

Not My Home Anymore

Haley stared at Marcious as he began to explain being twice fairy light bonded. Fairies did tend to only care about themselves. Typically, their children as well, but there were obviously glaring exceptions to that though. The more he explained the more worried I got. I glanced at Bex out of the corner of my eye. She shot me a worried look back. Marcious was jealous of Eric. That as a non-fairy he was chosen for the ribbon. That wasn't good. Marcious wouldn't do anything, but other fairies might.

Shit. If someone wanted to kill me, they would now try to go through Eric. Just fucking great. I was going to have to have my father send Eric's guard. I looked over at Marcus who was smirking as if sensing my thoughts. He actually probably felt my feelings in our bond and knew what I was thinking. I looked around and everyone was focused on Marcious. So, I stuck out my tongue at Marcus whose smirk only broadened. I turned my attention back to Marcious. It became apparent; my cousin knew exactly where I was after I left Faerie. I wondered why he kept it to himself. Why would he care where I was? My mind was racing with the possibilities of what Marcious had wanted from me. I couldn't focus on the conversation. I heard vaguely Eric asking questions.

Bexley and I were staring at each when Marcious mentioned he knew Sir Arthur informed us a little on being twice light bound. I knew Sir Arthur had told Eric, but Bexley wasn't present. Who told Marcious that? Why is he so well informed? Did Aiden know all this too? I wanted to curse because logically Aiden had to know, he's the king.

I almost fell over, hearing the news Eric could get a power of mine. Obviously, I could train him, but then we'd be even more covetous as a family than we were now. FUCK MY LIFE. That wouldn't be good if Eric got angry and suddenly called the fucking wind by knocking down a room full of Alpha's or some shit. We'd need to keep it quiet if it happened because Marcious knew FAR too much about our life as it was. Which meant so did Aiden. I wondered if Sir Arthur was friends with Aiden. Or if Marcious had sight like my mother. If he did, he had been far too focused on me. I didn't like this at all.

I schooled my facial expression when he said he knew that I broke through to Eric during my stay with the vampires. He must have some version of sight. It couldn't be as strong as my mother's, but it was the only way he could know that. I didn't tell anyone when I was gone. Eric probably did, but Eric wouldn't have known about me vomiting up the king's blood. FUCK. I turned to Bexley who was already staring at me. She nodded. We were talking about this after Marcious left. Aiden had a damn good resource reporting on our family now.

Which brought the conversation to the Ribbon. My mind wandered as he explained. I wonder who the other couple was that was known to be in the Ribbon. Fairies are very selfish. I'd never read about or heard about this couple. I wondered what happened to them. Different decisions affected the ribbon. That started a whole other thought spiral. What if I had condemned another me when I decided to leave at thirteen instead of waiting for my father? I shook my head willing those types of thought away. I had to leave. I couldn't stay anymore.

I wondered if I could find a baby version of myself. I'd take that me to my dad right away. I smiled wondering what I could've been like if that happened. I would've been normal. I cast a glance at Eric. I wanted that me for him too. He deserved it, and to be honest so did I.

I wondered if we'd see a reality where instead of showing up here I portaled home. Or called Bjourne since Marcus was on a mission. He would've taken me home, and they would've started talks with Eric. I wouldn't have met him that night. I didn't really like that thought, but we could meet up with a reality where that was the case.

I decided it was a good thing Eric and I didn't really need much sleep. Marcious was vague in his answers. I frowned, for a fairy to say there were many options that meant there were possibly hundreds. That was just fucking great. Eric was going to flip out. At least I could save Arion by killing Fabian's fucking sadistic ass.

Basically, what it came down to was if the ribbon wanted me pulled in; it would take me. Eric sat back in his seat. He wasn't happy neither were his brothers. Nathan's face was stone, but I could see the worry it held for Eric. When Nathan's eyes met mine, I was stunned to see there was worry there for me as well. I smiled at him and he gave me a warm smile back.

Apparently, it had been three hundred years since a fairy had been into the ribbon. FUCKING FUCKER FUCK! Fairies were already interested in us and our children enough as it was. I was thinking frantically how to keep us safe. We were about to become the area for supernatural fairy popping. I was going to have to find a way to banish everyone except Aiden and Marcious. Then allow others entrance if needed. That could work if it was possible. Which meant I'd have to ask Aiden. SHIT!

Marcious was far too interested in my mother stopping by. His eyes lit up with understanding and sorrow when we explained why. I looked at Bexley who looked sad as well. What in the fuck? Marcious evaded my question. What is with the cryptic shit? Before I could comment he told me he'd be personally in my debt should I use a port to document my experiences in the Ribbon. Shock tore through me. He was offering me a debt. A fairy debt? To simply port what I see. My eyes

narrowed; he definitely didn't tell us everything. I agreed. At least we would be protected from him, I could cash in his debt, should he get any ideas.

I was more interesting to fairies being myself now. Marcious' eyes were delighted by all my responses. Fairies didn't like to be bored. I was FAR from boring as of late. After he left, I voiced my concerns when asked. I felt vindicated when Bex agreed. I may be paranoid, but Bex isn't. Bex asked if I would help her pop her presents from the shower to her place. I knew it was an excuse since she could do it herself. She gave me a meaningful look. It was brief, but I nodded and we walked out the door.

When we were far enough away, I asked her, "Did you have fun at your shower, Bex?" Her entire being radiated joy. Bex squealed, "Me and the nuggets had a great time. Thank you for throwing it. I appreciate you not making me have two separate baby showers. Liam was on edge thinking I would have to go to Faerie and he could miss something." I frowned, "Why would you have two showers?"

Bexley laughed, "Oh dear naïve, sweet cousin. Several, and I do mean several, people had to convince your mate to allow the guests I wanted to come. That's why your whole guard was here and there were about fifty pack warriors waiting to pounce on a fairy who looked the wrong way at you. Liam was running the border's during the entire party."

My jaw dropped. I asked, "What? Why? Eric... Well... he didn't say anything." She smiled, "No, because everyone convinced him to throw the party with the guest list I gave you. He fought probably every instinct to let it happen." I frowned, "It's not like you invited someone who ever hurt me." Bexley smiled, "There were people there who didn't help you though. Who thought you were just a partial fairy and looked down on you." I shrugged, "That's all the damn full blooded fairies." She laughed "You are a unique little fairy, my sweet cousin."

We reached the living room. We conjured everything to her and Liam's place then popped there. I asked her, "So, why did you want me to help when you didn't need it?" She smiled, "You my dear cousin are so sharp and naive at the same time. It's fascinating." I rolled my eyes, "Yes, yes, yes I'm so much fucking fun this way. I know." She laughed, "You've always been fun, Haley. Lucinda and I saw it. You are a survivor. You know Marcious didn't tell us everything. He was jealous of you, but mostly of Eric. I'm worried, then he offered you a debt. Of all the things a fairy, offering up a debt."

I agreed and asked, "Do you know of a way we can put up a protection in this territory for a fairy to have to request entrance? Besides Aiden? Maybe Marcious... I'm not certain about him though." Bexley considered, "I can think about it. Maybe we could combine a few charms. It's a wise move, cousin. Fairies are going to flock to you when they find out about the ribbon."

I cut a glance at her and asked, “Do you know what happened to the couple that went into the ribbon?” Bexley smiled, “I believe they are still in it. They haven’t died as far as I know, but they fled Faerie for their safety. Lucky for you, you don’t live there.” I groaned, “Why did they have to flee their damn homes?” Bex smiled sadly, “People were so interested in the ribbon, and hearing their stories, that it got to be too much. Then the jealousy that they had found that soulmate in this life that the fates blessed them. Fairies may not want to be tied down but knowing that someone had found their perfect half through any reality drove some mad. The male partner feared for the female and their children. They left and as far as I know no one has found them.”

I nodded, “Well, we have to figure something out. I can’t have fairies popping in and out as they fucking please. They could scare the partial fairies when we are trying to bring them together. I’d also rather they didn’t find out what my children and yours can do.” Bexley shrieked, “My children?” I nodded, “Yes, you are royal too... I mean not officially yet which is bullshit. You still are and they fucking know it. Fairies will want to know what your children can do as well. I have no doubt they will be powerful.”

