

# Trap

Eric woke up in the treehouse and studied Haley's sleeping form. Goddess, I had no idea what I'd done to deserve such a perfect mate like her. I looked around the treehouse and smirked at its state. Haley woke up and quickly put the place back together. I winced internally when she told me she wanted to gather the partial fairies. I'd known this was coming since she discovered she was not the only one; however, selfishly I wanted to push her timeline out since the pups were coming. I wanted her to be able to relax after this whole ordeal with the former vampire king.

I also wanted to Haley to be where I could keep my eyes on her. Everywhere I looked there seemed to be people who wanted to take her from me. I wish my mate possessed a selfish bone in her glorious body. I knew she was projecting a little bit of herself into the situation. She did have a point though; the partial fairies had been left alone. Especially those that were half fairies. They would feel their difference in comparison to humans. They would age much slower and could probably feel some of the power they possessed. Without someone to help them though, they would never understand their feelings. I ended up feeling a pang of sympathy for them. It didn't happen often but sometimes a pup wouldn't know about werewolves. Or that they were one before their first shift. Those pups tended to be terrified and confused. We keep an ear out for this type of occurrence and the poor sixteen year old who has shifted. I never thought of it that way for partial fairies because they don't shift. They don't even have someone keeping an ear out.

I offered suggestions. We talked through them. We discussed the spell used her fairy brothers used to locate Haley in beginning. Anger hit me. Aiden could've used it to find her when she was taken from me. I would imagine that Arion somehow talked him out of it. He probably said that could be a last ditch effort.

I was so messed about her being taken from me I'd forgotten how they found her in the fucking first place. I could've suggested it to Aiden myself had I not been in such a state. Fairies were confounding creatures.

Then my mind went to another scenario where Haley's protection as called upon. She could just pop away from me without warning. I didn't know if she could ignore a call for help. We'd have to talk about her taking backup should the situation arise. Hexxus' death came to mind. My thought is that Haley's fairy brothers quite possibly ignored his pleas for help. Or he tried and his pleas couldn't make it outside the Hackura realm. You could only get in with an invitation. I was certain Fabian tried it; he was never one to accept his fate. Or he truly believed his plan would work. No, calling for one's protection must not work in that realm.

Haley pulled me out of those thoughts announcing Hexxus was the one who gave Claudia the fairy charm. Why the FUCK would he do that? I wish he was still alive

so I could kick his fucking ass. He almost cost me my mate and my pups. At least Marcus got some shots in on him.

When Liam announced the new I was worried Haley was the one who told her. Haley confirmed my suspicions. I knew Bexley had gone through her concupiscence right after Haley was taken. Was Haley's fairy side was so badly damaged that she couldn't even see Bexley's glow this whole time? I'd have to ask Liam when Bexley found out. I left Haley to have fun with her cousin.

I nodded to Liam who walked with me toward the war room. When we were out of hearing range I asked, "Liam, when did Bexley find out about the pregnancy?" Liam smiled, "Yesterday. The Luna told her yesterday morning." I frowned. Liam asked, "What?" I sighed, "I just didn't realize my wife's fairy side was so damaged she couldn't even see the glow of pregnant women. It's angering me all over again. Compounded with the fact that it probably would've been healed at the fucking summit if Claudia and her fairy fucking enchantment didn't show up. Or if I had been able to fight the damn thing. Or if I had talked to my fucking mate." Liam remained quiet and we entered the room.

When we entered the room I could feel the tension. I studied the faces in the room. My brothers, Caleb, my dad, Nick, and Jim all looked tense. I sighed and asked them, "What good news do you have for me today?" No one missed the sarcasm in my tone. Caleb looked at Jackson.

Jackson turned and told me, "Alpha Harden received the grievance you filed. He's on hold. Has been since six o'clock this morning and he's refusing to hang up until he speaks with you." I rolled my eyes and asked, "And you didn't just hang up on him because?" Caleb spoke, "I did. He called back and threatened war." I covered my face with my left hand. How fucking DARE, he? I'd welcome war. I'd obliterate them.

I removed my hand and said, "Take him off hold." Caleb nodded and hit a button on the phone. My voice was like ice when I spoke, "Alpha Harden. After everything you have done, you DARE threaten war with me. Did you forget who I am? Or are you under the assumption that because I used to fuck your daughter, I won't treat your pack the same as any other pack who disrespects me? I would destroy your pack as if you were an annoying gnat on my arm."

Alpha Harden stuttered his response, "I ... just wanted to... ttttaaallk to you Alpha Eric. This grievance is ripping my daughter apart. She is distraught. I thought we could talk this through, and then maybe you would withdraw the grievance." I rolled my eyes asking, "I give a shit about your daughter's state of mind because? You all knowingly tried to separate me from what is mine. Then you file paperwork after I denied your request at the summit for my wife to heal your daughter. Not to mention my wife said no, in person. Then you act like the council

has any say over my wife. You disrespected me. It's not because Claudia once meant something to me that I haven't wiped you all out of existence. It's because my mate wants to give your worthless family a chance to stay out of our way. Don't push me Harden, or I will do just that."

Alpha Harden audibly gulped. Claudia spoke, "Eric, Darling." I growled, "I am NOT your darling, and it's Alpha Eric or Alpha Conners." Marcus and Bjourn strode into the room. Bjourn smiled ear to ear, "Actually it's Prince Alpha Conners. In case anyone was wondering, the werewolf council has no say in anything my sister does." Claudia faltered, "Alpha Eric... Really? Come on now. We have meant something to each other for years. I'm sorry to say to whichever of Haley's brother's just spoke, but the werewolf council does have a say over this. Your sister chose to become a Luna after all."

