

# Changing the Dynamic

Eric carried Haley into the main room of the castle where her family was waiting. I was instantly pissed off. How had Haley not seen the shower invitation? Maybe she had been so wrapped up in her fairy event she forgot. She was still confused at times, so it was possible. Her mom brought up her conference. I was upset with myself for not asking her about it yet. We still had a lot to discuss.

First and foremost, how proud I was of her for handling everything while I was unconscious. Then there was her conference. We were going to have to discuss my family further and my boneheaded decision to listen to them about excluding her. I should've talked to her; I won't ignore my instincts where she was concerned again. Haley didn't go into details about her event. She seemed nervous and anxious about something.

I was hoping Haley just wanted her shower outside. My mom had insisted it be in the main room. I was astonished when she said she'd moved it here, to the Hackura realm. Exfuckingcuse me?! Her parents seemed surprised. Marcus and Bjourn seemed to already be aware of the change. So, she found out about the shower, and moved it in the same few hours. Fuck my family.

Haley seemed to think my family didn't want to be involved in her shower. I couldn't think of anything to say in their defense. I needed to talk to them. It was pathetic but I was hoping this was SIM confusion. When Haley brought up Miley's feelings I couldn't help but thank the moon goddess Haley was more like a pregnant fairy than a pregnant Hackura. I did not envy Jim at all. Miley was on a warpath all the time.

I didn't understand what was going on. My family had been helping plan the baby shower for weeks. I wanted Haley to be comfortable though. I wanted her to have everything she wanted. This wasn't her fault. Even if she forgot they told her about it, they had made her feel this way with their actions. They were going to fucking fix this

Veronica came back in with the invitation. I could tell Haley loved it. Veronica let out a sigh of relief. I had to tap down my anger again. Her family must have thought she was too nice to say she didn't like it, so she'd said nothing.

The conversation turned to baby names. I saw Marcus send out a text on his phone, and I laughed thinking he was informing everyone of another operation flood. He had no idea since Veronica hadn't heard our daughter's name. Everyone loved the names. I withheld a laugh thinking about us having the first granddaughter of Titus Cambridge. Something told me, I'd have a lot of help guarding her from anything and everything. A glance at Haley's brothers and Titus confirmed that. Once I felt

Haley was calm, I said we needed to head back. Mostly because my family was getting another fucking talking to.

Veronica kindly offered an invitation for me to come back to his realm during Haley's baby shower. I appreciated it because Haley couldn't go off to another realm without me. Well, she could. I just couldn't handle that right now. I sensed Veronica knew that and was letting me know it was ok that I was coming. I could bring Jackson with me this time and let Darrin and Harold be in charge for a few hours.

I could tell Haley wanted to stay in treehouse and hide from my family. I said no because I wanted her to know she wasn't an outsider in her own fucking home. I couldn't stop myself from taking her. She looked so sexy carrying our children. Afterwards, once she was asleep. I left the room.

I linked Jackson as I closed our door, "Where are you guys?" Jackson answered, "It's been like fifteen minutes, Eric. We are still all in the family room." I replied, "I'm on my way." Jackson sighed, "That doesn't sound good." I didn't bother to respond because it wasn't.

I entered the room with a hard look on my face. My dad did a double take. He said, "Jackson said you went the Hackura realm." I nodded, "I did. Now I'm back." I pinned all my brother's mates and my mother with a look. I spoke with authority, "I desperately want one of you to tell me that Haley is confused and that this is a SIM issue. Tell me that you DID show her the invitation to her baby shower. Or at the very least told her she was having a baby shower." All the women paled.

Jackson yelled, "Oh, for the LOVE of GOD! You're joking? Someone tell me you're joking." Jessica spoke, "I... well she was busy... with her fairy thing... and we were trying to keep the secret about the Claudia thing, and the threats... We..." I cut her off, "You were avoiding her. Yes, we all know that now. That's now what I'm asking you. God. You really didn't tell her about the damn shower." My mom stood and spoke, "It's not their fault, Eric. It's mine. I'll talk to Haley tomorrow and tell her the baby shower is here next Friday."

My laugh was devoid of all humor. I told her, "It's not here anymore." They all were taken aback. Jessica asked, "Then where is it?" I sighed, "It's in the Hackura realm in their castle. Haley is under the impression you don't want to come or speak to her. She decided to move it once she found out about it because she wants to be comfortable at her own damn party. I was REALLY hoping due to the shit her fairy family put her through she just forgot you had told her. I was going to tell her that was the case and argue you all did want to come. Of course, that's not the case and I can't tell her that. Are you all FUCKING serious?! You didn't tell her about her OWN baby shower! WHAT is wrong with you? You have made her feel

so uncomfortable here she keeps popping to her treehouse to get away from you. She wanted to spend the night there!”

Molly frowned, “But...you guys said she did know.” My mom ignored that comment. Jackson looked pissed. My mom told me, “We will talk to her tomorrow, Eric. I swear we will fix this.” I sighed, “I don’t think this gets fixed with one conversation. Haley told me that she didn’t want to cause problems in our family. That she wanted to belong here as part of our family, and now thinks she doesn’t. She cried saying she could be one of those women who don’t have a good relationship with their in laws because she’s seen tv shows and fucking movies where that’s the case.”

The girls were all crying. My mom told me, “Well, call Marcus and Bjourn. Maybe they can give us advice on how we fix this. I don’t want to leave. I want to be near my boys, girls, and grandpups.” I sighed and took out my phone and called Marcus. He agreed to come to the main room with Bjourn.

Jackson said, “Lovely while we wait, would someone explain why MY mate is being lied to and excluded?!” Shana and Jessica frowned. Molly sounded mad, “Cassandra, I asked if Haley liked the invitations, and you said yes.” My mom shrugged, “She does. Right, Eric? It looks just like something she would like.” I answered, “She does. How fairy-like of you mother.” She glared at me. She didn’t like fairies so being compared to one annoyed her which was my goal. Molly crossed her arms, “So, you lied to me?” My mom told her chidingly, “We will discuss that later, between us.” Jackson snorted, “Oh no, mom. I’ll be there too.” My mom frowned at him.

