

Back to Normal

Haley stared at Thor. We talked about things. None of this changed the fact that Eric didn't even ask me what happened. Or that he thought I'd threaten to kill someone for having sex with him in the past. I think I'd made it clear that his past doesn't matter to me. I started crying and cursed my hormones. I just didn't understand why the two most important people to me believed that lying bitch over me. I was beginning to suspect Claudia has cast a spell... or she knew a fairy that had helped her charm the men she was interested in. It seemed like she was enchanting the men she needed to or wanted to. That would explain why Thor didn't like her, but Eric did. Not to mention why Marcus took her side over Torvi and me.

The more I thought about it, the more that actually made sense. If Claudia was using a charm, she couldn't convince Lucas or Eric they were in love with her... but she could entice them to be protective of her. They wouldn't be seeing her flaws when she was near. She had to have an object on her that was causing this. I could work with that. If my fairy side had recovered, I could tell if she had one. I could protect Eric when she was around. There had to be something I could do to uncharm them. It was in the recesses of my brain... I'd read about this... FUCK! Why didn't my brain work?

The other question was, what fairy gave her the enchanted item? She would have to owe them a very large favor. That wasn't going to end well for her, or it already didn't. I couldn't remotely bring myself to care about the consequences for her. I hope whatever the fairy wanted, that it was a really big fucking thing that ruined her whole damn day. I sighed. I'd have to call Aiden and see if he could figure this out. I didn't know if I could remember on my own. Fucking Fabian! Scrambling my head...

Eventually, I made myself voice a deep fear I had. Our children would no doubt be powerful. I just didn't want them to feel ostracized growing up in a pack if it turned out they couldn't shift. Claudia's words about him needing a she wolf by his side kept repeating in my mind. I knew that if Eric disagreed about Claudia coming to our home, I was getting Lisa and Megan to ward her out somehow... or I'd banish her ass from the territory.

Everything in me settled when Eric said I was his choice. It would've hurt me if he chose her. I'd have had to figure out some things. I could never be without him, but I wouldn't spend my life playing second fiddle to any she wolf; especially that bitchy one. I didn't even know how I could do it because my heart hurt at the mere thought of not being with Eric. I couldn't let my children grow up that way though.

Claudia would plot their demise at every fucking turn, and I'd kill her ass before she harmed my children. I also knew Claudia would try to kill me. I would kill her vindictive, petty ass if she so much as attempted to blame Mrs. Blanch since food was Claudia's way to poison people, which she would absolutely do, the snake. Eric would probably believe Claudia if she said she was just trying to give the food a kick by added lemon or some other stupid shit.

We talked about everything that happened downstairs. Happiness flooded into me as I felt his sincerity in our bond. He was telling the truth. He didn't want Claudia. The touching shit stopped though. Eric lost his it over someone grabbing my arm and licking my face! Surely, I was allowed to lose it over all the touching Claudia was doing. Screw everyone if I wasn't, because I was done watching her put her fucking hands on my mate and husband.

My guard thought they were following me but weren't. OH, THAT FUCKING BITCH!! She used a witch, that's the only way that could work. Eric brushed off her involvement. I was right. I could fucking feel it. Eric made promises to do better and I felt some relief. We had the rest of our lives to figure this out. Part of me was being logical that we hadn't known each other that long, and he and Claudia had; Fuck that logic though! I'm his mate and he knows me better than anyone.

I barely kept my cool when we discussed the fucked up situation that was Claudia and Torvi. I wanted to shout, for the love of GOD! I KNEW Claudia tried to kill Torvi. I didn't think she did. Eric explained the elevator conservation. I had to admit, Claudia was a shrewd manipulator. She'd had a lot of damn years to practice. I would never be jealous of some off period fuck of my brother's. Torvi would be the person for me to be jealous of, but I wasn't. I loved that she made my brother happy, and that she loved him in a way I hadn't seen until I went to the Hackura realm. I always had priority over all the off-period flings... with ALL my brothers. The only person that mattered more than me to Marcus was Torvi. That's how it should be, and I've never resented her for it, not one day.

Healing Torvi knocked me out for two days. I could heal food poisoning in ten minutes. You can't burn someone's internal organs by accident. Despite what everyone thought. I knew this wasn't over. Claudia tried to kill women in her way to get what she wanted. She wasn't letting this go. She'd come for me. It burned my very soul because really it was Eric. She wasn't going to give Eric up when he was fucking mine! This situation would come to down to her death or mine, this time. She was sadly mistaken if she thought she could take me. I was trained by my brothers. I had powers and I had fighting skills without my powers. I knew I'd be standing over her dead body one day, and that was fine by me.

Miley pointedly entered telling me to heal myself. Oh my god! I can't believe I've looked like this the whole time. Why didn't Eric say anything? My skin was

fucked up. I quickly healed myself and we joined our group. It made me happy Eric had thought to ask someone to order me food. He was still taking care of me. I was famished, so I devoured it.

Miley, Eric, and I rode the elevator down to find a grim-faced Jackson. Come the fuck on. What now? He announced a meeting with the Harden's was happening. I managed to keep my eyes from turning gold. I was going. If anyone said otherwise, I would be standing over Claudia's dead body before anyone could say 'oh shit.' I didn't mention that part yet though. I would be keeping that fact to myself since no one would believe me even if I told them.

Alpha Harden was not happy about my presence. Well, he could get in fucking line. I wasn't happy his wannabe, murderous, bitchy daughter was here. This family had a death wish. Both Claudia and Alpha Harden's eyes widened when Eric defended me. Whatever enchantment or spell Claudia had; her father knew about it. My eyes narrowed on him. No one was expecting the conversation that was happening. I had a new mantra I kept repeating to myself: You can't kill her petty ass yet. You can't kill her petty ass yet. I nearly jumped out of my seat when Claudia said she'd only offended me to try to protect Eric. Was she fucking serious?! It had NOTHING to do with him.

