

# The Ribbon

Eric stared at Haley as she dialed Marcious. Jackson linked me, “There’s no way she should know about the rogue king. What the fuck is going on?” I answered, “I would jokingly say time travel, but when I think about what happened; I know our allies came when he revealed himself and we killed them all. She was not there.” Jackson replied, “Me too. So, what the actual fuck.” I linked back, “Fairy weirdness? I don’t know.”

We could all hear Haley and Marcious’ conversation. I linked Jackson, “I swear that’s the question we ask ourselves daily now. What now?” Jackson laughed, “Life with your mate is certainly exciting. I’m so glad you found her.” I smiled, “Me too, brother. Me too.” I groaned listening to Haley explain what happened. I linked Jackson, “I don’t like the sound of this.” Jackson replied, “Tell me fairies don’t believe in alternate realities.” I replied, “I think they do, and she was in one.” Jackson sighed, “Great, just when I didn’t think we could get anymore craziness. Your mate is going to jump to different realities. Maybe she’ll see you fucking Claudia in one and take her head off right there.” I groaned, “Don’t even think that. Thinking about her seeing me with someone else causes me pain.” Jackson smirked.

Marcious was going to explain tomorrow. Thank fucking god we were getting an explanation. I didn’t want any more surprises jumping up about us being twice light bound. Marcious did owe Haley a large debt he could never repay. A pang of jealousy went through me for the twenty-one year old version of me who got to meet my Haley. He also knew where his mate was now.

Jackson linked me, “At least even though you are younger and not as smart... after seeing the older version and talking to her; that Eric won’t reject her.” I smiled, “I would’ve never rejected her, I never understood the mate bond until I found her. I wouldn’t have been able to reject her, and I wouldn’t have wanted to. She’s beautiful and she smells so good. Thor wouldn’t stand for it.” Jackson linked back, “Well, at least you understand why we rolled our eyes when you talked about maybe rejecting your mate back then.” I nodded. My mom had always told me I had to have a powerful mate. That’s why I considered it.

I was not happy about her being pulled into alternate realities. I linked Jackson, “FUCK! We eventually want to have more kids. I can’t have her falling asleep and waking in alternate realities when she’s pregnant. I’ll lose my shit!” Jackson answered, “Maybe it doesn’t happen when she’s pregnant. This is the first time she’s ever gone to one.” I considered replying, “That’s on the list of questions for Marcious tomorrow.” He nodded. I had a lot of questions.

I groaned when Marcious said it could happen to me as well. Jackson linked, “I’m kind of jealous. You can save your mate pain or tell yourself what to expect. It’s kind of awesome.” I sighed, “Maybe.” I could see his point, but I was worried about the situations Haley could find herself in alone. If we went together that would be better. GOD! This was fucking crazy. Alternate reality versions of myself at different ages. This was so weird.

Maybe at least one me could get to take my revenge on Damon. I would make sure of it. We loosely explained our plan for the rogue king situation. In reality, we had cleared our territory of all women and pups; they were in Lucas’ territory. Harold and Darin were waiting with Lucas and all our other allies just over the border. Once we confirmed the rogue king was there, they were coming in. The rogue king kept killing more and more werewolves, and he was recruiting from packs by force and extortion. He had to be stopped. I imagine Jackson or myself, probably Jackson, linked our brothers that they could stand down and that it was handled.

I linked Jackson, “Don’t tell her our allies didn’t make it before I got cut multiple times.” Jackson linked back, “As pissed as she looks about it almost happening, she might go find Lucas and kick his ass. His Beta would love her even more.” I growled, “Fucking Dylan. She’s fucking mine.” Jackson just laughed. We kept talking. I was going to kill the other me if he fucked my wife. I already have a headache and I didn’t even go into this reality. I linked Jackson, “If he screwed my wife, I’ll find a way to go kick his fucking ass and tell him to wait for his own to reach an appropriate age.”

Thankfully, he only kissed her. I’d still punch him if I went to that reality. We all smirked at Haley’s nickname for the other version of herself, mini me. Jackson linked me, “That’s so Haley.” I replied, “Yes, it really is.” Haley explained the situation some more. That me was going to see that her. Jackson linked, “That is going to make a big difference. You wouldn’t let them deny you access knowing that she was yours. She’s been calm and she’s been very open when she’s around you since she found you. Knowing her that soon, I really think it will help her.” I responded, “It’s also less abuse she suffered. Hopefully, this helps them. Because you’re right, I wouldn’t let them keep her from me.”

Jackson linked, “Well, I guess the Ribbon is one way to do therapy. Reality jump and kill the people that hurt you.” I grimaced, “I’d rather she be safe at home in therapy with a therapist.” I noticed Haley’s families faces when she kept explaining about her trip. It haunted them what she went through. Their feelings of inadequacy were written on all their faces. Even Titus.’ They all felt they had let her down by not saving her sooner. I couldn’t even begrudge them those feelings. I understood, but we all knew she didn’t see it that way and never would. Marcus would always be her savior; they all would.

Jackson linked me, “Get that look off your face, Eric. If you’re trying not to growl, work on your facial expression.” I tried. Haley didn’t notice though. I was still jealous of this other me. That lucky bastard! He would have so much time with her. I was left wondering who my mate was. If she was out there, and if we would ever meet. That me already got to see her all grown up AND seen her in action.

