

# She Knows

Eric ripped apart the entire war room. I smashed the chairs, howling in rage. I ripped everything apart I could get my hands on. I vaguely heard Marcus ask Jackson, "Did Fabian rape her?" Jackson shook his head answering, "He hasn't yet. Eric would be on the ground in pain. They are fully mated and marked. The pain of her being with someone else willingly or not would knock him on his ass." Bexley spoke, "I think she told him who took her." Everyone turned to her. Of course, she'd figured it out. She'd have noticed his actions and his words.

Bjourn spoke quietly, "You know who took her? You knew this whole time?" Bexley denied that "I don't know for sure. I have had a suspicion since our meeting ended. If I'm right it explains, well, that." She pointed to me still ripping the room apart. Currently a painting my mother loved was enduring my wrath as I listened to them. Jackson sighed asking, "Who do you think it is?" Bexley bit her lip. Titus lost his patience yelling, "Tell me now, fairy! Who took my princess from me?" Bexley backed up into Liam. His arms protectively encircled her. I was jealous. I was not used to this emotion, but right now... I was so jealous that Liam could put his arms around his mate, and I couldn't. Haley was out of my reach. My rage could not be contained.

Bexley correctly surmised the situation, "I think it was Arion." Everyone was stunned. It was Caleb who spoke first, "You said her fairy brothers wouldn't actively harm her, though. Arion was just here. He was visibly upset when he was told how she was being treated." Bexley agreed, "Exactly. To me that says she wasn't supposed to be hurt. His reaction wasn't like Aiden's. Arion's reaction was one of betrayal because he was lied to. Because he felt guilty. You don't have practice listening to what fairies aren't saying. I've lived among them my whole life. I am telling you if he didn't take her, and I strongly suspect he did based on his reaction; he at least knows who did." Bjourn yelled, "You could've told us before he left. We wouldn't have let him leave! We had him!" Bexley yelled back at him, "He's my cousin! I needed to be sure! Then when he said he was going to do something to help Haley, I knew. Did you want me to stop him? She would've been raped. Is that what you wanted to happen?" Bjourn's eyes blazed gold. He yelled, "OF COURSE NOT!" Bexley retorted, "Then we agree. I did what needed to be done."

My breath was coming in gasps. I'd finally run out of things to destroy. Caleb sighed, "I don't suppose you can snap the room back like Haley can, Bexley?" Bexley laughed, "Of course I can." Caleb got excited until I spoke, "I wouldn't just yet. If she snaps it back now, I'll just destroy it again." Caleb's shoulders sagged muttering, "Well, later then. Could you at least snap us chairs please?" Bexley nodded and snapped. Chairs appeared. Jackson came over to me. He searched my

eyes and asked, “Is Bexley, right? Did Arion really do this to her?” I nodded and looked at Bexley.

I asked the question I’d been wondering, “Could she be confused?” Bexley nodded, “She is absolutely confused. I don’t know how many SIMS, they put her through, but you heard her breakthrough a few times. To make it worse it was a short period of time. Her mind is trying to protect itself, but she knows who took her. Her mind was clear when that happened. Besides, I already suspected after our meeting with what he said and how he left. For what it’s worth, Arion clearly believed she would not be harmed.”

I growled, “Nothing, it is worth nothing. He betrayed her, he betrayed us. He took her from me. He could’ve killed our pup shooting her up with iron. She hasn’t mentioned the pup to me. I’m scared to ask her because I worry if she lost the pup, it will break her.” Miley spoke, “I don’t think she lost the baby, Eric. I think she wants to tell you in person.” I frowned, “Then why didn’t she tell me about the pup in the shadow realm?” Bexley gasped asking, “She’s been in the shadow realm? She brought you there?”

I raised an eyebrow. I was about to answer when Miley interjected, “I meant to say that I think she wants to tell you at home.” I nodded, “I don’t think she brought me to the shadow realm. She was confused as to how I was there.” Bexley sighed, “Of course she was. You two are twice light bound. Anywhere she can go, you can as well. She may not have done it intentionally, but she brought you there to be with her.” She paused then added, “Because she needed you. The real you. She’d been seeing fake Eric’s. Her mind brought you to her knowing the real you would comfort her. Her fairy side needs to see you. Not wants, needs to see you. Her body demands it. She won’t be able to separate if you are real or not when she does see you though.” I growled, “How long will she be confused?”

Bexley frowned, “As I said before maybe a month. I don’t know how many SIMS she was in, nor do I know how long she was in them. From what you heard; she figured it out quickly when she was in the first SIM. Then they changed your personality to be nice. She probably stayed longer than she should have in the next SIM because she wanted to see you. I need more details to be honest, but she’s pregnant. My estimate is at least a month. A regular fairy would be confused for a couple days. She’ll be back to normal eventually. There are just too many unknowns.”

I growled. Haley needed a clear mind to get back. I knew one thing. Fabian would pay. I asked, “What’s the longest you think she could be out of it? She has to figure out the enclosure charm to let us in to get her out.” Bexley frowned, “That’s going to be more complicated because if Arion is with them, it means he charmed the enclosure. He’s very powerful. The longest she could be out of it?” Bexley sighed then said, “It’s just a guess, but five months.” I growled and grabbed one of the

chairs Bexley had snapped for us and broke it. I yelled, “She’s pregnant! I want her here with me under Catherine’s care! What will happen if she’s there and gives birth at night, in a house FULL of hungry vampires?” Bexley cringed, “Pregnant fairies are sweeter than normal ones. She’s royal. If she gives birth, there... I don’t know if she will survive. Her scent will drive them crazy.”

I couldn’t stop my roar. Jackson reached over, grabbing me by the shoulders. He sighed and spoke over his shoulder, “Marcus, Bjourn, come with us to the gym. He needs a fight, and as angry as he is, I can’t do it alone.” They nodded. They looked like they also needed a fight. Darrin and Harold stood to come. Harold offered, “You’ll need us too.” Jackson nodded. Bexley added, “I’ll go to the shadow realm and see if I can’t talk to her. Maybe I can focus her and explain some things.” I nodded, “I would appreciate that.”

Our group left the war room. The second we entered the gym everyone gave us a wide berth. Many knew better than to come near me in a bad mood. This would be me at my worst. They’d never seen me like this. I saw red when I thought of the events that transpired. Fairies were using my likeness to try to break her for something. I didn’t know if our pup was alright. She was being tortured and I couldn’t save her. I didn’t think it was Arion who betrayed her, I’d foolishly believed he wouldn’t hurt her. I thought her fairy brothers may know her location. But to actively betray her? I had discarded the possibility.

My fury could not be contained over the fact that I kept failing her. I swung blindly. I didn’t know who I was hitting, and I didn’t care. My mind was only comprehending forms. I didn’t know it was, but when they connected and hit me in the face it felt good. I deserved to be hit. I growled when someone went down, I needed more. Suddenly, I was kicked from behind. I went down to a knee. I quickly whirled smiling. This was good, another opponent.

I fought for hours against multiple opponents, slowly coming back to myself. I realized for the last several hours I was obviously fighting a rotation of Marcus and Bjourn. They had different styles than my brothers. I was holding my own

though. What broke the trance of fighting was my dad’s voice. It boomed across the gym, “Eric! We have Fabian on video chat requesting to speak to you.”

I immediately lowered my hands. Marcus and Bjourn smiled at me. Bjourn said, “You are a very good fighter, Eric. I will be honored to fight beside you, brother-in-law of ours.” Marcus nodded, “I’ve already seen you fight before. You are impressive.” Bjourn laughed, “I have seen him fight too.” Bjourn and I first met under an interesting set of circumstances. I shook myself off from thinking about the past. I nodded at my dad, and we all took off for the war room.

Liam was waiting in the hallway outside my office. I stopped and asked him, "Did Bexley reach Haley?" Liam shrugged, "She's still out. I have my little sister watching her. The Luna and my mate may be together now." I nodded then walked into my war room. I faltered a step then smirked at Caleb. The room was put back together. My Beta just never missed a trick.

I walked to where the computer was and took a seat. My father stood behind the computer ready to mute as needed, while Marcus and Bjourn stood just out of frame. Jackson stood behind me. I saw the man I'd come to hate more than I'd hated anyone ever before. I spat out, "Fabian. I have been trying to reach you." Fabian had been scowling. My words had his face morphing into a smile. He chided me, "I did tell you that you would have to be nicer to me, did I not? Now, you will grovel at my feet for her. Won't you, wolf?" I growled, "It's Alpha. You should know by now fairy, I don't grovel. I have declared war, as has my wife's father. You have miscalculated taking her from me."