She and I both knew, Eric needed protection from her, not me. I was over this situation and her bullshit justifications. This bitch wants to play, fine let's fucking play. I'll kick her out of the damn playing field. Allure. That's shit. If a fairy here had been attacked, they'd demand there be a fight for their honor. They didn't know I could fight. They'd love nothing more than to see a wolf get a few swipes in on me.

Alpha Harden decided to explain his fucked up reasoning for wanting Claudia in our home. He thought Claudia was under pressure. Sure... the pressure of having too many plans that fucking fail involving my mate. I felt fury the second Alpha Harden brought up Claudia's inability to conceive. They did NOT seriously want my help! After she almost killed the mother of my nephews and the love of my brother's life?! That was not happening right now. My heartbeat was ringing in my ears. I was about to link Eric that if he wanted to have sex EVER again, he would not say this was a good idea. I didn't have to, though, completely surprised when not only did Eric disagree; He seemed mad it was even suggested. I laid it out in express terms that I would never fucking help her. Especially when the person she wants to have a pup with is my fucking husband! A child would be innocent, but I wasn't dealing with her fucking crazy ass for the rest of our lives.

My gaze narrowed on Asher. My loophole... fairies did love their loopholes. Claudia freaked out when she realized my intent. Did she want a giant sign above her head? It was incredibly telling that she was a fucking liar. When Claudia announced Marcus made me promise not to do that to her and my anger at my

brother grew tenfold. I KNEW she had elicited that promise. Marcus told me it was for him. He and I were going to go a damn round. I sent my anger to Marcus that was directed at him. Which sent all my other bonds spiraling into confusion.

I proceeded to use my power on her brother. He spilled his guts. Not that it was his fault, no one can lie to me if I didn't let them. I smiled triumphantly when he detailed her plan. I almost threw up when he said the plan was to kiss me. Claudia clearly didn't understand how well Eric would've felt my revulsion. Nor did Claudia understand me at fucking all. I would've kicked Asher's ass. Then it's quite possible I would've vomited on him.

I felt intense satisfaction when Asher admitted my guard was fooled as part of their plot. Of course, it involved fucking witches. I made Asher explain everything out for me, including the fact that the end game of this was Claudia being with Eric and not me. I was actually surprised Asher knew her plan when they were dating. Her plan didn't make any fucking sense to me because if she'd used a charm to enchantment him, then she should know it doesn't hold when she's not around. Although, it would be just like a fairy not to explain that. Or she could be using a spell and not know. Witches usually explained things better though. Fuck, it was probably a fairy then. I smiled inwardly knowing Claudia thought she was so damn smart, but she'd been outsmarted by a fairy. If Claudia knew, then she would've stayed around Eric until I entered the picture. Then she'd have tried to kill me or helped the vampire king get me. I wasn't surprised she rejected her mate for mine, she's heartless.

I was a little surprised at how fully Eric lost his mind. He was screaming and yelling. I guess her enchantment couldn't make up for how he felt about me being taken from him. Claudia should count her days and stay the fuck away from Eric. My father had a blind spot towards her too, but my mom didn't. She wouldn't let my dad let her off this time. I knew I could get Torvi on my side. My dad wouldn't say shit if I killed Claudia. She tried to use Marcus. I shook my head at her. She's deluded if she thinks she means anything to him now. She didn't have a fraction of my brother's affect compared to what I had.

They needed to go home and realize how fucking lucky they were to be leaving alive. I didn't know who Claudia's mate was, but I was confident he deserved better than her. Eric grabbed me and practically dragged me out of the room. He crushed my body into his. He was petting my hair telling me he was so sorry. He should be, but he couldn't show weakness here.

I pulled back linking, "Eric, I know you're sorry. Let's just get through the rest of this damn summit. We can talk about this shit show when we get back home... or tonight." He nodded then replied, "So, you'll stay with me tonight then?" I looked at him knowing we both needed that. I answered, "Yes, Eric I'll stay with you. I'm hurt and really fucking upset with you. I want to stay with you though." I wasn't

going to have sex with no matter how much my fairy side pouted. Eric took a deep breath and put his Alpha face back on. He slowly pulled back from me. He took my hand and kissed the top of my head.

We joined the rest of our group who looked relieved to see us together. Jackson or Caleb must have linked them what happened when we joined them because Darrin and Harold growled for apparently no reason. I looked around and saw Jim with Miley. I decided I could link people too. I smirked and linked Jim, "Link Miley and tell her I may need her to perform a cunt punt." Jim snorted and spat out his drink. Everyone looked at him with a question in their eye. He clearly linked Miley because she smiled broadly. She told me, "Anytime bitch. Also, I joined the pack while you were gone so. We can link now." Eric raised an eyebrow, but before he could ask an Alpha and Luna came over to us.

After a while I heard a welcomed voice, "Well hello Lass. I hear trouble follows you here as well." I turned and smiled. I nodded my head to him greeting, "Well hello, Sir Arthur. I seem to attract trouble like a fire fairy to a flame." He laughed, "That you do, lass. I see I'll need to have another conversation about healing your fairy side with your mate. You're still not back to normal." I didn't know how he knew that. I answered, "No, but I am getting a lot fucking better though." He nodded, "You still need to eat more." I smiled at him. Eric joined us and wrapped his arms around my waist. Sir Arthur spoke, "Alpha Eric, it is good to see you again. I can't help but notice the Princess' fairy side isn't fully healed. Did I not make it clear how to fix her?" Eric smiled sadly, "No you were clear, we had something to deal with. That's behind us now."