My mind went to so many places. I wondered if mates were always the same in all realities, or if that was something more unique to Haley and me. Would different choices spark someone else for the versions of us elsewhere? I couldn’t imagine a reality where anyone but Haley was my mate. I looked at her and shook my head. No, me should be without her. She was everything, the sun rising, the moon and stars, she was it. We got onto fairy ages. Jackson linked, “Oh god. Are we going to look the same in ten years since she’s twice light bound to you?” I shrugged, “No clue, brother. Another question for tomorrow.”

Everyone was ready for bed. I planned to stay awake to make sure Haley didn’t go anywhere again. I just laid there watching her making sure she didn’t go anywhere without me. I watched the sun rise. I couldn’t take it anymore she was too damn irresistible. I nibbled her ear. She teased me about which Eric I was. MINE! She was fucking mine. When I entered her my only thought was, god this never got old. I was excited Haley got into the dirty talk this time. When we finished the triplets woke up.

After we took care of them, Haley popped us downstairs, and we left. Haley realized her guard was there. I had against my natural instincts to not let her host the damn party at our home, after seeing the guest list. Or to tell Bexley there was no way in hell fifty plus fairies would be in our home. Jackson convinced me we could have warriors on alert and her guard here. It was only because this was important to Haley that I had agreed.

I could give a shit less if Bexley had to go to Faerie to have an additional baby shower. When I saw my dad I linked him, “If you can, I’d like for you to be there at the meeting with Prince Marcious.” He nodded and replied, “I’ll be there. Mrs. Blanch is dying to get her hands on your pups. She’ll take my place in a heartbeat when the meeting starts.” I nodded to him.

When the party started, I stayed in the background. I was never far from Haley. My warriors were on high alert. Several fairies were casting worried looks around. Bexley just smiled and looked at Haley. The fairies then understood they were on fucking notice to not touch her. I caught Blade’s eye. I thought I briefly saw a hint of a smile on his lips. Jackson linked me, “I think it’s going ok. She’s having fun. None of them have really even approached her.” I linked back, “Marcious is looking at her like she’s a juicy steak. I don’t like it.” Jackson replied, “Yes, but he’s in your debt and hers for his daughter. He won’t do anything, and Aiden won’t let him.” That very well might be true.

Only one fairy made a move that none of us liked. Haley nor Bexley saw us handle it. She moved her hand to her pocket and moved towards Haley. I had her by the neck passed off to Javi. He had the fairy out of the room before they noticed. Except for Marcious. He smiled at me, then returned his gaze to Haley. I growled softly and his smile broadened. All my warriors, my brothers, and Haley's guard felt a weight lift the second the last fairy left the room.

Jackson linked, "Being Bexley's best cousin is not a high bar but having Haley as a cousin really does raise it. She's not like other fairies." I linked back, "Bexley hasn't been like other fairies either. She's a bit flighty; she genuinely seems to love Haley though. Liam is insanely happy with her, and she's not looked at another man since she's been here. Another fairy would've been bored with him by now." Darrin joined the conversation, "They went through some of the same horrors. They didn't have a normal childhood. Bexley's mother was murdered and she was also abused by their uncle. Maybe they see fairies for who they are." I agreed, "That's very true. Sad, but true."

We moved the conversation to the war room. My brothers, dad, Caleb, Marcus and Bjourn were already waiting. I knew Haley's family would be here. I had no problem with it. I would've told them what was said anyway, as would Haley. I wasn't sure how Marcious could make it dramatic since alternate realities were already a mind-blowing realization as it was. Marcious looked at Haley with delight, but I could feel her trepidation.

Marcious began, "Well, being twice light bound is incredibly rare. Obviously, most fairies would never tie themselves to someone in the way our little cousin has to you, Alpha Consort Eric." I growled, "Just Alpha will do." Marcious smiled broadly then added, "I would imagine you see yourself as far more than a consort." He cut a glance at Haley who was about to say something.

Marcious quickly added, "As you should. You are in a unique, elite group that few with a fairy mate ever have been in or, I imagine, will be. Now, I am thinking you did not mean to be twice light bound to your mate little cousin, given that you don't know what it is." Haley defended herself, "I would have if I knew what it was. I fucking love him, Marcious." Marcious laughed, "Oh, I know you would've. Your light wouldn't have let you be twice light bound if it wasn't the right thing for you. Nor would it allow it if you didn't want it. It takes an incredibly selfless fairy to do this because we are jealous of our time and life. You have tied yourself, specifically your life, to his. Should he die, you will die. It's not true in reverse since your wolf isn't a fairy. Even if he was a fairy, he'd have to share his light with you twice as well."

I had stilled. Haley would die if I died? I didn't like that at all. Marcious continued, "Now, you already know mates aren't to fairies what they are to wolves. We still have lovers, and dalliances while our mate lives. It does not cause anyone pain. If a

mate dies, we simply move on.” I felt pain from Haley and she winced ever so slightly. Marcious’ eyes glimmered at her response.

He continued, “I see the thought is painful of moving on from your wolf, cousin. From what I hear, you’ve never wanted anyone before him anyway. So that is no big matter. Moving on. Your wolf can go anywhere you go. For example, the shadow realm, Faerie, and any enchantment meant to keep people out if it. If it allows you, it will allow him as well.” I spoke, “Then why couldn’t I get into the enclosure?” Marcious smiled, “That was put up to keep her there and she was popped into it. She didn’t pass through it herself. It was also a charm not an enchantment.”

He waved his hands and said, “As I was saying, Haley’s light has been extended to you and your family as well as their packs. You have the lifespan of a fairy. Your appearance will not alter much after this. Your pleasure with each other will only grow.” I grinned.