Bexley shivered, “I didn’t think about them being interesting in my kids. Any chance your father will send guards for them as well?” I laughed, “No, but I can have one of the triplets guards’ keep an eye out on yours. Liam will also protect them. I’m sure Eric has thought about it and there’ll be some pack member already assigned to be a guard.” The triplets made noise on the monitor on my belt.

I kissed Bex’s forehead. I told her. “I’m glad you had a good time, Bex. I can’t wait to meet these little ones.” I looked over my shoulder and said “Should you want to share the look of sadness that passed between you and Marcious when we discussed my damn mother; I’m here Bex. You don’t have to, but if you need to talk I’m here for you.” Bexley sucked in a breath. She muttered, “Observant and naive. I love you, dear cousin.”

I smiled changing the subject, “Hey do you know about any other fantasies my mate has from drunken confessions with the guys? Not that they make any damn sense, but you seem to know things.” She laughed, “OH COUSIN! I don’t. I’ll have to ask. You could go with a sexy nurse. Men in this realm LOVE them a sexy nurse.” I laughed, “I’ll have to look up what that is and go for it.”

I winked and popped to the triplets. The little stinkers did amaze me. I looked at all of them and told them, “Your daddy and I will protect you with all we have.” They smiled at me. I read books to them as they laid on their tummy time mats. When it was time for bed, I gave them their sponge baths. I got them all swaddled for bed. I had just laid Cassie down when Eric came in. He was upset with himself.

. I decided he needed the sexy nurse outfit. I left and went into the bathroom. I googled and conjured myself a white skintight short nurses outfit that my boobs were almost spilling out of, with a hat, white stockings, heels, finishing off the lip with red lipstick.

I decided to lean into the nursing role, and he seemed more than willing to go with this. After we finished several hours later, I was completely satisfied. Eric fell asleep first. I smiled and ran a finger along his cheek. I promised him, "I'll protect us somehow, Eric." I put my arms around him and joined him in sleep.

I woke up and reached over to Eric's side but found it cold. I frowned; I had hoped to start the morning off with a bang. Quite literally. I found his note saying he went for his run. I smiled. At least things were getting back to normal. I did some yoga on the deck. Afterwards I popped to the kitchen to grab a muffin. I smiled at a stunned Mrs. Blanch. I popped back to the deck and just enjoyed the silence and the quiet.

Out of nowhere, I started to get a bad feeling. I cursed out loud screaming at the sky, "FUCK! OH, COME ON! No! I reject whatever bad fucking thing is coming today. One day, just one goddamn normal day. That's all I'm asking for!" As if to mock me the feeling continued to grow worse. I was so annoyed. The triplets made cooing noises over the monitor.

I popped to them. Cassie was the only without a bottle. I went to her first. She was really fussing. I asked her, "You feel it too, don't you? It's ok mommy and daddy will fix it." As I finished that sentence Eric walked in. Cassie immediately calmed down. I whispered, "Aren't you just a daddy's little girl? He will love everything about that."

I was desperately trying to ignore the growing sense of something bad coming. Eric of course noticed I wasn't quite myself. I did not understand why the damn universe seemed incapable of letting us have a moment of peace. I just wanted some calm moments. I hated that I brought all this to his life. I just wanted it to stop for a minute. I wanted to enjoy this time in the triplets' lives together. I really didn't think I was asking for much here.

I tried to distract myself by teasing him. It worked for a while then Mrs. Blanch burst in with the desire to feed me. Eric went to his office. The second I walked into the kitchen, Marcus took Cassie into his arms and cooing her. I laughed at him and teased, "All hail the mighty prince." He didn't even pay attention to me. I offered, "You know, you and Torvi could keep trying for a girl." Marcus smiled, "Oh, I think we will. I will probably just have to spoil our little Cassie. Boys seem to be in the cards for us." I smiled, "I don't know what the fuck cards have to do with it, but you can spoil her as much as you want. She's a daddy's little girl."

I left Cassie with him and loaded up on food. As soon as I sat down to eat, I dropped my fork and clutched my stomach. I pulled as much as I could from Eric. Marcus stopped and studied me. I whispered, "Ghiza." Marcus' jaw dropped. Ghiza stepped forward speaking, "Yes, princess." I popped all of us to the triplets' room. Time had gotten away from me. They needed to nap. I put them down.

I turned and told Ghiza, "Stay on them. All of you. No one gets anywhere fucking near them that you don't know." He nodded then looked at Marcus, who in turn just looked at me. I linked Jim, "I need two warriors on the triplets' door now." He linked back, "Of course Haley. What's wrong?" I linked back, "I don't know. Get Miley somewhere safe." I knew he'd get all that done.

Two pack members walked up. One nodded to me, "Do not worry, Luna. No one will get by us." I nodded at them and walked into my room. My voice shook as I called, "Blade." Blade appeared. He looked worried as he said, "Princess." I turned to him and ordered, "Get everyone the fuck back here. The whole guard." He nodded.

Marcus asked, "What's wrong, Hales?" I shrugged, "I don't know but I'm not going to ignore the bad feeling this time. I won't risk the triplets or anyone here. Fairies learning, we are in the ribbon will make us more interesting. I'm worried about Eric. They will be jealous and I'm going to be cautious."

I took out my phone and called my dad. He answered, "Hello, Princess." I said, "Hi Dad. I want Eric's guard here soon." He was silent then asked, "Eric wants a guard for himself?" I sighed, "Probably not, but I fucking do." My dad laughed and replied, "Alright. I don't envy the conversation you will have about that with him. Two guards will join yours next week. I wish you luck when you tell him. Goodbye, princess." My dad hung up the phone.

Marcus hung up his phone. He announced, "Bjourn is coming back." I smiled sadly, "Of course he is." Bjourn portaled in the room. He asked, "What's this all about?" I shrugged, "I don't fucking know." Marcus changed the subject, "I would very much like to be there when you tell Eric he has a guard now." Bjourn laughed, "You didn't, little sister." I gritted my teeth and hissed, "You guys have one too!" They laughed. Bjourn pointed out, "And we can slip them anytime we want." I leveled them with a look and replied, "Not if dad orders them to be around." They both conceded my point.

I pointed out, "I don't have a say in my guard being here. Why should he get one? Because he has a fucking dick and I don't?" Both opened their mouths and closed them multiple times.

Bjourn finally spoke, "I agree with Marcus. I really want to be there when you tell Eric that to see if there is actually a response to your point." Marcus laughed,

“There are many responses.” Bjourn snorted, “There is not an intelligent response. She delivered a killing blow with that one.” We talked for a while.

Megan banged into the room with tears in her eyes. She looked at me, “I’m glowing, aren’t I?” I nodded. She cried, “That rat bastard! He knocked me up and then got himself killed for a god damn stupid reason.” I agreed, “He did bad things, but he was a good person underneath. Masium led him down that damn bad path.”

Her eyes narrowed and she asked, “Is he dead?” I opened my mouth to speak then realized I didn’t know. Marcus answered, “He’s in the dungeons.” She whirled around and called over her shoulder, “I’ll find my room later. I have things to do to that bastard. I remember where the fucking dungeons are!” She left as quickly as she came. I continued to talk to my brothers waiting for whatever bad thing was lurking.

My phone rang. The feeling was crippling. I couldn’t move my hand. I stared at my phone as if it was a ticking time bomb. I couldn’t force myself to answer it. Marcus asked, “Are you ignoring Aiden’s calls now?” I shook my head. My phone stopped ringing for a minute then rang again. Marcus hit answer for me. I shakily answered, “Brother, what’s happened?” Aiden cried, “Mother is gone, Haley.” I startled, “Gone? What do you mean she’s gone? Where the fuck did she go?” Aiden sobbed, “She’s... she turned to dust before my eyes, Haley.”

I went to my knees in shock. Bjourn caught me from falling on my face. I stuttered, “Wwwhhat? What are you saying? How could she just die?” Aiden gathered himself. I tried to hold back my feelings from the bond as the inadequacies rushed in. I banished my mother from my home. Those were my last words to her. Aiden told me, “She could have passed in her sleep. You have to come home.” I started crying. I couldn’t speak to him. I could hear him saying something, but I couldn’t make out the words.

Bjourn took the phone and handed it to Marcus. Marcus said, “She can’t talk right now. She will call you back.” I clung to Bjourn like he was a life vest. I needed Eric. With that thought, I popped to him. I felt his arms around me.