Sir Arthur looked at me then spoke, "Yes, so I've heard. The entire place heard actually. The she wolf in question was shouting at a harassed security guard as she was carried out. Strange woman this Claudia Harden. She must be quite... enchanting to those that like her." I cut a sharp look at him. He knew. Eric frowned, "Odd word choice, Sir Arthur."

I spoke, "I had the exact same thought." Sir Arthur smiled, "You are very much like your aunt. She was smart as a whip too." My jaw dropped. I asked, "You knew my aunt?" I didn't. She died before I was born Sir Arthur nodded sadly, "I did. We were quite close before she met Bexley's father." I just stared at him. It clicked for me. My aunt was how he knew so much about fairies. She must have loved him a great deal to explain such things to him.

Eric offered, "Aiden seemed to think you were lovers." I turned and gaped at him. What? Why the fuck didn't Aiden tell me that?! Sir Arthur laughed, "Aiden is correct, though you knew that. Faelynn and I were more than lovers though. I cared for her a great deal, and I know she cared for me. She, in my opinion, was steered into wanting a full blooded fairy child. I couldn't bear to share her. I always knew

our time would be limited since most fairies go from one person to another based on their desires. I loved Faelynn though, truly Haley.”

I asked, “How could you be around her? Most vampires would’ve drained her.” Sir Arthur smiled, “I’d like to say it was restraint, but she used a fairy charm. The same charm the fairies did that were present with the vampires at court at Damon’s.” I frowned, “I don’t know how I didn’t notice that they weren’t being fucking attacked.” Sir Arthur smiled at me and offered, “You were confused and preoccupied trying to find a way out. Back to Faelynn, I had bagged blood beside us for when we made love. I did bite her and would always tell her to pop out if she felt she was in danger.” My mind was reeling. I told him honestly, “I’m glad she had happiness with you and Bexley’s dad before... well before.”

Sir Arthur nodded sadly. Eventually he said, “I hear Fabian is no more.” I nodded. Sir Arthur grinned and told me, “Good. I promised your aunt I would never kill him. My children were waiting for me to ask one of them to kill him. They gladly would have. I did kill Faelynn’s mate and her mate’s brother though. I enjoyed ending them for months on end. I had two fairies on tap. For her sake, for what they did to my love, I couldn’t kill them quickly. I made them pay for what they did to her.” I was surprised by that, but I couldn’t help my smile. I said, “Good. You know Bexley is here. She would love to meet you.” Sir Arthur took a deep breath and asked, “Do you really think so?” I nodded, “Of course.”

I spotted her and waved her over. She looked at me like a crazy person but cautiously came over to us. Sir Arthur’s tone shook as he told her, “You look so much like your mother.” Bexley smiled timidly, “You knew my mother? I’ve often wished she’d call me to the Beyond. I don’t know why she hasn’t.” The Beyond was where fairies went when they turned to dust. I was surprised my Aunt hadn’t pulled Bexley either.

Sir Arthur’s voice pulled me out of those thoughts, “Before she met your father, your mother meant a great deal to me.” Bexley nodded, “I wish she was still around. That those who did this to her didn’t go into hiding and still live while she is dust in the ground.” Sir Arthur frowned, “I did not know you thought that. I avenged her. Neither her mate nor his brother lives.” Bexley’s eyes filled with tears and she gave him a quick hug. Something was nagging me about Bexley, but with my fairy side not right I couldn’t figure it out.

Bexley gratefully told him, “Thank you!” Sir Arthur smiled replying “It was the least I could do. You will always have a safe place with me and mine, Bexley.” Liam growled. Sir Arthur added, “With your wolf of course. I will always protect you for your mother’s sake. I loved her.” Bexley nodded, “Thank you. Maybe we could talk on the phone sometime. You could tell me more about her. Some days it’s harder to remember her fully.” Sir Arthur nodded and handed her his phone.

He told her, "I would like that very much." They exchanged numbers. I smiled as Sir Arthur walked away.

I told her, "I think that meant a lot to him, Bex." She nodded with tears in her eyes, "It will be nice to hear about my mother's younger days. I miss her, cousin." I nodded and squeezed her hand. I whispered, "I know you do." She smiled sadly, "She would've kicked Fabian's ass for what he did to you." I gave her a hug.

By the end of the day, I was exhausted when we went back upstairs. Eric gave orders for the morning, and then he led me into our room. As soon as the door shut he apologized again, "Haley, I really am sorry." I nodded, "I know you are. You have to have more faith in me. I may be Hackura but I am also a fucking fairy. I cannot lie, and you know that I would not threaten someone over your damn past with them. I have told you that I accept your past. I'm not going to hold it against you. To be honest, until the other day, I thought you at least had good taste in who you bedded. Claudia's a psychopath Eric." Eric shook his head, "She's... I don't want to talk about her anymore, Haley. We don't agree about her motives or the person she is. She'll leave us alone now."

I sighed, "If wishes and butts were candies and sprites we'd all have a merry earth festival." Eric looked perplexed, "Excuse me?" I rolled my eyes, "You can wish for that all you fucking want Eric, but you are naive if you think she's going to let this go. I know how this ends and on some fucking level... you do too. If you don't want to accept that, that's fine but I know and I'm ready." He frowned, "What do you mean?"

I took a deep breath and explained, "Eric, this will only end when she's dead, or I am. I don't intend to be the one that ends up with a fucking knife in their back. She loves you, as much as she's capable. I believe, not unlike Sir Arthur, think she used a charm to enchant you. It's a fairy thing. She must have a token from a fairy that holds the enchantment. She's not going to let this go, she's a fucking psycho. I'll drop the subject if that's what you want. I will find the damn way to protect you from her enchantment, but from the very depth of my being, if she comes at you or me again; she's dead. I fully believe she will. So, I'm sorry that you will lose someone you once cared about; I'm not at all fucking sorry she will be dead though. She's done enough damage. She should've died when she tried to kill Torvi."