No one said anything until Marcus and Bjorn came in with their mates right behind them. My mom winced. Darrin linked us all, “Oh good. Their mates came. Does anyone sense a catfight coming?” I sighed, “I wish I could disagree.” Marcus and Bjourn sat and pulled their mates down to sit beside them.

Astrid spoke first, “For the record, we won’t hide shit from Haley. So don’t ask us to.” I cringed. This was going to end badly. My mother answered, “We won’t ask you to. We want to know how to make this right with Haley.” Torvi shrugged, “I don’t know that you can. She will be cordial and get along with you. If you are looking to have a more than acquaintance level relationship with her, my mate may have an idea. Honestly, I think that ship set sail. The only reason she will attempt one after some time would be for Eric. That’s my opinion anyway.”

My mom was taken aback. She huffed, “She forgives her fairy brothers for everything they do. We mess up once, and that’s it?” Marcus spoke, “Her fairy brothers are her blood. She was raised with them. She looked up to them for quite a long time. Aiden is making steps to repair what he broke and have a relationship

with her. Haley pointed out to us earlier Arion and Aiden never put any of our lives, her Hackura family, in danger. You did.” We all gaped at him.

Jackson asked, “Excuse me?” Bjourn jumped in, “Haley pointed out Caleb and I would’ve been the first to die as Claudia hated us. Caleb has no relation to Eric. I can’t imagine she had an easy relationship with him either. She was not the type to keep people around she hated. Her dad clearly had no say on her decisions.” The gravity of that statement was like a punch to the gut because it was right. Bjourn continued, “Now, I had a few tricks up my sleeve with no intention of dying at that woman’s hand; but in Haley’s mind, and to be fair her logic is sound, I could’ve died.” Astrid hissed and he pulled her to him.

Marcus spoke, “Haley will forgive a lot, but this? I don’t know if she has it in her. She’s very protective of those she loves. She will forgive what is done to her time and time again, but against those she loves; she’s vicious. Then we add in the fact that you didn’t even tell her about her own shower, it just gets worse. You also didn’t help her with the workload over the past three days. She feels like you lied to her. She feels like she’s stupid for believing anything ANY of you have said and feels betrayed. She thinks you tricked her by calling her family, and that she fell for it. She’s going to behave how she does with new people with you now; except the betrayal and hurt will be there. I don’t know if you will ever have the relationship you have with your son's other mates with her now. She thinks you want someone else for Eric, and that you blame her for the whole situation. Now, in that one point I can help you. Solely because I think Haley also blames herself for being taken.”

I asked him, “What do you mean?” Marcus shrugged, “I think she blames herself for the fairy attack, Cassandra almost dying, and being taken.” I was shocked. Jackson managed to compose himself first. He asked, “Why do you think that? It wasn’t her fault.” Bjourn looking surprised too. Marcus continued, “Because I know her. I know it wasn’t her fault, but if she had told me she wasn’t at the summit, I would’ve come back. As guilty as I feel for ignoring my instincts that something was off; I think she feels conflicted because she would’ve been home the entire time if I was here. Arion would’ve died though, or we wouldn’t have known he was part of the group that attacked her. He’s smart enough to pop away, but I think that’s where Haley’s struggling. Knowing what she should've done differently; because I would have killed Arion if I’d discovered he was helping try to take her. I know Haley blames herself for the vampires and fairies coming at all. I think she stayed in some SIMS longer than she should’ve. She knew it wasn’t Eric with her, but she wanted to be with him. She was avoiding torture, and spending time with a fake Eric. I think she thinks it’s her fault she was so confused and that she was gone so long because she did that. That isn’t on you all. The Claudia situation and keeping secrets is one hundred percent on your shoulders.”

My mom pursed her lips. I linked her, “Do not argue with a prince of the Hackura. Particularly when he is right.” Mom shot me a glare. Marcus continued, “I just don’t know if you can get back to an easy relationship with her. That’s not to say she will ignore you. She will be kind and cordial with you. She just won’t share things with you. Your hope is going to have to be Eric. Because she would try eventually to have a closer relationship with you if it was important to him. I wouldn’t recommend trying that immediately though. Or at all if I’m being honest. You need to see what time does and be patient. Forcing the issue will backfire. The Hackura nor fairies do well when they feel cornered.”

I shook my head, “No, I won’t do that. I just want Haley to feel comfortable here. I won’t force the relationship between them.” Bjourn joined the conversation again, “That may be tough. She’s already said that she feels like an outsider. As much as I wanted to, I can’t disagree with her. She’s new here, and they froze her out. This has been their home longer than it has been hers.”

My mom sighed, “I refuse to believe there’s nothing we can do to make this right. This is her home. The baby shower should be here.” Astrid spoke, “That’s not going to happen. You will not manipulate Haley to get your way about the shower, Cassandra. Torvi and I will not allow that. As far as your relationship with her, talk to her telling her how you feel. Then prove that with your actions. That’s all you can do. Your words don’t mean much at this point since your actions were calculated and hurtful. This won’t be fixed overnight, but you could take that small step.”

I sighed. Shana asked, “We really messed up with her that badly?” Marcus sighed, “If she had been with us for her childhood maybe not. It’s what makes me want to wipe out the fairies constantly. You all as a family were the exception to how Haley has been with new people. She immediately opened up and trusted you all. She’s not normally like that, and it’s hard for her. As we’ve said she didn’t even talk to us for quite some time when she was first brought to our realm. Miley made it her personal mission to force her way into Haley’s life. We bribed her with food, but I don’t think that’s going to work for you.”

My mom sound triumphant when she said, “So, maybe Miley has an idea.” Bjourn laughed, “If I were you, I’d avoid Miley at all costs. When she finds out Haley hadn’t seen the invitations let alone that she didn’t know she was having a shower at all... She’ll be on the warpath. That doesn’t end well for you. Haley thought everyone forgot. She wasn’t going to say anything or be upset if they did. She’s used to people forgetting things about her. We’ve worked to change that, and Miley will be personally offended you’ve put Haley back into that headspace.”