Bjourn hissed, "TRY IT WENCH! I'll slaughter you in a heartbeat. My father will reign hellfire down on you for such an insult. My sister is the PRINCESS OF THE HACKURA. She does not answer to your fucking council of werewolves. As for who I am, I am Prince Bjourn. You're already not one of my favorite people. Watch your mouth, Claudia."

Alpha Harden spoke, "Obviously, we didn't realize there was a Luna who would not be recognized as someone having to answer to our council. It's not traditional that a Luna is not subjected to the council decisions." Marcus spoke in a hard voice, "Obviously, you're a moron. Haley is a princess of two supernatural groups; she wouldn't answer to a council. She answers to two Kings." Claudia spoke cooing, "Marcus. It's so good to hear your voice. Haley does have to answer to someone. I just want a child Marky, you know that. She won't even give me a chance." Bjourn grinned widely as if he won the lottery. Marcus winced, "I already said who Haley answers to. If she doesn't want to heal you, Claudia, that's the end of the discussion."

Bjourn snickered, "Might I suggest trying a human specialist. Cease acting like a child. You are far past the age of one." Claudia spat out, "So, she can heal everyone but not me! All because I fucked her brother and her mate. She's just jealous little bitch!" Caleb snarled, "Don't you call my Luna a bitch! She's not jealous. You were a power-hungry, self-centered harpy who tried to steal her husband." It was rare to see Caleb publicly lose his temper, but Claudia had pushed him far beyond his normal threshold.

Bjourn added, "Not to mention the reason you want to be healed is because you want a pup with her mate. I believe she told me that she told you the punishment for sleeping with Prince Alpha Eric. Allow me to refresh your memory.

If you so much as touch Prince Alpha Eric when neither him nor Haley has said they are on an off period, you'll die a horrific death. I'll offer my sister pointers on your torture first though."

Claudia started to fake cry. I rolled my eyes. How the hell hadn't I heard how fake that was before? Stupid fucking enchantment. Claudia asked, "Eric, are you going to let him speak to me like that?" I growled, "I believe you have been told my title is Prince Alpha Eric, do NOT use my name without my title again, you have been warned. I would squash you like a bug for the pain you caused my mate, Claudia. It is only because Haley wishes for you to be given a chance to leave us alone that you are still breathing. I was ready to end the Harden's for the bullshit you put us through. Heed my warning Claudia, let this go. We had a past, that's all it is, the past. Haley is my everything, my future. DO NOT continue to push this, or you will not like where it ends."

Claudia was fake sobbing now, "How can you say these things to me? Do I mean nothing to you?" I spoke in a harsh voice, "You mean less than nothing to me. As I said you live because of Haley. Choose your next moves wisely." I hung up the phone.

Jackson stood to his feet doing a slow clap wiping a fake tear from his eye. He said, "That was beautiful, brother. Amazing what a little fairy disenchanting sugar does." My dad frowned asking, "Did she deserve that though?" I growled, "Jackson, remind me to have Haley disenchant our dad before mom kills him." My dad hissed, "That woman is driving me up a tree! All I said was it probably was a misunderstanding; she's acting like I tried to kill one of you boys." Darrin laughed, "Dad, you're enchanted. It was on hundred percent not a misunderstanding."

My dad and brothers continued to argue. I was distracted when I got a link from a warrior. He said, "The Duchess, Jim's mate, is in the hospital." I replied immediately, "Is she alright?" The warrior replied, "I don't know. I just heard word was going around Duchess Miley was crying and is in the hospital." I frowned. Haley would be devastated if something happened to Miley. I linked Ethan, "Does Miley Youngs have her physical today?" Ethan linked back, "No, why?" I growled, "Find her. Now."

I looked up at Jim and said, "Jim, Miley was seen at the hospital. No one seems to know details, but someone said she was crying. Did she have a mission?" Bjourn and Marcus answered simultaneously, "No, she didn't." Jim was out the door before they had even started speaking. He was roaring in agony. I yelled, "Fuck!" I ran after him. Caleb and Nick took off after us both. I had been about to tell Jim I was going to link Haley.

We made it to the hospital in no time. I was NOT going to tell Haley anything happened to Miley in our own freaking territory. I picked up a passing orderly by

the throat demanding they tell me where Miley was. Nick and Caleb had grabbed some men as well, but nobody seemed to know where Miley was. How is that even possible? They knew she was here. Does no one take note of where people are? Training was going to have to change.

Haley came out to tease us. Which meant Miley was fine. Ethan showed up. He linked me, "I assume you know what I know, and that I found her." I linked back, "I don't know why she's here." Ethan smirked. Caleb linked me, "Damned if I'm not still shaking from worry for my boy."

Miley was pregnant. Damn. A LOT of pups were coming. Thor linked me, "Lots of powerful pups. We were going to have to beef up security and training. We have royal fairy and royal Hackura bloodline pups on the way. We didn't have enough security." He was right. The Luna was pregnant, both her cousins, and my brother's Luna was as well. Shana had just delivered.

I linked Jackson, "We need to beef up security, and add more training sessions. The intensity of the training needs to be its highest level." Jackson replied, "Of course. Did Miley get hurt in our territory?" I linked back, "She's not hurt. She's pregnant." Jackson replied back, "You're worried someone may come after the pups. We have a lot of powerful bloodlines pregnant right now." I answered, "Yes, that's exactly what I'm worried about." I went back to the war room and began to lay out the training schedule. To show how serious it was I was going to take the morning training sessions., I would protect our pack and our pups.