Eric was silent for a long time. Eventually he said, "I don't want her to die, but if it's between you and her... like I said my choice will always be you. What I want is for you to be ok, happy, and healthy. I want our lives together. If you could find it in your heart not to kill her though, I would appreciate that." I looked him in the eye and said, "I won't find it in my heart and you wouldn't if it was anyone else. If she attempts to take you from me ever again, she's dead. If she tries to kill me or harm our children, she's dead."

Eric frowned, "I don't think she would hurt you or our pups." I took a deep breath and told him honestly, "Then you are being very naïve. Don't think I didn't fucking notice that you didn't comment on her trying to take you from me." Eric rubbed his temples. He looked me in the eyes and told me, "No one can take me from you, Haley. You are my Angel. I am yours, always. If you've reached your limit with her that's fine. I've already said I never want to see them again." I nodded, "I know that. I just don't want you to be blindsided."

He studied me for a long time. Eventually he said, "You truly believe this ends in one of you dying, don't you?" I nodded, "I know it does. Like I said I don't intend for it to be me dying, but if she wins Eric... if you have one fucking thing to do with her should I die, I'll haunt you from the beyond." Eric clutched his chest in pain. He whispered brokenly, "Don't... don't talk about you dying like that." I agreed, "Ok."

He pulled me into his arms. We sat like that for a long time. Eric told me, "I need you, Haley." I told him honestly, "You have me. You always have. From the moment we met." He asked, "Where were you last night?" I smiled, "In the room below yours. Miley heard Jim say you always rent the room below you." Eric snorted, "I should've had it checked. I wasn't thinking clearly." I nodded, "Probably not. We needed some fucking space though." Eric frowned, "No, you did. I wanted you back." I shrugged and told him, "You should've thought of that before you yelled at me, and hurled accusations. Then you called my brothers. That really fucking was low."

Eric sighed, "I only called Marcus. I wanted to hear what the deal between you and Claudia was, but you popped away. The situation was explained to Marcus only. Bjourn came into the conversation on Marcus' end. By the way, Bjourn was fully on your side. Don't be too mad at Marcus. This was my fault." I looked at him stating, "You realize Claudia asked Marcus to have me promise not to use my power on her. Which means he fucking told her about my powers. He let her elicit a promise that has let his mate's attempted murderer go free. Even if you don't believe me, had he not done that; we could all know for damn sure what the truth was." Eric considered my words then said, "That's true. Just talk to him. You both love each other." I nodded, "I will talk to him later. When I'm calmer." Eric sighed, "Alright. Let's go to bed."

I was tempted. I sighed, "Right after I take a shower. I feel fucking gross." Eric wiggled his eyebrows, "Can I join?" I closed my eyes and told him, "Not tonight, Eric. I'm still really hurt; I understand you're sorry, but you broke a promise to me. My fairy side isn't healed, and it's very hurt by that. Fairies keep their promises. Plus, I still feel really fucking disgusting from earlier with Asher." Eric gathered me in his arms. He whispered in my ear, "You are not disgusting. You did nothing wrong with Asher. He molested and attacked you. That's on him. I'll just wait for

you out here, but if I think you're rubbing your skin raw; I'll come in after you." I nodded and walked into the bathroom.

Once I had showered. I walked backed out. True to his word, sitting the end of the bed waiting was Eric. I walked into his arms and we fell asleep. When I woke up... my confusion was at all time high. What was I doing in Eric's arms? I searched my brain trying to figure out what happened. We were fighting. Weren't we?

Eric noticed I was being quiet, but he didn't push me. We went downstairs for the summit. We repeated that routine for the rest of the week. My fairy side and hormones were going haywire from not having sex. It just didn't feel right. My memory problems hadn't gone away, and it was annoying as fuck. I couldn't remember the full Claudia situation. I kept thinking Eric had yelled at me the night prior. I was confused every damn morning we woke up together.

Darrin was saving grace, mentioning the fact that Harden's left the conference early after our confrontation. I had to think back to remember our confrontation. My brothers were all texting me on and off along with their mates. I convinced them they didn't need to come. I swore I saw Harper here at one point though.

Finally, the time came to go home. I practically skipped out to the car. Miley laughed and asked me, "Are you ready to go home, bitch?" I laughed, "You know it, bitch." She smiled and slapped my ass before walking to her car. I took a breath and got into our car. Thankfully, it was a much less contentious ride home. Eric held my hand the whole way back. He even kissed my hand when we arrived. I felt much more settled the moment my feet hit the ground in our territory.

Eric walked around to my side of the car. He put his hands on my side and told me, "I've got to catch up with my dad on what's been going on here. Once I'm caught up, I'll come get you, and we can spend some alone time together." I nodded. I wanted that. He kissed me lightly, and we went our separate ways inside. I went to the kitchen and grabbed some snacks before heading to our room. I felt like I could breathe again once I walked into the room. I snapped myself into a bikini and walked onto the back deck. I popped into the hot tub. I sensed another presence. I opened my eyes, not all together surprised at who I saw standing there.

I decided to talk to him, "Hello, Marcus." He sighed, "Hi Hales." I snapped swim trunks on him. He glanced down and smiled. He looked back up at me and admitted, "That's more than I thought I'd get." He stepped into the hot tub. After a moment he said, "You aren't answering my calls." I sighed, "I didn't want to hear you defend that fucking bitch again. I'm sick of how stupid men are about her."

