

Black isn't the only Color

Haley thought furiously, trying to remember the one book she read that talked about enclosure spells. The vampire king came into the lab, and I tried to ignore him. He crossed his arms saying, "I hear you went outside to see the wolf, pet." I rolled my eyes unable to ignore that. I informed him, "I'm not a pet. I must get on top of this billboard ad situation so you can remember that fact. As for your question, yes. I did go outside." Damon frowned. His exasperation came through in his tone, "You are still recovering from being tortured. I do not wish to punish you, but you went outside when you weren't supposed to. What to do with you?" I sighed pointing out, "To be fair, no one said I couldn't go outside. Not that I wouldn't have done it anyway, because I would've; however, no one said I couldn't go outside." Damon roared with laughter admitting, "I do suppose that is true."

He slunk closer to me, "You smell so good." His fangs extended and he grabbed my wrists. I was certain he was trying to sound seductive when he asked, "Will you allow me the pleasures of your body as well this time, my pet?" I groaned, "UGH, no! I'm not having sex with you. Please stop asking and you appear to be hard of hearing, so I'll say it louder." I screamed, "I. AM. NOT. A PET!"

He jerked my wrist, "You are a pet. MY PET! You need to start accepting that." He brutally sank his fangs into my wrist. I winced. His bite was always harsh. He took a few pulls of my blood then looked back up at me smiling. He sounded kinder now, "Should you decide you don't like the harsher bite; it can be quite pleasurable." I frowned annoyedly saying, "Well, please do continue to make it hurt then. You aren't being nicer to me because?" Damon smiled. He leaned down and whispered in my ear, "I can make it nicer if you will do sexual things with me. We can build up to sex." I rolled my eyes, "I'm going to have to pass, but I suppose I appreciate the offer." Damon hissed, "I am an excellent lover. Many women want to sleep with me." I shrugged, "Great. Then go find one of them, and don't act like you're the one around here not getting any fucking sex. That would be me. You also can stand the touch of the opposite sex. I fucking struggle with both touching me. Particularly men." He got into my face, fangs extended, "You WILL eventually accept your place here at my side. Now as you say I have other needs to get out, since you will not attend to them." He strode purposefully from the room.

Lisa came in later. She smiled at me, "I'm supposed to show you to your room." I sat up asking, "I have a room?" Lisa nodded pointing out, "It's better than sleeping in here; though it's not your permanent room. Apparently, you can't have that one until you accept your place here." I rolled my eyes muttering, "What the fuck ever. It's not like I plan to stay here." Lisa led me through the winding halls. I hobbled along after her as best I could. We were in the middle of a flight of stairs when I

froze whispering, “Eric’s here.” Lisa sadly said, “Yes, we know that. You saw him yesterday.” I frowned asking, “I did? I think... Yes, you’re right. I did.” Lisa nodded. We continued to the end of the hall where she stopped at a small door. Lisa opened the door gasping, “This can’t be right. Hang out right here I’ll go ask.”

I stepped into what was obviously a cleaning supply closet. There were rows of cleaning supplies, mops, and a sleeping bag laid out for me on the floor. Lisa came back frowning. She consoled me, “I’m sorry, Haley. Can’t you just lie to the King, and tell him you accept your place here? You’d get a real bed.” I frowned. Lisa pushed, “Not for yourself, but the babies.” I sighed, “I can’t lie.” Lisa sighed, “Not even partial fairies can lie? That’s good to know. Well, I guess I’ll leave you here then. I have to get to court.”

I sat down and took in my surroundings, sighing. I rubbed my stomach speaking softly, “Hey my little ones. Don’t you worry. Daddy is here now. He will make everything better. Mommy will do her best to make everything better too. I would lie for your sakes if I could. I WILL get us out of here, that is my promise to you three.” Three kicks hit my belly at the same time. I gasped asking, “Did you guys hear me? Do you like it when mommy talks to you?” They all kicked again. I cried happy tears at first. Then my anger and sadness overtook me. Eric should be able to feel our children kick for the first time. There were so many fucking firsts they’d taken from us. I huddled on the floor and cradled my stomach. I tried to sleep, but I just couldn’t manage it.