The morning training sessions were going well. I was putting our warriors through a grueling program; however, they took it in stride. Everything was going well for a few weeks; Haley was busy with her fairy initiative. Her and Miley used their King Arthur connection to get a list out to Vampires of movies they needed to see. I had actually laughed at that when I received a memo from Beta Dylan Frost about it. It was a move that only my Angel would make. That was the last memo that made me laugh for several weeks.

Threats had started coming in. I wasn't sure how Miley's pregnancy had leaked, but it did. We were now receiving daily death threats on Miley, Bexley, and Haley. I called Alpha Harden and told him if I traced any of these anonymous threats to him or Claudia they would die. He assured me it wasn't them, but I didn't really believe him. Unfortunately, I had no proof that it was them. I needed evidence to take the council. It was clear whose side they would take right now. Titus had stepped in when they were going to insist Haley heal Claudia. What had surprised me was Aiden had also stepped in. I wasn't sure how he even found out. He'd threatened war If they tried to use his sister to heal someone against her wishes. I was annoyed now that he knew she could heal, Aiden was curious as to how powerful Haley's healing skills were.

I shook those thoughts and called Titus about the threats we were getting. He was spitting mad. He ordered Marcus and Bjourn to stay with us; not that they hadn't practically moved in already. He also sent the rest of Haley's guard back. We decided her full guard was now needed here in this realm full time. He sent Miley's guard as well. She apparently had two guards. I had warriors surrounding Haley, Miley, and Bexley at all times. Jim and Liam were fully briefed on the situation and both had agreed to the plan, glad to have their mates protected.

After hours of arguing and deliberation, we didn't tell the girls about the threats. I didn't completely believe it was the right course of action. I was on the losing side though. My mother, Jessica, and Shana argued that Bexley, Miley, and Haley needed a stress free environment. Molly was the only one who seemed on the fence about it. She saw both sides. My mom convinced me by using Catherine. Catherine had argued their case from a doctor's standpoint. The argument that finally got me to cave was that Haley had already endured enough stress early in her pregnancy. Catherine said more stress could send her into labor prematurely. That it could be harmful to the pups. I couldn't do that to my Angel, so in the end against my better judgement I agreed. It felt wrong.

I knew Haley knew something was going on. She wasn't saying anything because I hadn't. I felt guilty every time she raised her eyebrow at the security she saw. I felt like I was stuck between a rock and a hard place. I couldn't help but feel not telling her was going to bite me in the ass, but I couldn't risk the pups or her. I wanted her to have the peace and calm she deserved. It felt like a wall between us.

I envied my brothers as I saw them discussing the situation with their mates. This was wrong. Thor said, "It is." What could we do though? Thor encouraged, "Tell her." I sighed, "We agreed... we can't risk her or the pups." Thor sighed, "I know... but maybe a Hackura doctor would be the expert here. Mate is not a wolf." Thor had a point. Maybe I could have Titus ask a doctor there. It just all felt sneaky without asking Haley herself.

I knew Haley was just as busy as I was, though her initiative was obviously different to my own. I was really proud of how Haley put together the first partial fairy event. Due to the threats and her impending due date, I'd insisted she not go too far away from our home. Being out of our territory was out of the fucking question right now. All of the security measures and extra training without being able to talk to my mate without all the warnings sounding in my head was taking a toll on me. I was constantly distracted and worried about Haley. I had assigned one of the warriors to follow Haley around and link me a brief report on her. Which wouldn't sound so crazy if I wasn't making him give me a report every thirty minutes.

Our border patrols ran every fifteen minutes. There were now four warrior training sessions a day. I was a man on a mission. I even had warriors check into the hotel

Haley was using for her fairy event a week ahead of time to scan for threats. I owned the hotel so that wasn't hard to arrange. My mom told me I was being ridiculous. She didn't understand. She could still talk to my dad about this. The person I was supposed to have to talk to, we'd agreed needed no stress.

This event wasn't a secret in the supernatural community. In fact, many were anxious to see how it turned out. Especially having heard how powerful my mate was. Aiden was far too excited about it, in my opinion. I begrudgingly had to admit that his pride for Haley doing this was genuine. Everyone was hopeful that this group of fairies would be better and easier to deal with than the full blooded fairies. They had a decent shot since they were raised in this realm.

The other component of excitement was it also opened the door for mates. Especially considering Liam and I had fairy mates. Partial fairies being gathered and trained opened a lot of doors. Which led to everyone's eyes being on this event, and that made me even crazier about Haley's security.

A week before Haley's first event, Claudia and her dad reached out to me through Lucas. They had gone through the council saying they had information on the threats our pack was receiving and wanted to meet just outside our territory. The council made Lucas bring the information to me because they knew I'd kill anyone else.

Jackson was pissed. "Seriously? Of course, they have the information. They are the ones sending the threats!" My dad frowned and asked, "Why would they go through the council? I mean they could just tell us over the phone. Hell, they could tell Lucas... or me." I sighed, "They went through the council so we would have no choice but to meet them. I agree with Jackson, I do think it's them. What if it's not though? What if they want to use their information to barter for Haley to heal Claudia?"

Bjourn frowned and added, "It feels like a trap." I nodded, "It does." Ultimately, we decided to go. After the threats specifically against Haley and my pups escalated, I flew into a rage when I saw pictures of her sitting outside by the lake. My brothers tried to comfort me saying they must have used a long lens. I wasn't comforted. We could have someone else in our pack betraying us. No one outside this pack should be close enough to get that picture. She was in the heart of our territory and no patrol reported an intruder crossing the border. I needed Haley to be safe.

