

All the Hormones

Haley couldn't believe she was crying over seeing her mates eyes. It hit me how exhausted I was. It was strange for me because normally I was fine on little sleep. I was guess being pregnant and doing all the pack work meant I needed more sleep. The mental and physical toll from torturing Claudzilla did not help. I'd missed Eric far more than I'd allowed myself to focus on.

I listed off all the things we needed to get done. Eric said we would get it all done, and I wanted to roll my eyes at the typical male response. That wasn't a plan for how we would get everything done. Saying everything will get done doesn't magically make it so. We talked about my fears next. Thoughts of fairies popping in to try and steal our children in their cribs was in the back of my mind in every waking moment. Even in my dreams. There were Fabian-like creatures lurking around trying to take them from us. Eric reminded me we had help. That's true. How the fuck had I forgotten my children would have a guard like I did. Maybe my father would agree to three guards for each of them instead of two. Eric told me to sleep and my eyelids were heavily in favor of his suggestion. Before I knew it, I was out like a light.

When I woke up, I reached for Eric. I couldn't find him. I bolted up straight in bed, panicked. I tried to remember why he wouldn't be here. Finally, it came to me that he had woken up earlier and was fine. I was about to go back to bed when I remembered I had been meaning to call my dad. I dialed his number and he picked up right away, "Hello Princess." I smiled, "Hi Dad. I've been meaning to call you, but with all the Alphas unconscious I've been really busy." My dad spoke quickly, "Why are they still unconscious? Where are Bjourn and Marcus?" I cringed, "I'm sure they are conscious now. That whole meeting with Claudzilla was a clusterfuck; I had to kill her. Well, Torvi, Astrid and I tortured her first."

My dad was dead quiet. Then he spoke, "You tortured someone, princess? I knew your mom went to see the girls at your place, but she didn't tell me why. I wasn't aware they had told you of the meeting." I sighed, "Of course you knew too. I didn't know about the damn meeting. Asher Harden tried to shoot me with an iron dart after my fairy event." My dad's voice furious filled my phone, "HE WHAT? WHERE IS HE? I WILL KILL HIM!" I snorted, "I already killed him. He couldn't fucking get me because I had an army of people with me. Plus, one of my children has werewolf hearing and a shield. So, there's that for fun fucking news. My children's powers are already appearing." My dad surmised, "That scares you."

I willed my tears away, "Fairies will want them. I wanted to discuss their guard, among other things. I was hoping you would agree that while they are little, they could have three guards each instead of two." My dad agreed immediately, "Of course. I already had six guards ready to come for you due date. I can send an

additional three.” I sighed in relief, “Thank you. The other thing I was wondering is if you could send Doris for the rest of my pregnancy.” My dad was quiet for a moment then asked, “Why?” I said, “I need someone I can trust. I don’t trust Catherine anymore.” My dad sighed, “Because she said more stress could cause a premature birth? You’re pregnant. This just seems like you’re being a little testy. The guards are completely reasonable. The children will be powerful, and I understand your fears of them being taken. Sending Doris just seems like it will cause problems.”

Now I was pissed. I said, “I’m not being fucking testy. Catherine went behind my back. She conspired with my mother in law and sisters in law to use scare tactics to keep the truth from me. People she shouldn’t even had discussed my care with, given that they have nothing to do with my pregnancy and she has laws she should be following regarding doctor patient confidentiality. Instead, she lied, at Cassandra’s instance, to have my mate hide things from me. At least if he had made a fucking judgement call not to tell, that would be his prerogative as a leader. He and I would have disagreed in private about it, but they manipulated him. Catherine never spoke to me about anything sending me into premature labor. If stress was actually the reason, she should’ve spoken to me about my damn fairy event. That was a lot of work, and a fair amount of stress. No one said shit about it. This was about guilt, pride, and selfishness. After forcing me to share every piece of my past, my shame they cut me out and kept a secret. I need Doris, dad; I need her. If you won’t send her then I’ll just go back and forth between the two. Eric can deal with it because I won’t be seeing Catherine anymore. I have to go.” I hung up and popped to my treehouse.