Jackson linked, “FUCK! Seriously?! Both of you are so loud during your sexcapdes already.” I laughed replying, “I’m not even sorry.” Marcious continued, “Her concupiscence will probably happen four times a year since her light will want her to bear you many children.” Haley turned red. I smirked. Darrin linked, “HAHAHAHA Eric’s going to have to invest in an energy drink line.” I considered that. I mused, “That’s not a bad idea.”

Marcious added, “I’ve heard Arthur told you many things about being twice light bound already. Now that I’ve re-highlighted some of that for you, it should be clearer. Obviously, if my little cousin is taken from you her mind will descend into madness. Now, if you have something to do apart, she would be fine. You cannot be apart for more than three months at a time, though. She will start getting a little crazy and erratic if you do. I’m sure this will make your day wolf, but you need to have sex often. If you go several days without sex, Haley will be crazed with need for you. More like she will desperately need you. Her light will demand it. You may, and I only say may because with fairies they do share powers; you aren’t s fairy so I am unsure. Though my little cousin is apparently very powerful. It’s possible you will be able to do some of the things she can. It’s never a big thing, but you may be able to a small thing she can.”

Now I was stunned. Haley paled. I asked, “Angel, what’s wrong?” She sighed, “My powers are tied to my emotions. We may not find out if you get a power until you’re really fucking angry; it’s not an ideal time to figure out you have inherited a fairy power. You will have to say it was me, whatever it is.” I agreed with her, “Probably, but if we are with our allies it will be ok.” Jackson linked me, “Fuck you, big brother. Now you may get one of her fairy powers. For Christ’s sake. This is crazy.”

Marcious smiled continuing, “Now, I heard about the light show that happened your first night at the vampire’s castle. I know your mother believed it was your fairy promise you made to your wolf cousin; but it wasn’t. Being twice light bound to your wolf, made your light reject the blood offered by the vampire. As well as blasting them away from you. From what I heard; they were going to kill you.” I growled.

Marcious put his hands up, adding, “Not on purpose, but they would’ve. Your light reacted to save you because it was calling out to Eric. You could communicate with him at times by breaking through the barrier they had surrounded in the enclosure, correct?” Haley nodded. Marcious eyes lit up. He told us, “That will get stronger in time. I would say in a year nothing will be able to stop you from reaching each other.” I muttered, “Thank fucking god.”

Marcious clapped and joyous said, “Now onto the ribbon. The ribbon is the most interesting part of being twice light bonded. Not all couples who are twice light bond get brought into it. It’s when true soulmates have recognized their eternal fated partner. The fates give them this. Basically, you two will be made for each other in each reality you go to. There are some couples who could never be with someone else, no matter the reality. It’s very rare for a fairy to feel this way. It’s NEVER happened with a partial fairy and a non-fairy.” Oh good, so we were even more unique.

Marcious kept explain, “The ribbon essentially sparks realities because we all have decisions that could lead us down any given path. Those can spiral into alternate realities. They are called threads and they make up the ribbon itself. There you will find yourselves in many states. You could be older, younger, or you could be the same age you are in this one. It is unlikely any will match exactly with what you have here. I would imagine for Haley, many of hers will be sparked by Fabian and his decisions. Which will in turn affect the wolf in that reality. The ribbon wants you two to be together. It will probably thrust you both into those threads to make that happen. Now, that will be the main goal of the thread, the two of you meeting; the ribbon won’t let you come back until everything that needs to get accomplished is.”

Haley interjected, “We have three children. We can’t be gone for an indeterminate amount of fucking time.” Marcious smiled, “It may feel like it’s been long for you, but you wouldn’t be gone longer in this reality than, at most, eight hours.” Haley cursed, “Fucking hell.” I spoke, “Can we get hurt in these alternate realities?” Marcious nodded, “As you can here, yes. You would be immediately brought back to this reality, though, then sent back again to that thread at a later time.”

Haley sighed and asked, “How many damn realities could there be?” Marcious frowned, “With as many decisions that Fabian had at his fingertips... I’m sorry to

say cousin; there are likely many. This is a good thing though! You can help yourself and others. You have been blessed.” Haley frowned.

I asked, “Can Haley be pulled in while she is pregnant?” Marcious frowned, “She’s not glowing.” I growled, “I am aware. I mean when we decide to have more pups. Could she go into an alternate reality pregnant? Could she give birth there?” Marcious said, “She could go pregnant yes, give birth, no. That would upset the balance of that reality. The children wouldn’t belong there.”

I sat back irritated. I linked Jackson, “Fucking shit.” Before he could answer Marcious added, “The ribbon will only pull you in when you are needed. If the ribbon thinks you could go Alpha, say if Haley is pregnant, it could pull you and not her. You could go together. In that case, you would have to find each other, but as your mind link becomes stronger that should not be a problem. You should be able to tell where the other is. More often than not, Haley will get pulled in though, she’s the fairy. This will be an interesting time to document with both of you.” Haley snorted, “Of fucking course.”

I asked, “So is this nighttime sleep only, or if Haley takes a fucking nap could she get taken?” Marcious laughed, “That I don’t know.” Everyone was silent. Haley spoke, “I really do appreciate all the information, Marcious. It was kind of you to take the time to come explain all this shit to us.” Marcious smiled, “I would be willing to talk more with you about the realities you go to. I find the ribbon fascinating; it’s been three hundred years since any fairy has been thrust into it.”