Before I knew it, Haley's event was upon us. I was a wreck watching her leave. Jackson spoke as he put a hand on my back, "She has an army with her Eric, plus her Hackura guard. This isn't like last time." I sighed, "I can't help but remember the last time we parted like this she was taken from me. I left warriors here with her then too." Bjourn spoke, "Yes, but if fairies take out your warriors this time,

she has her guard with her. She can also pop away because she doesn't have a pack to stand for. She's not defenseless."

I countered, "She's heavily pregnant with triplets. I may have to put Catherine on nighttime patrol duty for not agreeing to bedrest. I should've had Ethan make something up." Marcus laughed, "Haley will always be Haley. She's kept up with her workouts. She will be fine." I sighed, "Unless they hit her with iron. What about the pups? It's a miracle they survived Damon's."

My dad spoke, "Enough of this. Son, you sent her with wolves who will hear if a dart is fired. Aiden has assured you no harm will come to her from fairies. He's really trying with Haley and their relationship. I don't think he wants her to have any more negative encounters. The fairies who have partial Fae relations are excited about this, son. They won't harm her." I snorted, "Fairies aren't the only ones with access to iron."

Caleb offered, "Jim and Nick won't let anything happen to her. Miley told Jim she would flay his ass if anything happened to Haley. She's been an... interesting pregnant woman. Trust me when I say, Jim won't cross her." I laughed.

Caleb wasn't wrong. Miley had been a hellacious pregnant woman. Thankfully, my mate was quite the opposite. Haley had leaned more towards the fairy's way of being pregnant as opposed to Hackura. She and Bexley were totally blissed out and focused all the time. Especially if they were outside. My heart grew heavy when Haley's SUV disappeared from my view.

Lucas pulled up with his SUV. He announced, "It's time to head out for the meeting." I looked at his car, "Did you not bring anyone with you? Dylan Frost is going to miss this meeting? I don't believe that for a second." Lucas frowned, "I'm not supposed to bring anyone. The council decided me bringing my own people would be seen as an act of aggression on your allies part. Dylan is mad. Apparently, he's going to spread the pain because no one likes serious Dylan." I sighed, "This is sounding more and more like a trap. What if Claudia enchanted the members of the council?" Lucas grimaced, "Then they will be to blame when the Hackura kill her."

Bjourn appeared out of nowhere, "I like this lion wolf. Not to mention, he is right." I raised an eyebrow asking, "You're coming with us?" Marcus smiled, "Nobody said we couldn't come. Also, when Haley finds out this all went down and loses her shit since no one told her; you can say we had your back." I laughed, "Then you had better duck and cover because she'll come for you both." Bjourn smiled, "Just him. I have always been on her side about Claudia." Marcus frowned, "We get it Bjourn. I was enchanted I should've listened to Torvi and Haley." Bjourn smiled, "At least they are both talking to you again, brother." Marcus smiled, "Torvi wants to come visit, and see why I like it here so much." I smiled, "I'm sure



Haley would like that.” We all got into two SUVs. Myself, Lucas, Bjourn, Marcus and Jackson were in Lucas’ car. My dad, Nathan, Darrin, Harold, and Caleb were in the other.

We arrived at the meeting spot with ten minutes to spare. Our meeting time came and went. The Harden’s were late. I kept checking my bond with Haley. I didn’t feel anything odd from her. I announced, “Something is off.” Jackson glanced at me, “With Haley?” I shook my head, “No, she feels excited and happy. I mean here, this is off. Let’s just go. Fuck the council.”

We started to leave when Claudia’s voice rang out. It sounded like nails on a chalkboard. Had I really found her voice to be so pleasant? I linked Jackson, “Did her voice always sound like that?” Jackson tried to cover his laugh with a cough. He answered, “Yes, brother. Her voice has always sounded like that.” Claudia asked, “Alpha Eric, where are you going?” I turned to face her shrugging, “You were late. We were leaving.”

Claudia closed the distance between us and touched my arm. She asked, “Don’t you want to hear what we have on the threats?” I ripped my arm away from her and her eyes widened. I spoke harshly, “I think it’s you that’s threatening my mate, Claudia. I am only here because you went through the council, but you knew that. Which is why you went through them in the first place.” Claudia cringed away from my tone. When she opened her eyes, she stared at me in shock.

She didn’t speak for several moments. Finally, she asked, “Why didn’t it work?” Alpha Harden stepped out of the tree line. I linked the warriors of our pack not with Haley, “Get to our location now. You know what to do. Follow our plan.” My warriors were on alert nearby, just in case. Liam responded immediately, “Yes, Alpha.” Alpha Harden was wide eyed looking at Claudia, who was rubbing her necklace and looking from me to Lucas.

Claudia touched his arm and spoke, “Lucas, can’t you talk to him? Haley’s poisoned him against me!” Lucas jerked his arm away. Lucas snorted, “Haley is the epitome of poise and grace, Claudia. She didn’t poison anyone against you. You did this to yourself by plotting to take an Alpha’s mate. You should also address her by her title. The Hackura seem to be quite testy with you about it.” Claudia lost it, “POISE AND GRACE??! She curses like a sailor! She’s not even a wolf, Lucas! The most powerful Alpha needs a wolf by his side! Not some fucking unwanted fairy princess.”

I growled and grabbed her by the throat. I squeezed, my hand around her neck. I hissed, “Speak against her again Claudia, and I’ll rip your throat out. I don’t want you as my Luna. I never did. Even when you had me enchanted, I never wanted that.” I eased back so I wouldn’t kill her.