I sighed trying to get rid of my annoyance. I could feel my dad’s concern. I tried to go back to sleep, but I just couldn’t. My mind was thinking too much. I groaned and snapped my laptop to me. I started to work on my partial fairy database. I had gotten permission from all the attendees of my first event to start a database for ourselves. So, as it grew, they could connect with one another. I’d decided to put in those people we can trust in other supernatural groups, as well as those people to be on the lookout for. For example, King Damon would’ve been on the avoid at all costs list, but he’s dead.

I added all the attendees putting in their fairy side be that sky, water, fire, or earth. I left spaces for their powers. I added email addresses. We had decided numbers could be given from the email if they agreed to meet up. I added Eric, his brothers, his dad, and the Black Mountain pack as those we could trust. Then I added Lucas, Beta Dylan, and their pack to the safe list. I added my Hackura family members as well as our people. I knew they would help a partial fairy in need, then they’d contact me. I added Sir Arthur as a safe vampire and made note that they would taste better to vampires than normal humans. I included a few other supernatural’s that I had met in the last six years. The Black Arrow was first, but she was hard to come by. I knew her real identity, but I would never tell anyone. Thinking about it

I've always thought of her as an acquaintance, now I wondered if she would say we were friends. I pushed that aside and added those I had relationships with from my missions. I was finishing that up when my stomach growled. I got three kicks. I sighed and sent out login information to the attendees from my first event then shut my computer.

I popped to the kitchen. To my surprise, Mrs. Blanch was the only person there. I smiled, "Hi, Mrs. Blanch. The babies are demanding breakfast." She smiled saying, "Well, you need a big one. You've been so busy I haven't got to feed you as much as I've wanted to." She paused then continued, "I know what the girls did was wrong, but you must know they do love you. I told those girls they should help you with your work. I never saw Molly though; I should've just gone to her room. They were just being stubborn." I shrugged, "It would've been nice, but my problem isn't that they didn't help me. I'm bitter as fuck about it, but I do understand the inclination to stay with your mate. I wanted to curl up beside Eric and not do anything for three days. It's just not a luxury I had; I wasn't going to let the guys come back to a shit show."

She sighed, "I know. The Claudia thing... The meeting and the threats. They were just scared. You may not understand, but Eric was... not like himself while you were gone. That truly shook the family because he's always been such a rock. Steady hands, that boy. From the time he could crawl around. Your being taken made them see a side of him they are scared to see again." I looked away so I wouldn't cry. I cursed my hormones. Inwardly, I told the babies, "We are NOT sad we are pissed. There is no crying because we are pissed the fuck off."

I turned to Mrs. Blanch, "So you knew too. Did everyone know except me?" Mrs. Blanch sighed, "I don't believe Miley or Bexley knew either." I smiled, "I know Miley didn't know. Bex can't keep a secret to save her damn life. Jim is absofuckinglutely in heaps of trouble. Liam should be just fine; Bexley won't care that she didn't know." Mrs. Blanch realized, "But you do care." I nodded, "I care because Eric didn't make the judgement call. He was manipulated into doing this. They drove a wedge between us. It wasn't fair that they expect me to share all of me because they have that damn no secrets policy, to then keep a fucking secret from me. If I didn't show up, they could have died. The only person Claudzilla wanted was Eric. She could've killed his father, his brothers, and MY brothers. Caleb would have certainly been killed. He's not related to Eric. Lucas might have made it longer because of their past, but she didn't want him either. So, I don't know. It's hard to guess the motivations of a fucking psycho."

Mrs. Blanch frowned. She got me a massive plate of pancakes, waffles, muffins, bacon, and a bowl of fruit. Mrs. Blanch said, "Try to understand where they came from." My brothers and their mates came in. I responded, "I know exactly where they came from hypocrite fucking lane, with a fast pass ticket in the express lane of worry for their

son/brother in law. They weren't thinking of us as a couple." I muttered, "Or me at all. It was about Eric and what they thought he needed to be safe."

Torvi did a slow clap. Mrs. Blanch kept on frowning as she gave them all plates of food. Torvi said, "Hales, I LOVE this fierce backbone you've grown! Sticking up for yourself and not backing down. It's outstanding! Finding your mate and pregnancy looks good on you." I smiled at her then ate my food with them in silence.

