... tell me you did not say that big brother." I grimaced, confirming I had. Darrin couldn't stop laughing, "OH GOD, YOU DID!" Jackson was managing not to laugh, but just barely. He said, "Well, I'm guessing she's mad." I nodded, "Yes, she pointed out she didn't know Vanessa would be on the property. She said that had she had all the facts, she would've made other choices." Harold nodded, "You'll have to do something to get out of the doghouse." I rolled my eyes, "I'm not in the doghouse." Jackson laughed, "You are, and you know it."

They were right. I did know. I frowned, "She blocked out our link." Darrin smiled broadly, "Well, don't worry big bro. We've all been in the doghouse before, we can help. This one isn't so bad. My advice, set up a date for her." I tapped my fingers on the desk, "I don't want her to be mad at me until I can take her on a date. We are so busy right now leaving here isn't an option. What if I take time out and take her on a picnic for lunch?"

Harold's eyebrows raised asking, "You're going to take a long lunch when we have the summit coming up?" I pinned him with a glare, "I was without her for too long already when she removed that charm. I've missed her. Honestly, you guys are lucky I'm physically present right now. Thor and everything in me wants to be with her, making sure she's ok. The Moon Goddess told me she will be taken from me, and there isn't a damn thing I can do about it. It's all I can do not to constantly be by her side. I feel like a failure that I cannot even protect my own mate. I cannot keep her with me. So yes, I am taking a long lunch with my mate before she's taken from me, probably by the fucking vampires! I've worked so hard to be feared in this area and country. Now, somehow being the most feared Alpha in the country cannot prevent my mate being taken from me."

Jackson grabbed my shoulder. I shrugged him off. I was too upset. I didn't understand this. I slammed my hands on the table. "How can I not prevent this? How am I not strong enough? How can I fail her? She has been through enough in her life already! Now she will be taken from me. God knows what will be done to her because I cannot protect her." My brothers remained silent.

Eventually, my dad cleared his throat, "Son, there are other factors at play here. You are strong, and you know that. All my boys are strong. No one could've prevented Shana from being kidnapped. You do not consider Darrin weak for that, do you?" I immediately shook my head, "Of course not. He could not prevent a warlock attack." My dad nodded, "Then why are you any different? You think yourself weak for not being able to stop something two Goddesses have been unable to prevent?" I frowned. His words made sense, but I didn't feel better. Darrin cleared his throat, "Dad, with all due respect, you don't understand. No one ever took mom from you."

Darrin turned to me with understanding in his eyes, "Eric, I understand. I struggle, even though logically I know that it wasn't my fault. I feel like a bad mate because she kidnapped. I didn't even get her back. Your mate did. It would've taken planning and time to bring Shana home if Haley hadn't been with us. Then to find the accident was engineered by a warlock, and I had no goddamn clue. It didn't even occur to me that we had been attacked. I let that go unchecked. That aggression against my mate... they hurt her. It wasn't avenged or discovered until your mate used her powers to discover it had happened. The feeling of inadequacy eats me, brother. My wolf was enraged and in agony. It wasn't my fault, and I know that. It just hurts that she was taken. I felt weak afterwards. I was close to begging you to take the deal they offered so they would give her back. The words almost came out of my mouth before I saw the wind blow around Shana. Then I knew Haley was there. Mates are our greatest strength and our softest spot. Dad is right though. Two Goddesses cannot prevent this. It doesn't help matters, but it's true. You expect too much of yourself, brother."

I shook my head, "Do I? I am her mate, her protector, her lover, soon to be husband, and eventual father of her pups. I am supposed to love, cherish, and protect her. I can't even save her more pain. I can't keep those fuckers fangs off her! The Moon Goddess assured me that we will all be fine, but our path to her would be bloody. That is the only thing that makes me feel better."

No one had anything to say after that speech. The air in the room turned somber. I shook myself and got to work. I decided I would pack a picnic for Haley and me. I dismissed everyone for lunch and walked into the kitchen to put together some sandwiches. I selected a bottle of wine for us as well.