Claudia gasped for air. Alpha Harden growled, “YOU SAID HE DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT THE ENCHANTMENT!” Claudia struggled against me. I let her go. Claudia rubbed her neck and hissed at her dad, “He shouldn’t know! It’s that fucking whore’s fault!” I growled. She was dead. I started to move towards her when suddenly my body was frozen. Jackson was beside me also not moving. I could turn my neck. Everyone seemed frozen in place. Great.

Claudia screamed “IT’S ABOUT FUCKING TIME! I could’ve died, you incompetent fool!” A wary looking witch came forward. Jackson linked our group, “I’m beginning to think Haley’s hatred of witches is well founded. I might join her on team witches suck.” I linked back, “You can’t move either, I take it.” He snarked back, “None of us can, Eric.” I replied, “Well fuck us all.” Darrin hesitated then said, “Eric, you need to link Haley.” I growled, “NO!” Darrin sighed, “We are up a creek with no paddle. We need her.” I growled, “Our warriors will be here soon.” Harold spoke, “And when the witch immobilizes them, what then?” I hissed, “The Hackura princes will have some sort of back of plan.”

I linked Jackson, “Let Liam know about the witch. She needs to be targeted first.” Jackson nodded. The witch looked very pale when she told Claudia, “They are well protected from witch magic. I had to use very dark spells... I ... You didn’t tell me they were protected. I didn’t want to do this in the first place. His fairy mate is clearly more powerful than you said. You definitely didn’t say she was the Hackura princess! You have condemned us all!” Claudia snorted, “I don’t care. You owe me. Don’t even think about leaving because eventually, I’ll need you to unfreeze them.” The witch hesitated, “I’ll need another witch to do that. Like I said they were well protected from witches magic.” Claudia waved her hands, “Fine.”

Claudia turned to me, “Now Eric, here are your choices. Soon your little wife will be joining us here.” I roared in anger. The HELL she would. Claudia stared at me waiting for me to be quiet. When I was, she continued, “When she does get here, you can either choose to be with me and make me your Luna; or I’ll cut those brats out of her and make you watch them all die.” Nothing could be heard over my roars of anger. Thor was enraged. I could tell mine wasn’t the only roar in the air.

Once it was quiet Marcus spoke, “If you touch one hair on my sister’s head; I’ll make you wish for death for years before I give it to you.” Claudia pouted, “Not you too, Marcus. GOD your whore sister is such a fucking spoil sport.”

Lucas snorted, “Now whose cursing like a sailor, Claudia? Also, the irony of you calling Haley a whore really cannot be overstated. Dylan will lose his mind you even dared to say it.” Claudia sneered at him, “This is the real me, Lucas. Now that I know Eric is into that sort of thing, I don’t need to hide behind the good girl façade. It’s tedious. As for Dylan... I wish he was here too. He’d die first.” I growled, “If you think you could kill Dylan Frost, you really are delusional. For the record, I don’t like you. I love my mate. I love everything about her.” Claudia

snorted, “Then you will save her. Right? You’re smart Eric. Be with me, and name me your Luna.” I stared at her, seeing her crazy eyes in a whole new light.

My dad spoke, “Alpha Harden stop this madness. My son has already named a Luna, his mate. He cannot strip Haley of the title and give it Claudia. For several reasons. One, he would never do that. Two, the council would have to approve, as would King Aiden, and King Titus. NEITHER would agree to let that happen to her. No one will shame her in such a way and live.”

Alpha Harden grabbed Claudia. He shook her and said, “Claudia, stop this. The plan was for the princess to heal you. Then we keep Eric until your heat so you can conceive a child together. That’s it. Nothing about harming the princess or being his Luna.” Claudia laughed, “That’s all you want, dear daddy. I want it all. Eric, the Luna title, and our pups. Haley WILL heal me because I have them, they are her weakness. I just have to bring out the scared little girl she was in Faerie. She’s compliant and docile. We will win.”

Claudia turned back to me. She looked as if she already won. She asked me, “What will it, Eric?” I stared at her coolly with no emotion but hatred. I told her plainly, “I’ll never name you my Luna. You are insane if you think you’ll touch my mate. She’s not weak or docile.” Jackson snorted, “This ends SO badly for you, Claudia.”

Claudia laughed, “Asher will be bringing your mate along shortly with enough iron in her system to take down an elephant. I upped the dose just for her.” I growled, “You’ll never touch her. She has protection with her. If you harm my pups...” She cut me off, “God! Are you that dense? They probably aren’t even yours.” I growled at her. I saw the pain in her eyes though.

I taunted her, “You know they are. It kills you, doesn’t it? To know that I’m going to have three pups with someone who is not you.” She hissed, “THEY SHOULD BE MINE! YOU ARE MINE!” Jackson snorted, “Thank god he is not. You can’t even face us alone. You bought a witch to immobilize us because you are a coward.” Claudia turned to my brother. She crossed her arms, “You never did like me, Jackson. It was my biggest problem. Now though, I’ll have Haley and the pups he claims are his to bargain with.” I growled, at her again. Thor hissed, “Is now a bad time to say I told you so?! I TOLD YOU SHE WAS PSYCHO!” He had.

Bjourn spoke, “You have just attacked two princes of the Hackura. You are as good as dead. If you have harmed our sister, or her children your soul will not be able to handle what is about to befall you.” Alpha Harden and Claudia shivered at his tone. Marcus added, “You have already doomed your pack. If I were you, I’d run. Not that it would help you but... it’s your only chance of survival.”