A knock on my door was followed by a man briskly entering my room without me telling him to come in. He threw down a tray at my feet. He sneered, “The fairy prince insists you be given something to eat. So here.” With that he left. I looked down at the tray. It was a piece of bread and a slice of cheese. I sighed, “Well it’s better than nothing you guys. We will get back to Mrs. Blanch and she will make us all the food we want. Ok?” They didn’t kick back. I ate my food. After a minute I felt a shot to the kidney. I winced, “Hey now little one! I am just as upset as you about the food situation. We work with what we get knowing we WILL get more food when we get home. Because I WILL get us home.”

After dawn Megan came to my room with wide eyes. She looked me up and down and cried in relief, “Oh THANK GOD! He didn’t come here! He probably forgot where he put you. Thank mother earth for small miracles, I guess.” I raised an eyebrow asking, “What are you talking about?” Megan sighed and sat down on the floor. She immediately stood back up. She pulled me to my feet and said, “Come on we are going to my room. This closet is just... unacceptable. I’m speaking to Arion when he comes to me later about this.” I sighed, “If you think that will help, but it really won’t. My brother just doesn’t want me to die. That’s where he and our vapid mother draw the line.” Megan frowned determinedly stating, “We’ll see about that.”

She dragged me down several hallways. When we reached her room, I looked around. It had black walls, black sheets, everything was black. Lexi would like their sense of style. Tears filled my eyes. I missed her. I knew if she were back, I'd see her here. She'd help me keep everything straight. I shoved those thoughts from my mind and focused on the room. It was much nicer than my own accommodations by far. Megan sat on the bed, so I did the same. It was a queen-sized bed. I couldn't stop myself from laying back onto the pillow. I closed my eyes briefly then said, "This is much better than my room. Though you'd think having another fucking color besides black would kill them or something."

Megan laughed, "Don't look now, but your fairy side is showing." I sighed, "I just want a little bit of color. Seriously. Just one measly little color." Megan smiled at me. Lisa entered the room a bit frantically. She looked me up and down too, sighing in relief, "She seems fine. Did you bring her in here last night? That was risky, but I suppose you were in Arion's room." Megan sighed, "I was in Arion's room. I would've brought her here if Arion hadn't grabbed me as soon as court ended. I think the King was so enraged he forgot where she was." Lisa nodded, "That's possible." I asked, "Where is Arion's room? Why was King Damon mad?" Megan sighed, "Arion's room is spectacular, though he also hates the lack of color. His bed though, GOD! It's so comfy it's also like three times the size of this room. The black sheets are satin. Makes having sex a little bit more slippery, but we manage." She grinned teasingly continuing, "Your brother knows his way around the bedroom, let me tell you." I shrugged, "I'm sure he does. Where is his room from here? I owe that asshole a punch to the face." Megan laughed, "I suppose he does deserve it. It is three floors above us and back down the way we came from your room. Actually, directly three floors above where you are is his closet." I snorted, "Of course it is."

Lisa sighed impatiently, then stated, "TELL HER about the King!" Megan nodded, "Right, his child called him. No one knows which one, but it's obviously his favorite child. He screamed and destroyed almost everything in court last night. Your husband spoke to this child and convinced them to tell Damon if he didn't give you back, they would cut all ties with him. He refused and his child washed their hands of him. I couldn't believe he wouldn't do it, even for his child. I heard it was his first ever made child. For the centuries they had spent together... he wouldn't do it. It's awful. Anyway, his child told him he had truly lost himself and that they no longer knew him. I thought he was going to kill you, Haley. That was one of his plans. He mentioned ripping the babies out of your stomach and sending them back to Alpha Eric. Or sending Alpha Eric your head. He then said he would take you from Eric. Arion seemed to think that meant he means to seduce you. I thought he was going to beat you to a pulp and then maybe kill you."