Once everyone was done eating Bjourn finally spoke to me, "Please pop us to your treehouse, little sister." I choked on my water and started to cough. When I stopped I said, "I'm sorry. Did you just say please?" He smiled, nodding. I said, "Well damn. I think I just saw an angel fly by that window." Marcus laughed, "That is not the right saying, little one." I smiled, "Of fucking course it's not. It makes sense." I turned to Mrs. Blanch and smiled, "Thank you for breakfast." She huffed, "A late breakfast. I'll hunt you all down if one of you doesn't come back to bring her lunch." We all laughed as I popped us away.

I walked in and sat down first. The others joined me. Marcus spoke first, "We are sorry, Hales. We should've fought harder for them to tell you. Or just told you ourselves." Bjourn added, "We were going to tell you. It was just when the doctor said more stress could send you into labor, we all backed down." I sighed, "I know. It's fine." Marcus raised an eyebrow, "That's it? Really?" I shrugged, "I'm not mad at you. I was before I popped back with your unconscious selves all and heard what went down. As soon as I found out what had happened, I was mad at those responsible for this damn situation. You guys could've been killed. Claudzilla didn't want you and through witch bitch magic you couldn't move. I don't think I can forgive them for that. I really... I don't have it in me. You're my brothers and I love you. The only person allowed to fucking hurt you is me. They just let you go off into a trap without a backup plan."

Marcus put his hands up. He disagreed, "That's not true. Your pack was coming." I rolled my eyes, "And when the witch immobilized them? What was the next part of the damn plan? She could've killed Bjourn and Caleb. I'm positive they would've been the first to go."

Astrid hissed, "SON OF A BITCH! She's fucking right!" She rounded on Bjourn and slapped him across the chest. She yelled, "You asshole! Don't you even think about going and dying on me! Our children need you! You bastard." She walked over to Bjourn and kissed him passionately. When she pulled away she whispered, "I need you." Bjourn grabbed her and pulled her down onto his lap. He assured her, "I'm not going anywhere. I am fine. We didn't think of that possibility Haley, but I do see your point. Marcus and I had a few tricks up our sleeves. I'll not die immobile in a field at the hands of some werebitch. Or a witch sister; I do see your point though. I would've pulled our brother and dad to me if all else failed."

Marcus sighed, “You can move past this with your in laws, little sister.” I considered, “I really don’t think I can. They lied and betrayed me. I’m sure Bjourn did have a backup plan, he always does. Had the Harden’s managed to take you all; he would’ve been first on the list to die. He’s the next King of the Hackura, and Claudzilla hates him because he doesn’t like her. You could’ve been hurt, Marcus. She would’ve raped Eric. Possibly killed Caleb, his brothers, and his dad. I really like them, plus Eric would’ve been fucking devastated. Those women are still lying. They can’t even admit they didn’t do it for me. They did it for their damn selves. They didn’t even ask what happened to you guys. They were just pissed off that I popped everyone back in.”

Torvi spoke. Her voice was clearly shaken by my revelations, “She’s right. They didn’t ask about anything, they were just mad. Then they didn’t even speak to her the rest of time you guys were unconscious while she did all the work alone.” Marcus sighed, “Families fight, Hales.” I nodded, “Yes, I know that. I’ve fought with you. I’ve fought with Aiden and Arion. Technically these women aren’t my family though, are they? Eric is but they aren’t. They clearly don’t see me as family. I’m the idiot who was dumb enough to fall for their pretty words because I so desperately wanted to belong here.” Bjourn interjected, “Little one, no, they do love you. They were scared.”

I agreed, “I know. They were scared for Eric not me. It has absofuckinglutely nothing to do with me. I opened up here in ways I haven’t. I’ve condemned hundreds of fairies to death; they deserved it, but they are regrettably still my people. That weighs on me. I could feel how this hurt you all and I wanted to avoid that at all costs. I did that for them. For you guys, for your sense of justice to be played out. Because they forced those secrets into the light. I knew you guys needed to act. I wouldn’t change any of the things I’ve done here because that’s who I am; however, it feels like they tricked me. They said pretty words to my face. Then things went to shit, and they don’t want me to be who I am. They blame me for how Eric was while I was kidnapped. Whether they want to admit it or not.”