I groaned. Molly asked, “So, will she let us explain?” Marcus nodded his head, “Yes, she’ll talk to you. Your relationship with her will be surface level only, nothing deep. You honestly have the best hope, Molly. She knows you were frozen

out too.” Bjourn added, “The rest of you should be thankful our sister loves Eric so much. She knows how important you are to him; she won’t shut you out because of him.” All the women sighed.

My mom just wouldn’t let it go. She told them, “For someone who is about being fair, I’m not seeing how this is fair. Particularly when she forgives Arion for kidnapping her.” Torvi snorted. Astrid laughed. Bjourn raised an eyebrow. Marcus answered, “She hasn’t forgiven Arion. He calls her all the time and she won’t answer him. She will only speak to Aiden. I keep telling you that you’re not in the same position as her fairy brothers. She only ever wanted their acceptance. They didn’t lie to her about their feelings. Ultimately they’ve always let her down, but they’ve never lied to her. You did. Not to mention, I guarantee you Haley is freaking out about them finding out about the babies powers.”

Now I was surprised. I asked, “You don’t think she called Aiden to tell him? To ask for his guidance? Or to see if this has happened before?” Marcus shook his head, “No, I think after Arion’s betrayal she worries she will have to keep them out of the loop. Aiden will find out though if he doesn’t already know. He could be waiting for her to tell him. If I know that, then Haley does too. One of us is going to have to get her to talk about her feelings about that. Because I think she’s grappling with the possibility of having to kill them if they make a move.”

Well fuck me. Harold asked, “You think she’s planning to kill her fairy brothers?” Cassandra scoffed, “As if.” Bjourn spoke, “If you know what’s good for you Cassandra, you will stop that.” I looked at my mom who paled. Bjourn continued, “I hadn’t thought about it, but I agree with Marcus. Torvi, Astrid, you were around her while we were unconscious. What do you think?” Astrid considered, “We only saw her with Claudia. Nick and Jim might have the best gauge on how she was acting. They won’t know how to interpret her actions though. Someone should just ask if she’s told Aiden about the children’s powers. If she hasn’t; I’d say that is a strong indication that she is worried for their reaction.”

I closed my eyes admitting, “She said Fairies will want the pups. Especially since one of them is a pusher. Haley said the pusher and the truth seeker are a team.” Jackson questions, “The pusher? What the fuck is that? I’ve never heard of that one.” Before I could answer my dad did, “The pusher is a rumor, but damned if we didn’t see it in that field. SHIT! Jackson you were right. The pup did melt their brains.” I nodded, “Essentially the pusher sends images of the bad things you’ve done on a reel until your brain explodes.”

My mom gasped, “The pup did that? From the womb?” I growled, “Did no one explain the Claudia situation while I was gone?” Jackson spoke, “We did. I guess some people weren’t listening. Anyway, I was right. A pup who has no training whatsoever melted ten werewolves' brains because Haley was mad at them.” I sighed, “Yes. One of them has a shield and my hearing. Haley is worried they will

be able to shift sooner than sixteen since they already have fairy powers. Well, at least the one with my hearing.” Darrin added, “And one can shoot sunlight.” Harold added, “And we don’t know if it’s one of them or a combination.” I nodded.

Marcus spoke, “Now, Eric can understand why our father agreed to additional guards.” I sighed, “And I see why you think she is worried about her fairy brothers reactions. Especially considering when they found out she could heal; they wanted her to come to their realm and heal fairies.” Bjourn spoke, “I don’t think she’s too concerned about Aiden, but I do think she’s scared he’ll tell people. Specifically, Arion. He’s already betrayed her, and he grew up with her. He has watched her get hurt, but he never participated until now in her mind. In my opinion, his inaction is inexcusable. She was a child.”

I sighed, “No wonder she keeps telling me she’s scared. I’ll talk to her in the morning. It’s unlikely I’ll make our run guys. If Arion is dumb enough to come for her or our pups, I’ll kill him.” Jackson nodded, “We will protect your pups, brother.” I nodded. Torvi said, “If you get the chance.” I frowned, “You think Haley will kill him?” My mom rolled her eyes. I shot her a warning look. Torvi pursed her lips and glared at my mom, “Never underestimate the things a mother will do for her children, Cassandra.” I said, “Dad, get mom to your room. I’m at my max for her bullshit attitude.”

I walked out and went back to my room. I held Haley and spoke to my pups, “Daddy will protect you with everything I have. No one will take you from me or your mom.” I got three kicks. I couldn’t help but smile. I fell asleep holding Haley in my arms, but I woke up to an empty bed. I could feel her close by in our bond. I went out onto the deck to find Haley doing yoga. Thor hummed, “Take mate...” I contained Thor because we needed to talk about many things and getting distracted wasn’t part of that plan. I waited for her to get done, thoroughly enjoying the view.

Haley finished then face me. She smiled, “Good morning, Eric. I thought you’d be on your run.” I led her to the patio furniture and sat us both down. I told her, “We have many things to discuss so I told my brothers not to expect me.” She sighed, “I suppose we do.”

She didn’t keep talking and I realized she wanted me to start. I said, “Alright, I’ll start. I’m sorry. I should’ve told you about the threats and the meeting with Claudia. I went against my instincts because Catherine said it could send you into labor.” Haley rolled her eyes. She hissed, “Yes, well I don’t fucking believe that stress bullshit. I was kicking off a partial fairy initiative. Setting that up was far more stressful than hearing someone was threatening me, Miley, and Bex. No one said jack shit about that. It’s a load of shit.” I sighed, “That’s a good point, but I don’t think Catherine had any ill intent.” Haley shrugged and told me, “We need to be a team, Eric. You could’ve gotten hurt. My brothers could’ve died along with

yours. If we've learned anything it's that when we are separated, we are far more at risk than we are together." I nodded, "You're right, we are."