Mrs. Blanch raised an eyebrow at me, "You do know how old your fiancée is, right?" I rolled my eyes, "I am very aware of how old she is. It's just wine, and I'll be with her. She wasn't raised in this realm. She might not even know the law about it here. Can you really say she's not mature enough for wine?" Mrs. Blanch smiled. She placed her hand on my cheek, "I cannot say that. She is a unique girl. She's definitely in her own class." I smiled, "That she is." I tried our link again, but it was still blocked. I took a deep breath and walked over to the room they were planning in. I was nervous she'd slam the door in my face as I knocked on the door.

Haley answered the door quickly. She looked surprised to see me. I explained what I wanted to do. She smiled and popped us to the spot I wanted. Maybe she wasn't as upset as I thought. I was blown away by her knocking advice. I didn't even know how that would work. She smiled and I felt a tug in my mind. I wondered if that would just work with us since she was a fairy.

I decided to test it with Jackson while we were eating. I linked him, "Block your link out with me." Jackson linked back, "Ok..." I tried to reach him again. I felt the block up. I focused and tugged on it. Jackson linked me, "What the hell was that?" I laughed, "My mate told me I should've tried knocking on our link. Evidently, it works with everyone. Try it back with me. I'm blocking you out." I blocked him and felt the same tug I'd felt when Haley had done it to me. Both of us were stunned that it worked. While blocked we could feel the tug.

Jackson laughed and linked, "She's just so handy. Knocking. Who would've thought?" I replied, "Obviously none of us. I'm blocking you again not for a test though. I want to just spend time with her uninterrupted. Knock if you need anything, I guess." Jackson snorted, "I will. I'm going to tell Caleb and our brothers about this. I might have to text your Gamma about it. When does Marshall come back again?" I smiled, "Whenever he wants. He's earned the time to look for his mate." Jackson agreed, "Yes, he has. Enjoy your lunch." I blocked everyone on my link after that to focus on Haley.

We talked about a lot of things. It was truly a fun afternoon with my mate. Lust started to rise within both of us. We started making out. She straddled me for better access. I wanted to rip her clothes off. I wanted to fuck her until she couldn't remember anything but my name. At the same time, I also just wanted to stay just like this. With her straddling me. I just wanted to enjoy this innocent moment between us. I decided to leave the moment as it was. A sweet, with heavy petting, make out session.

. I was going to store up moments in my mind to recall when she wasn't with me. I had to shove that thought away because it hurt too damn much. Haley started talking about kids. I desperately wanted to lock her away and keep her safe. I wanted kids with her. I couldn't wait to see her pregnant with our pup. At the same time, I wanted this whole her being taken from me out of the way before we had one. How could I explain to a child that their mother was taken from us? That I'd bring her home eventually? How could I be away from our pup? At the same time, I couldn't leave my Angel a hostage to some fucking vampire. My thoughts were swirling around in my head. There were no clear answers to any of my questions. Eventually I looked at my watch, and realized I needed to get back to work. Haley popped us back to the kitchen. I kissed her quickly before we went our separate ways.

I walked back into my war room. I needed a plan. That's what needed to happen. That's where I excelled. Planning. When I walked into the room everyone looked up at me. They could sense my urgency. I cleared my throat, "We need to get someone on finding where all the vampire kings' properties are. I want to know which property he's keeping Haley at. I want to know what buildings he cares about and where his most valued people are positioned. You get the point I'm making. I want all the details on everything. I want schematics, price points, body counts, everything."

Jackson nodded asking, "What's all this for?" I grimaced, "If I cannot keep her with me, then I will hit everything he owns. Everything he loves. I'm taking it from him until I have her back. He will know my pain before he is finally dead." Everyone nodded and we all got to work. I got so wrapped up in it all that the days flew by. We were making such good progress; we'd gotten almost all the details I wanted. We were planning likely targets for us to strike at first. The ones that would hurt the most. We were planning to take out his inner circle, and how we would take them out.