Marcus sighed, "Yes, well you and Torvi aren't speaking to me. I can't stand it. You are the two most important people in my life, next to my children." I sighed, "I don't like not being on good terms with you either. I'm just really fucking tired

of all things Claudia. I feel like things are off with Eric and me. I don't know how to fix it, but I want to. I hate fighting with both of you and feeling like you guys don't believe me. The fact remains though, that you don't." Marcus groaned, "Haley..."

I spoke again, "I know, Marcus. I know that she's the one who had you get me to promise not to use my power on her. You told her about my damn powers." Marcus shook his head, "I didn't." I stared at him demanding, "Explain how the fuck she knows then." Marcus sighed, "You won't get mad at who told her, right?" I shrugged, "That depends." Marcus closed his eyes, "Mom told her. When Claudia said it was an accident; mom said she would have you get the truth out of her. Claudia panicked and said you would make her tell lies. I tried to tell her that's not how it worked, but she was inconsolable until I told her you wouldn't do it."

I rolled my eyes and said, "And that right fucking there doesn't tell you I'm right about her? People who are innocent of attempted murder don't freak out at the thought of telling the truth. Attempted murderers? THEY freak the fuck out. How many people have you interrogated over the years Marcus? That's fucking basic." Marcus rubbed his temples and admitted, "Haley, I know what you're saying makes sense. I really do. It's just like I have this gut reaction to defend her."

I sighed admitting, "I think you're all enchanted by a fairy charm, but Eric doesn't seem to want to hear that either." Marcus grimaced, "As someone who's been dealing with whatever this shit is longer than your mate, I'd be glad if it was the case. In his defense, you know a few years ago we'd have fought about that too. Don't let her win, Haley." I snorted, "I have no intention of letting her fucking win." Marcus frowned, "I'm talking about driving a wedge between you and Eric. You're holding him at arms distance and it's hurting you both."

I closed my eyes and thought about it. Marcus might have a point. I told him, "He hurt me, Marcus." Marcus put a hand on my arm, "I know he did, but you can't hold it against him forever." My eyes filled with tears, "I'm not trying to. I just... I guess a small, but loud, part of me wants to distance myself so it doesn't hurt the next time he does this. Or if Claudia is fucking right and Eric leaves me for a she wolf because I'm not enough for him. What if he needs a wolf by his side? It will kill me, but I want him to be happy." Marcus' eyes blazed gold. Marcus stiffened, "So Miley was telling the truth? Claudia said that to you? About Eric needing a she wolf at his side?" I nodded then continued sharing my secret whispered, "I'm having trouble remembering the sequence of events. Sometimes when I wake up, it feels like I the next fucking day after he accused me of threatening Claudia's bitchy ass."

Marcus pinched the bridge of his nose and said, "No one said you were having problems remembering anything. I'm sorry, Hales. That must have been difficult for you." I didn't want to talk about that. I thought about his previous question then

asked, “So you’re fighting with Miley too? Why wouldn’t you believe her?” Marcus winced, “It really shouldn’t take this many of the important women in my life to realize that I can’t keep fighting for Claudia. You trust your instincts about her. That’s what I’ve always told you to do. I just don’t want this to keep you from Eric. I know your past affects you. I know that came rushing back recently with the vampires and fairies. You aren’t recovered from that trauma. This rocked Torvi’s faith in me when it happened. That was hard for us to get past and she didn’t have a hard start to her life. I’m not saying you don’t have a right to be upset, you do. Don’t let the fear of failure keep you from your life though, Haley.” I said, “I’ll try. No one mentioned my memories because... I... well.... they don’t know. It’s fucking embarrassing, Marcus.”

Marcus said, “You need to tell Eric about your memories. It makes your actions make more sense.” I started to cry, “I don’t want it to tell him. I struggle with being enough for him. I don’t know if he wants me anymore Marcus. I told him I’d kill her if she crossed my path again. I don’t know what hold she has on you all, but I don’t think he’d get over it. It fucking destroys me. It hurt me that he let her blow through our lives and tear at the foundation of our relationship. I don’t want everyone to look at me with pity because of my damn brain. I just want everyone to treat me like normal. I can’t handle the looks the broken version of me got when we first met. I don’t want people to look at me and see the fucking girl who can’t remember what damn day it is.”

Marcus took in my words then spoke, “He did let her blow through your lives, but you’re letting her keep doing it to you. No one thinks you’re broken. Your memory problems are to be expected.” I frowned. Marcus continued, “Eric has apologized. You can’t let this fester and keep you from each other. He chose you Hales. If he hadn’t, we all would’ve kicked his ass. He thinks you’re trying to figure out how to leave him. When really you’re confused about what’s going on.”

I glanced at Marcus,, “I don’t want to leave him. I do need to have a plan for how to work this out for him, me, and our children if he decides I’m not enough. I can’t live without him; I do have to be near him. I can’t imagine being without him, but our children will need him. I just can’t fucking be here and watch him with someone else.”

Marcus held me as I broke down. He rubbed my arms saying, “Eric doesn’t want anyone else. Stop worrying about it. I will always have your back. You don’t need to come up with a backup plan. Our realm is always open and a safe place for you to land. You don’t need that though. You just need to have more than a surface level conversation with him. Tell him your fears and tell him what’s holding you back. Tell him about your memory issues. We all should’ve guessed that. You’re just very good at hiding things, unfortunately. I wish you’d stop that.” I nodded and we sat there for a while.

We both jumped up when Ethan stormed into the room. I frowned. Ethan crossed his arm and told me, "Luna Haley, the Alpha forgot to tell you about your appointment with the pack psychiatrist that I scheduled. Luckily, she cleared her afternoon for the conversation. Get moving or I'll be back to harass you until you speak with her." I stared at him for several moments, "For future reference, you cannot force people to talk if they aren't fucking ready. Luckily for you, I believe in therapy." Ethan nodded to me then left.