Bjourn closed his eyes and rubbed his face with his hands. Torvi and Astrid’s eyes showed nothing but understanding. Marcus looked torn. Bjourn spoke, “I don’t think they mean it that way, little one. People react to being scared in many ways; you’ve seen that firsthand. I don’t think it was meant to hurt you. Or make you think they don’t love you. I’ve seen that they do love you here. You know I would never lie to you about that. Don’t close the door completely.”

I sighed, “It’s too late big brother. My past is my fucking past. I’ve been burned too many times. I opened up here too soon. I felt safe and comfortable. I just need to back up. I’m going to continue my sessions with Lindsey. Besides, Miley and I watched many shows where people didn’t have great relationships with their mother in law. I can be one of those damn people. Cassandra has had over a decade with Molly, Shana, and Jessica. She barely knows me. I shouldn’t have expected to

have the same relationship they do. I do expect boundaries to be respect, and they blew past all of mine. Only Molly apologized for that. They are being disrespectful.”

My brothers frowned. I added, “It’s fine guys. Being the one on the outside is not new to me.” Bjourn looked away, “It shouldn’t be. You are not alone.” Torvi and Astrid looked at one another. Torvi spoke, “I know that you don’t know we all feel this way, but we have always seen you as our little sister. We love you. If these bitches can’t see that you are amazing, then fuck them. You always have us, little sister.” My eyes filled with tears, “Really? I never knew you guys felt that way.” Astrid crossed the room and pulled me into a hug. Torvi joined us. Astrid whispered, “You are our little sister, and we all feel that way.”

I sighed cursing, “Damn hormones.” Astrid laughed, “They are a bitch and a half.” Marcus spoke, “I’m sorry you didn’t know they considered you a little sister.” I smiled, “I always wanted sisters. It’s part of why I was so excited when Eric’s sisters in law said we were sisters. I always thought my brothers’ mates might not like me because I was really clingy with you guys when we were first getting to know each other. I thought they thought I was really fucking annoying.” Astrid gasped. Torvi clutched my hand.

She pulled on my arm until I looked her in the eye. She said, “Not one, I repeat not a single one of us ever felt that way. The guys were all so excited when you started to spend time with them. We would never begrudge that. Besides, we still got plenty of time with them. If you don’t recall many of us have had children in the last six years. I’ll never forget who saved me and little Spence that day. I had never been more in awe of you. Your eyes blazed gold. Marcus had told me you had fairy powers, but I was the first to see them truly unleashed, Haley. You did it for Marcus, for me, and for Spence. My baby boy wouldn’t be here without you. He’s the light of our family. You will always be a fierce little thing when crossed. It’s in your blood. Protecting those you love is what we all do. You’re going to be a great mother. You’re a great mate, and family member.”

She turned to Marcus. She crossed her arms and said, “Promise me right now, Marcus. The next time something like this comes up you’ll tell me and we will discuss whether or not it’s truly in Haley’s best interest.” Marcus sighed, “I promise you Torvi. I will not make this mistake again.” She nodded. Astrid looked expectantly at Bjourn who threw hands up in surrender, “I promise too.” My stomach growled. I looked at a watch.

I sighed and asked, “Which brother of mine loves me so damn much that you will go to the kitchen to get us all lunch?” Marcus frowned stating, “You could just pop.” I shrugged, “I could. I just don’t want to run into the women of the house.” Bjourn sighed, “Your husband is the head of the family. YOU are the woman of

the house.” I sighed, “But I’m not, I’m the outsider. I’m the new woman in the house.”

Marcus rubbed his face, “I’ll go get us lunch.” Bjourn stood, “I’ll come help. Mrs. Blanch is liable to pack enough food for an army.” They started to leave when Marcus turned around. He said, “By the way, I may need that charm that doesn’t let something move for a prank on Histeck.” I laughed, “Who tried to move it?” Bjourn smiled, “Eric did at his mother’s request.” I rolled my eyes, “Of course. Well, it’s not going to fucking move; besides if it’s covered for longer than a half hour the object covering it will fly off.” Bjourn laughed, “That’s just... So wonderful.” I shrugged, “A point must be made.” Marcus said, “Oh, I think it’s been made, but this is the icing on the cake.” I nodded.