I smiled proudly surmising, "Eric took someone he cared about because Damon took me. It's a solid strategy. Obviously, the vampire doesn't live in this state. Or Eric would've just held them hostage as I am being held." Lisa rolled her eyes,

“I’m glad you see the strategy of it. He gambled with your life! With your children’s lives!” I shook my head disagreeing, “No, he took a calculated risk to make the king feel similarly to how he feels. He knew the king wouldn’t kill me, or the children. Not that I think Eric knows we are having more than one child. I think he thinks it’s just the one. I’m too valuable to Damon at this point to kill. Because my dad is upset, along with my brothers, Eric and all his allies. Damon can’t see reason because of my stupid fucking blood. You may not understand what fairy blood does to a vampire.” Lisa sighed interrupting, “I know it makes them crazy. They usually drain the fairy because you all taste so good.”

I nodded explaining, “Yes, now add to that I’m not full Fae, but I AM a pregnant fairy. So, I am sweeter than I would normally be as a partial fairy; furthermore, I am of royal blood. My blood is the ultimate sweet treat for him right now and Eric knew he wouldn’t give that up. Had he made this move before knowing the king tasted me... Well, that would have been a dick move on Eric’s part. This has the king off balance. I can work with that.” Both girls sighed. Lisa snorted, “You are so not from here, are you?” I laughed teasing, “From the realm of ridiculous sayings? No, I was raised in Faerie until I fled. I thought everyone knew that.” I shrugged. We spent half the day together, talking, before I fell asleep on the bed.

I woke up when I was jarred awake by someone shaking me. My brother’s voice spoke gently, “You have to get up and get to your room, Haley. The vampires will be up soon.” I sat up and looked at my brother. I pointed out, “Calling it a room is a fucking stretch, Arion.” He rolled his eyes, “So I’ve heard from my mate. At an incredibly loud volume. I’ll try to fix it, but you need to get back there now.” I sat up. I shrugged, “Fine, fine.” I walked to the door. Arion spoke softly, “I do love you, Haley. I know you think I don’t, but I do. I didn’t know what else to do.”

I turned around and looked at him sadly, “Arion, I think you honestly believe that, and in your own way; I think you do love me.” His face relaxed but I had more to say, “However, I think if you were honest with yourself, you’d admit you didn’t try very hard to find a way out of this. I think you put in minimal effort; I truly do. Ask yourself this, Arion, if it was Aiden instead of me, they wanted... how hard would you have worked to save him? Would you have betrayed him as you betrayed me? I think we both know the answer is no, big brother.” His face dropped in shock. I kept going my anger bubbling to the surface, “Because if you’re being honest with yourself, you would’ve moved literal mountains to save him and still have your mate. Me, you just went with the easiest option for yourself.”

With that I left him, as he sank to his knees. I could see the truth of my words shook him to his core. I was walking through the hall when I did a double take. I’d just passed by an open door with someone I knew. I whispered, “Allie?” I ran into the room and shook the girl. She opened her eyes. It was her. Was Lexi here too? Hope filled me. I asked, “Allie? What are you doing here?” Allie looked around.

She wobbled on her feet. I frowned. What was wrong with her? I asked, “Are you alright?” Allie slammed the door shut and turned to me with pity in her eyes. She whispered, “I should be asking you that Haley.”

I gave her a hug and sobbed, “Is Lexi coming?” Allie was in the hood. Allie whispered, “I’m sorry. Lexi is in the field. Heath sent me. Can you hang on a little longer? Heath has people looking into this.” I pulled back admitting, “I probably won’t fucking remember this, but I’m getting us out of here, ok? I’ll figure it out. It’s a stupid fucking fairy thing called SIMS. Keep your head down. When you feel magic dissipate around here, you get your ass to Sir Arthur. Do you know him?” She nodded, “I do. I got here after... your torture. I’m so sorry.” I shrugged, “I’ve been through worse. Are they hurting you here?” Allie shook her head, “No, I just lost too much blood last night.” I frowned, “Ok, stay safe.” I hugged her again and left.

I made it to my room moments before someone knocked. I took a deep breath and tried to open a portal to the Hackura realm. I felt the resistance. Nothing happened. They were blocking that ability too. I groaned. It was worth a shot. I opened the door to see the same vampire that led me to court that first night. He sighed, “The King requests your presence in his chamber.” I smirked, “Of course he does. He wouldn’t want to enjoy his precious fucking fairy blood in these accommodations.” I swept my arm around my closet. The vampire winced, “Yes, well... that’s... let’s just go.” He led me down a hall to an elevator, taking us directly to the top floor. He gestured for me step out. I glanced back asking, “Aren’t you coming?” He shook his head, “No, I’ll be back for you, or Robert will be when the King summons someone to come get you.” I frowned as the elevator doors closed. I stepped into the room.