My strategy sessions were taking up so much time throughout the week that I barely saw Haley. She was doing last minute wedding details with the girls. I was coming up to bed after her and I was getting up before her. My brothers, Caleb, my dad, and I were making strides though. Liam was even offering valuable input. I was confident Haley would not be gone from me too long if I had anything to say about it. Before I knew it, it was already Friday night. I promised myself I would

wake up with Haley in the morning. We could spend some time together before she had to start getting ready for the wedding. I would make this up to her.

I was heading towards the stairs to our room when Shana, Molly, Jessica, and my mother blocked my path. My mother raised an eyebrow, "Where do you THINK you are going, Eric?" I stared at them as if they had lost their minds. I looked at my brothers who were pointedly not looking at me. I frowned "My room, obviously. I'm tired. I'm going to bed." Molly shook her head, "Nope, it's bad luck to see the bride before the wedding." Bjourn and Marcus burst into laughter. I stared at the group of women in front of me. I was looking at their faces for any sign they were joking. I saw none. I sighed, "You have got to be joking." Shana shook her head, "No, we aren't. We had Mrs. Blanch prepare the guest chamber."

I turned to the Haley's brothers. I was beyond annoyed they were still laughing. I asked, "What is so funny?" Bjourn answered first, "Oh just that's a silly tradition in this realm. All grooms in our realm sleep with their bride to be before the wedding. In fact, the entire day is a giant fuck fest. It's full of orgies from the time the soon to be wedded couple wakes up until they go to sleep."

I grinned and turned back to the girls. I shrugged, "Obviously, my mate has traditions she adheres to ladies. Who am I to deny her those traditions?" I absolutely did not want to. I wanted to fuck her so bad I could taste it. My mother swatted me, "Don't you even. We are not in their realm we are in ours. Now, march yourself up those other stairs, and go to the guest chambers. You go straight to bed." I growled at them, but they didn't back down. I sighed and went in the opposite direction of Haley. I found the first guest chamber I could, and promptly passed out on the bed.

I woke up to Haley's frantic voice in my head. I quickly told her I was fine. I cursed all the women in my family when I heard the hurt in her voice. She was upset that I hadn't spent the night with her. I rushed to explain. Haley was not happy. Then her voice took a mischievous edge. She started saying she would have to take care of her needs on her own. That was my limit.

I start cursing each one of my brother's mates in our links. I told them, "I WILL get each and every fucking one of you for this. There will be HELL to pay!" They were all pissed I woke them up. I could care less. No amount of begging could get Haley to tell me what she was doing. I cursed my sisters in law and mother all over again.

I got up grumbling. I went outside. I was going to run off this energy. My brothers were waiting. They wisely said nothing about their mates being pissed off that I'd woken them up. When we got back, I walked inside without saying a word to them. I showered quickly then ignored them again. I went to the library just to get some space for myself. I calmed down after a few moments alone. I couldn't stop

my smile. I was actually getting married today. To my mate. I chuckled. I truly thought this day would never happen for me.

I was surprised when Haley linked me. I frowned. Her voice sounded desperate. What were the girls making her do? She asked me about the rules of this superstition about seeing her. After I explained what I knew a blindfold suddenly appeared over my eyes. Before I could ask her, what was going on, I heard a pop. I couldn't stop my grin. I could smell my mate's delicious scent. She smelled intoxicating, more so than usual. It was like she amplified her delicious scent tenfold. She nipped my ear saying she needed me. She was not alone in that need; I needed her more than anything. She snapped my clothes off. I wanted to play with her a little bit before we had sex. I was going to take my time. This was the longest we'd gone without sex since we'd met. I did not care for it one bit, even though I had no one to blame but myself.

I was beyond stunned at her urgency. The need in her voice as she said it had been too long and she needed me. It wasn't just her words or her need that had me worried. It was the desperation in her voice. I decided I would think about that later. Right now... I wanted my mate, and she needed me. I quickly entered her. I couldn't stop my groan. Entering her felt like coming home. I was surprised when she took over, she fucked me like a wild animal. I was definitely here for that. The positions she put us into, and her need, it was like she couldn't get enough of us, of me.