Claudia snorted, "I'll just charm your father as I did before." Bjourn laughed, "You pitiful fool. Do you actually think there's a charm that can sway our dad from the attempt on his beloved and only daughter? Clearly, you don't know about her childhood as you claimed. Or how my father feels about anyone who threatens her because of her past. My sister is his precious little princess. She can get away with anything she wants because she's daddy's little girl."

Claudia stepped towards Bjourn. She smirked, "I know ALL about her childhood. Hexxus told me all about it. She's supposed to be weak! I confronted her, turned Eric against her, and that fucking bitch still didn't leave the summit. Instead, I was humiliated, and we had to leave. While she stayed with my love. She made that group of hussies love her so easily, when all they have EVER done is despise me."

I growled, "My mate won't leave me. I'm not your fucking love, Claudia. You know full well I've never loved you." Claudia rounded on me, "The moon goddess made a mistake. We are perfect for each other, Eric! Don't you see it? You are defeated. BY ME... We are perfect for each other." Jackson coughed, "Defeated by a witch, not you." Claudia rolled her eyes, "Now, Eric you need to decide before Asher brings Haley here."

Bjourn laughed, "The day my sister can't handle your pathetic ass brother is the day the sun doesn't rise." Claudia hissed, "Hello? Did you not hear about the iron darts? The whore won't have her powers."

Marcus laughed. I noticed his and Bjourn's eyes were blazing. I searched my connection with Haley. Oh shit... she was pissed.

Claudia lost it and shrieked, "WHAT?! Why are you laughing like a hyena?" Marcus gathered himself, and said "Have you forgotten who my sister is? She doesn't need powers. You do know she killed a vampire king when she was without her fairy powers, starved, malnourished, sleep deprived, tortured, and had no skin on her fucking feet. Then proceeded to kill her way across a field of fairies and vampires to her fairy brother. And you..." He broke off and laughed. Then he added, "Just sent Asher to get her."

Alpha Harden paled. Claudia faltered briefly, "Asher can take her." I laughed, "She killed over fifty vampires and fairies combined when she was shot with three iron fairy darts defending our pack. The only reason she was taken was because she was deceived by her brother. Asher is likely dead." Claudia and Alpha Harden clutched their chests.

Claudia shook her head, "No... she... she wouldn't kill him." I laughed again, "She would. Not to mention if she didn't, my men that are with her absolutely would. You know that's true. You know how I train my men. Then there's Haley's

guard. You met Blade, her guard, he'd kill Asher easier than he draws breath. It might actually be a fight over who kills him."

Alpha Harden faltered, "Her... her guard?" Bjourn smiled, "Yes, her Hackura guard. Did your daughter not tell you the princess has four guards who are unseen until needed." Claudia laughed, "Well, they let her get taken before." Marcus snorted, "They weren't here. An oversight my father and her mate won't allow again." Claudia hissed, "I like you Marcus, but Eric should be my mate."

Darrin joined the conversation, "He's not and he shouldn't be." She slapped my brother. We all growled at her. Darrin laughed, "Boy, I hope you've got something else up your sleeve because when my sister in law gets here, she's gonna kick your ass. I for one, can't wait to watch it." Claudia snorted, "We aren't alone, obviously." Darrin laughed again, "Unless you've got several packs out there, which I seriously doubt, you're screwed Claudia. Haley is the nicest person I've ever met and she hates you. I've seen her mow through people she was ambivalent about. Her anger alone may take out your pack."

Claudia looked concerned but turned to me and came over and kissed my neck. I groaned in pain as my mark burned like wildfire. Haley's anger barreled into me. I snarled. Darrin snorted, "Seriously? You dumb bitch. Now Haley will pop here and kill you." Claudia ignored him. She whispered in my ear, "Don't worry Eric. The witch said she could make the mating bond not hurt you. I don't want you in pain." I rolled my eyes, "No, you just want to kill my mate and pups. We have a different definition of pain."

I heard a pop. I didn't have to look. I could smell exactly who it was. I linked everyone, "Shit." Harold replied, "Holy Shit Fuck Balls... her eyes are so gold it's like looking at the sun." Caleb added, "Um... Harold's right. They are like sunshine gold. That cannot be good." I didn't want to give Haley's position away yet so I didn't look at her. I asked the group link, "Is she alone?" Jackson answered, "Nope Jim, Nick, and Blade are right by her side. Blade actually looks excited about whatever is about to happen."

I linked Jim ignoring all the words Claudia was saying, "I'm assuming since she popped you here... Haley did not get hit with iron." Jim answered, "Short answer: no, she didn't" I rolled my eyes, "I guess we will get into the long answer later." Jim snorted, "Based on her eyes I'd say you'll see it for yourself. Shit is about to go down."

Claudia was leaning towards me. I realized her intention. Oh shit... She was going to kiss me. I finally turned my neck, and locked eyes with Haley. For a moment it was just us. Even though I'd been warned, I was taken aback by the color of her eyes.

Marcus sighed, “We are going to need a new witch.” Bjourn laughed, “True. It’s a good thing we know a few.” My dad asked, “Why? That one didn’t seem willing to cast her spell in the first place.” I answered, “Because Haley’s going to kill that one.”

I heard a dart fired. I turned and snarled at Alpha Harden. Thor hissed, “I HATE THIS WHOLE DAMN FAMILY!” Him and me both. Fear hit me. Nick and Jim hadn’t caught up to Haley yet. A giant shield appeared around her, the dart getting stuck in it. I yelled, “WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?!”