Every moment between my mother and I was running through my head. All the picnics we had in Faerie. All the times she would smile at me. Every time she came to my room and talk. All of the times she let me walk beside her holding my hand as she spoke to the people of our kingdom. Then our last conversation looped in my mind mocking me with alongside our happy memories. I heard Marcus and Bjourn’s voices, but I couldn’t focus. Everything was too much.

I tried to take deep breaths and take in Eric’s scent. It was helping but I couldn’t take a deep enough breath to fully calm down. My mother was gone. Conversations went around me. My eyes filled with tears again thinking of the pain

in my Aiden's voice. How was this possible? Mother wasn't old enough to turn to dust. Then it hit me. This was my fault. Mother was healthy. Her tone, her voice, and her words during our last conversation when she pleaded for Fabian; they weren't for him, they were for her. OH GOD! Their life forces were tied! Why didn't she tell me? Was she going to, but I banished her essentially condemning her to die? Oh god. Oh god. I killed her. I killed my mother and my brother. I'm a monster.

Eric deserved better than me. I was lethal to family members apparently. I couldn't let that touch him, ever. I heard a pop and stared at my older brother. His eyes were bloodshot. I could sense his sorrow. It hit me. I really did have to go Faerie. I had to face the past. It physically burned my throat to say someone could come in Eric's place if he couldn't make it. I desperately needed Eric to come with me, but I wouldn't take him away from the pack.

My mind panicked. I couldn't take the triplets to Faerie. Too many fairies would try to take them. They would have the numbers against us. Pain laced my heart thinking of leaving them alone. Eric declared he was coming with one of his brothers. The ball of anxiety building in me that he wouldn't be able to come with me burst. A giant ball of love and relief took its place and tears filled my eyes again. More arrangements were made.

Aiden looked more broken than I'd ever seen him. I couldn't stand for him to be in this kind of pain. I stood and went to him I spoke softly, "Za Er here Sewq Zu Ioul, Qweta tyu family." (We will be strong for them brother; I am here for you are my family.) Aiden answered, "Xed Za Er here Sewq Zu, from crotj Bets Eqsad Ioup. Qweta will stand strong Sewq." (As I am here for you, from now on little sister. We will stand strong.)

Our touch comforted the other. Aiden instantly looked a little better. Both of us had tears streaming down our face. If Ethan said one word about me crying, I'd have Bjourn kick his ass.

Aiden explained the arrangements. I shot him a look when he mentioned when Arion's funeral was. That was typical. He was probably going to show up and tell me about Arion's at the last minute. I couldn't find it in myself to be upset with him right now.

I could hear the triplets cooing from the monitor I'd brought with me. I gathered myself because my children needed me. Eric quickly made arraignments for someone else to watch them. I didn't understand. I could take care of our children. Once we were in my treehouse he explained. We disagreed about this being my fault. Fault didn't matter. My mother was still gone. For thirteen years, her love was the only thing that kept me going. Some days it was the only thing that made

me not give in to Fabian and his ring to just be broken. Every ounce of fight I had while I lived there was thoughts of her love for me.

I never thought the last time I saw my mother it would end in me banishing her from my home. I can't believe we won't be able to talk ever again. She will never meet her grandchildren. Eric held me and rocked me all night long. I eventually drifted off into sleep. When we woke up, I explained what I wanted to happen with the triplets. I wasn't ready to leave them here without one of us. I knew it would piss his mom the fuck off, but her feelings weren't my top priority. Our children's safety was.

I picked up my phone and called my dad. He answered immediately, "Hello again princess. I haven't selected..." I cut him off, "It's not about that. I need the triplets to stay with you and mom, please. I have to go to Faerie, and I can't... I can't have them there." My dad was silent, "Of course my grandchildren can stay here. Why do you think you have to go to Faerie?" A tear slipped down my cheek as I explained, "My mother died. The funerals for Arion and my mother are today and tomorrow in their realm. It's treason for me not to attend." My dad's voice softened, "Oh my princess, I am so sorry. I have been in meetings today. I don't have my phone. I'm sure your brothers have both called me."

I quickly assured him, "It's ok, dad. Would you surround the castle, maybe post guards in my wing around their room? I want everyone whose home near them. I know it's fucking crazy, but I just need them to be safe." My dad asked, "You expect an attack?" I closed my eyes and admitted, "No, but I haven't seen any of the attacks coming that have come. I'm being cautious. Fairies have proved they want them already. I can't... I can't take chances. Not with my babies."

My dad agreed, "As I said, they can stay here. I will have guards everywhere. Nothing will happen to them. I am sorry you have to leave them so soon when I know that's not what you want to do. You have a strength in you that even I don't think I possess. I love you." I choked back a sob replying, "I love you too, dad. Thank you." We hung up.

I popped Eric and I to the nursery. I held back a cringe when I saw Cassandra and Nathan. She wasn't going to understand, but I had to be a mother first. Their safety over her liking me was what was important. Eric and his family stepped out.

I told the triplets, "Mommy and Daddy have to go somewhere. You're going to stay with your Grandma and Grandpa Cambridge. They are going to spoil you rotten, and love on you so much." Tears pricked my eyes as I continued, "Mommy will miss you so damn much. I have to do this, or I wouldn't leave you three." All of their eyes were on me.

EJ touched my chest as he ate as if to say it was ok. They would be ok. I wasn't so sure about me. It felt too soon to do this. Maybe we should just take them, no... I knew why we can't do that. I have to put my emotions to the side. Their safety, not my selfishness had to win here. I closed my eyes and put them in their swings. I watched them and took deep breaths; this was for them. I could do this. I snapped them into a carrier for triplets and cradled them to me.

I walked out and joined Eric. I looked at his brothers faces. Whatever happened wasn't good. I offered to talk to his mom. My reasons had nothing to do with her. Marcus appeared. I hadn't seen him, but I felt his presence. I knew he wasn't overly happy. He probably heard the whole conversation with the Connors. Perfect. This day had gone to hell and it just started.

My mom and dad opened a portal and came through. I could tell my dad was itching to take Cassie from me, but he waited. My mom took me off to the side. She hugged me and said, "I'm so sorry, my beautiful little girl. I know you don't want to go or leave the triplets. I know you're only doing it because you have to. Being away from them is hard. I wish this wasn't your first trip away. It is important to remember who you are too. You're a mom, but also a person. That's hard to see right now. Just know we will keep them safe; your dad has the castle surrounded. All your brothers except Marcus will be home. No one will take them from us, I swear to you. Titus will destroy anyone who tries." I nodded with a lump in my throat.

We walked back over to the main group. Handing the triplets over was like giving a piece of me away. It felt weird already not having them with me. At least I wasn't worried they weren't safe. Bexley popped in, distraught over her Pookie bear. Her Pookie bear? I gaped at her. The legend of the Pookie Bear was told to all children in Faerie. I was stunned she would call Liam that. It made me happy for her though. She was calling him her true love. I glanced at Eric and his brothers. They were trying not to laugh. They must not have the legend in this realm. I wondered if that was going to be Liam's new name around here.

It was time to go. I popped us to the portal just outside our territory. I took a deep breath. Bexley and Liam were already waiting. She gave my hand a quick squeeze. I had never wanted to go back. Faerie was my personal hell. When I woke up there in the Ribbon, I thought it was a dream. That wasn't the same as this. That was mini me's hell. This was mine. I kept holding Eric's hand and led them all through the portal.

Everyone who had never been here gasped. It was beautiful here, so green all around. There were flowers and streams everywhere. I'm sure their wolves wanted to go for a run. I looked at Marcus and my guard, "You guys can come into my chambers at night. I have several adjoining rooms you can sleep in." My guard

nodded and faded into the background immediately. Marcus gave me a look before he faded away, leaving Bex, Liam, Jackson, Eric, and me.

I looked over at Eric. He was taking in the beauty around him. When he saw the castle he muttered, "Holy shit." Jackson whistled, "That's just something." The castle was white with red tops. There was a triple rainbow above it and red flowers surrounding the area with trees. There were blue flowers leading up the path to the castle. I couldn't move. I knew if I looked to my right I would see where I was the last time I was here.

Bexley cleared her throat to get my attention. She said, "Let's get this over with." I nodded. I pulled Eric forward, leading our group into the castle. I linked him, "There are fairies watching us." He replied, "I noticed. Are you alright?" I answered honestly, "Not even a little."