Haley admitted, "It's just really hard to let this go when I think about what would've happened if I'd remained ignorant. If Asher hadn't been trying to kidnap me, I might not have gotten to you in time." I pulled her close, "The what if game isn't a game we should get into. You came. You saved our asses and in case I haven't said it, thank you." She shrugged. She faced me and said, "Just promise me it's always us first. Our family, you, me, EJ, Alexander, and Cassie. Maybe that makes me a bitch, but I need it to be us first with you Eric." I nodded, "I promise, it will be us first. You're not a bitch for asking, that's how it should be. Are you going to forgive my mom?"

Haley was quiet for several moments, "You can't forgive someone who hasn't asked. I doubt she will since she believes she did absolutely nothing wrong," I pulled her close, "She wants to talk to you. She knows that she was wrong." Haley frowned, "That's quite the turnaround then. When I left the damn room she was adamant she did nothing wrong." I was about to say something when Haley held up her hand and continued, "Look Eric, I get it. You're her son and she blames me. If she wants to talk that's fine, I'll talk to her."

I sighed and asked, "Do you really think her actions almost got Bjourne killed?" Haley took a deep breath. She was adamant, "I don't think she did. I know she did. I'm sure he had a plan. Maybe he wouldn't have died, but he would've gotten hurt. I know she was scared for you. I really do. It's just going to take time. I'll try for you though." We sat in silence.

Haley turned to me and asked, "Can you tell me my logic is wrong? That Claudzilla wouldn't have killed Caleb and Bjourne first?" I sighed, "First, I don't want you to try anything with the women in my family for me. I want you to do it for you. Second, I can't tell you that your logic is wrong about Claudia. It's highly likely that's exactly what she would've tried to do. Bjourne is formidable though. He wouldn't have gone down that way." Haley looked away.

I changed topics and asked, "Have you talked to Aiden?" Haley frowned, "I talk to Aiden all the damn time. You know that." I smiled, "I do. I meant about the powers the pups have displayed." Haley shook her head but said nothing. I prodded her, "Are you worried about his reaction?" She shrugged. I growled, "Haley Conners, talk to me."

She put her head in her hands and whispered, "I am worried about their reaction. I think Aiden will ask to train them. He would probably want to use them. I don't think he will try to take them, but..." She trailed off. So, I said it for her, "Arion." She nodded, "My mother told me when she was here that she saw his death on a few paths. I'm worried hearing about our children's talents is a path on which he



dies. He's their uncle. The pusher is a powerful weapon, knowing that they are usually a pair he will want to take all three to determine who the truth seeker is. Arion is easily swayed, and he's looking to prove his loyalty to Aiden."

I raised an eyebrow, "Aiden would not want him to take our pups. If Arion comes you won't have to kill him, Angel. I will kill him." She smiled sadly, "I know you don't think much of Arion, but he's smart enough to come when you aren't here. I don't know what to do, Eric." I pulled her closer, "This pack will defend you if I'm not here. You don't have to kill him or even raise a hand to him. Simply contain him and wait for me. It's not all on you to protect our family alone, Angel." She sighed, "I never thought there would be a situation in which I would ever consider killing either Aiden or Arion, but I can't simply stand aside and let Arion get away if he tries to take our children. I just can't." She started to cry, "I really don't want to kill him, Eric. I really fucking don't." I pulled her close. I promised her, "I will do my best to make sure you don't have to."

I held her until she calmed down. I told her, "I will call Aiden today." She whispered, "Please don't." I pulled her close, "It will be better if he hears it from us. There are even more eyes on us, especially you since you have started to bring the partial fairies together. How did that go by the way? I didn't get to hear about it." She smiled and gushed, "It went great! Twenty-five girls showed up. Ten of them are coming tomorrow for their first training session on their powers. I started the database with the twenty-five that showed up. I sent their login info to them the other day. I actually found Arion and Aiden's half-sister on their father's side, Trixie. Aiden came and met her. He was really fucking excited to meet a child of his fathers."

I sat back, "That's a lot of information. I'm very proud of you. What is this database you're talking about?" She smiled and explained, "Oh, while I was there, I thought it would be good for us to start a database of the partial fairies so they can connect with each other. If they want to discuss their fairy side or meet some of their family. I listed what I sensed from them be that fire, water, earth, or sky. I've left spots open for their powers. They all agreed to put their email in there so others can contact them. If they want to continue the conversations on their phones, they can decide that. All the information in one place, for those who wish to take their knowledge further. A reminder that they're not alone."

She continued, "I also put together a list of those we can trust in the supernatural world, as well as a list of those who cannot be trusted. Your pack and your family are on the trusted list." I nodded. It was impressive. "That's quite an undertaking but it is impressive. Have you thought of hiring an assistant?" Haley nodded, "Yes, I can't decide if I should have a pack member help out; or hire a partial fairy." I nodded. I'd prefer a pack member since she didn't know these partial fairies yet.

I told her, "You could have both. We have some very tech savvy teenagers. You could find a partial fairy that needs the money and they could do the work remotely as needed." Haley smiled. She kissed my cheek and exclaimed, "That's a great idea! Thanks, husband of mine." I asked, "So there is fairy training that will be happening here?" She nodded, "Yes, I figured you'd throw a fucking fit if I had it somewhere else. Aiden has already agreed to send a fire and water fairy to help train them. Bexley is going to take earth and sky with me. I think Aiden really wants to see what they are capable of. He keeps trying to find out what I am fucking capable of." My eyebrows raised, "You haven't told him?" She sighed, "They already want me to heal people for them. If they know what else I can do, it will be even more fucking obnoxious." I laughed, "You do realize the fire and water fairies will report back to Aiden on what they see you do." She sighed muttering, "Fuck your point. I guess tell Aiden to call me after you talk to him."

We fell into a comfortable silence, but I could sense her sadness in our bond. I told her, "Haley, it will be ok." She shrugged and admitted, "I don't see how Arion doesn't die, Eric. I don't want that, but I won't let him put our children in danger. What does that make me? A fucking monster who would kill her own brother." I pulled her close, "It doesn't make you a monster. It makes you a mother protecting her pups. I will talk to Aiden and I'll convince him to keep a close eye on Arion. I will fully inform him of the consequences should he not be able to keep him in line."