Marcus and I laughed when he left. I said, "Well, I guess it's time for round two of therapy." I stepped out and snapped some pink yoga pants on with a white top on, I told my brother, "Stay as long as you'd like." He smiled telling me, "I'm not going anywhere, Torvi won't speak to me right now anyway. My sons made me proud by taking their mom's side. They don't know what's going on, but they stand by her. Bjourn will be here later as well." I nodded then popped to the hospital.

I wandered around until Rose found me. She pointed me in the right direction, and I stepped in the office. The doctor smiled, "Hello, I am Lindsey Sherwood." I nodded, "Hi, I'm Haley Cambridge Connors." She smiled, "I know who you are Luna. It's very nice to officially meet you. Would you like to have a seat?" I sighed, "I might as well." We sat down.

Lindsey spoke again, "So, you've had an eventful month. You met your mate; your fairy family basically gave you away. It happened to be to your mate. They just so happened to be your family that let you be abused. Then you were challenged by a former lover of your mates who tried to kill you. You got married, got pregnant, then you were betrayed by your fairy brother. You were tortured by your former rapist, who happens to be your uncle. You had vampires feed on you against your will. You were injured. You still rallied to help coordinate your own rescue. You'd think that was the end, but then you met another former lover of the Alpha's, who is hated around here just so you know. It circulated like wildfire that she tried to separate you and the Alpha. I also heard this same person has a past with your brother. Everyone says that the attempt to separate you failed. That you two were the picture of new mates at the summit."

I sighed, "You're well informed. My story of the last few months sounds really fucking crazy when you say it that way." Lindsey smiled, "I like to have as much background on my clients as I can before our first meeting. You were moderately easy to hear about since you are the long awaited Luna of this pack. Everyone is talking about you; I didn't really have to dig. Cassandra slapped the shit out of Nathan when he said Claudia was a nice girl. He thought the whole thing must have been a misunderstanding. I wouldn't be surprised if she slaps the Alpha as well."

That made me mad. I frowned, "I don't want anyone to hurt him." She smiled, "You wouldn't. Cassandra cares very deeply about the image of this pack. It

matters a great deal to her. Sometimes though, men need a reality check. Putting the slapping aside for now. How are you doing? I've heard you are quite good at hiding your emotions; however, you didn't appear to do that in private. The other Luna's were aware and told me that there's a tension between you and the Alpha now. They were worried about you. They told Cassandra, who told me." There no secrets policy was very annoying. Part of me felt Cassandra had no right to tell this woman that, even if she was a therapist.

I admitted, "There is tension. Eric and I talk, but not about anything really deep or important. We aren't having sex... which is really fucking weird for us. I've just felt out of it since I was assaulted by Asher Harden at the summit." Lindsey pressed, "Is that why? Or is it really because of Claudia? And the Alpha's actions because of her. I think you are masking your reason even from yourself to a degree. Asher is your excuse. Even an understandable one." I sighed, "You... well... maybe."

Lindsey nodded, "You're protecting yourself. You think the Alpha will leave you." I admitted, "I do. Maybe not today or tomorrow or in the next five years, but yes, I do." Lindsey smiled sadly, "Luna Haley, he loves you. I don't think he can leave you, nor do I think you could leave him. I think you want to be away from him but close right now; I think you're fighting the instincts made natural to you as a child right now because you love him and for your pups." I cried, "I do love him, I just... he will break me if he leaves me. I'll be fucking destroyed if he needs a wolf to rule by his side. He keeps taking wolves' words and sides over mine. How am I supposed to believe that doesn't mean he will leave me?" Lindsay acknowledged, "Well, at least you admit the problem now. Why can't you tell him that?"

I took a deep breath, "Because I don't want him to say I'm right." Lindsey nodded, "He acted irrationally, and he hurt you. You need to talk to him and tell him about these feelings. Only time and the bond you have with him can prove what you need to know." That was true and annoying. Lindsey said, "Moving on. How are you doing memory wise? No one seems to notice any missteps anymore. I must say I'm surprised based on the research I've done. Most fairies would be mentally confused for quite some time after what you went through."

I cringed. I had been hiding it better than even I thought. I whispered, "I've... I'm better." Lindsay studied me then said, "But you're closing doors on everyone. You're still having memory problems, but you cover them. Or you don't voice them." I nodded, "I haven't been saying when I'm confused. I just listen to what everyone is saying around me. I was quiet a lot because I was searching my damn mind for answer."

Lindsey sighed, "You don't have to do that. Everyone understands. We know what you went through in your time with the vampires. We love you here, Luna." Tears filled my eyes. I told her, "I can't be weak." Lindsey tilted her head asking, "Why

not?" I cried, "Because the weak get taken advantage of. I'm over that fucking life. Eric needs someone strong by his side." Lindsey gently told me, "Alpha Eric needs you by his side. We all have weaknesses and he practically announced you were his when you were taken. He wouldn't sleep, he barely ate. He broke the window in the war room. He jumped right out of it to question those left from the attack. His wolf took over for hours." I gaped at her in surprise. Lindsey laughed and said, "You didn't know." I shook my head. At least I didn't think I did. Lindsey nodded, "Well, now you do. Let's dive into your experience since this time is about you."

We talked for hours about everything. Our topics ranged from Eric, Damon, Arion, to Claudia. I forgot how nice it was to have a sounding board to talk through these things with. I left feeling a little lighter. I also knew Eric and I needed to have a heart to heart.