The guards posted outside the castle gates bowed to me. If Eric hadn't been holding my hand I would've gone down to my knees in shock. The head guard spoke "Princess Haley, Alpha Consort Eric. Bexley and... guests. Welcome. Bexley your room has been prepared." She nodded and looked at me.

I told her, "Go, get settled in so we can get this shit over with, Bex." She popped Liam away. The guard cleared his throat and spoke again, "Princess Haley, your chambers have been prepared as well. A guest room was prepared in case Alpha Jackson wishes to stay." I looked at Jackson, he looked mad. He gritted out, "I'm not leaving." The guard nodded, "Very well, then your rooms are prepared. Welcome home, princess." I shrugged then popped our group to my chambers.

They looked around. Jackson whistled in appreciation. He offered, "This is nice." I smiled, "It's a place. If you want to see nice, that would be Arion and Aiden's chambers. They are next level shit." Eric replied, "Of course they are. I'm not surprised that this room is still very pink."

I didn't want to talk about my room. I hated it here. I walked into the room that would've been prepared for Jackson. I told them, "This would be what they prepared for you, Jackson." He nodded and added, "Very nice digs. Is it soundproofed little sister in law? Because I hear you guys on the other side of our home sometimes, and this is MUCH closer." I laughed, "Yes, it is. Mine were specifically..." I trailed off and swallowed, "They are soundproofed."

I looked away and walked into the other rooms to snap them ready for my guard and Marcus. By the time I turned around all of them had materialized into the room. I quickly told them, "You guys can use these rooms." They nodded and set their stuff down.

Marcus was about to say something when a knock on my door stopped him. I sighed and went to answer. I smiled when I saw who it was. It was my ladies maid. She gave me a quick hug then said formally, "Princess Haley, welcome home. You will be attending lunch with the King in one hour with your consort. Your brother in law is welcome to attend, but not required. Prince Arion's service is tonight. The former queen's events are all day tomorrow." I nodded, "Thank you Jacile." She smiled. She lowered her voice and added, "On a personal note, you look amazing and happy. Your Consort is a hottie! Terrifying but hot." I smiled, "Thank you and that he is."

She pulled me towards her and whispered, "Is his brother single?" I laughed, "No, and they aren't like fairies. They are faithful to their mates." She sighed, "How sad for me. Can I come visit sometime? I caught a glimpse of Bexley's mate, who she loudly told a guard you approved to come. He's a hunk too. Bexley also said both your mates lasted your whole concupiscence. Is that true?" I smiled, "Yes, it is." I didn't know firsthand if Liam had, but if Bexley said he did; then he did. Her eyes went wide.

Jacile stepped into the room and spoke to Eric, "Alpha Consort Eric, welcome to Faerie." Eric was confused but answered, "Thank you." She walked back out the door then came back. She asked Eric quietly, "Would you mind if I came by your pack to find a concupiscence partner? If you and your warrior lasted the whole time.... I... wolves... Who knew? Would you mind?"

Eric raised an eyebrow at her. He linked me, "What the hell is happening?" I replied smugly, "You and Liam are now legends. Jacile, is my ladies maid. She helped and took care of me when she could. She never fucking hurt me. She's not a bad fairy if you're ok with her coming, I am."

Eric sighed. Out loud he told Jacile, "Some wolves don't have sex until they meet their mate. If you find a willing partner in our territory, that's fine." She squealed. I couldn't help but smile a little. I offered, "You could sign up for a teaching spot with the partial fairies, Jacile. We will eventually need two teachers for earth fairies. For being so damn prejudiced, they certainly have a lot of partial children." Jacile nodded, "I will sign up! Thank you, Princess Haley, and Alpha Consort Connors." She scurried out of the room quickly.

Jackson laughed then asked, "Is everyone going to treat him that way?" I asked, "What way?" Eric smirked. Marcus answered, "Like he's a sex god. Not to mention calling him Alpha Consort Eric." I nodded, "Yes they will. The ones feeling brave or who are fucking daring will call him my wolf. The title is them showing respect. Saying his last name is because they are scared of him. As far as the sex god thing, Bex already told some people Liam and Eric lasted our whole concupiscence's. It will be more impressive to them that Eric did since I am royal." I rolled my eyes continuing, "Even though Bex is a damn royal. They don't see her

as one. Royals are usually crazier during our concupiscence since we are... well royalty. So, they are all going to want to talk to Eric while simultaneously wanting to shit their pants at the sight of him.”

Eric smiled. Jackson snorted, “As if his ego needed to be bigger. Marcus, are you going to find a concupiscence partner so you can let them know about the Hackura stamina?” I grimaced. Marcus’ voice was ice when he replied, “No.” He didn’t elaborate, and Jackson wisely let it go.

Eric linked me, “What was that?” I sighed and told him, “My Hackura brothers harbor a strong hatred for fairies. If anyone approached him, he’d kick their ass... or kill them.” He nodded and we all sat in silence for a moment.

Memories were flooding me. Moments with Arion and my mother. I felt a tug on my bond with Marcus. I met his eyes as he sent me his concern. I looked at the time. We needed to go. I asked, “Are you coming to Lunch, Jackson?” He nodded, “Yes.” I snapped him and Eric into tuxedos, then myself into an off the shoulder blush pink ball gown with pink tulle.

Marcus smiled and told me, “You look beautiful, but very fancy for lunch, little one.” I told him, “Everything is formal around here.” Blade and Thomas snickered. I muttered, “Let’s get this shit over with.” The three of us left the room.

I led them down the stairs. I forgot how many damn stairs there were around here. I should’ve popped us there. Everyone bowed as we walked by. It was fucking weird. I was never going to get used to that. Eric linked me asking, “Angel, why do you get more surprised the more we pass people?” I told him, “No fairy has ever, and I do mean ever, bowed to me.” I felt his anger as he nodded.

I led them into the private eating room for our family. Aiden was seated at the head of the table. He stood as we came in. He was wearing a tailored grey suit with a pink dress shirt. He told me, “I thought you might wear pink little sister, so I did as well.” I smiled at him. He gestured for everyone to take a seat. He snapped and the table filled with food. He’d gone with a main course of fish. We all ate in silence.

Finally, I asked, “Where is Lucinda?” Aiden smiled, “She insisted on making sure all preparations were done to mother’s satisfaction. She will be around though.” I nodded. That sounded like Lucinda. I said, “Why wouldn’t mother’s standards be followed? Aiden shrugged, “Because I didn’t really care. Lucinda cared about how it looked, so all is well.” That was confusing. I changed the subject, “I look forward to meeting my niece.” Aiden smiled but said nothing. I felt the need to fill the silence so I asked him, “Do people know what happened to Arion?” Aiden sighed, “Yes.” It all made sense now. I put my fork down and asked, “It’s why they are bowing to me, isn’t it?” He grimaced but nodded. Assholes.

Eric linked me, "I don't understand. Why are they bowing?" I answered him, "Because I killed a traitor to the crown. They see me as worthy now. Because they suck ass." Eric was shocked. He asked, "Even though Arion was their prince?" I replied, "Yes. To fairies if Arion could betray Aiden, he could betray anyone. It's cutthroat here like that." He nodded.

Aiden spoke changing the subject, "You asked me to find someone, little sister. I was able to do that for you." I searched my brain trying to figure out what he was talking out. It hit me. My eyes shot up to his. I asked, "He's alive?" Eric asked, "Who is alive?" I desperately tried to remember the name Alpha Harden used for Claudia's mate. I whispered, "Tucker... I think his name is Tucker." Aiden smiled, "Very good, little sister. You are recovering very well from the SIMS. I am most pleased. As far as the wolf, Fabian was most interested in his healing ability. He has been tortured for years; however, this Tucker is alive. He has been recuperating in the castle. I thought you and your wolf could take him home."

I looked at Eric who nodded. I said, "We will take him home. I'd like to see him, brother." I wanted to talk to him. This poor man had suffered long enough. Aiden smiled, "I thought you would. Let's head right this way." Aiden led us through the halls to the healers' wing. I shuddered seeing the tunnels to the older facility. I had been there a lot, in secret. I pushed that aside and walked into the room my brother gestured towards.