Haley surprised me with her next question, "Have my brothers gotten Masium yet?" I told her honestly, "I don't know, Angel. You can ask them. Why do you ask?" Haley looked away and told me, "Because if they haven't, he will convince Arion the babies should be in Faerie. Arion has seemed different since my kidnapping. One minute he's himself, the next he's losing it. Masium won't want to hurt the children, but as powerful as they are Eric; he will want them. Fairies covet power and anything that can give it to them." I nodded, "Haley, I won't let them have any of you." She told me, "They will want us all though. They are going to find out I can heal and that I'm the truth seeker. Thankfully, that will save Cassie should she possess the power. They will think the pusher is to balance out me."

I pulled her tighter to me. I declared, "They can't have any of you. I will not be without you again. If I'm called away at least your full guard will be here. The pup's guards will be here. I am going to assign pack members to be their guards as well. I won't leave you here alone even if I'm not here." She nodded her agreement. She promised me, "I love you. I won't let anyone hurt our family. Even if it's my brothers. I promise." I nodded and held her close to me.

Jackson knocked on the door. He yelled, "Mrs. Blanch wants Haley to eat breakfast. She said ten in the morning is the latest she will allow her to go without having anything." I smirked and picked Haley off her seat. I carried her to the door

then set her down, opening the door and nodded to my brother. Haley offered, “Thanks, Jackson.” He smiled back at her. Haley linked me asking, “Does he know the baby's names?” I shook my head. Haley nodded and we all went downstairs to the kitchen.

Haley stilled when she realized my entire family was still here. It took her a minute before she smiled tightly and said hello to everyone. They had clearly been waiting for us to eat. It felt like an ambush even to me. Mrs. Blanch was rapidly fixing plates. Haley linked me, “You should tell them the babies names before my brothers or anyone else tells them.” I nodded to her and said out loud, “We came up with names for the pups. Do you all want to know?”

My dad beat my mom by seconds saying, “Of course, son.” I smiled. I turned to Haley and asked, “Do you want to tell them?” She shook her head, “No, you should. They are your family.” I didn’t wince outwardly. My mom and brother’s mates did. My brothers frowned.

I shook myself from the sadness at what had been done to the relationships they’d had with her and cleared my throat, “Well we have Eric Jack Titus Conners Junior, we are going to call him EJ.” Jackson's eyes shined with unshed tears as I continued, “Next will be, Alexander Marcus Nathan Conners, and lastly Cassie Veronica Shayla Conners.” My dad and mom's eyes filled with tears. My mom spoke, “Thank you both so much. That is so kind. Cassandra would’ve been a lovely touch, though.” I linked her, “Are you fucking kidding right now?” She didn’t answer me. Jackson said, “Thanks you guys. That’s unexpected.” I smiled and so did Haley. She didn’t look at my mom, just Jackson and my dad. Haley continued eating her food.

My mom cleared her throat, “Haley, the girls and I would like to speak to you after breakfast.” I felt her hesitation and annoyance. Doris walked in and announced, “The princess can speak to you after our appointment.” Doris told Haley, “Catherine has caught me up on your past scans, but I want to check on the mother and babies myself.” I felt Haley’s relief. As always, her face showed nothing. My mother was undeterred. She proclaimed, “We will be waiting for you in the main room afterwards.”

Haley still didn’t look at her but said, “Let’s plan for after lunch if that works for everyone. I need to speak with Miley and prepare for the training sessions tomorrow with the partial fairies.” She looked at me adding, “And talk with Aiden, I fucking guess.” They all nodded.

Molly excitedly said, “That’s great then. After lunch.” Haley nodded and followed Doris out. Ethan entered watching her leave. He snorted, “So, I need to be a Doris to get the Luna to listen to me? Fabulous.” I smiled, “Did you need something,

Ethan?” He nodded, “Yes, breakfast. There was nothing left in the pack house when I finished with a patient.” He got himself a plate as we left.

Once we were inside the war room, I told Caleb begrudgingly, “Dial the fairy king.” He nodded. Jackson asked, “Are you getting ahead of him finding out about the pups powers from anyone else but you?” I nodded. Caleb announced, “The fairy King on the line and he’s quite gleeful.” Of course, he was. I said, “Hello Aiden. “Aiden spoke, “Ahhh. Hello to my sisters’ wolf. Did you enjoy your nap?” I rolled my eyes, “Sure, I was calling to let you in on some developments we learned about that day. Haley has been quite busy running the packs and working on her fairy initiative. She does hope you will call her after this conversation.”

Aiden instantly went from gleeful to curious. He asked, “Why would you tell me about that day? What does Haley want to discuss? She knows she can always call me now; I hope.” I sighed. I admitted, “She wants to discuss her fairy powers and the pup’s.” Aiden’s voice squeaked, “The children’s?! They are showing their powers, already? No, that’s not possible... it... can sometimes happens with a powerful royal child but... Are you serious?.” I confirmed, “Yes, I am serious. One of them heard the iron dart coming for her and a shield appeared around her.”

Aiden whispered, “I thought that was her. The child using that power is astounding. Untrained and from the womb... I am impressed.” I questioned, “How did you know about the shield?” Aiden laughed and asked, “Did you think I wouldn’t check security tapes from the hotel parking lot after she called me to collect my fairy token? I magically confiscated them all by the way. I even replaced the feed with boring nothingness. No need to worry..”

I was surprised Haley hadn’t done that. She did have a lot on her mind though. I responded with gratitude, “Thank you for doing that, Aiden. Anyway, one of the pups has the powers to harness sunlight, and she called another a pusher...” Aiden’s voice skyrocketed as he shrieked, “THE PUSHER! That’s... that’s... amazing. It’s likely one has the truth seeker power as well then to balance the pusher. This is incredible news. My niece or nephew is a pusher and a truth seeker.” I cut that thought off. I was going to evade the hell of out this. I told him, “Haley is the truth seeker.”