I left and called Aiden. He answered, "Little sister." I told him, "I'm having trouble remembering things, and I need your help. I can't remember how to disenchant people that are charmed." I wished I could lay it all out for him, but the trust level wasn't there for us right now. Aiden agreed, "How vague. I can look into that. More details would help. Did your wolf upset you, little sister? Is this about him?" I asked Aiden, "Can you just look into it? I know I read about it... I just can't fucking remember right now." My voice broke. He answered sounding sad, "Of course, little sister. I'll look into it."

I was walking towards the war room. Suddenly Jackson appeared in front of me. He told me. "Eric's not in there." I frowned, "Oh ok, well I just... I guess tell him I was looking for him." I started to walk away. Jackson spoke again, "Actually, I was looking for you. Eric's over by the lake. I'll take you to him." I nodded asking, "Do you want me to just pop us to him?" He smiled admitting, "That would be faster." I popped us to the lake.

My jaw dropped. Eric had set up a two-person table that held candles with pink flower petals scattered all over. I didn't see Eric though. I called, "Eric?" He quickly came out from inside the chapel. He had food in his hands. He actually blushed and nervously said, "I thought I'd have a little more time. Jackson found you faster than I anticipated." I laughed letting him know, "I was looking for you." Eric looked taken aback, "You were?" I nodded.

Eric and I just looked at each other until Jackson cleared his throat. He said, "Well, I'm going to go." We didn't even look at him or say anything as he left. I asked Eric, "You did all this?" Eric nodded, "I did." I asked, "Why?" Eric smiled, "Well, we haven't had much time for ourselves. I'm going to take you out on a date later, but we just got back to our territory. So, I didn't want to go too far away tonight." I kissed his cheek. I could feel his surprise. I frowned. Had I really pulled back so much he was surprised when I showed affection? I told him, "Thank you. This is beautiful." I could tell Eric wanted to kiss me, but he didn't. He led me to my chair

and put the food out. It was a chicken parmesan meal with steamed broccoli and mashed potatoes. We ate in silence. Once we finished, I noticed Eric was about to start talking. I snapped us a love seat and stood, gesturing toward it.

We walked over and sat down. Eric said, "This is nice. I want you to know that I'm really sorry I forgot Ethan told me he wanted you to speak to Lindsey when we got home." I laughed, "It wasn't exactly on our damn list of priorities. Besides, I made it to the appointment. I talked all damn day with her. That was after talking with Marcus this morning. I've basically had an all-day therapy session. When did you and Marcus start talking so damn much?" I poked him in the side, teasing him. Eric replied, "You weren't answering his calls. He wanted to check in on you, and we just got to talking." I nodded, "I guess I did avoid his calls." I must have if they said I did. I snuggled into Eric. I felt his surprise again, barely managing not to wince.

I sighed, "It's been pointed out to me I need to talk through some things with you." Eric put his arms around me, "I would like that, Angel. I miss you. I miss us... the way we were." I turned my head into his chest. I whispered, "I'm scared, Eric." He tensed asking, "Are you going to leave me?" I started to cry, "I don't want to leave you, I can't stand the thought of not being with you. I'm just scared I need to have a plan of what to do when you decide I'm not good enough by your side. If you need a she wolf as your Luna... it will fucking kill me. I also keep getting confused on what happened and when." I could feel Eric was astonished. He pulled back and looked into my eyes. He said, "You still believe that to be true? Do you think I need a she wolf by my side? What do you mean you're getting confused?" He sucked in a breath then said, "Shit! Angel, you've been having memory problems?" I couldn't stop the tears.

I told Eric my feelings, "I don't want you to feel like you have to stay with me if you don't fucking want to. I can't survive without you, but I won't force you to be with me either. I just want us to be ok. If you don't want me... then we need to be ok so both of us can be in our kids' lives. I have been having memory issues. I... I have woken up confused on why we are together. I kept waking up thinking it was the day after our argument. I had to piece together what happened from little comments throughout the day. I had to search my mind to figure out how the Claudia situation was resolved." Eric held me, rocking me as I cried.

Eric said sincerely, "I never want to be without you. I will never want anyone else by my side. I'm sorry that I made you feel that way for even a second. I know it's my fault you feel this way because I took two wolves' sides over yours. I'll never do it again. I never want to feel like I'm going to lose you again, Haley. I've felt you slipping away from me and knowing it my fault cut me deeply. I want you, and I want our children. I want our life back. I'll kill Claudia myself if it will bring us back to where we were. I'm so sorry Angel. I didn't even think your memory problems were a factor. I should've asked you. I could've saved us both some pain.

I was trying to give you space, and I stupidly thought I'd recognize if you were having problems."

I pulled back from Eric. I was stunned. I stuttered, "You would kill Claudia? You're serious? I thought you were fucking pissed at me for saying I would kill her. I... I should've told you about my damn memories. I just wanted so badly to be back to my normal self." Eric shook his head. He admitted, "I wasn't happy at the time when you said you were ready to kill her... but after this week I really will kill her if that's what you want." I was surprised. Eric continued, "As far as your memories go... Angel, it's just going to take time. Give yourself a break."

I took a moment. I sighed, "I don't want you to go kill Claudia, Eric. I believe she will come for us again and then she will be dead. If she surprises the heck out of me and let's it go I can live with her walking around this realm." Plus, that bitch was mine. Eric said, "You've pulled away from me all week. It felt as if a piece of me died. I could've just fucking asked you if you remembered everything." I sighed, "I wasn't trying to pull away from you, Eric. I was just trying to figure out how to not fall the fuck apart if you left me. I wouldn't be whole without you. I didn't want to embarrass you at the summit by having everyone constantly asking what I remembered. I didn't want to be seen as fucking weak."