Fabian hissed, "Yes, you ignore our treaty. That was not something I could've predicted. You have always been a wolf of your word." I stared at him. He couldn't possibly be serious. I snorted, "You voided the treaty with us. You took her from me." Fabian smiled, "I did no such thing. The agreement was for her to be your bride, which she is. The second part was to produce an heir. She is pregnant." I made a fist with my hand. I would pulverize Fabian. My knuckles turned white I was clenching my hand so hard. I asked, "The pup lives? Despite what I've felt from her? Don't think you won't suffer at my hands for the pain she has been in. The King of the Hackura asked me to convey a message to you should I reach you first. Know that what we felt from her, will be felt by your son tenfold." Fabian gasped, "She was right? The Hackura have Hexxus?"

I nodded, "His screams have echoed throughout our halls. The King and her brothers, along with her guard and even her mom, have been taking turns with him. My men have learned a few new things from them, they are quite adept at torture." Fabian hissed, "Lay down your arms and return my son or she dies. I know you're lying; my sister would never harm my son!" My eyes narrowed, "If she dies, or our pup dies, no one can save you. I'll kill you over and over again. I'll have a doctor and witches present to bring you back to life and begin all over again. I did not mean your sister. Haley considers Queen Veronica to be her mom."

Fabian hissed, "Of course that ungrateful wretch does. I want my son freed." I replied, "He's not in my custody, but if you give me my wife back... I'll see to it that he's freed." Fabian growled, "I'll give you your child back if my son is freed now." I laughed, "I'll get my pup back and my wife, with or without you. I certainly won't need to free Hexxus to do it." Fabian ground his teeth, "I can't give her back to you. She belongs to the vampire." I roared in anger. Jackson put his hand on my shoulder. My voice echoed with authority, "She is MINE fairy! Marked, mated, married, and carrying my pup."

Fabian grinned, ‘Yes, the vampire king was most put out about her mark. He bit her quite ferociously on her neck near it because you had marked her. How does it feel? To know she suffers because of what you did. He almost killed her because you and those assassins you associate with broke all her training. I had prepared her to be the perfect pet. She needed correcting because she never learned, but she never cursed. Such ugly words she uses now and she’s so strong headed. I’ll have to make sure to give her extra attention to correct everything. So unnecessary. You all had to put thoughts of grandiosity into her head.’ I growled, ‘My wife is a strong woman. You tried to destroy her. She is who she is in spite of you. That’s a lovely black eye you have. Tell me, who gave it to you?’

Fabian scowled without answering. I told him, ‘You don’t have to tell me. I know it was my wife. You had to upset her quite a bit. What did you do?’ Fabian hit the table, ‘I am in charge of this meeting! NOT YOU!’ I laughed, ‘It’s truly astonishing that you believe that. I believe my wife would say adorable. Don’t you agree, brother?’ Jackson smirked, ‘I believe she would.’ Fabian glowered, ‘Her thoughts do NOT matter. What is wrong with you? Is her pussy so tight that you’ve lost your mind? I suppose that could be it that. I never had the pleasure.’

My dad quickly muted the computer. I couldn’t contain Thor. He took control for a brief minute to roar thunderously. My dad said, ‘Calm down, son.’ I took back over and glared at him. I didn’t say anything though. I just listened to Fabian prattle on, ‘I suppose I could find out now. I never wanted to get her pregnant with a fairy baby, so her ass had to do. What a tight asshole it was. Have you had the pleasure yet?’ He paused. I ground my teeth. I promised myself I would yank out Fabian’s teeth out one by one. I would leave Fabian his tongue for a time, but eventually I would cut it out before his death. Fabian snorted, ‘No response, wolf? Has she denied you? She’s been saying nonsense about how I raped her. Such an ugly word that, rape. Don’t worry. She enjoyed it all. Everything we did to her she deserved.’

I growled menacingly. Fabian smiled, ‘I could find out if her pussy is so tight it’s entrapped you in her wiles. I would do that for you, wolf.’ I glared at him, ‘If you rape my wife, Fabian, know this; I will go down to where Hexxus is being held and I will shove the pear of anguish so far up his ass he will feel it in his chest. It’s made of iron you know. I’ll expand it until his asshole is the size of my hand. I won’t give him a break; I’ll just shove in anything iron and send you a video of his screams.’

Fabian paled, ‘Don’t harm my son.’ I growled, ‘Don’t harm my WIFE!’ Fabian hissed, ‘My son is worth ten times your wife. She’s a mutt! She ruined my life!’ I laughed, ‘Your son is not worth the dirt under my wife’s fingernails. You tried to ruin her life. She has done nothing to you.’ Fabian smirked, ‘She has no fingernails to speak of, try again.’ I stiffened, ‘You tore off her fingernails?’ Fabian smiled and cackled, ‘She won’t give me what I want. Even with

simulations of you telling her to do what I want. I don't think she loves you as you think she does." I ignored that jab. I knew she loved me.

I shrugged as if his words meant nothing. I told him, "I do believe her brothers just decided what Hexxus loses next. Fingernails. I would never want her to give you what you want, she knows that. Indulge me though, what is it you want from her?" Fabian shivered at my tone. He answered, "That's between her and I." I smiled, "Is it? You've found the need to use my likeness in a SIM. Does that not make it between me as well?" Fabian rolled his eyes ignoring me, "Lay down your arms against my people." I countered, "Don't you mean your nephews' people? Aiden was just here. He declared you and your band of misfit's traitors to the crown. We are now only after you."

Fabian gasped, "Alania would NEVER let that happen! YOU LIE!" I laughed, "She wasn't happy, but Aiden is the King. He spoke up to save the rest of his people from being slaughtered. I want to see Haley." Fabian considered, "Alright, I'll have her brought up. She'll tell you to lay down arms. She could be happy here." Jackson scoffed, "Something about a rainbow sprouting from my ass with leprechaun's gold is more likely." I chuckled. Fabian began to speak. I cut him off, "You and I have nothing more to say to one another fairy. Your time is coming. I will be there when you meet your end. I'll not speak again until I see my wife." Fabian sighed, "Yes, yes, she's going to be brought up."

We waited in silence. My dad muted the computer. Bexley slipped into the room. She was very pale. My dad asked, "Did you reach her?" Bexley nodded, "Yes, she looks awful. He hurt her badly. She did say she never screamed, though. She was quite happy about it. She said that her brothers would be proud. It's both her mind and body taking her to the shadow realm, she need rest. She's very confused, I could see it in her eyes. It's bad. I think it will be months before she's normal again. She hasn't had time to think about the enclosure charm because she's in so much pain. I'll research and we plan to meet back in the shadow realm."

I nodded. Anger filled me. I was worried. How bad could she look? From what I felt, it was bad. I didn't really study her when I was in the shadow realm. I was pondering all that when Haley was wheeled into view of the screen. The person wheeling her stayed in the shadows. I knew who it was. Fucking Arion. I felt it in my bones. I looked at my Angel. Her head was hung down, her hair was matted to her face. I growled, and internally begged the Moon Goddess Haley wouldn't ask me to lay down arms. I wanted to give her what she wanted; however, I couldn't do that. I wouldn't. It would break my heart to deny her in the state she was in.

Her confusion was heartbreaking. Thor was banging in our connection trying to break free. I linked him, "Thor calm down. We need to be levelheaded for her." Thor didn't calm down until Haley said his name. My dad muted the line when Haley commented on the decor. Marcus waved a hand and said, "Oh god. She's

probably going to say there's no pink anywhere." Marcus slapped his knee laughing, but quickly gathered himself. My eyes filled with tears. Haley was actually very funny. I missed her humor. I missed the light in her eyes that I'd seen since day one. It was gone now. I missed her. I needed her home. Marcus and Bjourn whose jaws tightened when Fabian brought them into the discussion. They would be in the same spot as me if she asked them to stop. They couldn't do it.

Fabian hitting my wife was making my blood boil. I was going to tear him to pieces. A growl escaped me when he called her a pet. My wife was not a FUCKING PET! To my astonishment Jackson, Harold and Darrin were right there with me growling in anger. My dad muted quickly waiting for us to calm down. Haley was so scattered it fueled my anger. I'd never seen her so frazzled.

My dad muted the computer again when Bexley tried to get my attention. She told me, "Tell her you're real, Eric." I nodded. I followed her advice. Haley laughed brokenly. It hurt my heart because it wasn't her real laugh. My poor angel. Her mind was sharp. She was so smart, but Fabian had scrambled her brains. She didn't even realize I was really on the computer in front of her. With a clear mind she would be giving us hints about where she was. She'd be letting me know how to help her.

When Fabian laughed, I didn't suppress my eye roll. Even I knew that was going to make her believe it was a SIM even more than she already did. Moron. Haley wanted out because this one didn't have me half naked swimming with her. I raised an eyebrow at that. Bjourn covered his mouth as he laughed. Bexley motioned for us to be muted again. She spoke quickly, "Get her attention, Kujo. You have to pull her to the here and now before her mind rejects this as real. She's already on the way because of Fabian, the idiot." I nodded to my dad to unmute us. I spoke a bit harshly even though everything in me wanted to coddle her. It got her attention though.