My heart dropped seeing Tucker. I asked, "Why the FUCK didn't they heal him yet? Why isn't his wolf healing him?" Aiden answered, "His wolf is too weak, and our healers tried. They were only able to heal some cuts and ease his pain for a time. Should you want to try to heal him; be my guest, little sister."

I turned and rolled my eyes. He wanted to see if I could. I snorted, "That's why you came with us. You could've brought him to Eric once you found him, but you want to see me heal him. Oh, fuck it. You're going to see it, but you could've just asked." Aiden smiled, "I'd have brought him to your wolf to see it as well. You being here saves me a trip, we only recently found him. I was thrown off track with what happened to mother..." his voice trailed off. I sighed. At least he hadn't been holding onto Tucker to manipulate the situation.

I walked over to the injured man. Tucker turned his head to see me. He looked behind me and laughed, "So Eric found his mate. My bitch of a mate didn't get what she wanted." He studied me surmising, "Claudia would have to hate you." I shrugged, "First of all, her name is Claudzilla. She did fucking hate me, but she's dead though so..." Tucker laughed, "That should upset me, but we rejected each other. She's been obsessed with Eric since he began being groomed to take over his pack. Even though she hadn't met him. Plus, the whole selling me to fairies shit..." I understood. Claudzilla was a bitch.

I told him, "I want to heal you and your wolf." He sighed, "No one has been able to. Chet is hanging on. He will get stronger over time, but we probably won't get back to normal. According to the healers around here." I told him, "I'm a lot fucking better than them." His eyes lit up as he laughed, "I like you. Go ahead, tiny little fairy. Give it a try." I smiled and told him, "I'm technically the fairy princess." He laughed, "Of course you are the fairy princess. Fuck you, Eric."

Eric chuckled teasingly responding, "Sorry Tucker, you aren't my type. It's damn good to see you, old friend." My eyes widened in surprise. I linked Eric, "He's an Alpha? Does he have a pack anymore?" Eric answered, "Yes, they are closest boundary wise to Lucas, so he assumed the role as their Alpha. He will be very glad to have Tucker back." I sighed and began to heal Tucker.

It took two hours. I was drained. Eric's arms kept me from falling when I was done. Tucker looked much stronger. He smiled at me, "I can hear Chet again." I asked, "Who is Chet?" Did I already know that? Damn SIMS. Tucker laughed, "Chet is my wolf. Can I go for a run here?" I nodded, then verbally gave permission, "As the princess, I give you permission to run the grounds. We are leaving after my..." I trailed off then continued, "My mother's funeral tomorrow. If you don't mind waiting, you can leave with us." Tucker nodded, "Sure. What's another day? I've never seen much outside that building. I could explore."

Tucker turned to Eric. Before he could ask Eric informed him, "Your pack was sucked up into Lucas.' He will gladly hand them back over to you when you are ready. We looked for you for several years with council backing. We never stopped looking when they declared you dead. I'm really sorry, Tucker. We didn't know Claudia was your mate." Tucker shrugged, "I didn't tell anyone. I knew Claudia wanted you. She rejected me and I accepted it. I even rejected her back. I didn't think she would sell me to a fairy. She called me saying she was in danger. I stupidly went to her aid, even though I was still recovering from the rejection."

I said, "Even rejected, she was your mate. You were being a damn good man." Tucker smiled, "Oh, I like you little fairy princess. I've heard we have a shared hatred of your uncle in common." I snorted, "My dead uncle." Tucker frowned, "Damn. I was hoping to get a piece of that action." I told him honestly, "Don't worry. He fucking suffered."

We went back upstairs. We'd lost Tucker somewhere along the way, but Eric didn't look worried about him. I looked at my watch again. My dread grew. We only have a few minutes before Arion's funeral. I felt like I was being crushed.

Eric threw me a lifeline by asking, "Are you changing?" I asked, "Why would I do that? Doesn't this look nice?" He and Jackson stared at me. Eric asked, "You guys don't wear black to funerals, do you?" Black? That's boring. I said, "No, we don't. There will be black tuxedos like yours, but all the women will be in color. Why the

fuck would we all wear black?” Eric told me, “In our realm, it’s a mourning color.” I sighed, “Here we are in color because Arion is in the Beyond.” Eric clearly had questions but didn’t voice them.

I waited until the last literal second to pop us to Arion’s funeral. It was a short pittance of a funeral. I imagined that was because they considered him a traitor. Assholes. Arion was beloved here most of his damn life. This wasn’t even for Arion; it was for Aiden. I sat with Aiden on my left and Eric and Jackson on my right.

After the ceremony, fairy females surrounded us. One batted her eyes and tried to sexily say, “Alpha Consort Conners. It’s a pleasure to meet you.” Many of them cooed at him. I rolled my eyes. I told them bluntly, “He doesn’t view sexual partners as a fairy would. We are mates. He doesn’t fuck anyone but me. Move along before I kick your asses.” Eric laughed. They all looked disappointed then set their eyes on Jackson.

His eyes shot to me in alarm. Before they could get their hands on him, I added, “He’s married and mated too.” They sighed. One stepped forward glaring at me. She said, “You could be saying that because we weren’t nice to you as a child.” I shrugged, “First off bitch, I can’t lie. Second, is that really how you think I’d get you back? By telling you not to fuck my husband or brother in law? Sorry, but no. You’re going to want to let this go because I don’t fucking like you. Any of you. If you think you can touch what’s mine, or my sister in law’s and get away with it,” I let my eyes blaze gold and continued, “Then you got into the gene pool when the lifeguard wasn’t looking. Your father should’ve shot that load of cum onto the damn sheets and spared us all.” They all gasped in shock.

Eric and Jackson roared with laughter. The girls were staring at me in astonishment. I wasn’t done though, “Gape all you want, bitches. You won’t find the meek little abused girl here. I’ve changed. I hid who I was here, but now I won’t. So, take your wannabe man stealing pathetic asses outside with the trash where you belong. I am your princess, and you DARED to try to touch my mate and husband in my presence? I’m counting to three and whoever is still here when I’m done is deader than a damn corpse.” Eric laughed again.

Jackson teased, “That’s not the saying my feisty, mischievous, little sister in law.” I sighed asking him, “Why? Why isn’t that the damn saying? What’s more dead than a corpse?” Jackson laughed, “The saying is deader than a doornail.” I rolled my eyes, “A doornail was never alive! That’s just rifuckingdicolous.” I turned around to see everyone had left. I shrugged, “Well, I guess they took my advice.” As we left, I caught Aiden and Marcious’ eyes. Both were practically radiating delight. At least someone was entertained.

We went back to our room. Jackson asked, "Since Tucker got permission, can I run here as well?" I nodded, "Of course you fucking can. Eric, do you want to go? I can take you guys to my private solitude here. It's really pretty." Eric laughed then asked, "What's not pretty here?" I muttered, "I could show you a few places." They both went silent and I wanted to slap myself. I quickly said, "So, do you want me to pop you there? You can come get me when you're done?" They nodded but said nothing.

I grabbed their hands and popped them to the garden I had created as a child. It was lined with flowers of every color and lots of trees. Both smiled when they saw it. Eric said, "This is amazing, Angel." I told them, "You can run anywhere you want. When you're done just come back here and I'll pop us back." Eric kissed me then shifted along with Jackson. I smiled as their wolves yipped in delight then took off running.

Marcus came out and sat down next to me. I said quietly, "I was wondering when you were going to come out. Your worry, our brothers, not to mention dad's is out of fucking control in the bond." Marcus commanded, "Don't lie or evade. How are you?" I sighed, "Dying a little inside. I have good memories here, but most are bad. Everyone sees the beauty here. I see places I was beaten, raped, and abused. I just attended a funeral for my brother that I murdered. Not to mention the bitches who want to sleep with my husband are everywhere."

Marcus smiled at the last part. He nudged me gently, "Well, bitches can't have him. Don't retreat into yourself. Talk to Eric. Talk to me." I sighed, "When we get back, I will talk. I need to just get through this. I swear I'll talk to you both, but I can't do it here. I can't show any fucking weakness here. I have to be strong."