Jackson asked, “How old are you?” Marcious smiled, “Me? I am Three hundred and sixty years old. It was incredibly exciting when the fairy couple entered the ribbon when I was but a mere sixty years old.” Marcious turned to Haley and told her, “If you are interested you should use a port to log your journeys through realities, to catalog your experiences. It would be a great addition to the Faerie library. Your being in the ribbon will greatly increase the interest in you both as a couple. I would expect fairies to pop by.”

I growled, “You should tell them not to. My new policy is to capture and torture rather than give them a pass. Haley’s mother stopped by and charmed her cousin away from her; then sleep enchanted her guard. I will not have her unprotected. I cannot and I will not have my territory become the fairy peep show.”

Marcious startled, “Not to worry wolf, the sleeping enchantment is a power of the royal Fae. Not all fairies can do that. Why did your mother come again? I feel I heard something about that.” Haley rolled her eyes. She offered, “She came to plead for Arion and Fabian’s fucking lives.” Marcious eyes narrowed, “Did she now? How... unfortunate.” Haley frowned then asked, “Why is that unfortunate?”

Marcious studied her sadly then looked to me. Eventually he said, "I'm afraid your sorrows are not over, little cousin. I must take my leave now. Feel free to contact me about any more ribbon threads you go to. I would be in your debt should you use a port to document your experience."

Haley stood, surprised. She asked, "You'd be in my debt? It means this much to you?" He nodded. They studied each other. Darrin linked, "Does being in debt to a fairy mean something different than normal people? Because the tension between them is palpable." I replied, "It must."

Haley put her hand out and spoke, "Alright then, Cousin. I will do this for you." He smiled and jubilantly said, "Wonderful! Marvelous! Now don't forget any details. If you end up back in a reality you've already been, you can update the passage." Haley asked, "I could go back to that same one?"

Marcious nodded, "Sometimes fate is kind and allows you to see the good changes you've made. Plus, eliminating challenges means they will run into things you have not yet. They may have something to share with you." Haley was exasperated. She huffed, "So I may get pulled into a reality where I need to learn about a threat to us? How the fuck do I know which it is?" Marcious nodded, "You won't be able to come back until you know. Before I leave, Maribella would like to be trained with your partial fairy group. I heard they all show promise."

I knew having fairies in our territory would bite me in the ass. The fairies were going to be well informed about Haley's initiative. Haley spoke proudly, "They do. Give Maribella my number. She is, of course, welcome." Marcious nodded, "Oh, and cousin, should you run into more of my children; I wouldn't mind a call. I have not found them all." Haley agreed contingently, "If that is what they wish; I will put you in touch. I will of course let you know if I find them, but I won't force them to have contact with you." Marcious smiled, "You are truly a delight this way!" He looked stung, "I see why fate has decided you two are destined for each other in every life and reality. It's truly exciting!" With that he popped away.

My dad spoke first, "Well, that doesn't sound too bad." Haley nodded but I could feel her trepidation. I asked, "What is it Angel?" Haley admitted, "He wouldn't have told us everything. He knows more than he's saying. I'm worried about what he didn't fucking say." Bexley spoke, "I agree. He wants to keep the communication about your experience going. Fairies never tell everything they know, and nothing he said was bad. There may be consequences he didn't want to divulge." Haley nodded and added, "Or there could be a way to avoid going into the ribbon. Which he will never share if it's even possible." I sighed and told her, "Well, we will just take this experience as it comes. If nothing else we can make things better for you, Haley."

Haley smiled and added, "Maybe we can help you too." I smiled, "Yes, but you are the important one in there, Angel. Anything to spare you pain in any reality will be a blessing." She nodded. Bexley stood and turned to Haley, "Cousin, will you help me conjure all my presents to our cottage?" Haley nodded and they left.

Jackson spoke first, "I'm not sure what consequences he might not have mentioned, but I think he would help you guys avoid pitfalls if he knew of them. He seemed genuinely excited about you being in the ribbon." I pointed out, "I haven't been in it." Darrin added, "You may get a fairy power. I hope someone makes you mad and it just starts pouring down rain over your head, or some other weird shit." I laughed, "I'm not a fairy. I doubt it will happen."

We got to work after that. I left a little early, but still missed the triplets bedtime. Haley wasn't upset about it, but I was. I linked Caleb, "We will need to break for the triplets bedtime. I won't miss that. My family is my priority." Caleb linked back, "No problem, I get it. You always made sure I got to see my boys before they went to bed."

I took Haley into our room. I told her, "I'm sorry I missed their bedtime. It won't happen again." Haley smiled, "It's alright, Eric." I shook my head, "It's not. Our family comes first. I will be there." Haley nodded, "Ok. It means a lot that you're making us your priority." I sighed then I felt her mischievousness. She whispered, "I'll be right back." She popped away and came back in a few moments later.

My jaw dropped. She was in a skintight nurse's outfit with a little hat. Her boobs on full display and her lips painted bright red. Haley spoke, "Now Alpha, I heard you have a problem. I would like to fix that for you." I gulped, "Oh? How can you fix my problem?" She dropped to her knees and snapped off my pants. She clicked her tongue, "Oh yes. I see you are in need." She ran her finger up and down my dick; I was impossibly hard. I groaned, "Well nurse, if you can help; I would be grateful." She looked up at me innocently, "Anything for you, Alpha." I growled in response. Her calling me Alpha did things to me.

Haley bit the inside of my thigh. Then her hands cupped my balls. I groaned, arching back when I felt her mouth on my dick. She used her hand for what she couldn't take in her mouth. She alternated between sucking with everything she had, and lightly sucking twirling her tongue across the tip of my dick. She had been bringing me close to my climax and backing off for an hour. Thor was clawing to get free, but I held him back.