I spotted Damon right away. He was wearing black silk boxers and nothing else. I barely restrained an eye roll. Even his damn boxers were black. Did vampires not fucking know there were other colors in the world? Damon smiled at me greeting, “Ah, you smell stunning, my fairy.” I raised an eyebrow at him not calling me a pet. I shrugged that off. Maybe, just maybe, I wouldn’t have to take out that billboard. Damon asked me, “You have nothing to say? That is new. I find I don’t like it.” I decided to tell him about the colors in the world. I told him, “You are aware there are other colors beside black and varying shades of black, yes?”

He stared at me for several seconds and then laughed. He clapped his hands together, “Oh, you are delightful! Such sass and spunk. Come sit.” He gestured to the bed. I looked around the room, spotting a sofa. I walked there instead. He frowned but asked, “Are you still confused about what’s real and what’s not?” I tilted my head. I did think I saw a hood member as a pet here, that was probably not real. I answered honestly, “Yes, for all I know this isn’t real. I could be chewing on my hair waiting for my dear uncle to rape me again.” Damon frowned explaining, “He’s being punished, and he will not harm you again. He doesn’t have

permission.” I scoffed, “So only you can hurt me. Is that the new rule?” Damon laughed, “It’s not new. You were promised to me.” I snorted, “By my uncle. Who is not the ruler of Faerie. My mother the Queen, nor my brother the King agreed to this. My dad certainly never agreed. He and my brothers will destroy your people. This is unfuckingnecessary.”

Damon smiled, “There we agree. I would like you to talk to your father. Tell him you will honor the agreement I made with your uncle. He will stop.” I laughed at his audacity. I told him, “He won’t. It wouldn’t matter to him if I said I wanted to stay here at this point. Do keep in fucking mind I can’t lie, so that’s a terrible idea. You offended and insulted my dad by taking me. He did not agree to any terms with you, which is an insult to him that he won’t ignore. Regardless of what I say to him now, I cannot save you or your people.” Damon considered, “Then it’s a good thing he cannot get inside our compound.” I smiled, “I think it will surprise you what my dad is capable of.”

Damon snorted, “Your brother was leaving vampires to burn in the sun prior to you being taken. Your husband and brothers slaughtered innocent vampires in a club. How is it you feel nothing about that?” I gave him an incredulous look, “None of those things were my decisions.” Damon replied, “But it was done for you. Because of you. Hundreds of innocent subjects died.” I frowned pointing out, “By your own logic, it was because of YOU, not me. You are their leader. You chose to listen to my uncle instead of your own advisors, or even your own logic. All of which had to be telling you this was a bad idea. Are you so bored now that you just wanted something fun?” Damon hissed, “My motives aren’t yours to guess. I want my dinner now.”

He advanced on me. His eyes softened as he spoke, “I would like to make it pleasurable for you this time. Let me show you.” I was annoyed. I pouted, “That was an option this whole damn time? If you don’t want to hurt me, then don’t. For the fucking record though, I’m not having sex with you.” He smirked and blurred in front of me. He knelt his head to the side of my neck that wasn’t marked by Eric. He licked it, leaned in, and lightly bit me. I shrugged. Damon wasn’t wrong, it definitely didn’t hurt. Pleasurable wasn’t the word I’d use to describe it though.

Dread filled my entire being when I felt his finger on my underwear. I didn’t even think twice. My fight response reacted. I reached down and broke his finger. The King pulled his teeth out of my neck roughly. He stared at his hand, then turned his furious gaze to me. I was trying not to throw up from his hand getting that close to me. He screamed, “YOU DARE hurt me?” I forced my voice to remain hard and steady as I responded. “You dare try to violate me? You’ve been spouting off about not abiding rape. You did not have my fucking consent to touch me! My brains scrambled though so you’d thought you would go for it? That’s just as bad! I’m not in my right damn mind”

Damon hissed at me and got in my face, “You need to accept your life and place as it is now. I am giving you leniency because Arthur explained you would be confused. Do not EVER harm me.” I rolled my eyes fighting back, “Do not forget that I am not yours. I am taken mind, body, heart, and soul and there is nothing you can do that to change that.” He reached back quickly. Before I could see his intent, he punched me square in the eye. I went down in a heap, my head hitting the floor with a sickening crack. I couldn’t stop myself from throwing up.