Eric growled, "You've never embarrassed me, and I don't want to be without you. I'm a shell of the man and Alpha I am without you." I leaned in and kissed him. His surprise bounced around our bond. Music floated in the background. I pulled away from his lips and looked around. I didn't see anyone. Eric pulled me to my feet and danced with me to the same song we danced to at our wedding reception. I pulled him in close and whispered, "I love you, Eric." Tears glistened in his eyes, "I love you too, Angel."

The music stopped, but we just stood there holding each other. We swayed back and forth until Eric broke our embrace. He took my hand and led me to the chapel. He opened the doors. I was astonished. The chapel had been redecorated to look just like our wedding day, I was trying to string words together, "Eric... I..." Eric smiled, "Bexley snapped it just the way it was that day." He led me down the aisle and we stood at the front in the empty chapel.

Eric said, "I didn't get to say personal vows to you the day of our wedding. So, I wanted to bring you here and say them to you now." I wiped tears from my eyes. I whispered, "But I don't have any ready." Eric smiled, "You don't have to do anything but listen." I nodded. He cleared his throat. "Haley, I vow to love you more every day. I vow to be your best friend, lover, and confidant. I vow to put you first always. I vow to protect you and fight for you. I vow to push through your walls; especially when if the one who helped you build them. I vow to never give up on us and to talk to you but to give you space when you need it. I vow to always ask your side of anything in any situation from now on. I vow to be the best father

that I can be. Mostly, I vow to spend the rest of life proving that I am worthy to stand beside you. I love you Haley Cambridge Connors, you are my whole world.” I started crying from his beautiful words.

He pulled me into a hug and we just held each other. I put my hands on his chest and looked into his eyes. I said, “Eric, I promise you I’ll work on not putting walls up in our relationship. I will try not to withdraw to protect myself. I’ll try to always be vulnerable with you. I love you so damn much... Even when you hurt me... even when you drive me crazy. I love you so much.” He leaned his head down and kissed me. He went to pull back to end our kiss. I interlaced my fingers into his hair and kept him against my mouth. He groaned and I practically climbed up him wrapping my legs around his waist. It had been too damn long.

I popped us back to our room. I snapped off his clothes. He growled, “Haley.” I kissed him and bit his lip lightly. I pulled away to answer, “Yes, Eric.” He looked me in the eyes searching them. He asked, “Do you want this? Do you want me?” I smirked, “God, yes. Please.” He smiled and commanded, “Don’t snap your clothes off.” I nodded and he laid me on the bed. He grabbed the collar of my shirt and ripped it off. I smirked, “Well if you just wanted to rip it off, I could’ve snapped it off.” Eric growled, “I’ll buy you a new one. This bra is new.” I looked down at my baby blue lace push up bra and smiled, “I bought some things while you had meetings, and I was in our room.... and really fucking bored. Bored fairies are trouble.” Eric smiled, “Oh? Did you now?” I laughed, “Well I figured eventually you’d see my underwear again.”

He growled and nibbled at my neck. He ran his hands up and down my sides. His arm snaked underneath me and undid my bra clasp. He groaned at the sight of my nipples, “Hello my old friends I missed you.” My giggle turned into my own moan when he took my nipple into his mouth. I was grinding my hips into him. His fingers were teasing me through my clothes.

He worked me up and slid his mouth over to my other nipple. I desperately wanted more pressure. I wanted his fingers inside me. As if he heard me, he kissed down my body and slowly pulled off my yoga pants. He parted my knees and his tongue shot out for a swipe across my clit. I bucked up. He smiled and kissed back up my body. He flipped us over. He ordered, “Sit on my face, Angel.” I looked at him confused, “Huh?” He laughed, “Come up here and straddle my face.” I did what he said. He pushed my knees apart until I could feel his hot breath on my center. Eric groaned, “You smell so good, Angel.” He attacked my clit with his tongue. I jerked up and his hands shot out like a vice to keep me right where I was. My hips started moving. Eric built me up and I came screaming, “ERIC! GOD, ERIC!” He didn’t let up. He flipped me and was in between my legs with his fingers inside me. His mouth back on me. I never stopped screaming his name. My legs were shaking.

Eric asked, "Who do you belong to Haley?" I was practically sobbing. I answered him, "You, Eric. I belong to you." He growled and bit my inner thigh. His fingers never stopped pumping inside me. His mouth was back on my clit. I was practically a puddle of desire and happiness. He made me come six times before he crawled up my twitching body.

He entered me swiftly. I moaned, "Oh Eric... god....." He kissed me hard on the mouth. He pulled back a little never leaving me but coming back inside hard. Eric told me, "You're mine, Haley Connors, I'll never let you go." I cried out, "I don't want you to let go." He growled and began to move slowly within me. Our movements weren't hurried or frenzied but it was intense. Eric had to stop moving during one of my orgasms because my walls clenched around him so hard. Eric groaned, "Shit Haley. Come with me again angel." I couldn't not follow his order. Somehow, I was screaming his name again, "ERIC FUCK YES!" I felt whole again. His mouth was on mine before I knew it. We were lazily kissing while he was still buried deep inside me.

Eric spoke, "Your chest glowed pink, Angel." I smiled, "Well, we should have sex again tomorrow... Just to make sure we keep my fairy side happy." Eric laughed and whispered in my ear, "Oh, I have plans to make you quite sore for some time. Especially since my father ran everything so well in my absence. I plan to buried deep inside you for at least three sessions a day." I laughed, "Sessions?" He smirked, "We've been fucking for four hours Angel. That would count as one session." I playfully slapped his chest and asked, "Oh yeah?" He kissed me again, and I felt him grow hard inside me. Eric bit my ear and said, "Yes." I ran my hand up his back and offered, "This session doesn't appear to be over, my love." He growled, "It doesn't. You do things to me, Haley Connors. You do this to me; I can never get enough of you." He flipped me onto all fours and fucked me for another hour.