She finally calmed down after a few hours. I had no idea how she was going to do when we were apart. This had only been a few days. Clearly one of her supernatural sides couldn't handle even that it. I started to worry about our upcoming separation on a level I hadn't yet. That desperation in her voice when she came to me was playing on a loop in my head. Fear crept in. Would it hurt her to not have sex with me after a certain amount of time? It hit me like a lightning bolt what the problem could be. What if it was her sharing her fairy light with me? Neither of us knew anything about what sharing her fairy light meant. I cursed the fairies for always telling her she wouldn't get a mate. Maybe if they hadn't been such assholes, she would've looked up information about that. Then we could know how she would handle being without me. What if it hurts her when we don't have sex frequently?

Jackson stopped my train of thought. Haley popped away. I was putting my pants back on when Jackson came in. He gave me a look as he smelled the room. He cursed, "FUCK man! You couldn't keep your dick in your pants for a few more hours?! Molly is being so crazy about you not seeing Haley prior to the wedding. Can you not care about me, brother? Or Darrin or Harold?"

As he said their names they walked into the library. They looked confused, then they each took a deep breath. Darrin hissed, "Oh fuck you, big brother." I growled,

"First of all you assholes, I didn't see her." I held up the blindfold. Then continued, "Second, at this point I honestly don't give a fuck about their stupid superstition. Said superstition gave me the worst blue balls I have ever experienced in my entire life this morning. Third, my mate was incredibly hurt this morning when I told her why I never came to bed. She thought I was tired of her and didn't want to spend the night with her before our wedding. She doesn't know of this realms superstition your mates were going on about. Besides, I'm an Alpha. Your mates don't get to tell me what to do."

They all nodded their heads. I could see they felt a little guilty, but it wasn't their fault. They had nothing to do with it. I sighed, "I'm worried about her. I need you all to talk to Bexley after the wedding. Haley is taking us to her island afterwards, wherever that is. Not important. I need you to ask Bexley about Haley's behavior. Just now she was desperate for me."

Harold cut me off, "Oh, DO shut up big brother." I growled at him, "I will put you in your place Harold if you so much as make one more remark." Jackson grabbed Harold's arm in warning, narrowing his eyes at him. When Harold rolled his eyes, Jackson turned to me. He asked, "What about her being desperate to be with you concerns you, brother?" I sighed and ran my hand through my hair.

I told them, "I'm worried that since she shared her fairy light with me it might actually hurt her for us not to have sex every so often. Haley doesn't know anything about sharing her light, she didn't even mean to do it. It was an instinct. Her light reached out wanting to be joined with me. I'm worried because she... What if this hurts her when she is taken from me? Actually, hurt her I mean." Jackson sighed. After a few moments Harold spoke, "I'm sorry brother. I should've known you weren't bragging; we will speak to Bexley. But let's not worry about that today. Let's get you ready for your wedding. We brought a masseur in to give a massage."

I was lost in my thoughts. It was easier said than done to not worry about Haley. I let my brothers lead me to the guest chamber I'd stayed in. The masseur was waiting for us. Jackson smirked, "We thought it best you have a male masseuse today." My brothers thought it was hilarious, but I was grateful. I wouldn't feel comfortable with another woman's hands on me ever again. Especially today.

My brother's left, and I let myself relax. It was a great massage. My brothers entered the room momentarily when it was over before leaving quickly. Evidently, something came up that I wasn't allowed to deal with because it was my wedding day. I really wanted to see where these arbitrary rules about the day of your wedding were written down.

I laid down on the bed and closed my eyes. Suddenly Haley's voice came through our link, "Eric? Are you alone?" I chuckled. Maybe someone was ready for

another round. I answered her, "Yes, my angel." A blindfold appeared on me. I loved Haley's traditions far more than this realm. I heard a pop. Her smell hit me again like a freight train. I smiled and told her, "You are giving me problems in my pants area today, Angel. You smell incredibly intoxicating." I stood and followed her scent. I trapped her against the wall. I started placing kisses on her neck. She moaned. The smell of her arousal was so intense I nearly came at the noises she was making. She whispered seductively in my ear, "Well, we can't have that, can we? That doesn't seem like a nice thing to do to the groom." She bit my neck. I growled. She begged me, "Fuck me like you mean it, Alpha."