I finally got to talk to her. I asked the question I had been dreading the answer to. I asked her about our child. I decided to say baby instead of pup because I feared saying pup would confuse her. Tears filled my eyes at the look on her face. She was devastated. I feared the worst. She had lost our pup. I felt relief when that wasn't the case. She was upset she hadn't gotten to tell me herself, in person. I imagined our reunion after the summit, had it happened. Haley would have given me a onesie. I would've been overjoyed. I would've made love to her gently and spoken to her belly. I would've enjoyed talking to our pup. I found I wholeheartedly agreed with her sentiments that it wasn't fair. Fabian's days were numbered.

My hatred for those keeping her from me ignited into my very core. It was far more intense than I even knew was possible. I swore to the Moon Goddess, they

would pay for this. For hurting her this way. I would not rest until they all paid for that look on her face alone.

I was pleading to Haley with my eyes to not ask me to stop fighting. I was begging her not to say those words. To believe that I was real. I refused to call her Angel. I wouldn't let them know our endearment to use in a SIM. I feared Haley would stay longer thinking it was real. Especially considering she was staying knowing it wasn't me. If she truly thought it was, me her mind would remain scrambled for god knows how long. That would mean she couldn't bring down the enclosure charm.

I decided to quote the princess bride to her. She giggled. My heart warmed. It was her real giggle, not some cheap imitation. When I saw blood begin to seep through her shirt my anger doubled. I was startled to realize she was wearing my shirt. She was still wearing my shirt from the day I left. I hoped it brought her comfort.

None of the levels of hell had seen the torture I would put Fabian through. My soul sang at the thought. We would rip him apart. Arion finally stopped Fabian from hurting Haley. My mind battled with itself. I wanted to growl at him while simultaneously wanting to thank him. He at least spared her another hit. He also stopped her from being raped earlier. I decided a warning would suffice. Arion had better protect her better since he's the fucking reason we are all in this mess. Fabian's face contorted into rage when he found out we knew Arion had betrayed Haley. He had no idea how we knew. He didn't know Haley was reaching me. That was good. At least she had the presence of mind to keep that from them. That was my Angel.

Fabian got the call back to his intended purpose; to get me to stand down. It was clear Fabian had no plan against me. He truly didn't think I would go to war for Haley. He didn't see her worth, and that was his problem. Relief flooded me when I saw the look in Haley's eyes. I could tell by the look on her face this was not the look of someone who was going to say stand down.

She spoke in Latin. I didn't understand the words, but I knew they weren't stand down. My dad muted the computer. Bjourn smiled stating, "She said kill them all." I smiled broadly, "That's my wife." Fabian was screaming at her. Goddess he was unbearable. He flitted through emotions like a child with no control. He had somehow decided she was the reason for his unhappiness. God, I missed her.

The screen faded to black. I growled, "Where did she go?" Caleb said, "He would've sent her away after that statement." After a few minutes, the picture came back, but she was gone. Fabian appealed to me, "Obviously, she's out of her mind. We had her in SIMS. She's just confused, she doesn't want any fairies to die." I spat back, "Oh, I think she's perfectly fine. I do believe I have my marching orders directly from the mouth of my wife. I have fairies and vampires to kill,



without mercy. Goodbye Fabian.” He screamed, “WAIT!” I didn’t. I cut him off. I stared at the now black screen.

Jackson put his hand on my shoulder, “She’s ok, and so is the pup.” I threw the computer at the wall. Caleb sighed and took out his phone probably to order a new laptop. I growled, “She’s not fine! Did you see her? He keeps hitting her. I SWEAR to God Arion better watch out for her better now that he’s going to stay.” I looked out the window. The sun had set again. I begrudgingly dialed Aiden.

His amused but tired tone came through the phone, “Ah... wolf of my little sisters’ do miss me already?” I growled, “I really don’t. I would be happy to never see any of your faces EVER again. Your brother took my wife.” Aiden gasped, “No... no he would never harm her. Whatever you think of him, you are wrong. He wouldn’t betray me.” I rolled my eyes, “While I understand your inclination to believe him, as I would throttle anyone who said any of my brothers had betrayed me. Haley told me herself through our link.” Aiden cut me off, “She’s confused. It’s the SIMS.” I sighed, “She’s not confused. I will send you the video recording of the call we just had with Fabian. Arion stopped him from slapping her, again. He steps into frame. I am sorry Aiden. I really am. I’m sure he has reasons. I’m sure you will care enough to find them out. I would if he was my brother; however, I cannot bring myself to care.”

Aiden’s voice shook, “That’s why mother is distraught. It’s not because I declared Fabian a traitor, it’s Arion. Oh brother, what have you done?” I growled, “He chose the wrong side. Should I find out his reasons, I will pass them along to you. Only out of respect and understanding for your need to know.” Aiden replied tersely, “Thank you, Eric. I will try to reach him. Maybe I can reason with him. Please... Do not kill him.” I snorted, “I won’t promise you that.” Aiden was silent for a moment before he asked, “Will you ask Haley what she wants before you kill him?” I considered that, “I will. So long as he doesn’t face me in battle.” Aiden sighed, “I suppose that’s the best I’ll get. I am sorry he had a hand in this.” I hung up the phone and sat back in my chair.

Jackson spoke, “I found someone for you to kill, brother.” I bolted up asking, “Who?” Jackson smiled, “Oh, just a vampire at one of the buildings we haven’t hit yet. Lucas’ spy overheard him bragging just now about feeding on the Fairy Princess.” I smiled, “I really don’t say this often enough, but I love you little brother.” Jackson smiled teasing, “You’d be lost without me, and we both know it.” Bjourne asked, “Will you bring him back here Eric?” I was about to reply when Jackson’s phone beeped. Jackson told us, “Liam is bringing him back now. He needed a mission while Bexley was in the shadow realm.” I nodded. That was perfect. I strode down the hallway to my torture room to await my prize.

Bjourne’s phone buzzed, he’d come with me. He read aloud, “Ubbe has her location narrowed down to three places.” I stated, “We will check out all three together. Are

they far apart?" Bjourn nodded, "They are. He has the one he thinks she's likely in though. He feels her best there." I sighed, "Of all the times for Fabian to be smart." Marcus laughed, "It's not Fabian, it's Damon. He's centuries old. Her blood may be making him sloppy, but in general he's a smart man."

I nodded as Liam kicked a vampire in silver chains towards us. The vampire hissed, "The King will see you dead for this, wolf." I laughed, "I don't think he will, fanger." The vampire turned to me. I swore if the vampire could, he would've paled. He quickly schooled his features and muttered, "Alpha Eric." I smiled, "I was told you have such great stories to tell about a certain fairy Princess. I found myself intrigued. I just had to meet you to hear this story myself." The vampire sighed, "I'll tell you what I know if you let me keep my undead life." Bjourn chuckled, "You will tell him what you know regardless. Making little birds sing is my specialty. I was raised to do it, and I excel at it."

The vampire hissed, "I was talking to the wolf. Who the fuck are you?" Bjourn reached out and grabbed the vampire's hand. He quickly snapped his wrist. He grinned then answered, "I am Prince Bjourn Cambridge. I'd say it's a pleasure to meet you, but that would be a lie. I appear to have mistakenly broken your wrist. In my defense your bones are quite weak for a vampire." The vampire hissed in pain. He told us, "I am Xavier Thompson, the King's third in command! You cannot treat me this way." I laughed, "Did you not know the Hackura, and werewolves are at war with the vampires?" Xavier replied, "Do you not know how war works, you dumb shit wolf? You don't kill the higher ups. You barter with them." I shrugged, "I don't care who you are to King Damon, or your rank. I want my wife back." Xavier smirked, "She is delectable, I would want her back as well. I have never tasted anything like her. It's wasted on you, really, you can't appreciate her blood like we do. That light show she put on; I may have to fight the King for her. She would make a fabulous pet once she's broken. He won't even allow us to enjoy her body because she does not wish to share it. We are the highest of life forms. We take what we want, we do not wait for it. This ridiculous notion that she should decide if we use her body is absurd."

I growled and grabbed a pair of pliers. I turned around, "You would RAPE my WIFE?" Xavier winced seeing the pliers. He quickly changed his tune, "I haven't! I only drank her blood. That's it! I barely got a few pulls of her succulent blood when light literally burst from her body. We were propelled backwards into the walls of the room in front of the whole court!" I snorted asking, "Did she now? I haven't seen her use that power." Marcus frowned admitting, "Neither have I." I glanced at both her brothers in shock. I asked, "A new power?"