Lucas asked, “Ummm since when can she fucking do that? God, Dylan will never forgive me for not bringing him to this meeting.” Bjourn answered, “I’ve never seen her use this power. Marcus?” Marcus shook his head, “No. I mean I know what it is, but Haley doesn’t have a shield. She was disappointed about it. She always wanted one. She tried a lot to get one to show up before she came to our realm and after.”

Jackson snorted, “She has one now.” Haley popped away. I wanted to be relieved, but I knew she was coming back. Claudia laughed, “Finally! So, that’s what gets her to leave. The fairy princess is scared of iron.” Haley popped right back holding onto Asher. Darrin said, “Oh shit. I mean... we warned them, but....” I wasn’t surprised when she killed Asher in front of his family.

Bjourn sighed, “Well, she’s pissed.” Darrin scoffed, “What gave her away? For me it was the eyes that are legitimately the color of the fucking sun.” Bjourn laughed, “Oh, the bond we share gave her away to me long before I saw the color of her eyes.” I watched in amazement as her hands began to glow. My dad spoke, “No way! She’s... she’s harnessing the sunlight.” I stared at Haley in astonishment. I asked no one in particular, “Could this be what her mother meant about unlocking her full powers?” Everyone seemed to be considering that as an option.

Before anyone could answer Haley explained the powers were our pups. I couldn’t hold back, “Exfuckingcuse me?! The pups? The pups are doing that?! The shield and the sunlight thing? That means at least one of them has my wolf hearing.” Bjourn started laughing. He told me, “Damn, remind me not to piss off my nephews and niece.”

Marcus started laughing, “Well, Claudia just signed that witch's death warrant. Drawing Haley’s attention back to her was not a smart move.” Then Haley said something about witches winding up in ditches. We all laughed. She just couldn’t get a saying right. I winced, as did Marcus when Haley called him a traitor. Bjourn chuckled, “You’re in the doghouse again, little brother. Over the SAME person might I add.” Marcus rolled his eyes as we watched Haley start to kill people.

My dad sighed, "It might have been less complicated to unfreeze us had she not done that." I smiled, "Yes, but when our warriors get here nothing can hurt them." We all smiled. We growled as their whole pack came out. Haley, Nick, and Jim were seriously outnumbered. I knew Blade wouldn't leave Haley's side to cover Nick or Jim. The rest of Haley's guard came out much to Caleb's relief.

A portal opened. Bjourn and Marcus simultaneously said, "Fuck me." I saw Torvi and the girl who must be Bjourn's mate glare at them. Marcus teased his brother, "It looks like you've joined me in the doghouse, brother. Astrid looks pissed." Bjourn sighed, "Yea, she not only looks pissed... she feels pissed." Astrid and Torvi had brought fifty women through with them. I was about to ask Bjourn and Marcus why there were no men when Torvi made a dig about Claudia's enchanting ability.

I linked Liam, "ETA?" Liam linked, "Five minutes or less." We should've had them closer. I linked Jim and Nick, "Don't let the Harden pack get near Haley. Our warriors will be here in five minutes." Haley screamed something in Latin. All the women cheered and Marcus and Bjourn laughed. I would've asked them what she said, but I couldn't tear my eyes away from my mate. She was popping away from Jim and Nick, killing wolves as she worked her way towards Claudia.

Claudia's eyes weren't on Haley though. They were on my pack as they howled, joining the fight. Claudia started to back away. Ten wolves made a wall stopping Haley's path to Claudia. Haley looked frustrated. Then, to all of our shock, the wolves fell to the ground. They shifted back into their human form screaming and clutching their heads. Haley was staring open mouthed at them. Claudia had stopped moving out of fear. Haley rubbed her belly again as the wolves had blood leaking out of their eyes, nose, and ears. It didn't take long for them to stop moving.

Jackson said, "Umm... is it me or did one of the pups just melt their brains because Haley was upset with them?" Lucas spoke, "It certainly looked that way. They seem to dislike anyone their mother dislikes. I will have to make sure your wife still likes me after this, Eric." I spoke in a shocked kind of tone, "She likes you. You'll always be her lion." We all laughed in a dreamy like state.

Torvi caught up to Haley. They circled Claudia, taunting her. I linked my warriors, "Leave Alpha Harden alive. He's fucking ours to play with. Kill the rest." Bjourn's mate, Astrid, walked up. She studied us and asked, "I assume the dead witch had something to do with your lack of movement?" Bjourn spoke, "Yes, sweetie." Astrid snorted, "Calling me sweetie won't get you out of this, Bjourn Cambridge. I think a ring would do nicely, though." Bjourn smiled asking, "Did you just propose?" Astrid smiled, "No, I'm telling you how to get out of the doghouse. Agree or don't." She took out her phone and called a few witches.

Alpha Harden's pack was easily obliterated by ours and the Hackura women. Honestly, it was mostly the Hackura women. Haley and Torvi dragged Claudia back over to us. Claudia was screaming for mercy. Haley smiled at Torvi. She snorted, "Oh, I don't fucking think so. Mercy? No... I think it's our turn to torture the fuck out of her. Do you not agree, Torvi?" Torvi, Marcus, Bjourn, and Astrid gaped at her.

Eventually Torvi spoke, "I... well... Sure, if you want to." Haley's eyes were still burning like the sun when she answered, "I REALLY fucking do." She whipped out her phone. She paused before she dialed asking, "Do we have witches coming to fix those assholes, or do I need to ask Aiden to pop Megan to us?" Astrid offered, "We have witches coming." Haley nodded and dialed. I wished I could see who she was calling. To my surprise, I heard Aiden answer the phone, "Hello, little sister." Haley said, "Aiden, I believe I have the fairy trinket you requested." A pop sounded.