Marcus sighed and pulled out a sandwich. He told me, "Eat. I noticed you didn't eat that much at lunch. I sense old habits coming back. You healed that Alpha, and you're still shaky." I grabbed the sandwich realizing I was famished. I ate quickly. Marcus sighed, "Not many things scare me little sister, but bringing you back here, I think it was a mistake." I shrugged and told him, "It wasn't a choice." Marcus looked at me, "There's always a choice. I know you can handle it, but I was beside you when you woke up from your flashbacks. I have recognized many of these places from you telling me about them. I see it everywhere I look. I see what you have been through. I want to kill them all. I could."

I nodded, "I know you could kill them all, easily. When we came through the portal, I couldn't even look anywhere but ahead. Or I'd have stared at the place I was last abused before I met you. Being here makes me feel so damn weak." Marcus frowned. He told me, "You are not weak." I put my hand on his.

After we sat in silence for several moments I told him, "It's all over, brother. I won't go back to that girl. I have you, my other brothers, my family, Eric, and our

children. I am more equipped to handle being back here than I ever have been. Should you feel so inclined to find explosives and blow some shit up... I have a building I want to level before we leave." He looked at me and asked, "Why not just use your tornado?" I smiled sadly whispering, "Because that wouldn't help you, brother. Plus, I don't want anything left. I want the entire thing to be ashes." He nodded.

Eric and Jackson came back into view. Marcus promised, "I will find some explosives, little one." He gave me a hug and faded back into the background. Eric was staring at where Marcus went. He walked over to me. I popped both of them back to my chambers. Jackson went off to his room without a word.

I grabbed Eric's hand and took him to the one place I was always safe here: the library. Eric whistled, "This is a massive library." I smiled, "This floor was my hiding place. My safe place where no one ever came to look for me." He turned to me, "Haley..." I kissed him. I linked him, "Make it go away, Eric. Chase all the ghosts of my past away." He pulled me to him gently drawing small circles on my hips. I snapped my dress and his tux off.

He laid me back on the ground and took my nipple into his mouth. He trailed his finger up and down my thighs, then up and back down to my center. He didn't enter me like I wanted. I moaned, "Eric, please." He smiled and kissed me slowly. I felt his finger gently slide inside me. I shivered. He slowly moved his finger in and out of me. He built me up. I came clutching his hard biceps. His mouth covered mine when I screamed his name. He pulled his finger out.

I whimpered and he slowly slid himself into me. He whispered, "This is home, Haley. You are my home. No matter where we are. You are my whole world, my wife, my mate. I love you." I looked him in the eyes and affirmed, "I love you too, Eric." He slowly thrust inside me. He made love to me all night long in my safe place. I popped us back to my room to get some sleep.

When I woke up I looked around, but no one was here. Then I heard Fabian's voice, "Amazing what my experiments lead to. Isn't that right, niece? You thought of this whole world where people loved you. I thought it best to let you believe it for a while, but now I want to see how you react when it's taken away." I rolled my eyes at him. Silently my inner panic was at an all-time high. This couldn't be true. It was just a dream. I needed Eric, our children, and my family. They had to be real.

Fabian mocked, "None of it was real, niece. No one loves or cares for you." I couldn't breathe. He would finally win. I couldn't go on if the last several years weren't real, I would break. I heard someone screaming my name. Fabian hissed. I thought I saw Arion fighting Fabian before I woke up in a cold sweat. Eric was shaking me begging me to wake up.

I looked around the room and saw the concerned faces of my guard, Jackson, and Marcus. I winced. My brother's face was showing his agony. I felt it on our bond too. I whispered, "I... I'm sorry. The rooms... you shouldn't have been able to hear me."

Jackson looked at Eric. Eventually he said, "Eric linked me. I got Marcus." I nodded and looked at my brother. I told him, "I'm ok, Marcus. It was just a bad dream." He studied me carefully then nodded. They all were about to leave when a knock came. I was about to get up when Eric said, "Stay in bed. I'll get it."

He got up and opened the door. I could see Jacile practically drooled since he didn't have a shirt on.

Jacile grinned and said, "Alpha Consort Eric, hello! Umm... well... the... Oh yes! The queen's festivities start at breakfast in her favorite garden. The will is being read privately afterwards with the family. Then lunch will be in the main ballroom. The celebration of life will be in the next hall immediately after, followed by the parade. Then we will be laying the former queen's bed to rest, wrapping up the event." Eric's eyes were wide with disbelief.

Jackson asked, "Did she say parade?" I got up and walked to the door. I said, "Thank you, Jacile. We will be ready for breakfast shortly." I saw the concern on her face. I was probably pale like she'd seen many times before. She popped away and I shut the door.

I snapped Eric and Jackson into grey tuxedos today. I snapped myself into a light purple sexy V Neck long dress with a crisscrossed back. Blade spoke, "Princess beautiful." I smiled, "Thank you, Blade." He'd been guarding me, so much lately. I really needed to get his mate to come for a visit. I loved Serion as much as I loved Blade. I missed him.

Eric put his arms around me. He asked, "Do we have some time before this literal day of events starts?" I nodded, "A little bit." He whispered, "Pop us somewhere private." I popped him back to the private garden I had taken him to the night before. No one ever came here except me.

Eric pleaded with me, "Angel, talk to me. I can feel how hard this is for you. This morning I couldn't wake you. You just kept saying it's not true. If he's not real, then I can't go on. I need him. What happened?" I frowned, "I didn't say anything in my dream. Fabian was mocking me saying it was all an elaborate experiment on my mind. That you weren't real. None of this was real. It's... he feels so close here, Eric. I just want to get this damn day over with and go home."

He crushed me to him. He whispered in my ear, "You are safe with me, Angel. I am real. I will never leave you, and Fabian is dead. He cannot touch you here

again.” I nodded against him. We just stayed like that for a while. I sighed telling him “We need to go.” He nodded begrudgingly.

I popped us back to my room and found Jackson standing by my books. He turned to face us. He had a stricken, strained look on his face. What happened? I asked, “Jackson? Are you alright?” He nodded. His voice was rough when he replied, “Yes, I’m fine. Are we ready to go?” I nodded and looked at Eric. He was looking at Jackson. I’d figure that out later. I didn’t have the mental capacity for it today. I needed to focus get through this shit show and go home.

We went out to the garden, joining everyone who had gathered. Breakfast passed without incident. People still bowed to me. Female fairies kept their distance but were openly leering at Eric. I let my eyes blaze at a few of them. I was triumphant when they scurried away. Eric laughed and whispered in my ear, “Your possessiveness is showing, Angel.” I sighed, “They are horrid. You’re fucking mine.” He turned me to face him. He kissed me hard. I heard gasps and glasses dropping. He broke our kiss and rubbed my cheek with his thumb. He told me, “As you are mine.” Jackson laughed at something.

Aiden came over smiling. He said, “Let’s head back to the palace to read the will, little sister.” I nodded. He grabbed my hand. I already had Eric’s. He popped us away. Thankfully, Jackson had grabbed Eric’s arm. I’d never been to this part of the castle before. Where the lawyer’s office was.

I smiled broadly as I saw Lucinda. I was genuinely happy to see her. I greeted her with a hug, “Hi Lucinda! Where is my niece? I haven’t seen her yet.” Lucinda laughed, “She’s been hiding. She saw you last night and said you were too beautiful. You can meet her after we read the will.” I nodded, “I would like that very much.” We all walked into the office, I started to get a bad feeling. My mother’s lawyer looked very nervous. I looked at Aiden who shrugged, confused.

I linked Eric, “Why do I feel like this is where the shit show begins? It’s been too easy so far.” Eric frowned. He answered me, “He does seem quite nervous.” The lawyer gestured to the chairs and we sat down. Mother gave her jewelry to Lucinda and Aiylee. I was stunned when he said she gave her crown to me. I stopped the lawyer, “And I give it to Lucinda. She is married to my brother. She’s the damn queen. The crown goes to her.” Lucinda smiled at me. Aiden beamed with pride.

The lawyer quickly made a note. He nodded, “That’s fine.” Aiden and I each received a portion of her estate. I could put money in aside for the triplets with it. Plus, I could fund my partial fairy initiative using that as well. The lawyer got around to her property. I knew all of that would go to Aiden. The lawyer practically whispered, “All property is bequeathed to... the princess.” Aiden, Lucinda, and I all sucked in a breath. My fury hit first. I jumped up from my seat.

I hissed, “Exfuckingcuse me? I must have something stuck in my ear because I thought I heard you say the property goes to me.” The lawyer clasped his hands together nervously. He nodded, “Yes, that is what the queen dictated. The castle is obviously Aiden’s as he is king, but everything else is yours.”