Finally, Haley got up off the floor and climbed into my lap. Haley sighed, "It seems this treatment has made it worse. I have an alternate plan to release some tension. Would you like to pursue that treatment?" I nodded unable to say anything. Haley teased, "I need a verbal agreement, Alpha." I growled, "Yes." She

smiled and rubbed her breasts in my face. She pulled them back as I was about to explore them. I growled, annoyed.

Haley smiled then lowered her soaking wet center onto my dick. She whispered in my ear, “This is what sucking your dick does to me, Alpha. I’m so fucking wet for you. The rush of feeling you ready to explode because of what I’m doing to you is a high I can’t get enough of. I’m addicted to it.” She began to slowly raise herself and lower herself back onto me. I was panting from her words and actions. I desperately wanted to move her hips faster bringing my release. I resisted because this was her show.

Haley “Sometimes, I just see you, and I resist the urge to pop you away; to make this damn ache between my legs stop. Only my Alpha can do that for me.” I growled, “Damn right it’s only me.” She smiled raising herself off me. I felt the loss, then she slammed down onto me. Haley shivered with desire, “GOD! You fill me up so completely, Eric. It’s amazing. Tell me what you want, Alpha. Do you like this treatment? Or would you prefer a difference course of action?” I growled, “I like this treatment. I want you to ride me harder. I want to cum inside you. I want to watch you as you come.” Haley nodded, “I think that’s an excellent treatment plan, Alpha.”

She sped up her movements. She was dripping onto my legs she was so wet; I couldn’t hold back much longer because she had teased me so much with her mouth. I reached between her legs to her clit. She gasped throwing her head back. She started to move faster, rocking, and slamming onto me. She screamed, “GOD, ALPHA! YES!” I couldn’t hold back roaring, “FUCK!” She clung to me her chest heaving up and down.

I flipped us and looked into her eyes. I told her, “Now it’s my turn nurse. I want to show you my other thoughts on my care.” Haley replied, “Of course Alpha. I’m a big advocate of patient input on their care plan.” I let Thor loose. By the time we were done, she had to snap the bed back together. Along with most of the room before we both faded into sleep.

I woke to Jackson linking me, “Let’s go for a run, big brother.” I hesitated. Jackson pushed, “It’s important.” I sighed and left Haley a note. I also sent her text just in case she woke up. I ran outside and found all my brothers waiting.

I sighed asking, “Come on. Now what?” They shrugged. Jackson admitted, “We just woke up with antsy wolves. We need to talk about what to do if fairies become a problem popping in and out of here.” I agreed, “Alright, let’s go.” We shifted and ran; they were right Thor did need this. We took a longer than normal run. When we made it back, I glanced at the time. I told my brothers, “I’m going to help Haley with the triplets. I’ll be back and we will brainstorm our plan.” They nodded and grunted their agreement.

I found Haley in the triplets room. She had Cassie in her arms. I picked up Alexander since EJ was still sleeping. I linked him, "Good morning, my son." Alexander smiled at me. I kept talking to him, "Daddy loves you so much, Alexander." He cooed at me in the link. I rocked him while he ate his bottle.

EJ woke up as soon as Cassie had finished eating. Haley put Cassie in her bouncer and picked him up to feed him. I looked at her and frowned. Her feelings were strange in our bond. I asked, "What's wrong?" She countered, "Why would anything be wrong?" I frowned, "Don't evade with me, Haley Connors." She didn't say anything and kept feeding EJ. Once he was done, she burped him. She snapped the triplets into new diapers and clothes.

Haley sighed and told me, "You're right. I'm sorry. I just don't want to deal with this shit." I frowned, "Deal with what?" Panic began to grip me. Haley answered, "I have a bad feeling, Eric. I don't want it. I don't want to acknowledge it. I just want to have a normal fucking day with our family." Relief hit me so hard Haley felt it. She immediately asked, "Why are you relieved? My bad feelings are never anything good." I shrugged and admitted, "I thought you were talking about our life. Or the ribbon and the complications we keep having."

Haley walked over and kissed me hard. She pulled back and fiercely stated, "I love you, Eric. I love our children. I love our life. I just wish we could get a moment of fucking peace." I smiled and told her, "Peace will come at some point." Haley sighed, "Yes, then the ribbon will pull us somefuckingwhere. That will keep our lives interesting." I laughed, "Oh, I think your role playing with costumes will keep our lives interesting."

Haley asked me, "Do you have any other fantasies beside little red?" I got hard thinking about that outfit. Haley smiled glancing down and winked at me, "I can find more costumes for that." I growled "I do have other fantasies. I'll let you know them later." She smirked, "What? You don't want to think about me in a sexy outfit? Hmmm... I've heard people mention things around campus before. How about a librarian? Secretary? Miley says Princess Leia in her bikini is really fucking popular as well." My mouth was dry. Thor linked me, "All of them. We need to see her in all those and more." He was right. I was painfully hard. I started thinking about the most unsexy things possible. Thankfully, Haley just smiled but stopped talking about herself in different sexy outfits.

Mrs. Blanch walked into the room announcing, "Time for breakfast my wonderful little fairy who forgets to eat. You are feeding three little ones now too; you need fuel to keep yourself going." Haley laughed, "You know and I know even when I'm not feeding them, you're just going to keep coming up with more damn reasons to feed me. You can just say I need to eat. It's ok. I know it's your personal mission, and I'll admit I do forget a lot." Mrs. Blanch smiled. She plucked EJ from Haley's arms. Mrs. Blanch cooed at him. She tilted her head and told Haley, "Well

come on. I've got this little man." Haley snapped Alexander into a wrap around her body with Cassie on the other side. We all headed down together.