She snapped then popped. I was naked and felt the bed beneath us. I had to laugh because I was on top of her. I smiled, "You are the bride. I'm told everyone must give the bride what she wants." I slid down her body and settled between her thighs. I attacked her clit with my mouth. She started to scream. That wouldn't do. I didn't need anyone bursting into the room. I stopped, "Ah, ah, ah, my angel. You must be quieter. We can't have my brothers, or more likely their mates, coming in here. They would try to stop us, and I don't think you want that." She shook her head, "No... I'd throw them the fuck out. I need you, Eric. Please!"

I got back to work with my tongue. I looked up when I realized her moans were muffled. I couldn't stop my chuckle as I realized she'd put a pillow over her head to cover her mouth. She came quite easily, screaming my name. I was addicted to her taste, so I kept going. I was stunned that she came three times within five minutes. She grabbed my arm and yanked me back up her body. Her eyes were desperate, "Please Eric. I need you inside me." I was again surprised by the need in her voice. I entered her quickly, pounding into her over and over. She screamed my name, "ERIC!" Her smell began to drive me wild; it was growing more intense instead of going back to normal as it had in the library.

I flipped her over onto all fours and pounded into her like the Alpha that I am. She couldn't get enough no matter what I did. She begged me to go harder and faster. She told me she needed more of me. I had no idea what had gotten into her today. I wasn't about to complain about it though, I'd worry later. I gave her everything she wanted. Finally, after six rounds of hard and rough sex her smell had gone back to normal. I was convinced my brothers would have to text me about Bexley's answer on fairies sharing their light. Could I have done this to her? Did I neglect her too much these past few days? Did I inadvertently hurt her fairy side? What were we going to do if she couldn't handle being separated from me in a physical and emotional sense? Moon Goddess, WHY? Why did this have to happen to us?

Haley's voice interrupted my thoughts, "Well now, my big bad Alpha. That's exactly what I needed." She kissed me on the lips. For the first time since she popped in, I wondered how no one knew she was missing. I asked, "Haley, how are you here? I'm stunned that Molly, Jessica, Shana, and my mother aren't watching you like a hawk. They are weird about their superstitions."

I didn't have to see her to feel her mood change on a dime. Her voice sounded so small as she said, "Well... I... they were trying to be nice... And they got me a masseuse." I was confused. I nodded, "My brothers got me a masseuse as well. A male one. Yours better have been a female." Haley went silent. She said nothing so finally I spoke, "Haley, what's the matter?" I inhaled deeply. I was completely stunned that I could smell her tears. She was crying? What they hell did they do? If the masseuse said something to upset her, they would not leave this house alive.

I asked, "Angel, what's wrong?" Haley cried, "I'm just not normal, Eric. I'm broken! They did a nice thing and got me a massage the day of my wedding. I couldn't even enjoy it because I panicked about being touched. I popped Miley in after they left the room. She's the one getting the massage because I can't stand people I don't know touching me. It wasn't a girl. That might have been tolerable, probably not though. I don't know her. I just... I wish I was normal, but I'm not. It was so nice of them to do that for me. I'm just so fucking messed up that I can't enjoy things like that." Fury filled me like I'd never felt before. She was not broken. She was prefect. Today of all days was the LAST day she should've felt like this.

I ripped the blindfold off. I wiped her tears away looking into her perfect green eyes. I pulled her to me. "Angel, you have perfectly logical reason to not want someone to touch you. They were just trying to be nice, but this isn't your fault." She kept on crying. She looked away from me. I didn't have to feel her to know that she didn't believe me. I knew the bond she shared with her family. We were probably seconds away from portals opening all over.

I tilted her chin back to me, "Look at me Angel, please." Haley wiped her tears away, then looked into my eyes. I let her see the sincerity in my own eyes when I said, "Nothing is wrong with you. It was kind of you to not want to hurt their feelings by explaining why you didn't want a massage. You did nothing wrong. You are kind to a fault. Please do not cry, not today. Today is about us. In a little while, I will see you in a beautiful dress. We will say I do, and you will be legally mine. As I will be yours."