Damon was too enraged to notice. He screamed, “HE TOOK MY SERENA FROM ME! He does not deserve your love! He does not deserve love from anyone! That wretched wolf callously turned her against me. She rejected me! Refused ME! She said she doesn't know the man I am anymore! She was MINE!” I couldn’t get up because the room was spinning, but I managed to speak, “As you took from him. The difference is whoever the fuck Serena is, it was HER choice. You took me and his children from him, and we don’t want to be here.”

Damon turned towards me, seeming to finally realize that I was still down on the ground. Regret flickered in his eyes. He sounded sorrowful, “Haley I... I am sorry I lost control. That... I haven’t done that in centuries. I am sorry.” I tried to sit but couldn’t. I swore I saw remorse and self-loathing flash in his eyes, but I couldn’t be sure. I gave up trying to get up and said, “You told me a few days ago that Eric didn’t deserve me, but you did. Eric has never hit me. He never would. No matter what I said or did to him, he would never hurt me. When he saw me yesterday, he had anger in his eyes just as you did when you saw me. Do you want to know the difference?” I didn’t wait for him to respond, continuing, “You were upset an order had been disobeyed. He was destroyed that I was hurt. It wasn’t about him, it was about ME. It hurt him to see me harmed because he LOVES me. You will never deserve me. I may be physically here and my blood on tap for you; however, I won’t ever be yours. You lost Serena through your actions and yours alone. How you feel now, is how Eric feels except his actions didn’t cause his suffering.” Damon stared at me for several moments, then left the room.

My eyes closed. I heard the elevator ding followed by a greeting, “Hello Princess Luna, I am Robert... FUCK!” He vamped to me and picked me up. I whispered, “Whoa too fast, I may throw up.” He used his speed to get me to Arthur. I heard him say, “Lass? Oh lass, I do wish I would not see you for a couple days.” I laughed weakly, “I must introduce you to Ethan. You two can commiserate about my inability to go without your services for any period of time.” Sir Arthur sounded angry, “Your skull is fractured. You’ll need to stay here overnight for me to observe you.” I shrugged admitting, “Your table is more comfortable than my accommodations anyway.” Arthur studied me asking, “What do you mean?” Robert spoke, “She’s in a maintenance closet. They have her sleeping on the floor in a sleeping bag.” Sir Arthur stood hissing, “SHE IS PREGNANT! That’s... no. I won’t stand for it.” He strode off. I couldn’t keep my eyes open any longer.

My eyes snapped open. I felt Eric so near, I looked around. No one was here but me. I took off out the door. I snuck around and made it to a side door. I looked around then I saw him. It seemed familiar to me, but I didn't stop to think. I just ran towards him. I didn't care if he was real or not. I just didn't know how to greet him. He said it was nice to see me again. I was confused because he was right. This felt familiar...I hadn't seen him... had I?

Eric looked so sad throughout our conversation. Arion made everyone leave me alone. I stuck my tongue out at him when he said I couldn't leave. I wanted to correct him. The word was yet, I couldn't leave yet, but I would. Eric and I discussed my eye. I tried to think about that, barely grasping at the strand of a thought. I made the vampire king mad. I couldn't tell Eric the whole story. No need to upset him too much when there wasn't anything he could do about it. I smiled, remembering that he had taken someone from King Damon, and he was trying to do the same back. Was that a guy thing? They just thought women's feelings were easily interchangeable? That mate's feelings were reversible? Men... I swear to God lesbians don't know how good they have it. They probably don't have to deal with this testosterone filled bullshit. I filed that away to ask Miley and Torvi if their off periods with the women they were with were filled with communication and no games. I'd just fucking bet it was.