Aiden's smirking face appeared before me. He winked at me then spoke to Haley, "A half sibling and a fairy trinket all in one day. You spoil me, little sister." Jackson linked me, "She found a child of his father's at her first conference?" I replied, "It certainly appears that way." Aiden leaned down and ripped the necklace from Claudia's neck. She screamed, "It didn't even work! Eric wouldn't love me no matter what I did!" Aiden laughed, "Silly girl. It was never meant to make him love you. You cannot make someone love you it a pure emotion that cannot be tampered with. Besides, after I heard about your encounter with my sister, I did some digging. If you wanted her wolf to remain wrapped around your finger, I must know, why did you break up and leave him? The enchantment only works when you are near." Claudia started sobbing, "Hexxus... he didn't say that."

Haley snorted, "He wouldn't. Aiden, what do you mean wrapped around her finger? Eric wouldn't fit around her fucking finger. If anyone's finger went anywhere... it was his in her." Jackson started laughing. Haley frowned, "What the fuck ever... What did you give Hexxus for this charm, Claudzilla?" Darrin said, "I like it. What a fitting name."

Haley stared at Claudia who immediately answered, "My mate. Hexxus wanted a pure werewolf for his father to study." My roar couldn't be contained. Who the fuck did she give away?! Haley's eyes went wide. Aiden hissed, "If he wasn't dead, I'd kill Fabian for this!" Alpha Harden growled, "You said you just slept with the fairy, Claudia! You gave him Tucker?" Claudia sniffed, "He was worthless anyway!" Every wolf present growled. I was trying to figure out who her mate was. There were plenty of wolves missing, none who deserved Claudia as a mate.

Torvi spoke, "You seriously gave up your one true love, your soulmate, to enchant men who aren't even yours? Whose feelings aren't even true? You are insanely



stupid.” Claudia leaped at Torvi. She barely made it to her feet before she was brought down holding her head in pain. Haley chuckled and spoke to the babies, “Let her go. Your aunt Torvi and I want to have some fucking fun with her.” Astrid commented, “Um, so does Aunt Astrid. Your mommy never does this. I will so be present for her first torture session.” Haley smiled at her.

Then she and turned to Claudia. She bent down and told her, “You should be quite afraid, Claudia. If you ever spoke to Hexxus about me... you probably heard some of the shit I went through. You don’t even know the half of what was done to me. I’ve got torture techniques in spades. I also have the unique perspective of knowing what’s most effective.” Everyone stared at her in astonishment.

Bjourn sighed, “I don’t know why I have never thought of that. She’s right she would know what’s most effective.” Marcus nodded, “Unfortunately, that is true.”

A coven of witches pulled up. I recognized the first girl out of the car. She was the other witch that was with Haley was with at Damon’s. It came to me when she ran up. Lisa, her name was Lisa. She hugged Haley exclaiming “Hi Haley! Gosh your life is so exciting! Wow you look so pregnant! You’re eating more, right?” Haley laughed, “Yes Lisa. It would be really fucking hard to eat less at this point.” Lisa bumped her hip, “I’m glad you’re alright.” Haley smiled, “I’m really damn glad you are too. God, that’s weird to say. Me and a witch, who would’ve thought?”

As they talked another witch said to Astrid, “This is very dark magic that was placed on them.” I told her, “Yes, the witch who cast it said we were well protected. She had to use dark magic.” Haley hissed, “Fucking witch bitch!” Lisa snorted. The same witch who spoke to Astrid asked me, “And where is this witch?” Haley pointed nonchalantly and answered her, “Over there.” They all turned to see the woman beheaded. The witch sighed, “I wish the wolves would’ve left her alive.” Haley raised an eyebrow, “Because I couldn’t have killed the witch bitch for attacking my damn mate and family?!” Nick said, “Which she did. We didn’t kill the witch. Our Luna did.”

Lisa shrugged, “I told you guys on the way over; I’m one of two witches she likes.” The rest of the coven became quite leery of my gold glowing eyed mate. They talked amongst themselves. After their discussion they clearly nominated Lisa to tell Haley what they could do. Lisa sighed, “The good news is we can remove the spell. The bad news is they will be unconscious for three days.” We groaned. Haley’s eyes narrowed. She asked, “Just three days? Because if my husband misses the birth of our children I will be really fucking pissed off.” Lisa smiled, “Just three days.” Haley snorted and stomped her foot.

She threw her hands in the air exclaiming, “UGH! Fine! Stupid fucking dark magic.” She stomped over to us. She glared at each of us her eyes stopping on my

face. She hissed, "Alright. Well, I hope you assholes enjoy your three day nap. My Lion, who can I call to run your territory while you're unfuckingconscious?"

Lucas answered, "My Beta can, Dylan. You can pop me there. They will guard me." Haley snorted, "I'll do no such thing, my lion. You will be under our damn protection until you can leave on your own two feet. This happened as you were acting as a liaison between packs, yes?" Lucas nodded, "Under council's orders." Haley's eyes blazed with fury, "Oh well... then this council and I will have a fucking chat." I cautioned, "Haley..." she turned to glare at me again. I amended what I was about to say, "Try not to let the pups kill them." Haley smiled, "I make no promises." I smiled, "I love you, Angel." She sighed, "I love you too." The witches began to chant. My last conscious image was of my mate cradling me crying.