Once we hit the main room, I went back to my office and worked for several hours. All of a sudden, I felt pure dread from Haley in our bond. I immediately linked her, "Angel, what's going on?" Haley replied, "The bad fucking feeling is getting worse. I put the triplet's guard on alert. They are napping, but all their guard is with them. Along with pack warriors on the door." I stood and started to pace. I asked, "Who's with you, Angel?" She replied, "Blade. I called him to me. He called Javi and Sasha back to this realm. Marcus is here too. He called Bjourn who is now coming back as well."

All the blood drained from my face. I asked her, "The feeling is that bad?" Haley told me, "I'm not taking any fucking chances. I always feel bad things coming. None feel worse than others to me, but I'm not going to do nothing. I tried to ignore the feeling when Jim and Nick got shot. I didn't pay close enough attention and was taken. I just can't take those chances, Eric. I really can't." I agreed, "Alright, Angel. Do not leave the sight of your guard, or your brothers." Jackson spoke, "What's going on Eric, you went so pale I thought you were about to pass out."

I sighed and sat down. My brothers were looking at me. I told them, "Haley has a bad feeling. I felt it so strongly this time from her in our bond. She told me the children's guard was visible with them during their nap. She has pack warriors on their door. Her own guard has been recalled and Marcus and Bjourn will be here soon. I thought she was having the mother of all bad feelings. Apparently, they all feel this way to her. She's just not taking chances anymore." Jackson said, "It's better to be on alert for a small thing than something bad happen and we are caught with our pants down."

I linked the pack, "Be on alert. Run the boarder until I order you to stop and return to regular intervals." They replied, "Yes, Alpha." I continued, "All pups and non-fighters get inside. This is just a precaution." Everyone agreed. I focused on work trying to distract myself.

Several hours later, panic and hurt hit me so bad I clutched my chest. In our bond Haley felt pain, remorse, confusion, and devastation. My fear for her rocketed. I could tell she wasn't giving me all her feelings. If this was her controlling it, and based on what I felt during her torture, I knew that she was tamping her side down. What the hell happened? I knew had Haley not promised me not to withdraw her feelings from me, she would've done so now.

I had to move. Jackson said, "Eric, what's wrong?" I couldn't answer him. I was almost to the door when a pop sounded. Haley's her broken whisper hit my ears,

“Eric.” I turned and ran to her. She was so pale she was practically translucent. Her sobs wracked her body.

I whispered, “Angel... Please calm down. What happened?” I looked around. Jackson linked, “There’s nothing from the border patrols. Nothing happened in our territory.” Bjour and Marcus ran in followed by Blade. Blade was on his phone texting. They were all clearly worried.

I asked, “Threats?” I need quick succinct answers here. All three men shook their heads. I sighed. Of course. Then asked the question about the most likely culprit, “Fairies?” All three nodded confirming it was fairies. I cursed, “Shitheads!”

I linked Ethan, “Ethan we may need a sedative.” Ethan sighed, “Let me just guess, it’s for the Luna.” I didn’t bother answering. I linked the pack, “Border patrols can go back to regular intervals. Pups and non-fighters may return to their regular routines.” Ethan walked into the room and sighed at Haley’s state.

I whispered in Haley’s ear, “Angel, please. I don’t want to have you sedated.” Haley hiccupped, “She’s dead. I can’t believe she’s dead.” My eyes widened. The first person that came to mind was her mother. I asked, “Alania? Are you talking about your mother?” She nodded and fresh tears fell from her eyes. I hugged her tightly.

Ethan spoke, “I’m truly sorry for your loss Luna, but I will make you stay on an IV drip overnight under our watch in the hospital. You’re dangerously creeping towards dehydration. She pulled away from me to glare at him. Ethan linked me, “It’s the only way I could think of to make her stop crying besides the sedative.” I linked back, “It seems to have worked.”

I asked, “Did Aiden call you?” Haley whispered, “This is my fault, isn’t it?” I asked, “Why would this be your fault?” Haley covered her face, “It’s why mother didn’t want Fabian to die... I think... I think her life was tied to his. Aiden didn’t say. He might not know, but he probably fucking suspects. My last words to her Eric... Oh God!” She started rocking herself back and forth. I held her rocking us both.

A pop sounded. I looked up to see Aiden. He looked awful. His eyes were rimmed red, and he looked sadly to Haley. He told her, “It’s just you and me now, little sister. I swear I will be a better brother to you going forward.” Haley looked into his eyes and said, “We have a piece of Arion with us still.” She whispered it so low I almost didn’t hear her.

Aiden frowned, “What do you mean?” Haley kept rocking but said, “Megan. I told her to come here, that I would help her. She’s glowing.” Aiden sucked in a breath,

“Arion... Arion would have been delighted. I will... well that’s... that’s wonderful news.”

Aiden looked to me. He quickly offered, “I came to explain the details. I didn’t know if Haley would be able to...” He looked at Haley. I felt her panic flood into the bond. Aiden continued, “Haley has to come home.” I growled, “This is her home!” Aiden didn’t flinch. He explained “To Faerie. Our mother’s will must be read. We have funerals for monarchs. As the princess, my sister must be there. We were planning Arion’s now with mother...” I growled, “No, end of discussion.” Aiden leveled me with a look, “She’s the princess, Eric. She has to be there. It’s not a discussion or a request. Haley is coming home.”