Bjourn considered it then countered, "Or the baby has a power. It's quite possible he or she didn't appreciate Haley being drained." I nodded, "That's true. I didn't think the pup could exhibit power, maybe they kick started the pup's power by trying to drain her. On the other hand, the Queen said Haley unlocked her full

potential having sex with me outside it could be her too.” Marcus nodded, “We should put a pin in that. I am looking forward to seeing you de-fang the vampire.” A thought came to me, “It could be that she fairly promised me that she would always come back to me. Her body won’t allow her to break that promise and it retaliated. She is a powerful woman.”

I stopped thinking about Haley, “Right. Now, Xavier, where did you bite my wife?” Xavier tried to pull his restraints off. The silver didn’t allow him to break free. He was resigned when he responded, “Her thigh.” I growled and ripped out one of his fangs. Xavier hissed in pain. I didn’t care about the vampire’s screams, it eased some of the pain I felt in my heart. I ripped out his other fang for good measure. Then I decided more was best and proceeded to yank out all the remaining teeth. After that, I ripped off Xavier’s fingernails thinking of what Fabian had done to my Angel.

His screams were like music to me. I kept picturing Haley’s face and her confusion. I brought my elbow down, breaking Xavier’s nose. I took a silver knife out and began to cut him. I asked, “Now Xavier, where is my wife?” Xavier choked on his own blood. He spat out, “Fuck you, wolf!” I laughed, “You’re not my type. I prefer my men to have more muscle and a heartbeat.” I stabbed him in the stomach then asked again, “Where is my wife?” Xavier groaned, “With the vampire king.”

Marcus hit him with the butt of his knife in the head. He asked, “What building smartass?” Xavier spit in his face. Her brothers and I worked him over for hours, but he just wouldn’t break. Bjourn sighed, “I could break him Eric, but why bother? We will just check the locations Ubbe scouted. This vampire is just holding us up.” I nodded and grabbed a stake. Xavier welcomed death as I brought the stake down into his heart. Apparently, he didn’t like being tortured. They should’ve left my Angel alone then.

I went up to shower and turned on the Bluetooth in the bathroom. I was startled at the music that was playing. This wasn’t my music. It hit me that Haley must have played music the day she was taken. I went down to my knees. I stared into our mirror, haunted. I said aloud, “This is where she found out about our pup. I bet she danced around in the shower. She turned around and realized she was glowing. Oh, my angel.” I closed my eyes. I could see it in my mind. Haley dancing and singing, happily realizing she was glowing. I asked, “Did you talk to our pup? Did you tell you our pup happy you were?” I stood, letting the water cascade off my skin until I was pruning. I sighed and stepped out of the shower. I got into bed and pulled her pillow to me. Her scent was fading from it. I cried into the pillow and fell asleep.

I jolted up awake, having a nightmare I couldn’t reach Haley. I checked my phone, checking the time. I had managed to get three hours of sleep. I sighed and got up and dressed. I went down and found my brothers in the kitchen. Mrs. Blanch eyed

me suspiciously and worriedly. She told me, “You need to eat, my boy.” I nodded, “Alright.” I sat and she brought me a plate. I shoveled the food into my mouth. It had no taste. I was so lost without Haley that I couldn’t even taste food. Everyone watched my lifeless eyes with concern. I couldn’t bring myself to pretend for their sakes.

Darrin disappeared into the pantry. He yelled, “What the actual fuck?! SHANA!” He stormed out of the pantry with several empty boxes of HoHo’s. I stared at him in shock. HoHo’s were his favorite, but this was an extreme reaction to her eating his food. Shana burst into tears. Darrin was baffled. He quickly backed off, “Shana, I’m sorry. It’s fine, I’ll just go buy more, just stop crying. Please stop crying.” Mom spoke sadly, “Haley helped her with that prank. When you all left for the summit Shana asked Haley for help with pranks. Shana was just going to short sheet your bed. Haley said that was hardly a prank. They sat in the pantry and they... well Haley ate most of them, but they ate the HoHo’s. Shana wrote in the boxes then they used crazy glue to put them back together. It was one of the two pranks they did before... well just before.” Darrin stared at mom in shock. The mention of Haley had sparked my interest, so when Shana calmed down, I asked, “One of two?” Shana nodded, smiling as she wiped her tears. She explained, “The second one is so much better than the HoHo’s. When we get her back you all had better watch it. That girl is lethal. Apparently, fairies have prank wars.”

Marcus walked in smiling, “I can attest to that. Once we got her out of her shell, she was very adept at coming up with pranks. She helped pull several off. Just an example... she replaced all our mom’s designer labels with clothes from Walmart. She laughed for hours. She left clues in a scavenger hunt, leading our mom to a storage locker in this realm. If mom hadn’t been so happy that Haley was opening up, she’d have been spitting mad.” Bjourn came in smiling too. He added, “Which is why we asked our sister for an idea to prank mom. It’s also why we had her pull the whole thing off. We’d have gotten in trouble.” Marcus smiled with a faraway look in his eyes, clearly recalling Haley pulling that prank. Darrin groaned, “Christ, what else did you two do Shana? What’s the second prank?” Shana laughed, “I’m not telling you. You’ll find out eventually.”

I smiled, thinking of how much fun Haley must have had before they took her. Anger consumed me again. I stood, “Let’s scout the first location.” Bjourn, Marcus, and Jackson followed me outside. I paused at the SUV. I looked over into the garage at Haley's Camaro. For a second, I pictured her sitting on the trunk, just as she’d done the first time, I saw her. I shook that thought off and got in the SUV.

It took us a day and half to reach the first location. Bjourn and Marcus could have portaled us, but I felt it would not be helpful. There was no guarantee Haley would be here, and I needed something mundane I could control in all this chaos. Driving to the location was a far cry from action, but it let me feel that I was in control in these moments. The most in control I had felt since I left Haley at home for the

summit. We reached where there should have been a building, yet we saw nothing. I felt an energy around the area though. I felt what could be Haley's presence faintly.

I turned to Bjourn, "I feel something, but I can't tell if it's her. The vampire king must have had the plan to use the enclosure charm on multiple locations to confuse us. Do you feel her here as well?" Both brothers considered my words. Marcus spoke, "I do, I can't explain it I just don't think she's here." Bjourn tilted his head, "You have a special bond with her Marcus, if that is what you believe then I believe it as well. Ubbe didn't have this as the most likely location either."

I nodded and glanced around the area. I walked over to the warriors I was leaving stationed here. I was honest with them, "We do not believe the Luna is here, but stand guard and stay out of sight. Report any and all activity back to me. If you see your Luna, you have my explicit permission to kill any and all who stand in your way to bring her home." The men cheered and howled. One warrior stepped forward, "It will be as you say Alpha. We will link you with any news. I request that if you find her at a different location and if there is a battle, link us so that we may fight for you and our Luna." I nodded, "I will." With that our group left and got back into the SUV. I regretfully drove home. I could get to the other two locations tomorrow.

I entered the mansion exhausted. I was about to try to get some sleep when I heard a roar of anger. I ran into the main room. I stared, stunned, at Shana who was on the floor laughing so hard she had tears coming out of her eyes. Everyone was in stitches of laughter except my youngest brother, Darrin, who turned and glared at me. I was completely bewildered by his anger. I asked, "What?" Darrin spat out, "YOU!" I wasn't in the mood. I took a step in the room glaring at him. I warned him, "Careful, brother. I am on edge."

Darrin paid no heed to my warning, waving a book around and yelling, "Your mate **STOLE** all my first editions and replaced them with **PAPERBACKS!** **PAPERBACKS, ERIC!** All but **The Pothunters!** Inside that book I have a journal with a note from my wife about what I have to do to get **MY BOOKS BACK!** They said Haley popped somewhere with my first editions. She's not even here to give them back when I complete this absurd list." He swung a journal in my face. He yelled, "Oh! We are **FINDING** her like yesterday. My books will have their revenge!" Jackson was roaring in laughter along with Bjourn and Marcus. I couldn't hold back my own laughter anymore.

I started laughing so hard. My mate, my wonderful angel was delightful. I went to my knees. Somehow my laughter morphed into tears which then, to my utter shame, turned to broken down sobbing. My mother was beside me in a flash. She had tears running down her face. She rubbed my back and comforted me, "Oh my son. My baby boy." I cried as my mother held me. I whispered, "I miss her so

much, mom. She hasn't reached through our link again. I don't know what is happening to her anymore. I need her. I need her home." My dad walked over, tears streaming down his own face. He told me, "We will bring her home. We will make them all pay for this." I nodded. I knew that. We would. No one that crossed me would live.

Jackson helped me to my room. He let me go once we got to my bed, "Sleep." I reached over and grabbed her pillow. Her scent was gone. I howled. I brokenly told Jackson, "I can't sleep without her, Jackson." Jackson sighed and laid down on the bed. He put an arm on my shoulder, "Then lay here with me, brother. Just close your eyes." I sighed and closed my eyes, humoring him.