She smiled softly and nodded. I kissed her deeply. I pushed her knees apart and flipped her on top of me. I lowered her onto my dick which was surprisingly still hard and ready to go. She did things to me. We kept a slower pace this time. We looked deeply into each other's eyes as we made love.

When we finished, we laid there holding onto each other. Haley looked into my eyes. She frowned, "Didn't you break their rule about not seeing me?" I snorted, "Fuck their rules. They got you a male masseuse on our wedding day." Haley laughed. I was so happy her mood had turned back to a happy one. She deserved nothing less today. She hugged me tighter to her. We laid like that until her phone started to ring.

I almost laughed, "You popped with your phone?" Haley nodded, "Miley had to tell me when to come back. She promised to tell me when the massage was over." I looked over at the clock. My brothers' mates and my mother were in for it. I couldn't stop my growl. Haley looked into my eyes surprised. I hissed, "They got you a three hour massage WITH A MAN?! ON our wedding day?!" Haley giggled, "I guess?" She looked at her phone then confirmed, "Yup, Miley said he just finished. I need to go shower and snap her hair and makeup done. She missed her window to get ready since she did this for me. Then I'll have to do my own. I'll see you again shortly at the altar, Thor." I laughed, "Are you sure it won't be sooner for more of this?" I pointed to my body. She laughed and slapped my chest, pouting, "It's not my fault you're so damn sexy!" We both laughed.

She turned serious, "Honestly, I can't tell you I won't be back sooner Eric. My need for you has hit me really hard a few times today. What can I say? We were both busy for a few days. My body clearly had enough. Today it's just like 'bitch, you go get us some right now!'" She laughed at her own analogy. I silently wondered if that's exactly what was happening. She kissed me one last time then popped away.

I got out of bed and pulled on my pants when my brothers came into the room. I raised an eyebrow. They didn't even knock. They just entered the room. All of them frowned and took a deep breath. Harold groaned, "Oh for crying out loud! Come on man!"

Jackson looked to me. He had a concerned look on his face. He frowned, "I think you are right brother. Haley's smell is very intense. Almost chokingly so. Fairies always smell good, but this... was it the same as last time?" I shook my head, "No, this time was more intense. She was even more desperate for me. On an entirely separate note, get your fucking mates over here. Now."

Darrin shook his head pleading, "Jump in the shower really quick, Eric. You can meet us in the war room. We will get them there." Jackson looked at me still frowning, "Why do you want to see them? A shower won't get her scent off you. It's too intense. They will know you've seen her." I growled, "I could give a fuck less if they know I saw her. They got my mate a male masseuse... for THREE FUCKING HOURS." All three of my brothers grimaced. They nodded and they then left the room.

I quickly took another shower. I rinsed off then stepped out. I dried myself off and dressed in my grey tux that was hanging in the closet. I chuckled at my pink tie as I tied it around my neck. My mate was the only woman who could get me to wear pink. Thinking of my mate's sweet disposition fired my anger again. I stalked downstairs and slammed the door of the war room shut after I entered.

My mother, Shana, Jessica, and Molly jumped at the sound. They each turned to look at me, astonished. My mother glared at me, "What could you possibly be this upset about? I mean really Eric. Today of all days? You're finally marrying your mate. The girl you've wanted to marry for two years. What now? Did you change your mind?

I glared right back at her, "No, I'd never change my mind about her. I love her. I am BEYOND pissed that you all got my mate a male masseuse. That's just ONE of the things I'm mad about. The other could be that you didn't even pause to consider that someone who had been abused wouldn't like a massage. Particularly by a man, but possibly by anyone at all. WHAT THE FUCK WERE YOU THINKING?!" All the women paled.

My mother eventually spoke, "Why didn't she say anything? Poor thing. She probably didn't relax at all." I growled, "She didn't get the massage. She popped Miley in for it because she didn't want to hurt your feelings. So, prepare to deal with Jim about the male masseuse as well. I'll give him full permission to be pissed the fuck off and as disrespectful as he wants. Haley came to me in tears. To use mom's words... she was in tears today of all days about not being normal!" My mother huffed, "You weren't supposed to see her!"