They left together. Torvi broke the silence asking, “Can we see the rest of your honeymoon video? Surprisingly Hales, you’ve got skills.” I laughed and opened my laptop. I sent them both a link to the feed. I informed them, “It’s in your emails. If my brothers so much as see a tiny little clip, I’ll go fairy hijinks on both your asses.” They raised their hands up. Astrid agreed, “We swear they won’t. Eric got a massive tent in his pants when we told him it was on video.” I laughed admitting, “I hadn’t gotten around to telling him yet.” They both started laughing.

Astrid said, “Well, he’s definitely interested in a viewing. You guys could make a killing selling that in our realm. The princess who never lets anyone near her and her prince fucking nonstop. We could review it and make a book up of positions. I swear, I think you guys invented some.” I laughed, “You didn’t even get to day three. I’m pretty sure it was our most inventive day.” Their eyes gleamed.

Bjourn and Marcus came back with crates of food. I laughed. Marcus spoke, “Thank god Bjourn came with me.” I smiled and asked him, “What’s for lunch?” Bjourn smiled, “We have burgers, fries, the manna from heaven that is cheese curds, green beans, apples, and a crowd favorite, brownies.”

Everyone loaded up their plates with food. We moved out onto the deck to eat. After I finished my food I asked, “So who has my nephews?” Torvi and Astrid smiled. Torvi asked, “Who else? Your mom claimed them all the second Miley called about needing to kill Claudzilla. By the way, your dad is over the moon he’s finally getting a granddaughter. Veronica is rivaling you in the pink department for the shower she’s going to throw you.”

I laughed, “She’s cutting it close. When is the shower?” All of them frowned. Astrid asked, “What are you talking about? It’s next week. Didn’t Cassandra, Jessica, Molly, or Shana tell you?” I shook my head, “Nope. We haven’t really been speaking. Jessica and Molly spoke to me at the summit. Cassandra hasn’t said shit to me since I was brought home. Shana won’t come near me.” Torvi yelled,

“What the fuck?!” I sighed, “They don’t have to come if they don’t want to. You’ll tell them that, right? Is it here or at home?”

Marcus jolted asking, “This is your home, isn’t it?” I shrugged, “It’s Cassandra’s home. I don’t really feel welcome anymore. Can we have the shower at home? It would be easier for mom. She’s the one throwing it anyway.” Astrid nodded, “We will tell her it’s there now. That will be easier for her.” I smiled, “I can go sit on the beach and listen to the waves. I wish there was an ocean here.”

Marcus smiled, “There are oceans in this realm.” I smiled, “True, but my mate would probably lose his shit if I popped to one. Plus, you know the whole humans could see me pop deal.” He smiled, “Fair enough.” We all moved back inside and just talked for hours.

Astrid and Torvi filled me in on the baby shower Miley and mom were planning. Torvi said, “Miley is going to be really upset you didn’t know yet. She’s been working so hard on it. They were supposed to give you the invitation weeks ago. She’s been waiting for you to say if you liked it or not.” Now I was mad. I pursed my lips, “Poor Miles! I’ll have to talk to her later. I would’ve said something. I’m sure they did a great job. Oh shit, I need to get rooms ready for nurseries! I’m so fucking behind on everything.”

Marcus laughed, “If only you could snap everything done... oh wait. You can.” I stuck my tongue out at him, “If you’re going to be so smart and damn logical... I’m not going to voice my concerns to you.” Marcus smiled, “That’s who I am.” I smiled. I tried to get up. Torvi had to help me. I walked over and gave Marcus and Bjourn a hug. I told them, “I missed you two knuckleheads. Don’t do that to me again. It’s one thing if I can’t talk to you on a mission. It’s entirely another that you were dumb and went galivanting into a fucking trap is an unacceptable reason for me to not be able to talk to you both.”

Bjourn smiled, “But of course, little sister. Obviously, no one was thinking clearly. Normally, Marcus and I would’ve thought to have a witch ready as back up. I really don’t know why we didn’t. It’s not a mistake I’ll make again.” His eyes darkened and I knew he meant it. I nodded. We started talking about the baby shower again until Eric strode in the treehouse.

His smile didn’t reach his eyes. I made another attempt to get off the couch. This was ridiculous. I was going to start popping when I needed to get up. I could feel the tension in our bond. Whatever he wanted to say I wasn’t going to like it. I knew this had to be hard for him. He’s so close with his family. I honestly didn’t want to come between them.