I opened my eyes sometime later to see Haley sitting on the end of our bed. I jumped up and tried to grab her, but my hands went right through her. Stunned I yelled, "NO! No, you're not dead!" Haley laughed, "Of course I'm not silly! You're dreaming." I frowned, "Then why can't I touch you?" Haley shrugged, "I don't know, ask your subconscious. It's your damn dream." I wiggled my eyebrows, "Oh believe me, in my dreams I can touch you. I can have you screaming my name in minutes." She smiled, "That would be nice. You need to remember something Eric." I frowned asking, "What?" She shrugged, "I don't know, but you do."

I growled in frustration, "I want you back." She smiled, "I want to be back. Think about what you know about the Vampire King. I'm sure what you need to know is about him." My mind raced "I've read so much about him in planning all this. What am I supposed to remember?" She replied in a sing-song voice, "Something you thought could be important. You thought you figured out something very important to him. You didn't have much time to consider it." I frowned and my mind raced with possibilities. It hit me, "The Vampire Queen one state over. I thought they were important to each other. A few years ago, he visited her frequently when her reign started." Haley smiled, "Ah, there is it. Good job! I have to go now." I reached for her again, but I still couldn't touch her. I pleaded with her, "Don't go." Haley smiled, "Come get me, big boy!" She winked, then she was gone.

I woke with a start. Jackson sighed, "I guess two hours is better than nothing." When he saw my face, he frowned asking, "What?" I stood, "We need to contact the Kansas Vampire Queen Serena." Jackson frowned. He was going to ask question I didn't have time for. I took off running out of the room. Jackson caught up to me before I entered the war room. He asked, "Why?" I explained my dream hurriedly. Jackson said, "It can't hurt." We strode into the war room together.

I explained to a very tired Caleb what I needed. He nodded and began to look through our files for contact details for the vampire queen. Haley's brother Drake walked in. He watched us for a minute before he asked, "What are you guys

doing?” Caleb sighed, “Tracking down Queen Serena’s number.” Drake laughed, “Ask Bjourn for it. They have been lovers in the past.” All our eyes snapped to Drake. I asked, “What?” Drake frowned, “You guys really need sleep. Ask. Bjourn. They. Have. Be...” I cut him off, “We heard you! We didn’t mean what as in we didn’t hear you, it’s an expression.” Drake sighed, “Americans.” Bjourn walked in. We all looked at him with hopeful eyes. He raised an eyebrow and asked, “What?” Drake sighed, “Do you actually mean what, big brother? Or do you mean it as an expression?” Bjourn looked at Drake in confusion and snorted, “What in the fuck are you going one about?” Drake rolled his eyes, “They want Queen Serena’s number.” Bjourn smiled, “Ah, dear sweet Serena.”

Bjourn pulled out his phone. I asked him, “Will she answer if you call from your phone?” Bjourn smiled, “But of course. I am an excellent lover. They always answer my calls.” I smiled, “We need to talk to her.” Bjourn nodded. He dialed her number. On the first ring a sultry voice came across the line, “Prince Bjourn, what a pleasant surprise.” Bjourn laughed, “Oh, it would be. Sadly, this is not a personal call. My brother-in-law wishes to speak to you.” She laughed, “Oh, your precious little sister got married, did she?” I answered, “She did, to me.”

There was a pause. Queen Serena spoke, “Tell me that is not who I think it is, Bjourn.” Bjourn answered, “I can hardly tell you that S. I don’t know who you think it is.” Serena sighed, “It sounded like Alpha Eric Connors. Tell me your sister that you have spoken of is not Princess Haley Holloran.” I ground out, “Her name is now Haley Cambridge Connors.” Serena sighed asking, “Why are you calling me?” I paused, “Because I know you mean something to King Damon. I am not above declaring war with ALL vampires instead of just the ones in this state to get my wife back.” Serena sighed, “No, I do not think you are. I have no problem with you or yours, but I cannot stand against Damon.” I quickly told her, “I’m not asking you to. I’m asking what you are to him.” She sighed, “I can’t see how that is relevant.” I growled, “I don’t care about your vampire politics Queen Serena. I will not tell anyone what you are to him, I swear that to you.”

Serena was quiet for several minutes. Eventually she answered, “I am his child. His oldest and most beloved child. You killed two of his other children in the club you attacked. That is if my spies are correct, and you were there yourself.” I wasn’t sorry about that. I admitted, “I was there. Can you talk to Damon?” Serena sighed. Bjourn spoke, “S, it’s my baby sister. You know what she is to me. To our family. What she has already endured in this life. Help us and I will do your next three contracts with our people for free.” Serena countered, “The next three free, and your next off period with your mate you are mine and mine alone for the duration of it.” Bjourn didn’t hesitate, “Done.” Serena sighed, “He released me long ago, but I will tell him to return her, or I will wash my hands of him. Has he tasted her yet?” Bjourn answered, “He has.”

Serena hissed. The phone was covered but we heard her snuffle. She came back on the line and said, "You'll have to kill him then. He won't give her up now. I will not help you kill him." I snorted, "I don't need your help to kill him. I just need you to talk to him." Serena laughed sadly, "If what Bjourn says about his sister is true, you won't have to kill him at all. She will kill him herself." Bjourn said, "The fairies have put her through some SIMS. Her mind is confused. I do not know that she will be able to kill him herself." Serena laughed sadly again.

She told us, "It's always a flaw of men that they doubt or overlook a woman thinking them not capable. I will call Damon. I will renounce my ties to him since we have an accord Bjourn. You know I respect my maker, and he loves me deeply. He will no longer be the same man now that he's had royal fairy blood. You know this could end badly for your wife, Alpha Eric. Damon will not take my rejection well." I frowned, "He won't kill her." Serena laughed, "No, but he could punish her." He wouldn't. I knew he wouldn't. He might punish someone else, but right now she couldn't take it. I told her, "Do it." Serena laughed sadly, "You really want to hurt him, don't you?" I replied, "He took my wife and Luna. My mate who is pregnant with our unborn pup. He does not know of the suffering I have planned for him." She sighed, "For his sake, I'm glad that I truly believe your mate will kill him then. She'll be quick about it." With that she hung up.

Drake broke the silence first, "I think if Haley was in her right mind Serena would be right. Haley would stake his fanger ass so fast his head would spin. After seeing her in that call, I just I don't see it." I agreed, "Her mind could clear, but I don't see it as the likely outcome either. I have plans for the vampire king of Tennessee, and it doesn't involve a quick death." Everyone nodded. Jackson said, "Let's scout the second location brother."

We did need to get moving. Once we arrived, we felt the same as we had at the first location. Marcus didn't think this was the place either. Bjourn said this wasn't the likely location Ubbe had given. I called more of my warriors to assist the ones already stationed there. I walked over to Ubbe, "I didn't think we'd see you here. Bjourn said this wasn't your most likely location." Ubbe shook his head, "I've been rotating between the three of them. I have been seeing if the feeling here gets any stronger. The third one is the one I think she's at." I nodded, "It's a good plan."

I walked back to the car. Jackson said it was a two-day drive to the last location. Bjourn snorted, "I could open a portal." I needed to let Thor out. I looked to the woods, "I'm going to run. I'll meet you there." Jackson sighed, "I'll come with you, the Hackura can drive or portal I guess." I nodded and stripped off my clothes and left them in the car, Jackson following suit. We quickly shifted. Our wolves ran through the cover of the forest. We rested and I had to admit I slept much better with Thor in control than in my own bed.



Eventually we came into the clearing where the third location was. I saw Lucas Lyons, Bjourn and Marcus waiting. To my shock I also saw my youngest brother, Darrin. He stood among their group talking. I glanced at Jackson who snorted in surprise. We shifted and walked over to the group. Bjourn handed us our clothes. As I put on my shorts I asked, "Darrin, what's going on? Why are you here?" Darrin smiled, "I thought you would want my news right away, and I wanted to deliver it in person. Your little game with Serena worked. The king lost it in court. Sources say he shattered everything near him, shouting his goal would be to turn Haley against you for the grief you've caused him. He is bereft Serena turned her back on him." I smiled, "Good."

A pop surprised us all briefly. A frantic Bexley looked through the faces of our group until she landed on Darrin. She told him, "You have to get back now! I'm bringing you and the rest can follow in the car." I frowned, "We can't leave, we just got here. I still need to check the area to see if we feel Haley here." She nodded, "Yes, you. HE needs to come with me. Shana is in labor." Darrin dropped like a rock, passing out cold. Bjourn chuckled, "He's going to faint in the delivery room for sure if the mere mention of his mate being in labor makes him pass out." Darrin's eyes popped back open.