Aiden’s voice squeaked again, “WHAT?! SHE CAN HEAL AND SHE’S THE TRUTH SEEKER?! I am absolutely calling her after this. I would like to start training my niece and nephews when they are young. It would benefit them, and they could help both our people.” I growled, “My wife can train our children. Should she require assistance, that would be up to her. My children aren’t negotiating tools. Haley is very worried about your reaction to this news.” Aiden snorted, “Come now, I am their Uncle. Haley has to know this would be fabulous for the fairies. Neither of those powers have been around for centuries.”

I replied, "One has been around for nineteen years, and if your head wasn't up your ass; you'd have known that already." He didn't say anything in reply for several moments. Then he told me, "You'd never have met her if any fairy knew that she had those powers. Particularly our demented uncle." I growled, "Which is a big reason why you never knew about them. Even as a child she knew she would be used." He sighed, "Sadly, she is right. She likely would've been married off to a fairy." Thor took over and growled in anger.

Bjourn, who I hadn't heard enter the room, spoke, "She most certainly would not be married to a fairy. If she was married before she turned sixteen, which her mother better not have allowed, her husband would've been killed when we showed up to bring her home with us." Aiden sighed, "Well, thankfully it didn't happen. I would like to make it clear; I would not have been happy about that match. As it stands, my sister is married to her wolf. I will call her now. Thank you for updating me wolf of my sisters."

I quickly stopped him by saying, "I'm not done." Aiden laughed, "Oh? What else can the babies or my sister do?" I sighed, "You'll have to ask her. I'm warning you to keep your brother and cousin in line. Haley is profoundly worried about their reaction. She fears they will work to take our children from us. Or take her and them from me since she is the truth seeker. You know she cannot be away from me, or it will kill her. She does not want Arion to die. I'm telling you right now if I see him in this realm ever again; I will kill him."

Bjourn spoke, "And we will kill your cousin. It doesn't matter where he hides. One day, for his crimes against our sister; he dies." Aiden sighed, "I would like to say her fear is unfounded, but they aren't. Arion has not been acting like himself at times. I will warn them both, but I do not control or their choices." Now I was stunned.

I asked, "You are going to be ok if they die?" Aiden admitted, "No, but they are adults and their choices are their own. They betrayed me, and I forgave it. I cannot forgive it a second time, even for my brother. So, should they try anything, it would be better for me not to have to deal with Arion." With that he hung up.

Jackson snorted, "Fairies are strange. He just gave you permission to kill his brother, so he doesn't have to." My dad admitted, "Ruling is a hard life. He knows that he cannot trust Arion now. That must be a difficult position to be in. His rule over Faerie will be questioned if Arion goes against him again and he does nothing." I added, "He also has two half-sisters who he is trying to build relationships with. Not to mention he's watching to see if the partial fairies have powers. Haley is leading that charge. He cannot, as a full blooded fairy, take over for her now that she's started. She was unaware of their existence, whereas he's known about them and left them to flounder. They wouldn't respond to him the

way they do to Haley. Plus, he has already told all the fairy's she will remain in this realm and protect the partial fairies."

Jackson asked, "I'm sorry. He has two half-sisters?" I nodded explaining, "Haley found their half-sister on their dad's side at her event." Harold snorted, "Of course she did." My dad beamed with pride. Marcus and Bjourn seemed pleased too.

We got to work. Lunch was brought to us. Haley linked me, "So Aiden was... nice. What did you say to him?" I answered, "I told you I would handle it. Of course, he was nice. He wanted something." She laughed, "So very true husband of mine. Well, I'm going to eat lunch before Mrs. Blanch has a breakdown. The babies are good, Doris thinks they will be here sooner than we thought."

I momentarily panicked asking, "How much sooner?" She responded, "A week or two. I need to know what rooms we are using for as the nurseries. I want to snap them done today." I didn't care. I told her, "Any room on our side of the house will be fine; whichever you prefer." She giggled, "Thanks!" I laughed out loud asked her, "Is our daughter's room going to be a pink paradise?" She giggled, "Of course! The boys will have woodland creatures, bears, lions, and wolves of course." I smiled, "Alright, have fun." She giggled but didn't say anything else.

I focused back on my work. A few hours after lunch, I needed a break. Thor was itching to run. I asked, "Does anyone want to go for a run?" Harold laughed, "Yes. We should probably switch our morning run to an afternoon run, for the time being anyway with all the new pups." Everyone agreed. We went outside and I gave Thor control. I felt much better when we returned. We shifted back and put on our clothes. I was reaching for the front door when Haley linked me, "Umm we need Harold. Like... right fucking now." I replied back, "Why and where are you?" She answered, "We are at the hospital. Jessica is in labor."

I said out loud, "We need to get to the pack hospital. Jessica is in labor." Harold barreled past us all. He shifted again and took off at breakneck speed, with the rest of us right behind him. When we entered the hospital, people pointed us in the direction we needed to go. I ordered, "Someone get Harold shorts." Jackson laughed, "I have his, but I doubt I'll be able to give them to him. I'll bet your mate snaps him some." I frowned, "If she's still here." That sobered our group.

We entered the labor and delivery room. To my delight, Haley was here with everyone. Haley was standing as far away from them as she could, but she was here. My mom was holding one of Jessica's hands and a fully clothed Harold had her other hand. He was whispering words of encouragement to her as Catherine came in. Catherine looked around and said, "Everyone except Alpha Harold, out. I need to check Luna Jessica's progress."

We all nodded and filed out. Shana quickly said, "Thank you Haley. For popping us here." Haley nodded, "Of course." I walked over and kissed her cheek. She smiled at me. Catherine came out a few moments later. She told us, "I'd imagine we have a few hours. You all can go back in. Luna Haley, if I may have a moment of your time, I would appreciate it." Haley sighed but nodded her head.