I hissed, “No it’s fucking not. The property goes to Aiden. There’s obviously been a miscommunication.” Aiden stood and agreed with me, “Surely, there’s been a mistake.” The lawyer shook his head no. He said, “No, I asked many times if this is truly what she wanted. I argued the King should have the property, but she insisted.” That fucking bitch!

Eric asked, “Why is that a big deal? What’s wrong?” I couldn’t answer him, I was too mad. I stared at the lawyer. He appealed to me, “Queen Alania wanted you home. You know this.” I let my eyes turn gold, “GIVE ALL THE DAMN PROPERTY TO AIDEN!” The lawyer fell back in his chair and popped up. He whispered, “I... I can’t. I’m sorry.”

My connections were all sending me their concern. I thought through all the loopholes I knew of. I was not staying here. Aiden sighed, “For god’s sake...” Eric growled, “What is going on?” I told him, “I’ll explain in a minute...” I turned to the lawyer and asked, “The properties are only mine so long as a fucking structure is on it. Correct? If it’s just the land, I can give it to my brother.” The lawyer nodded, confused. Aiden sighed and sat down. I said, “Very well.” I stormed out of the room with Eric and Jackson hot on my trail.

A beautiful little girl waiting outside caused me to let my eyes return to normal. She looked just like Lucinda and Aiden. She smiled when she saw me. She ran over and started talking, “You look just like grandma but prettier. You’re so beautiful.” I sank down to her level on my knees. I told her, “Thank you. That must make you Aiylee.” She smiled, “Yes, and you’re my Aunt Haley and that’s my Uncle Eric. Hi again, Uncle Eric.” Again? I glanced at Eric who smiled at Aiylee.

I answered Aiylee, “We are your Aunt and Uncle.” I conjured her a rabbit and handed it to her. I told her, “Your uncle Arion got me one of these when I was a little younger than you. I loved it.” She smiled brightly and ran to Lucinda. She squealed, “Look mommy Aunt Haley got me a rabbit. She conjured it and everything! She’s so cool!”

Lucinda laughed and smiled at me. She said, “It was good to see you, Haley. Despite the circumstances.” I nodded to her, “It was nice to see you as well.” Lucinda smiled, “I did want to thank you Alpha Consort Eric. For what you did for Aiylee and me, letting us stay safely in your territory. I will not forget your kindness.” So that was how Eric had met Aiylee.

Aiden approached me slowly. He said, "I had no idea, Haley. I obviously thought all of the land would come to me. Lucinda said you could look through the jewelry and take any pieces you wanted." I shrugged, "She has a platinum necklace with a pink diamond on it in the shape of a heart. That's all I want. Lucinda, Aiylee, and your future children can have the rest." Aiden nodded.

He told me, "I'll have it in your room before dinner. You're going to destroy everything, aren't you?" I nodded, "Yes. I'm not staying here, brother. It's the only loophole I can think of. Once I do that, it's yours. You are free to conjure everything back up just as it was before."

Aiden ran a hand through his hair. He told me, "I am sorry she tried to do this to you. You left before the lawyer could give you the letter she wrote. She left one for both of us." I stared at the letter in his hands like it was going to explode. Eric leaned forward and took it from him. He said, "Thank you, Aiden." Aiden nodded to him. I said, "We will be down for lunch as soon as I explain this shit to them." Aiden nodded, "Just don't miss anything." With that he left.

I stormed back to my room and proceeded to throw anything breakable on the ground. I was shaking in anger when Eric reached out and pulled me into his arms. He asked, "Angel, why is owning the property a big deal? Why can you not give it Aiden as you gave the crown to Lucinda?" I sighed and turned to face him. I immediately felt guilty because Marcus looked so mad. Eric and Jackson were clearly worried.

I told them, "Because if a royal gives you their property and dwellings on it, they must be lived in. It can be in a rotation, but you HAVE to live here. My mother owns several places around this stupid fucking realm. I'll need more explosives, Marcus. I have to destroy all of them before we can fucking leave this personal hell of mine." Marcus frowned.

Eric asked, "Why is that?" I sighed, "Because if you own the land with dwellings of a royal in Faerie you cannot physically leave. I could go to the portal, but I couldn't get out. It would refuse to let me go." Eric shook his head, "Fairies leave all the time." I nodded, "With the intent to return and live here still. Should I want to leave for a time with the intent to return; then yes, I could leave. We all know I don't intend to live in this damn place. I won't be able to leave until all the damn structures are gone."

Eric growled. Marcus' eyes were wide and turning gold. I quickly said, "It's fine. I figured out how to fix. Aiden can rebuild after I give him the land." Marcus asked, "How many properties are there?" I sighed, "She owned thirty when I left. I'll have to get the fucking list from the lawyer." Jackson gave me a sheet of paper. He tersely said, "It's forty-five. The lawyer handed it to me before when we followed you." I groaned, "Of fucking course it is."

Marcus stood and announced, "I'll find more explosives." I nodded, "I'll use my tornado on what we blow up too. Then we'll have to knock down what's left. MOTHER FUCKER! Why would she do this? It's like a giant screw you from the grave. UGH!" I tried to reign in my anger. I hissed, "Now, we have to go to the stupid damn lunch for my petty BITCH of a mother." I grabbed Jackson and Eric and popped to the brunch.

Eric was wrapped around me possessively the entire lunch. His actions had many fairies reaching for ice water as they salivated over him. We got to the celebration of life. I decided I was going to try to get drunk. It wouldn't work, but I need a buzz. I knocked back several shots of whatever they had. I just wanted to be numb. Aiden came over and handed me our mother's favorite sangria drink, which we both drank in her honor. All while I called her a bitch in my head. Aiden smiled and walked back over to Lucinda. I took more shots. Eric was about to say something to me when Aiden motioned for him to join him. Eric hesitated.

Jackson said, "I've got this, brother. Go." Eric nodded and left. Jackson said, "So... would you like another shot?" I nodded. He handed me one and we threw back. Jackson asked another question, "So, this is a fairy's version of a celebration of life?" I nodded, "Yes. Fairies get wasted then there's a parade in her damn bitchy honor." Jackson nodded, "Well you seem to be trying, but your Hackura side doesn't let you get wasted, does it?" I shook my head, "It doesn't. I can get tipsy though." Jackson observed, "Sure. You seem to attract a lot of attention."

I shrugged, "I'm the princess returning home after years. I have powers and they all treated me like fucking scum. They are scared I'll kill them all." Jackson laughed, "The females yes, the males are openly lusting after you. I've kept my brother from a killing spree multiple times." I snorted, "You are funny, brother in law of mine." He smiled, "And you don't see yourself clearly, sister in law of mine." I smiled at him, "These people find me worthless. I find most not worth my time; Eric is it for me."

Before I could continue several people came up to thank me for my work with the partial fairies. Many had lists they had given to Aiden of people for me to contact. Oh sure. NOW they wanted to be helpful since it involved them. Selfish assholes.

Eric came back over to me. Shortly after it was time for the parade. I watched and walked through it in a haze of anger. I had somewhat of a buzz. Mostly confusion and hurt because of my mother's actions. She hurt Aiden by giving me the property. My mother knew I wouldn't stay here. It just seemed like she was mad at me and wanted to make things difficult for me. We went back to my room. I cringed seeing everything I'd broken. I snapped it back together.

I turned and snapped the guys back into black tuxedos and I snapped myself into an A-line V-neck Rhinestone Dark Navy dress. Eric rubbed my back reassuringly,

“Haley, we are almost done. Marcus took the list and has been destroying places while we have been busy. He only has a few left.” I nodded. I wasn’t surprised. Marcus always had my back. I also felt several of my other brothers here. They must be helping. Marcus must have opened a portal.

I told Eric, “I’m just so pissed she did this. It just seems like she was mad at me. It’s so fucking petty.” He nodded, “It doesn’t look great, but you have her letter. It might have answers.” I looked at it, but I didn’t want to read it. I told him, “We have to go to the service.”

Both men nodded. I popped us there. Everyone stared at us as we went up front to be beside Aiden. I held both Eric and Aiden’s hand throughout it. Eric linked me, “You look stunning.” I smiled at him, “Thank you. You look very dapper yourself. Thank you for coming with me. I know with the pack it’s hard.” Eric gazed at me lovingly and replied, “I will be wherever you are. Any big moment for you, good or bad I’ll be beside you.” He leaned in and kissed my forehead.