Bjourn spoke in a deadly tone, “Faerie is not her home.” Haley gathered herself, “As Eric has been named as my consort that means he is welcome to come. If he is unable to attend another escort is allowed, right brother?” Aiden turned and frowned. He answered, “Of course.” Haley nodded, “My guard will be coming with me as well. They will remain out of sight unless I am threatened.” I repeated, “Fuck no!”

She turned to me. She explained, “It’s treason not to go. Aiden would have to demand my death should I not attend.” I growled at him, piercing him with a look. I promised him, “I’ll kill you if you so much as try it.” Aiden rolled his eyes, “She’s coming. I would drag her there myself before demanding her death. I love her too. Sister, your Consort, or someone he deems as an escort may come... as well as your guard.”

I interjected, “And one of my brothers.” Bjourn added, “Plus Marcus.” Aiden groaned, “Marcus has to stay out of sight. The Connors brother will be Jackson. He was not as involved in killing prominent fairies as Darrin and Harold were.” Jackson laughed, “Oh, I was heavily involved. I was just dealing with the prisoners, most of whom did not live.”

Aiden grimaced, “In any case, they will be nervous enough with Alpha Consort Eric present. Jackson is welcome as his killings were more private and not known. It’s him or no Connors brothers can come.” I tilted my head. That was fine with me.

Haley stood and went to Aiden and hugged him. He froze for a second, then hugged her back. A green glow surrounded them. Haley spoke in Fealish and Aiden answered. Whatever they said had Haley crying again. Eventually, they broke their embrace.

Aiden cleared his throat, “Tomorrow is Arion’s service. Mother’s will be the following day. You both must stay the night, but Jackson is free to leave and return. I would say Marcus can leave, but I know he won’t. Nor will my sister’s

guard.” Several of us snorted. At least he knew. Aiden kissed Haley on the forehead and said, “See you soon, little sister.” With that he popped away.

I heard the triplets making noise and noticed Haley had the monitor on her. She stood and apologized, “I’m sorry I interrupted your day. I’m going to get the triplets.” I stopped her. I looked over and said, “Dad, can you and mom can handle the triplets?” He nodded. I felt Haley tense. She linked me, “I can take care of our children.” I spoke out loud to her, “Pop us to your treehouse, Angel.”

She immediately did. As soon as we were alone I told her, “I do not doubt your ability to take care of our pups. You are a person too, Haley. You’re not just a mom. You have help here, and you don’t have to do everything. You can take a minute to absorb this news. The triplets are fine. They are loved and safe.” She started to cry again.

Haley hiccupped, “I killed her, Eric. I know I did.” I growled, “The choices of your mother are not on you. Look at me.” I forced her chin up and met her eyes, “Everyone makes their own choices, Angel. If she chose to tie her life to Fabian; that was her choice. Maybe she thought she couldn’t live if another sibling died. I don’t know. I’ll tell you now though if that was a werewolf ability; and I tied my life to someone who harmed our children in a fraction of the way you were harmed... I’d kill them myself and welcome death.”

Haley cried in my arms as I rocked her back and forth. When she calmed down Haley whispered, “Whatever she was, she was my mother. For most of my life I clung to her love. Knowing she loved me got me through some dark days. We had good times; I think she loved me in her own way. Just not a normal fucking way... maybe. I don’t know anymore. Maybe I just want to believe she did. I banished her the last time I spoke to her; I was truthful but harsh. I didn’t think that would be the last time we spoke, Eric. I didn’t.”

I held her the rest of the night as she cried on and off. It wasn’t how I imagined our first night away from the triplets going. I meant it when I said Haley needed to take care of herself though. We fell asleep her wrapped around me. I was looking forward to a day when fairy shit didn’t destroy her like this.

I woke up and watched Haley sleep in my arms. I linked my dad, “How are the triplets?” My dad linked, “They are dreams to babysit. They are still asleep. That conjuring a bottle thing... it’s awesome. Marcus is here, your brothers have been in and out too. Along with your sisters in law.” I smiled.

Out of nowhere Haley jolted up. She panicked, “The triplets! We need to get back.” I smiled and kissed her shoulder. I told her, “They are fine. A combination of my family and yours are watching them. They aren’t up.” Tears filled her eyes, “Thank you...”

Haley took a deep breath then continued, "I want them to be in the Hackura realm until we are back from Faerie." I sat up, surprised. I asked, "What?" Haley whispered, "I don't want to be away from them, but we can't take them to Faerie, Eric. Not on fairy turf. I want them with my mom, dad, brothers, and their guard. Possibly even with the whole damn Hackura army surrounding the castle. I can't leave them here right now though." I was taken aback. She felt strongly about this.

Haley whispered, "I'm sorry. I just can't." Realization hit me as I said, "Because neither of us will be here, and because of what happened when we were separated." It wasn't a question; I knew that was the problem. Haley nodded, "Yes, I... I'm sorry this will upset your mom, I really am. She can go with them if she wants, I just..." I finished for her, "Can't leave them without one of us here yet. That will fade with time. They would be safe here, but I understand and I agree with you." Relief filled our bond.

Haley called her dad who immediately agreed to the plan. I could actually hear how excited he was to have the triplets there. When he asked why she wanted this; they had a heart to heart. He told her Veronica would be calling her. I was surprised he didn't seem to know Alania was dead. Marcus and Bjourn knew, but he was clearly surprised. Thor linked, "That sounded more like there's a plan he was surprised is already enacted. Did the fairy queen actually die?" I didn't know, but I wouldn't put it past the Hackura to use Alania tying her life forces to Fabian so they could torture her without Haley being the wiser.