I kissed her forehead and told her, "You can join us when you're done." Haley hesitated, "I'm going to get the nurseries done, but if you really fucking want me to; I'll come back. This is a family thing, Eric." I nodded then kissed her hard. I pulled back and told her, "It is a family thing, and you are family. Come back after you get the nurseries done." She nodded, "Alright." I nodded to Catherine and stepped into the room.

My mother looked past me then frowned. She asked, "Where is she?" I ignored the tone and told her, "Haley is talking to Catherine. Then she's going to get our pups nurseries ready. She'll be back." All the women frowned but nodded. Shana admitted, "Her brothers weren't kidding. This is going to be an uphill battle." Molly agreed, "You can't really blame her though." Cassandra sighed, "Well, we can work on that later. Now it is about Miss Jessica and those little girls." Molly added, "Which, in case anyone was curious, is exactly what Haley said." I asked, "Does that surprise anyone?" Harold answered, "No."

We all stayed. Jessica was a trooper about it. I linked Haley after two and half hours, "Angel, how are the nurseries coming along?" Haley replied, "I think they are almost perfect." I laughed and asked, "Are you stalling?" She hesitated, "Maybe, but Marcus and Bjourn came in and we are talking. I'll be back soon." I linked back, "I'll come get you shortly if you aren't." She linked back, "No! I don't want you to see them until they are done. This is all I can surprise you with." I linked back, "You have thirty minutes then, Angel. I will wait to see them." Her tone immediately relaxed, "Ok, thanks, Thor." I smiled.

Jackson asked, "Is Haley coming back?" I nodded, "She's finishing up the nurseries and talking to her brothers. I told her she had thirty minutes before I link her again. She wants to surprise me with the nurseries." He nodded, "I was hoping that her brothers were wrong, but it's fairly obvious they aren't." I sighed, "Yes, I know. I do think she's really trying. When I told her to join us when she was done in the hallway, she said it was a family thing." Darrin sighed, "She is family." Molly joined explaining, "Haley feels like we don't like her, or want her here. The women anyway. I imagine if it was something to do with one of you guys, she'd be here. She just feels like an outsider with us." We sighed

I looked at my watch after some time had passed. Haley had one minute left. I looked up when a pop filled the room. Haley smiled at me. "I had thirty seconds left to spare." She turned to Jessica and asked, "How are you doing?" Jessica sighed, "Oh you know, just two pups wanting to exit through what has always been

an entrance. I'm great." Haley laughed, "I can heal you afterwards if you want." Everyone turned to her in shock. Jessica startled, "You... you would?" Haley nodded. I could feel she was offended in our bond when she replied, "Of course."

I linked her, "She didn't mean to offend you. She's just surprised since they hurt your feelings." She linked back, "I'm not a bad fucking person. I wouldn't let her suffer, or any of them if I could stop it." I groaned, "No one thinks you're a bad person. Here in this realm when women get mad at each other, they wouldn't help them out. Well, more often than not anyway." Haley scoffed but said nothing. Catherine came in to check Jessica. Haley snapped curtains around the bed for Jessica's privacy.

My mom smiled, "How kind of you, little girl." Haley's annoyance was mounting. I was eyeing her. Jackson linked me, "She's mad, isn't she?" I replied, "Yes, how can you tell?" He sighed, "I'm watching her. When Jessica asked if she really would heal her, her left eye ticked a little bit." I answered, "She's offended. Now she thinks they think she's a bad person." Jackson groaned, "Great." I replied, "I know." Catherine spoke, "It's time to push. Everyone but Alpha Harold needs to go to the waiting room."

We all left. Once in the waiting room Haley snapped balloons that said They are girls that were pink, along with two pink blankets and binky's. She had snapped some into Shana's hands as well. Haley said, "I missed both your baby showers. That's from me and Eric."

Shana nodded, "Wow. That's so kind of you, and unexpected. Thank you." I felt Haley's anger again. I was about to link her when my mother said, "Thank you for offering to heal Jessica. We do have an accelerating healing rate but being able to move around without pain will really help her out. It's the right thing do." Jackson linked me, "Fuck... they are just trying to be nice, but it's not the way Haley feels, I can see it." I replied, "Her anger and hurt are increasing, now she's texting her brothers."

I watched Haley type a message on her phone. I realized it was a group chat. She wasn't just talking to her brothers. It also included Astrid, Torvi, and Miley. Jackson linked sarcastically saying, "Awesome." I told him, "You want awesome? Miley, Astrid, and Torvi are in the chat too." Jackson winced, "Can we catch a break?" I replied, "Evidently not."

After about an hour Harold came out and announced, "Melody Alexa Connors, and Meredith Haley Connors are on scene. Everyone is healthy." I felt and for once saw Haley's surprise. She smiled at Harold and told him, "I am very honored, Harold." He nodded, "Jessica and I both agreed. She somewhat insisted." Haley smiled.



We all went to see the new additions to our family. Haley cooed at the pups along with all of the women. I watched her walk over to Jessica while everyone was busy with the passing around the pups. I took a turn holding my nieces while Haley healed Jessica. It was impressive. It only took about twenty minutes. Haley was getting faster. Jessica thanked her and Haley brushed it off as no big deal.

I linked Jessica, "Don't keep thanking her." She was confused but didn't continue to thank Haley. Haley spoke in fealish to the children. We all just watched her. My mom started to say something. I linked her, "What do you want to say?" My mom frowned, "I just want to make sure she knows what she's doing. That was a charm. Right?" I frowned, "She would never hurt our nieces." My mom said, "I didn't say that she would." I linked, "I'll ask her about it. Just don't say anything." My mom sighed but didn't say anything.

We left after a few hours to let everyone get sleep. I asked Haley, "What did you say to the girls?" She smiled, "I fairy blessed them and told them to sleep for their parents." I laughed, "I'm sure they will listen." Haley frowned, "Of course they will. Fairy magic is damn powerful." My eyes went wide, "You can actually help newborns sleep?" She smiled, "They will sleep for at least six hours the first few weeks. Only because they need more food at first, but soon they will be sleeping through the night." I gaped then asked, "Will our pups do that?" Haley considered my question, "They may sleep longer than that actually. They are part fairy after all."