Anger flooded back into me. If they thought they could suddenly speak to me again, after avoiding me because they wanted to ambush me with the guys... They

had another fucking think coming. Their hypocrisy annoyed both sides of me. Particularly my fairy side. It wasn't fair. They avoided me not the other way around. I was surprised Doris was here. Hanging up on my dad was rude. He'd done nothing to deserve my anger. I needed to apologize for lashing out at him. I forgot that I hadn't had my phone on me all day. Oops.... My dad probably called me back.

Eric insisted I come to this farce of a meeting. I was really hoping he wouldn't. He probably wouldn't if I had a fit. Or told him my true feelings. I was fucking devastated. I wasn't going to get the family I always wanted. I wasn't quite in the mood to deal with them with tact. I wasn't going to hold back. I popped us to the main house.

Cassandra was, of course, snarky about our entrance. I let her know with my opening statement I wasn't going to let her run me over in this damn meeting. I was bitter, and I wasn't going to fucking hide it. Cassandra wasn't a fan of my attitude. Oh, she had no idea. This was as nice I could get right now. My sympathy for her was at an all-time low. I let her know with my eyes that I knew why she did what she did. Having this meeting was a ridiculous way to keep the facade up for the men. She wanted to keep them manipulated into thinking it was about me. I wasn't blind anyfuckinmore.

I had to keep my emotions in check because the triplets were furious. I barely managed to not light up anyone's ass with my child's fairy sunlight power, but it was REALLY hard. I was tempted to conjure a dictionary so Cassandra could fucking read the definition of manipulation at this point.

When they brought up Catherine, I briefly wondered if she knew that in this realm, I could get Catherine's license revoked for what she did. It's a HIPAA Violation. It's like she forgot I'm going to school to be a therapist. So, I know a thing or two about the healthcare industry here in this realm. Also, they were forgetting my pregnancy is goddess protected. Knowing something stressful wasn't going to send me into labor. I planned a fairy event for god's sake! They acted like I forgot I was kidnapped and tortured. As if it didn't happen to me.

I countered every point they had. Cassandra acted like I was comparing a donut and grape with my sister in law's pregnancy, saying they weren't the same. I was so over this shit show. It needed to end because I didn't really know how to control the triplets powers. I could tell Cassandra was surprised. She thought confronted by the whole damn family I'd back down. She was fucking wrong. This was about the people I loved, and what her actions could've caused. She could've tortured me and I'd forgive her faster. You don't come for the ones I love. Me? Sure, come at me. But the ones I love? No.

It's not that I didn't understand their motives. They were protective of Eric and they wanted him to be himself. I sympathized with what Cassandra saw him go through. I was glad my mom didn't get to see me in those moments when I was in the vampire's lair. I decided not to say that while Eric had had their support, I had two witches I barely knew and a centuries old vampire. I had no one I knew there for me. I was all alone, again.

They didn't seem to grasp the problem was the secret keeping. They could and should have all the feelings they wanted about the version of Eric they saw while I was gone. They were constantly saying no secrets, but they couldn't even admit it was hypocritical to then keep a secret from me. They excluded me, all of them. They divided a partnership decided on by gods and goddesses. Eric and I were meant to be strong together. We were not meant to be divided. I think it hurt more to realize after saying I was family, that when push came to shove, they didn't mean it. I just wanted to be done with this. I wanted to sit by the ocean, hear the waves, and forget all this was going on for a while. They weren't even being honest. They threw all my actions back in my face with this move and played me for a fool.

I couldn't take it anymore. They just didn't understand and they weren't fucking going to. Could they really not grasp that my medical records being shared with a giant group of people that had no right to see them for the **SECOND FUCKING TIME** was not ok? At least the first damn time, I was prepared for that shit. I was included. This time, I was excluded about **MY** damn health and it was **AGAINST THE LAW**.

I really didn't like using my powers on those close to me, but it had to be done the second she threw my kids in my face.