I glared, angrier than I'd ever been with her. THAT was what she was taking from this? My dad grabbed her shoulders in warning. I spoke in a deadly quiet tone, "She conjured a blindfold on me before she popped in if you must know. I mean obviously that's the important part to focus on. Not to mention that was AFTER she woke me this morning, incredibly upset that I was following YOUR rules on a superstition she has NO IDEA ABOUT. Never mind that she's from two different realms and NEITHER care about the human bullshit to not see the bride before the ceremony. What else could you possibly have taken from what I just said? Not that you made her uncomfortable in OUR room on OUR wedding day. Or that you disrespected us both by getting another man to touch her. Or that you made her feel BROKEN AND NOT NORMAL!"

Molly put up her hands, "No disrespect was intended Eric. We just asked the spa for the best masseuse. He was the one they sent. I'm sorry. We should've run it by the Hackura women." I nodded at her, accepting her apology. My mom didn't say another word. Molly stood, "We need to get back to Haley, and finish getting ready." She began to leave. She stopped when she reached me and squeezed my hand, "We really are sorry, Eric. We didn't think. It won't happen again." I glared at all of them until they left the room.

After my mom shut the door my dad spoke, "Son, you know they didn't mean it in a mean way. Or even a disrespectful way. They'd all rather walk over broken glass than hurt you." I rounded on my dad, "So, if mom came to you sobbing about how something was wrong with her because she couldn't relax while another man

touched her NAKED BODY; then told you that your own family left her with a man to touch her for three hours, you'd be fine with all of it? You wouldn't be mad at all?"

My dad frowned, "No, I would be mad as hell and justifiably so. I'm not saying you're wrong, son. I'm just saying they still didn't mean anything by it." I sat down. I knew that. Finally, I nodded, "I am aware they didn't mean it the way it went down. Had they bothered to say anything to any of you, you would've nixed the male masseuse. Had they mentioned it the Hackura women they would've said she wouldn't like it at all. I am surprised we haven't had her brothers or dad in here yet."

Jackson winced, "Oh... they came by. Haley's feelings bounced back. They were... unhappy to say the least." Harold added, "It wasn't well thought out on our mates' parts or moms. Their hearts were in the right place though." I nodded. I had nothing else nice to say. They didn't think, but at least Molly was apologetic. The rest of my family sat down.

Caleb linked me, "I'm firmly on your side. That's fucked up. I should've known. I just don't tend to get involved with things your mother is in charge of. I'm sorry, Eric. I'll pay more attention next time when Haley is involved." I linked back, "It wasn't your fault, or responsibility. I do the same thing when my mother gets involved with something. I trust her to make the right calls." Caleb nodded.

Jackson stood up smiling. He turned to me and said, "It's time. Let's get to the chapel." I nodded, followed his lead, and stood. Excitement filled me. I was going to see my beautiful Angel in her wedding dress. Our group walked over to the chapel. On my right, I saw the tent for the reception set up, several pack members running in and out.

Caleb linked me, "Liam's mate is VERY particular. She's had them running around making everything perfect. Fairies." I smiled. My jaw dropped when we entered the chapel. I was stunned. It truly was beautiful. I had to get over it quickly. Other Alpha's and my own pack started coming up to me congratulating me on finding my mate. I was relieved when the officiant came to get me. He smiled, "Alpha it's time we take our places."

Everything seemed to move in fast forward. The wedding party came down the aisle and the doors closed. Everyone stood and turned around to see Haley come through the doors. The second the doors opened my eyes found my Angel; I couldn't smile more if I wanted to. Haley looked stunning. Her dress was fitted and then flowed out at the bottom. I understood her earlier comment when she said whitish dress. It was blush.

When she finally made it down the aisle to me, I closed the gap between us. Her dad shook my hand, then he placed her hand in mine. Haley smiled up at me. I couldn't stop himself from kissing her cheek. The officiant cleared his throat. He could fuck off. I would kiss my mate if I wanted. Aiden spoke, "We will begin with the Fae joining ceremony." Haley's eye's never left mine. I truly didn't know how I could be happier.