I stared at her in shock as she led me to the first pups' room. She excitedly told me, "Ok this is EJ's room. All of them are connected." I frowned, "There aren't adjoining rooms in the house." She mischievously said, "There are now." She opened the door and I saw a smaller room than I was expecting. It dawned on me, "You used one room and snapped a wall with an adjoining door?" She nodded, "Well, two walls and two doors but yes. I didn't want their rooms that fucking far apart. I made some tweaks."

I looked around the room. It was a light grey which surprised me. There were mountains, trees, bears, mountains, lions, and wolves in a mural on the wall with all. Over the crib it said EJ. There was a grey chair with a footrest and a changing table. I told her, "It looks amazing, Angel." She took me into the next room which was Alexander's. It was identical to EJ's except the name over the crib spelled Alexander.

Then she took me into Cassie's room. My jaw dropped. It was wall to wall pink. The walls were light pink. There was a hot pink castle mural on the wall. The crib was pink, the changing table was pink, the crib sheets were pink, the chair and footrest were pink. Literally everything in the room was pink. She was bouncing with excitement, I laughed and told her, "It's extremely pink, and so very you

Angel. The pups' rooms look amazing. I love them all." She smiled. I quickly took her into our room and made love to her until she fell asleep.

The next day, Haley was excited for her training session from the moment she woke up. She popped to the lake to set everything up. I watched from our deck for a while before I went to the war room. Right before Haley's training was about to start a warrior linked me at the same time Haley did. I asked her to wait one second. I linked the warrior back since he was guarding her. He said, "Umm Alpha... that fairy from the wedding... I believe his name is Farrin, he's here." I growled and shifted before making it to the front door. My brothers yelled, "ERIC?!" I didn't pause to explain and they followed me.

I made it to the lake in record time and shifted back. Haley snapped me clothes. I snarled, "What the FUCK are you doing here, Farrin?" I quickly put Haley behind me and her guard surrounded us. Haley spoke from behind me, "He's the only fire fairy that could come on short fucking notice. It won't be him the rest of the time, Eric." I growled at him, "You tried to take my wife at our wedding." Farrin smiled, "And I see that went well for you as she's glowing and clearly pregnant. The pheromones secreted by the fairy females at that time are impossible for us to resist. Even your bride can tell you, I don't like her in that way. I don't dislike her, but I do not want her. I wouldn't have minded the powerful children she is carrying. Faerie is a flutter over it; however, she's not my type."

Haley didn't even feel upset at his statement. I growled at him. Haley's students appeared. I did a quick count. I was surprised there were fifteen of them and not ten. Haley linked me, "Farrin really doesn't like me, Eric. His type is blonde and fucking tall. Why is everyone's fucking type tall?!" I let her come around from behind me. I looked at her guard, specifically blade. I told them, "If he so much as attempts to touch her, kill him." Blade nodded.

Farrin smiled, "Not a problem. I have no desire to touch her." I growled at him. Haley sighed, "Farrin, shut the fuck up already." I kissed her hard and threw one last glare at Farrin. I walked a few feet away and I stopped. Jackson linked, "Are working out here now?" I spoke out loud, "Of course we are. I won't leave her alone with that thing working with her today." Jackson laughed, "Alright, brother." Caleb brought out some paperwork for us to do.

We didn't really get any work done. Mostly because we were all stunned that every single one of the partial fairies were able to do some magic. The full blooded fairies seemed to be flabbergasted. The only ones who weren't overly surprised were the water fairies... which I found interesting.

I tilted my head in Farrin's direction, "The partial fairy Farrin is working with has to be Trixie, Aiden and Arion's half-sister." Jackson nodded along with my other brothers. Caleb said, "She does seem to be catching on quite quickly. He also

seems quite taken with her.” I nodded adding, “She also had a spark shoot out of her hands.” Caleb laughed, “That was funny. Farrin looked like he almost crapped his pants.”

Jackson linked, “This confirms fairies are dumb. Every single one of the partial’s possess a power. Haley seems very pleased, but she doesn’t look surprised. She must have been able to tell they’d be able to perform magic.” I nodded, “They are dumb. They could’ve had the partial fairies by their side all this time. Just as they could’ve had Haley by their sides. Now, this groups loyalty will be to her instead of them.” They nodded and we watched the rest of her session.

Haley popped to me the second it was over. She was very excited. She leaned down and kissed me hard. When she broke the kiss she asked, “Did you see?” I laughed, “I did. They did very well. Did you know they would all be able to perform magic? Did you know there were fifteen of them coming? Earlier, you said ten were coming.” Haley smiled, “The other five called me this morning saying they wanted to come and see what they could do. I did know they could do something; I could sense their lights at the event. I’m pretty fucking positive all partial fairies can perform some magic. I mean I know it was only a small group but surely if not everyone could, then I wouldn’t have been able to sense all damn twenty-five of their lights.” We talked for a bit longer then she popped away.

The rest of the days flew by. Soon, it was the day of Haley’s baby shower. I told Jackson he was coming with me this time. Darrin and Harold grumbled, but I told them they would be coming along next time while Jackson was in charge. That mollified them. Marcus opened the portal and we stepped through into the main room of the castle. I was stunned by the sight in front of me. Instead of what I normally saw, it was covered in wall to wall pink. Haley bounded through the portal and squealed, “I LOVE IT!”

Miley came around the corner with Jim who was covered head to toe in pink glitter. Miley clapped, “I’m so glad you like it. Ok, all the men out.” She turned to Haley and continued, “Hales, I promised Jim you would snap him clean if he helped get the decorations up.” Haley laughed and snapped him glitter free. Miley ushered us out quickly after that.

Bjourn and Marcus led us to where Titus and Haley’s other brothers were waiting. Bjourn grabbed mugs and handed them to me, Jim, and Jackson. Haley’s brother Drake said, “Now the fun starts.” I exchanged worried glances with Jim and Jackson. I turned to face the smiling faces of my wife’s family wondering what exactly they considered fun.