He leapt to his feet, "What happened?" I smiled, "You were told your wife was in labor and passed out. Like the Alpha male you are." Darrin glared at me. Bexley grabbed his hand, "You can posture later. Your wife is terrifyingly demanding and she, in fact, demands your presence." Bexley popped him away. Jackson laughed, "Oh, he has no idea. I'm almost sad we will miss it because he better hope we miss it. If she's in labor for the time it takes us to get home, he's going to wish he was dead." I laughed along with the rest of our group.

Lucas spoke, "I decided to come view the grounds and send some men to assist your warriors in guarding this place. There has been a lot of activity here. I think she must be here from all the comings and goings I have seen." I gave him a hug. I pulled back and told him, "I can never repay you for this Lucas. You've led the charge on so many raids, and now you are here in person. It means so much to me. Especially since I don't see Dylan with you. Thank you for leaving him at home." Lucas smiled, "Eric, you know that I'm always here for you. You don't need to thank me. I told you at the wedding when I find my mate if you are ever able to protect her, I ask that you do." I nodded, "That goes without saying." Lucas smiled, "As for Dylan, he said he won't get within a hundred yards of your murderous self until Haley is back." I snorted. Dylan could always get a laugh. Even if he wasn't here.

We walked closer to the area where a building should be. When we were about two miles away from the enclosure, I felt it. I was staggered by the feeling of Haley being close by. I whispered, "She's here." I stared around the enclosure desperate to see inside, but it looked as if nothing was there. I turned back to Lucas, "I think

you are right. She has to be here; I feel her so strongly.” I looked around then confidently added, “She’s here.” She had to be. Bjourn and Marcus nodded too. They surveyed the area. Jackson nodded, “I’ll go get my cell phone from the car and send out word to converge on this location then.” He took off. I spoke with Lucas a little longer before deciding what to do. I would go home and see my nieces, then I’d have Bexley pop me back here. Once I got back, I wouldn’t be leaving this area without Haley.

I took a breath, feeling as though I was in control when a panicked Liam came through over link, “Alpha, this is the worst possible timing, but Bexley is going into her concupiscence. It’s not like we don’t have enough going on with the Luna and Bexley’s research. We should’ve had another two weeks, but for whatever reason it’s early. I can’t apologize enough, Alpha. I know this is such poor timing, I know you need us, but I absolutely can’t let anyone else near her with her allure right now...” He was rambling and desperate. He was our lead warrior and had dedicated everything in his life to our packs. How could he think I would punish him for doing the one thing he needed to do for his mate? Protect her. Like I should’ve protected my Angel.

I interrupted, “Liam, I understand. Whilst the fairy fuckery has absolutely piss poor timing, I do not hold it against you, or Bexley. I know you’ve both been doing all you can to help us get Haley home and in a few days, you will be able to continue helping us with that. For now, tend to your mate. We will manage until your return.” The relief in his voice was apparent in his response, “Thank you, Alpha. We will return the minute we are able.” I closed the link.

I had taken a few steps, adjusting my plans in my mind when my whole world stopped. Haley screamed my name. I almost broke my neck looking at the area her voice came from. I vaguely heard Lucas say, “That’s just creepy. You can hear her, but not see her.” I took off running towards the direction her voice was coming from. Her voice sounded breathy. She was clearly running to me. It happened in a flash. There was nothing, then I saw her hands touching the edge of the enclosure. It looked like a bubble she was on the inside of. Her exact location was revealed to me.

I changed course easily in her direction. When Haley came into view the area surrounding her did as well. I was nearly crying in relief at the sight of her until hands grabbed her around the waist. Haley cried in anguish. I told the man holding her, “I’ll kill you, you fucker! Let her go!” When I saw her back, I roared, consumed by pure rage.

Everyone stopped for a moment. The man who’d touched her stared at me with fear in his eyes. He realized we could see them now. I took in her appearance and nearly growled again. What the fuck was she wearing?! I wouldn’t mind seeing that in the bedroom, but the amount of people seeing her this way sent fury

coursing through me. I knew she would never choose to walk around in this. Forcing her into wearing clothes like this made me feel volatile. My hands aching to rip that damn collar off her neck.

Her back angered me more than her attire. With the fangs marks and scabs forming all over her body, I really couldn't decide which injury angered me the most. I scanned her body. Her eyes had sunken in. Her hips were prominently displayed in stark contrast to the little bump in her midsection. I longed to touch her. I decided her back bothered me the most. I barely held my anger at bay when she said Fabian whipped her. We got to talk. Her confusion was evident again. It seemed a little worse even. That was not good. Thor was whining in my head at her appearance.

I saw Fabian on the porch before he spoke. Thor snarled, "I'll gut him. I'll tear him to pieces." I was right there with him. I'd killed him ten different ways in my head. Haley surprised us all by kicking his ass. Those bastards! They took their skin off her feet! I started punching and pushing on the enclosure with everything I had to no avail.

I yelled, growled, and then cheered her on as she beat Fabian to a pulp while she shouted at him. I heard a whistle shortly before the dart hit her. MORE IRON?! I roared. My warriors growled in anger at the treatment of their Luna. Bjourn swore to kill everyone the man who shot her loved. I felt a pride course through me when she took the dart and jammed it into Fabian's neck. I growled at the men who shoved her off of him. They carried him away as if he deserved care. They avoided her though. They would all die.

Haley looked stunned when she realized I was still here. I growled in frustration. I was going home for Darrin and Shana, but now I would now stay for her. She was too confused; I couldn't leave her. Darrin and Shana would understand. Haley was pulling at her hair, the frustration clear on her face as she tried to remember. I desperately wanted to comfort her by wrapping my arms around her. It looked like she was arguing with herself. I couldn't fathom how she didn't scream. I stared at her in wonder. I didn't know how she did that. I had screamed in pain over what had been done to her. My angel had stood strong and hadn't given them a single scream. Pride consumed me.

I saw Arion before she did. He actually winced at my growl. He looked a little worried, but not enough. I had to admit Arion's mate being here shocked me. That's why Arion betrayed her. He traded his sister for his mate. It appeared to have backfired if Haley is still spending time with her. She must be a pet. Probably just a blood pet then. I shoved the smallest bit of understanding I held for his position aside. I refused to feel sympathy. He betrayed my mate. I would've found another way in his shoes. I would've fought everyone with my bare hands; I would've given my life, but I never would've betrayed any of my brothers.

Arion looked at me as if I were crazy when I told him she needed more food. He was doing what he could, apparently. It wasn't fucking ENOUGH! Jackson joined us. Which confused Haley. Bjourn and Marcus's eyes blazed gold. Arion popped her away and took my heart with him.

I turned to Bjourn as we headed further back from the barrier. I asked, "What did she say in Latin?" He answered, "She said phase one my love" I stopped walking, "She knows. She knows how to bring it down." Bjourn nodded. Marcus said, "I imagine the witch has something to do with it. Arion may have told her. His mate is a survivor." Bjourn frowned asking, "Would Haley trust her?" Marcus shrugged, "She didn't have a choice. It was either going to work or it wasn't. Clearly, it worked since we see inside the barrier now. Plus, they scrambled her brain pretty good. Maybe Haley forgot she hates witches." Bjourn laughed, "Did you not hear her? She knows she hates them; she just likes the two with her. You know it goes, comrades in their situation. They have formed a bond. It's normal."

Jackson turned to me asking, "What do you mean Bexley entered her concupiscence? She was just here! Now is NOT the time for that fairy bullshit. That's taking away our fairy link to Haley in the shadow realm, and our lead warrior. TELL ME you're fucking kidding," I sighed and shook my head regretfully, "I'm not. Liam linked me moments after Bexley popped Darrin out of here. It came early without warning. I personally think the fairy goddess is fucking with us. Liam is doing the one thing we all do, protect, and provide for his mate." I sighed deeply and ran my hand over my face before I stepped away to call Aiden to tell him what I'd learned about Arion's motives as promised.

Time passed around me, while I watched for my mate. Haley came outside again two days later. Jackson saw her first. He hit my arm and we walked over to see her. She was excited about something. I was not excited to see she was sporting a new black eye. Once we reached her, she squealed, "I made it! Hi Eric or SIM Eric and Jackson." I smiled, "You made it again, my wife." She frowned asking, "Again?" I smiled sadly, "Yes, you came to see me two days ago." She pulled at her hair again. I wanted to tear things apart. Haley whispered, "That was real. I made it here."

Someone grabbed her from behind again. Jackson grabbed me when I howled in anger. Haley fought them off, wounding at least three when Arion came out. He surveyed them then shouted, "OH FOR GOD'S SAKE! What are you all doing? She can't escape. There's no harm in letting her see him. She's just confused. Which you can blame your DAMN selves for! You had no spine to stop it! Let her sit there and talk to him. You clearly can't stop her." They backed off begrudgingly. Haley sat on the ground to talk to us.