I wasn't fully prepared for her truth. She wanted me to be ignorant of the threats because she blamed me. It hit me like a slap in the face. It was if Claudzilla was reaching up from her grave to give me the finger. She didn't manage to take Eric from me. She took the women in his family and that relationship I was hoping to have from me. They acted like I didn't suffer at the hands of Fabian. I suffered for **YEARS** before I even got here. I hated that Eric felt **SOME** of my damn pain. They just wanted to discount mine completely.

I held my composure after sensing her motivations in her words. She wanted someone else for Eric. Despite the pretty words when we met, this is how she'd felt. I wasn't good enough for her son in her eyes. It hurt, but she was stuck with me. I wouldn't change for her or even Eric. I am who I am, and he accepted that. So can they too. I was done speaking my mind, but I barely made it out of the room before I felt a piece of my heart break. I couldn't stop my sobs. Bjourn and Marcus grabbed my hands as I popped to my treehouse.

Marcus snorted, “Now, how did I know she was going to pop away?” Bjourn answered, “Because she doesn’t feel at home there anymore, brother.” I cried, “I just want to go listen to the waves. I need to leave.” Bjourn sighed, “Once Eric comes, we can do that. Don’t run from him, he didn’t do this.” I asked them, “How come no one told me it was asshole week in this realm? I would’ve taken a vacation.” Marcus burst into laughter. He told me, “That is not a thing.” I shrugged, “Sure it is. They are all collectively acting like assholes.”

We sat in a comfortable silence until Eric came, and we left. I just needed it to center myself, damn pregnancy hormones. I explained to him how safe I felt here. I felt Eric have a moment of terror saying I was safe in our home. I knew that I was safe there. No longer welcome, but I would always be safe there. His family and I could exist in the same home together, exchanging pleasantries, and being kind. I could do that for Eric.

Hell, I have that with my fairy brothers. Aiden and my relationship seems to be changing, but we still had that most of my life. It was just in private. Aiden wasn’t hiding his emotions for me anymore. We talked through the situation. He made good points, and I was relieved he was on my side.

I switched topics. I worried war was coming again, and this time battles would be fought. He didn’t understand how the fairies were going to react to this news. Those who followed my Uncle would feel entitled to our children. He assured me we’d protect them, and we even picked names.

We headed inside when Marcus called us in. Eric carried me up the beach and we walked into the main room where Bjourn, my dad, and mom were already waiting. Mom ran over to us, “Haley! Thank goodness you’re here so I can ask. I’ve been waiting to hear what you thought about the invitations for your shower. Miley has been chomping at the bit to ask you, but we didn’t want to take your mind off your conference. Your dad and I are so proud of you. We heard it went quite well!” I cringed internally and felt Eric’s confusion over my feelings.

I told her honestly, “My event did go really well, thanks Mom. I haven’t seen the invitations for the shower yet. You haven’t talked to Torvi or Astrid, have you?” Mom frowned, “You were supposed to be given the invitations weeks ago. What do you mean you haven’t seen them?” I sighed, “I didn’t even know there was a shower. I just found out tonight when Torvi and Astrid told me about it.”

I could feel Eric’s surprise. He said, “My mom or the girls didn’t tell you? It’s in the main room of our home next Friday.” I grimaced, “It’s actually not there anymore. I moved it.” He frowned, “Moved the baby shower? To where?” I sighed, “Here.” My father frowned and looked at my brothers who shrugged.

My mom's eyes went wide as she looked between Eric and me. Eric asked me, "You don't want to have the shower in our home?" I shrugged, "I don't want to put your mom in an uncomfortable spot. They clearly don't want to talk to me. You even knew when the shower was. I just thought with all the shit going on everyone forgot about it. Miley's feelings are probably hurt because I haven't said anything about the invitations. I just want to be comfortable at the shower. So, I asked Torvi and Astrid if we could move it here. It would be much easier for everyone. Mom loves decorating for baby showers, and she'd have more time to so if it was here. I just don't... I don't think your family wants to have it there. Or come to it at all really. I'm sorry, Eric." Eric's face was in a grim line. He sighed, "You have nothing to be sorry for. If this is where you want to have it then that's where it will be."

My mom quickly interjected, "I'll go get an invitation, we have extras. You can take one with you." I smiled, "Thanks, mom." She ran off. I turned to my dad, "Thanks for sending Doris, dad." He smiled, "I also selected the extra guards for the children you requested." I smiled. Relief hit me so hard if Eric hadn't been holding me; I'd have fallen over.