I literally heard those bitches swooning. I glared back at them and they straightened up. I linked Eric, “God, I’m so close to fucking you right here so they take a hint.” Eric smiled, “I’m game.” I rolled my eyes, “Of course you are.” The longer the event went on the more I was convinced I was going to fuck Eric where they could hear it. They kept looking at him with desire in their eyes. He is MY husband and mate. They had no right to look at him with any interest, considering everything the damn realm had subjected me to.

After the service, I went to the bathroom. I was on my way back when several fairies blocked my way. They bowed then proceeded to be disrespectful bitches. One sneered, “When your wolf tires of you, I’ll enjoy taking up the slack. Everyone knows you’re inexperienced. I know things you couldn’t dream of.”

I took a deep breath. Fine. They wanted to be bitches. I replied, “It’s Princess Haley, by the way since you didn’t say my title. Eric isn’t a fairy; they don’t treat mates the way fairies do. It’s him and me always. He wouldn’t like you anyway. Arion told me you’re looser than a screw on its last wrung. Watch your damn mouth before it gets you killed. I am the Princess of Faerie AND the Hackura. To sleep with my mate on a non-off period means death. Fuck off. Now.” I left them gaping at me.

Jackson was smirking at me while I walked over to them. I remembered how good their hearing was. Eric was trying not to laugh. I grabbed Eric and addressed his brother, “Jackson, you may want to get out of hearing distance.” He asked, “Why would that be?” I looked over my shoulder and told him, “Because I’m about to prove your brother is very much mine. I’m sick of being questioned by these catty ass bitches” Jackson spit out his drink.

I popped Eric outside to the back of the building. I teased him, "I believe I was told dresses give you better access for you to fuck me. So, prove it." Eric growled. He pushed me against the building and pushed my dress out of his way. He ripped off my underwear. I undid his belt and zipper. He sprang free. He pushed into me and groaned, "FUCK!" I bit his ear and he began to thrust into me. I didn't hold back my moans. After the third time I came, I could tell he was close. I bit his ear and whispered, "Who do you belong to Eric?" He only growled in response. I bit his mark hard and he roared, "I BELONG TO YOU HALEY! FUUUCKK!" He just kept slamming into me over and over. I was screaming his name. We stayed there breathing heavily for several moments afterwards.

Eric smirked, "Well, I doubt Jackson got far enough away to not hear us. It echoes in this spot quite a bit." I shrugged. When we walked back inside every single female glared at me. I raised my hand and made a motion to take the top of a lipstick container from my middle finger and used it like it would lipstick around my lips. Eric and Aiden laughed. Marcious was grinning like a proud father. Jackson came up to us. He told me, "I did not go far enough away." I shrugged, "I warned you."

I went over to Aiden and hugged him. I spoke quietly, "Qweta tyu leaving Za mucha saigal Ioul" (We are leaving. I love you, brother). He nodded and hugged me back replying, "Yeut Astra an inspired show Eqsad Ioup. Za mucha saigal yuz please stay safe call should Zu Wer any need. Za will talk Ze Zu soon" (That was an inspired show, little sister. I love you too. Please stay safe call should you have any need. I will talk to you soon). I turned a little red knowing my brother heard.

Eric, Jackson, and I left and went back to my room. I snapped us all into regular clothes. Both looked happy to be in jeans again. I was trying to feel like myself by wearing hot pink yoga pants and a white top.

Eric told me, "Marcus is coming here when he's done." I nodded, "I have one more place to add to his list. I need that place to be fucking dust. Then we are leaving." I looked at the bed where the letter from my mother sat. My hands were shaking as I reached for it. I stopped when I noticed the necklace I'd asked Aiden for was beside the letter. I picked it up and sat on my bed. Eric sat behind me positioning me between his legs. I took a deep breath and opened the letter.

My darling girl,

I know what you must think of me. I was not the mother you deserved or needed. I was selfish, I didn't

not know your father was the king of the Hackura. I just knew that he was a supernatural, and when he was coming for you. I know you have many questions

about Fabian, and I cannot answer them. I didn't know the extent to which you suffered; I wouldn't have let that happen despite what you may think.

I am truly sorry for what happened to you. I know you don't understand why I didn't alter Arion's path. As someone with the sight, I felt and always have that directly changing people's courses was not my place. I broke that when I appealed to you for Fabian. As you know by now, I think you must know. You were always so smart. In a weak moment, after my dear sister's death I agreed to tie my life force to Fabian's. It was a poor decision. It was wrong of me to ask you to spare him knowing what I did about your struggles and your pain. I wish I could take that away for you, Haley. You are destined for great things, you always were. I am so glad you have your wolf by your side now. He is your true other half my darling. I know it is hard for you to open up but let him in always.

I know I didn't meet them, but I saw many of my grandchildren you bore your wolf. They are beautiful and talented. All are wolves. How could they not be with such strong genes as your wolf? The ribbon is a beautiful thing I hope you can save your brother. His child with the witch is powerful like him. Aiden will need to help Megan with the child's fire powers.

I know your life has never been fair. I know you will probably think I'm punishing you leaving you the property. There are things that should never come to light. That is why I gave it to you.

I checked on you many times since you met your wolf. He loves you more than I have ever witnessed a man love another. I see why you are fated for each other in any reality. You are true soul mates. You never even looked at any other male, even though you had many admirers who wanted to be your bed mate. The way you two look together is breathtakingly beautiful. Do not lose that my darling. It is truly rare, especially for anyone with fairy blood.

I am sorry I was not the mother you deserved. I focused more on Arion and Aiden since they were my mates' children. Please do not think I didn't love you. I do Haley, with all my heart. You were and still are everything pure and innocent in this world. You will do great things. I'm sorry your path to them was not as it should be. I can blame no one but myself for being blind all those years. You are strong. Now with your wolf beside you, you are unstoppable. A force to be reckoned with. I am sorry you had to kill Arion, and the burden that came to you with that.

Queen Veronica seems to truly love you. I'm glad you have her in your life. You deserve it. Go be great Haley Connors Cambridge. You were born to be great. A time of peace is coming for you, and I know you desperately long for it. Trials will always be in your path, but you deserve a moment's peace at times.

Enjoy the ribbon and change things for yourself. I hope you get to a reality where you are a baby and take yourself to your father. You would be raised as you should without the baggage. I am so sorry for the flashback and memories you have of our home. I always wanted this to be a safe place for everyone. I see for you it will always be your place of torment. For that I am also sorry.

My death is not on you, darling girl. My decisions were made by me not you. I lived a long life, now I can go be with Fenilton and my darling boy Arion. Our last conversation was not your fault either. I pushed you when your mind was fragile.

Please remember our many walks and picnics. I hope those are fond memories for you as they are to me. Take care of Aiden. He will be lost for a while without Arion and myself. Lucinda can help, but he needs you as well.

Stay strong, you have a warriors heart. Stay by your wolf. He will always protect you as you should've been protected all along.

All my love

Mother

Tears were streaming down my face as I read her words. It was the nicest thing she'd ever said to me. In fact, it sounded nothing like her. Pieces of her words here and there, but...Overall. This letter sounded like something someone else wrote. Did Aiden re-write her final words finding them lacking? My heart warmed at the thought.

Eric held me kissing my forehead. We stayed that way until Marcus came in covered in soot. Marcus said, "There's only one last place. I figured you'd want to push the detonator." I nodded then popped us to the place where Fabian had tortured me the most. Where everyone except Perrius had abused me. I took the detonator from my brother and reduced the building to nothing.

I felt Fabian's presence here, so I spoke to it out loud, "Zu tried Ze make cye nothing, Beckta in The end Uyla legacy Den line Wer died Den Zu tyu nothing. Za Er still here, Den Zu tyu gone. Game over Za win" (You tried to make me nothing, but in the end your legacy and line have died and you are the one who is nothing. I am still here, and you are gone. Game over, I win).

I popped us all over to the portal. My guard appeared. Bexley and Liam were waiting. I saw Tucker out of the corner of my eye. I turned to face the castle. The place I used to think of as home. I whispered, "Goodbye," then turned around. We all walked back into our realm to my home with Eric.