After she'd calmed down a bit I asked, "What happened to your eye?" She tilted her head, "I made the vampire king mad; I think... No, I'm pretty sure. He was

definitely fucking pissed.” I smiled asking, “Why?” She smiled back at me admitting, “I broke his finger.” I stared at her wondering, “Why did you do that?” She sighed, “He was trying to convince me sex with him would be fun. He tried to shove a finger up my vajayjay, so I broke his damn finger for it. That seemed fair to me. He disagreed. You took someone from him... I think.” I snarled. He’d tried to sexually assault my wife?! The THINGS I would do to him. Jackson elbowed me. I answered Haley, “I did take someone from him. I turned her against him.” She smiled, “Yes, he’s trying to do the same with me. Sometimes I really think men are fucking dense as all get out. I love you, only you. It’s only ever been you for me.” I smiled at her, and we talked for a few hours before Arion came to take her away.

An hour later Lucas snorted, “You’ve got to be fucking kidding me.” He was on the phone with Dylan who asked, “What?” Lucas sighed, “It appears the fairy prince wants to talk to us.” Dylan shrieked, “The plot twist! I hope you tell the Alpha murders everything in sight he’s ruining this moment for me. Call me back. Forget nothing. What am I saying? I’m linking the warriors with you now. They will record this for me.” I rolled my eyes and went to see Arion.

Bjourn materialized and joined me. I asked, “What?” Arion told me, “She will be able to come see you. No one will stop her.” I stared at him. Bjourn spoke, “You appear to be worried now. What happened that has you making this concession for our sister that you so callously brought here?” Arion winced whispering, “I didn’t know.” I snorted, “You have got to be fucking kidding me. If you didn’t know the techniques vampires use to train their pets, then you haven’t been paying attention.” Arion whispered, “Not that.” Bjourn asked, “Then what?” Arion changed the subject, “I’m just here to let you know, she can come see you. I’m working on it. Ok?” Bjourn asked, “Working on what?” Arion snorted, “Figure it out. I must go.” Bjourn told him, “You made me a failure, fairy prince. I promised these things would never happen to our little sister again. You should know, I do not take failing lightly. Should I ever get my hands on you, you’ll suffer. Haley may understand your reasoning, but I do not.” Arion guiltily looked away then popped out of sight.

I asked, “What the fuck was that about?” Caleb said, “Let’s talk about that over here.” We walked back to our spots. I asked, “Caleb?” Caleb considered then said, “I think Arion is working on a plan to get Haley out. Something obviously happened after he popped her away. He discovered something. It’s not that she’s being mistreated. He knew that and was obviously unhappy about it. Now, he’s willing to come up with a plan to get her out.” I asked, “What could it be?” No one had an answer for me.

Three days later the same pattern with Haley ensued. The difference this time was no one bothered to stop her as she ran over to us. She looked serious. She waved frantically stating, “Eric... I have something important to tell you!” I smiled at her

asking, "What is it?" She cried in frustration, "I can't remember. It's important and I don't even know if you are the real you. It's something about a lion. That doesn't make any fucking sense, but I swear to god... it's about a lion." I frowned. I had no idea what she was talking about.

Bjourn came over. He asked her, "Do you mean Alpha Lucas Lyons, Haley?" She smiled emphatically yelling, "YES! Yes, the Alpha Lion guy. They want to strike back. He owns... he owns... GOD DAMN IT!" She hit her head. My heart broke as I begged her, "Haley, please stop that. We will call Lucas over here. He can tell you what he owns. Don't hit yourself again though, it's ok." I linked Lucas, "We need you over here." He answered, "Coming." Haley sat on the ground. Her eyes were moving back and forth. She muttered under her breath, "Think Haley. It was really fucking important. You promised yourself you'd remember. REMEMBER!" Lucas came up to our group. Bjourn's facial expression was pained as he watched her.

Lucas took in her appearance with pity on his face. I told him, "Haley needs to remember something probably about a building you own. The vampires plan to hit back at us." Lucas frowned, "I own many buildings, a mall, an office building, and a youth center." Haley skyrocketed off the ground. She pointed at Lucas and yelled, "That's it! They are going to hit the youth place. The vampire said the wolves owed them more numbers. You took their numbers and they needed to up them." I stared at her in shock asking, "They plan to turn kids at a youth center?"

Haley sat back down and pulled her hair. She whispered, "I don't know if that's it. They talked about numbers." Lucas paled then looked around. No one was near us, but he lowered his voice, "Thank you, Haley. You're saving lives. You did good." I linked him, "Damon has lost it. He's attacking kids. Other states ruling vampires will denounce him for that." Lucas sighed pointing out, "Having Royal fairy blood every night will do that. He'd need to detox..." I growled, "He will die." Lucas started to walk away.

Haley yelled, "WAIT! It's tonight. They are coming tonight." Lucas took a step back towards us. He looked at me worriedly announcing, "There's an event tonight, to celebrate the kids who are excelling in their classes. I need to get on the phone and move things around. We need to get security there. Dylan will need to go. Thank you again, Haley." She nodded muttering, "Sure SIM Lucas. If you just so fucking happen to see the real Lucas, could you let him know so I could be moderately helpful?" He laughed and walked away.

Jackson asked, "Haley, how did you hear about that?" She frowned, "I was... I think I was in court, and I figured out I need Arion's blood. So, after they fed off me, I faked passing out. Sir Arthur is helping me. He left me alone in the lab. I snuck around to Arion's room. Megan has talked about where his giant ass room is. Is the décor different you ask? No, the whole damn building is fucking black.

Wall to wall black. UGH! It's horrid. Like it would kill them to find another color. If I could snap, I'd make the whole damn place pink. Anyfuckingway Arion fought with Fabian and cut his lip. Megan said she put the washrag in the hamper. I needed it. After I got it, I was leaving his room when I heard people coming. I snuck back into Arion's room and left the door open. The... I think they were pets, had to be, were talking about it. I saw another pet.... I don't think she's really a pet though. I know her...I think I talked to her."

She stopped talking. We waited a few moments, but she clearly wasn't going to elaborate. I decided to focus on the important details. A possible fake pet she knew wasn't high on my priority list. I asked, "Why do you need Arion's blood?" She smiled, "To bring it down. I remembered the book. Bex." I looked to Jackson in confusion. She wasn't making sense. I asked, "What about Bexley?" She frowned, "I need her to meet me somewhere... I can't remember where. She can't come here the vampires would drain her. Plus, I'm certain if any fairies besides the one's here could get in, Aiden would've rescued me. I leave the enclosure, or obviously I would. Damn this daily iron dose to hell! I tried to portal out and it didn't fucking work." She started crying. I stared at her. Fury filling me as I tried to evenly ask, "They are giving you iron every day?" She nodded. Jackson knew I needed a change of subject. He asked her, "Do you need to meet Bexley in the shadow realm?" She grinned, "YES! Thank you, SIM Jackson."

I cursed the fairies for the billionth time. I told her, "We aren't SIMS." She nodded, "Sure, it's so handy to talk to you guys. Real or not." I rolled my eyes asking, "When do you need Bexley?" Thank god Bexley was now available.

Haley frowned, "Did I not explain that?" I shook my head. Lucas came back over to us. Haley waved her hands in the air and said, "Not tonight because of the lion attack." We all laughed as she continued, "But tomorrow night. Damon is going to come outside with all his forces and the fairies to talk to you. He wants to see your face after he hits something your former lover, the lion, loves. I didn't know you liked a lion. Is that another type of were? OH, MY FUCKING GOD that's awesome! Are there werelions?! Can I meet one?" I stared at her, barely containing my laughter.

Lucas paled looking like he wanted to be anywhere but here. Jackson laughed and explained, "The lion is still Lucas Lyons, sister-in-law of mine." Haley nodded, "That makes more sense." Lucas took a hesitant step forward, "Haley, I swear to you Eric and I have no romantic feelings, only respect for each other." Haley tilted her head at him. Jackson was on the ground laughing. Haley sighed, "I know. There's no need to explain, my Lion. Why do they call you a lion if you turn into a wolf?" I smiled gently reminding her, "His last name is Lyons, remember?" She muttering, "I do remember that. I think." She glanced at Lucas. She stated, "I'll say this, you have good taste husband of mine." I roared with laughter. Lucas stared at her in wonder asking, "You're not upset?" She shrugged, "Why would I be upset?"

Lucas spoke to me, “Is she going to be mad when she comes out of this confused state?” I shook my head, “No, she doesn’t get mad about my past sexual experiences.”

Lucas nodded then teased, “Are you sure she doesn’t have a sister?” She laughed, “No, but I have a Hackura brother whose bisexual; he’d love you. I think someone told me he says Eric has a magic dick. I feel like that happened, but you my Lion are his type. Have you met Harper yet? I think I saw him here through the window.” Lucas shook his head telling her, “It’s more of just an Eric thing.” She laughed, “Well, that’s understandable. He’s so fuckable and yummy.”