Haley popped us back to the triplets nursery. My mom and dad were with them. I sighed and motioned for them to step outside. We were met by my brothers while Haley held EJ in her arms because he was refusing a bottle. I shut the door. I told my family, "Haley is too scared to take the triplets with us to Faerie." My mom immediately cut me off, "We have them, Eric. They will be fine." I stalled. Jackson linked me, "Oh shit..."

I spoke aloud, "The triplets will be in the Hackura realm while we are gone." My mom's eyes were hard. She glared at the door where Haley was. She hissed, "Oh, I see." My dad closed his eyes. I spoke, "You don't. Haley doesn't want to leave them without one of us. She's terrified someone could see this as their chance to kidnap them. Fairy someone's mom. What happened the last time she was here alone and I was gone?" My mom's stance and eyes lightened a little, but she said, "That's silly. Harold, Darrin, your father and all the warriors will be here this time. This is their home."

I nodded, "I know that. With time, Haley will feel better. She's a new mom. Can you really say you wouldn't feel the same in her shoes?" My mom frowned at me. She pushed, "You could convince her to let them stay here." I nodded, "Yes, but what would that solve? She would be a basket case of nerves for two days while we are in Faerie. It's going to be traumatic enough for her. She would be

wondering who was missing from the festivities. She said you are more than welcome to go with them. You would be back in a few hours in this realm. She asked Titus to surround the castle with the army, and station some in her wing. She's just scared, mom. It has nothing to do with you. It really doesn't."

My mom sighed, "I can't just leave Shana and Jessica without help." My dad told her, "It's a few hours. The girls will be fine." My mom turned to him astonished. She shrieked, "You agree with this?! You're fine with her carting our grandchildren off because she..."

My dad cut her off, "Because she was taken in that very back yard?" He said pointing outside and continued, "Because she almost saw you die there as well? She was attacked here. Her brother came to try to take them. Her own flesh and blood, and she had to kill him. She's traumatized! She's a new mom dealing with lots of emotions. She's now spending time away from her children when she specifically asked her father to give her time before doing just that. Her mother, who was a shit mother, just died. You can tell Haley feels awful that Alania died without having a civil last conversation. Pull your head out of your ass woman! I'm sick of this! Our daughter in law is not your enemy. You'd be more understanding if you would stop being wounded she didn't immediately sweep her feelings under the rug. Her feelings are valid, and if you weren't so hellbent on being right; you'd admit that! She wants her children to be safe. You above all people given recent events should understand exactly how she feels." My mom gaped at him.

My dad shook his head and pinched the bridge of his nose. He said, "Let me know when my mate has re-inhabited your body. Haley just left them with us, but it's not good enough for you. She knew who Eric asked to stay with them. If you don't want to leave Shana and Jessica, fine. Just don't act like she didn't offer to let you go be with them. I for one would go, but with Jackson and Eric leaving; I feel I need to be here with Darrin and Harold." With that he walked away leaving us all stunned, my mother most of all. Tears gathered in her eyes and she walked after him.

Once she was out of our sight Jackson said, "Shit." Darrin sighed, "He hasn't done that in front of us in a long ass time." Harold whistled, "Since we were teenagers." I sighed, "They will figure it out." Haley came out of the nursery with the triplets in some interesting contraption, all three pups held against her body.

I smiled at her. Haley looked around. She asked, "Did you want to talk to your parents about the triplets going to the Hackura realm?" I answered, "I already did." She frowned, "It went over that damn well, huh? I can talk to your mom. It's not about anything except..." I cut her off, "I explained. She understands, it just stings." Haley nodded then whispered, "I'm sorry." I gathered her in my arms, "You have nothing to be sorry about. A lot has happened to you in your life, but

especially lately. You just want to protect our pups. You need to know they are surrounded and safe. It's fine." Haley nodded against my chest.

Marcus joined us, evaluating his sister. I knew he had heard the whole thing with my family before Haley came out. A portal appeared beside us. Titus and Veronica came through it. Veronica took Haley aside. When they re-joined us, Bjourn had joined us. Haley slowly handed off the triplets. Tears were in her eyes as she looked at all three of them. Veronica rubbed her back. She told Haley, "It's ok, my beautiful little girl. We have them, and you will be back with them soon." Haley nodded. Veronica, Titus and Bjourn left.

Bexley popped to us with red rimmed eyes. She grabbed Haley's hands as tears began to fall. She whispered, "I can't believe I have to go without my Pookie bear at my side." Haley asked, "What? Why?" Bexley sighed, "He's a wolf, and he's not named as anything. He can't go" Haley's eyes glowed gold. She said, "As the princess, I declare your mate eligible to attend both monarchs' funerals in Faerie." Bexley's eyes widened in surprise, quite clearly not having expected Haley to do anything on her behalf, but grateful, nonetheless. She grabbed Haley into a hug and whispered, "Thank you, cousin!" She popped away.

Haley grabbed my hand. She tried to joke, "Everyone going, hop on the fairy ride heading for a fucking disaster sprinkled with family drama." I laughed a little. Jackson snorted but Marcus' eyes tightened with worry. I felt my heart stop when I saw fear in his eyes. What was Marcus afraid of? Haley popped us to the portal at the edge of our territory. Bexley and Liam were there waiting. We all stepped through. All of us gasped at the beauty of the place before us.