Eric asked, "Our children get Hackura guards as well?" My dad nodded and told him, "Yes, normally it would be two guard per child. Haley expressed concerns, so I agreed to three each. They will arrive when the children are born. They will introduce themselves to you and fade into the background." Eric nodded, "That is very kind of you. I know it will ease Haley's mind."

I added sheepishly, "I'm sorry I hung up on you, dad." My dad smiled, "Never do it again, princess. Or I'll come to where you are and you won't like the end result." I gulped but nodded. I whispered, "Ok." My mom came back into the room, "Here it is. We will send out an updated location, but this is it." I took it from here and smiled. It was completely pink. It faded to a glimmering pink and said "Tickled pink the three cuties are coming. Two boys and a girl. Be there to celebrate!" I smiled, "These are great! I love them." My mom gushed, "I'm so glad you like them! I keep meaning to ask if you have names for the babies. I want to get their names on some presents. It's fine if you don't, I can get those presents later."

I smiled and looked at Eric. I asked, "Do you want to tell them?" Eric smiled, "I'll tell them the first one and you take the other two. One of the boys will be named, Eric Jack Titus Connors Junior. We're going to call him EJ." My dad teared up. Mom was already crying. Eric squeezed my leg.

I continued, "The second boy's name is Alexander Marcus Nathan Connors." I looked at a stunned Marcus. Bjourn clapped him on the shoulder as he wiped a tear away. I mentally prepared to tell mom our daughters name. I said, "The girls name is Cassie Veronica Shayla Connors." Mom burst into sobs. Someone handed her a tissue. My dad said, "EJ, Alexander, and little Cassie. Those are great names,

princess. Thank you for including us in them.” I smiled, “I tried a combination of names, and they were awful. So, I told Eric I figured we would have more children and needed to save some names for the other kids.” Eric laughed. I could feel his joy about having more kids.

Mom wrapped us both up in a hug. She pulled back and said, “Thank you. That’s so sweet of you to have me in her name. Their names are beautiful. Long but beautiful. I am so excited to be getting a granddaughter! Your dad is over the moon about it.” My dad came over to hug me. He kissed my forehead and said, “I love you, my princess. Thank you both.” Marcus came over last. He sighed, “Damn you, little one. You made me cry. Thank you.” He hugged us both. I wished we could just stay here. We did end up staying for several hours talking with everyone as more of my brothers trickled in.

Eventually Eric said, “We should head back, Angel.” I nodded and gave everyone a hug, Marcus and Bjourn walked over to us. I couldn’t stop my smile. Bjourn laughed, “We left our mates there, we have to go back with you.” My dad snorted, “You did that on purpose. You love being at their house.” Bjourn smiled, “It’s so much fun there, dad! Never a dull moment.” My mom smiled, “Well, we will see you next week for the shower Haley. Eric, you’re more than welcome to come and do guys stuff during the shower.” Eric nodded, “I might just do that. Thank you, Veronica.” She nodded to him smiling.

Marcus opened the portal and we stepped back into the treehouse. Eric leaned down and whispered in my ear, “Pop us to our room.” I sighed asking, “Can we stay out here tonight?” He shook his head no. So, I popped us back to our room. Eric nibbled my ear “I know we need to talk, but I also want to be inside you.” I teased, “We can talk tomorrow morning.” He nodded and kissed me deeply; his hands ran over my body, He groaned, “God, seeing you like this; carrying my children here, I can barely keep my hands off you.” His finger entered me and I shivered.

He chuckled, “So wet for me already. Get on the bed on all fours and snap our clothes off.” It was our go to position right now since it was the most comfortable for me in this stage of pregnancy. I snapped and got on the bed and he entered me gently. Eric’s fingers traced lightly on my hips. He told me, “God Angel, I can’t get enough of that.” He began to move slowly and built us both up. I gasped and moaned as I came. He moved me down onto my side and entered me again, from behind. His fingers were playing with my clit. When he licked my mark before he bit down on it, I saw stars. He came with a groan when I orgasmed again. My head felt so light on the pillow, “Sleep, Angel.” I barely felt him pull out of me. I thought I might have heard the door close, but I couldn’t stay awake to ask Eric where he was going.