Jackson spit out his water. I laughed but Haley wasn’t done. She continued, “I miss fucking him. God, it’s been so long since we had sex. I am SO HORNY. Why are you out there, husband of mine? I have needs, you know? You did this to me. I was perfectly content never having sex then you appear in my life like a wrecking ball. Suddenly, I become this sex crazed woman and then poof. I’m in the bubble and you’re on the wrong goddamn side. It’s maddening, I tell you.” I couldn’t do more than stare at her. I missed her so damn much. Not to mention this little speech was reminding me how damn horny I was too.

Lucas and Jackson were beside themselves when Arion came to get her. Arion spoke softly, “It’s time to go in, Haley.” She sighed muttering, “This jackass. Look at him. He’s so happy. He’s worried about something now, but overall.... He’s happy because he gets sex from his mate every damn day. Meanwhile the preggo gets none. He knows how long we’ve been here too. It’s so unfair. Guess what though brother? I’m going to meet a werelion, and you can’t see it. Because he’s my lion not yours. So, HA!” Arion stared at her. He frowned then said, “Uh sister...” She glared at him interrupting, “What? I can’t want to have sex? I’m pregnant, Arion. I’ve obviously had sex and for your information it was like spectacular sex. I was getting regular spectacular sex. Then you just popped me away to the land of no Eric sex. It’s not nice. It’s actually downright cruel.” We were all laughing at the look on Arion’s face. Eventually, he just popped her away.

We walked away and prepared for the attacks. We had Lucas’s youth center packed with our people waiting for an attack. Harold was leading the men there with Dylan Frost. Harold let us know they killed all the vampires and few injuries on our side but no casualties. Dylan was apparently having a party. I told Harold to make sure Dylan stayed there. Our warriors reported that the place Lucas moved the youth center event to didn’t get hit. Lucas got off the phone with his people. He told me, “She was right. Even in her state she managed to save people. Are you sure she doesn’t have a sister somewhere in that family tree of hers?” I laughed, “She’s one of a kind.”

I linked Liam, “Is Bexley ready? Haley’s intel was good. The fight to bring her home is tomorrow.” Liam replied “I will let her know. Darrin and I will come with



the rest of the men. Before you say Darrin doesn't have to come, he punched me when I told him you said that last time." I sighed, "Alright." I closed off our link. The rest of our warriors were coming in groups to our location. A portal opened and Titus walked into the clearing with what appeared to be the Hackura army. I was certain he'd been here faded into the background before this. Bjourn and Marcus smiled as their father walked over to join us.

Titus smiled. His relief was in his tone, "I feel her so near." He looked past us and pointed, "That girl wants your attention." We turned to see a girl frantically waving at us while looking around. We jogged over to her. I asked her, "Can we help you?" She looked me up and down, "God, that lucky bitch. You are fucking hot. She said you would be the blonde haired, blue eyed, fucking hot wolf. Damn it if she wasn't right. Haley wanted me to tell you tomorrow night, it's certain. Watch your six. They have someone coming from that direction. I don't know what the fuck that means but she insisted you know to watch your six. I'm Lisa." I nodded, "Thanks Lisa."

She took off like a shot back into the house. We walked away from the edge of the enclosure. We had just reached our previous position when a guard patrol came by the spot, we'd seen Lisa at. Marcus laughed, "They timed it. She may be confused, but Haley has still got it." Titus proudly declared, "She is my daughter, of course she does." I nodded, "We should get some sleep. They are clearly sending someone to sneak up behind us." Titus nodded, "Yes, we constantly tell her to watch our people's six, which is their back. I will split my army. They will guard the flank." I nodded and shifted into Thor. It was the only way I could get sleep. I needed my rest for the battle to get Haley back.

Aiden called, "Wolf of my sisters, I think you forgot to call and update me." I snorted, "No, I didn't." Aiden nonchalantly said, "I heard a fight is coming. I will stand with you." I shut that down, "No, if something happens and you get hurt Haley will be upset. She's scattered enough as it is." Aiden countered, "You can't get in. I would not be in danger." I told him, "I'm positive we will be getting in. The Hackura are in a volatile mood. I couldn't assure your people's safety." Aiden sighed, "You have a point about the Hackura. Fine." He wasn't happy, but I didn't care. The other reason I didn't want him here was because I didn't want him to take Arion to Faerie.

The day dragged by. We were ready and waiting when night fell. As soon as the sun set the vampires filed outside. The fairies with them popped out wearing battle gear. Their group looked smugly at us outside the enclosure. Thor wanted to wipe that look off their faces. When we got inside, they would not be smiling. The vampires cheered as King Damon came outside with a sword at his side. He stood on a raised platform. A platform that was well behind the front line of his men. Coward.

He smiled and spoke to me, “Alpha Eric. We meet again.” I gritted my teeth, “So we do. Come out from behind your enclosure, I’d love to talk without the barrier.” He laughed admitting, “I’m sure you would. Now, I understand you are being difficult about negotiations. Surely, we can come to an agreement.” I nodded agreeing, “Of course we can. Give me back my wife.” He laughed tauntingly asking, “And what of the children? You don’t want them?” My mouth dropped. I looked at Jackson and Caleb. Both shrugged. I asked him, “Children? As in plural?” Damon frowned and glared at Fabian. He hissed at him, “WHY doesn’t Alpha Eric know my pet is carrying triplets?”

Enraged growls and yelling filled the air when he called Haley a pet. The Hackura’s eyes blazed. Fabian replied, “You fool! He only needed to know about one of them! I want the other two!” Damon groaned, “For the last and final time, I have told you, my pet has told you through your torture of her and SIMS; you can’t have her children. They are for the wolf.” We all felt a strong power rip through the air. Arion gasped along with the other fairies. Masium yelled, “It’s not possible!” Fabian stomped his foot like a toddler throwing a tantrum. He hissed, “Only Alania is powerful enough to weaken the enclosure, and she wouldn’t DARE!” Titus clenched his fist and promised, “She will pay for not helping my baby.”

Damon frowned asking, “What do you mean weaken?” Arion replied, “There are three steps to bring down the enclosure. One happened when Haley touched the barrier. The second just happened. That was the power we just felt. If the third happens then the enclosure will come down, and they will be able to get inside. I don’t think you want that.” Damon hissed, “Strengthen it back up! Of course, I don’t want them inside!” Arion shrugged, “It will take me a few days to prepare and perform. You know it took a week to put it up.” I noticed he didn’t say he would do it. I linked Jackson, “He really does want her out.” Jackson answered, “The question is still what changed.” I nodded.

Damon ordered, “Start right away then. Anyway, Alpha Eric, do you not want to keep your three pups?” I couldn’t speak. I was beyond stunned. Triplets. I thought they meant it was twins. Haley was giving me three pups. My brain just kept repeating that information. I saw Arion stiffen looking at the porch. Panic set in his eyes. I didn’t like that at all.

An enraged scream came from the porch. We all turned to see Haley standing there covered in blood. Her eyes were blazing gold. She screamed at Damon, “YOU MOTHERFUCKING PIECE OF DEAD SHIT FUCKING FANGER!!!! I had ONE thing left I could tell him about this pregnancy when we get home! ONE! AND YOU JUST TOOK IT FROM ME! HAVE I NOT SUFFEREND ENOUGH FOR YOU ALL! FUCK THIS SHIT! I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!”

Titus spoke to her trying to call her down, “Princess...” She cut him off, “NO POSSIBLE SIM DAD! I have been beaten. I have had my brain scrambled. I have been tortured. He’s tried to coerce me into having sex with him. As if the man who gave him to me didn’t make it impossible for me to stand being touched. Did anyone ever fucking consider that? NO! Selfish shits! ALL OF THEM! I don’t even know if any of this is ACTUALLY HAPPENING! I had ONE thing left for me and Eric and he just FUCKING told him like it was NOTHING! You haven’t even seen this place! It’s DREADFULLY dull! There is NO color ANYWHERE! There is not even ONE hint of pink. I HATE IT HERE!”

We chuckled despite how angry she was. Marcus said, “I knew it. I knew she would say there wasn’t any pink in that house at some point.” Our laughter came up short when Haley produced a blood covered stake. She took off running, practically flying through the air, towards the vampire king. She yelled out a war cry as she ran. She leapt at him with the stake in her left hand. I couldn’t breathe. She almost had him when he held up his hand and loosely grabbed her by the throat. My entire world stopped. I saw Arion edging towards the vampire king. I saw the glint of a stake in his sleeve. He was going to kill him knowing we’d get in for Haley. I did not understand him at all. What made me pause was Haley was still smiling as if she’d won. What was going on? I snarled at Damon. He couldn’t kill her. My world was literally in his hands. I didn’t like it one bit.