Eric and I talked for what felt like hours. My mind was nagging me that if this was a SIM we had been here too long. I couldn't bring myself to care because this Eric felt real. He smelled like my Eric. If he wasn't real, then he was a good fake. Arion came to be a mood killer. He was such a traitor. He didn't understand because his mate was inside this damn enclosure bubble.

Arion popped me away to my "room." Before he made it to the door I was sobbing. He turned and stared at me, "Haley, come on. I let you talk to him." I sobbed, "I want to be with him! Is he even real? Is this real? I want him back! I want to go home! I'm so hungry all the damn time. I ache for him, Arion." I pounded on my chest continuing, "It fucking hurts! It's tearing me apart. If he's truly here, then he's just out of my reach. I can't stand it anymore!" Arion took a step back then came to me. He wrapped his arms around me as I sobbed.

Once I calmed down Arion asked, "Haley, how many times have you shared your light with your wolf?" I thought about it. My thoughts surrounding that were clear. I answered him with confidence, "Twice. The first time was an accident, I didn't know I could share my light. You saw the second time. It happened at our wedding." His eyes drew together in shock, then lit up with understanding. He kissed my forehead, "I'll make sure they don't stop you when you go out to see him, little sister. It's ok you just cry. I've got you." Sobs wracked my body until I faded into darkness.

I heard voices above me. Arion spoke, “She’s twice light bound to him, Masium. She can’t come to court tonight. Her fairy side is being starved from not being near him.” Masium shrieked, “TWICE light bound? Oh, just fuck it all to hell and back. We are so screwed.” Arion answered, “She doesn’t know what it means. She doesn’t understand her feelings. On top of being confused from the SIMS, you put her through.” Masium admitted, “I didn’t have a choice. The old man was determined that she would give him two of the babies. I told him he’d lost it. I worry he truly has. Babies. He wanted her children. He still does. I think he’s going to try to steal them.”

Anger filled me. Over my dead body would that monster touch my kids. He would have to kill me to accomplish that. He was in for a rude awakening because I was going to kill him first. Masium continued, “The King lost it with her anyway. We can buy time telling them she’s still injured from their last encounter. I heard Sir Arthur say her skull was cracked.” Arion shouted, “WHAT?! He cracked her skull?” Masium replied, “Yes, it turns out your sister isn’t the docile weak-minded mutt I once thought she was. She’s sharp, witty, and so much fun. She broke the King’s finger when he tried to interact with her in a sexual way. He lost it. Apparently, she didn’t stop there. She told him he didn’t deserve her and told him about how much Eric loved her. He left in a rage. He went through fifteen of the pets before he calmed down. More than half of them ended up in the lab for treatment.”

Arion sounded broken when he asked, “What have I done, Masium? I feel like I fractured my very soul bringing her here. I feel like I’m going mad.” Masium said nothing for a time and then very quietly he said, “We, cousin. What have we done? Maybe if we appeal to Aiden, he can help us fix this. Aiden always knows what to do.” Arion sighed, “I know. He always saves me. To my great shame, I was never that savior for her and I should have been. I’m her big brother. I got so caught up in her being a part fairy I didn’t see her for who she was. I thought of her as less than me and Aiden. What’s worse is I didn’t even see it until she pointed it out.” Their voices faded. This was a strange SIM.

My days molded together. I was now expected in court, where the King shared me with two others. I briefly thought I saw Allie. That was crazy. Why would Allie be here? I didn’t know what happened to the vampire who bit my thigh that first night. I hadn’t seen him since. Something told me Eric happened. I smiled at the thought. I missed him.

I spent my days trying to think about the enclosure spell. I spoke to myself, “Come on Haley, you can do this. We can figure this out.” I sat there thinking. I knew it didn’t have much time before the obnoxious vampire whined, he wanted another taste of me. Suddenly like a light appearing above my head, I remembered. Arion needed my blood to put up the enclosure. To take it down I needed his. My mother was the only fairy with the power to bring it down though. Naturally. Maybe if I

met Bexley in the shadow realm, we could do it together. If she's had sex with Liam outside, then she's unlocked her full powers too. Together we could do it... It had to work. I cringed internally. The moderate problem was the enclosure also needed the Vampire King's blood to come down. So... I would have to kill him to bring the whole thing down completely, thus letting Eric in. MOTHER FUCKER! Was anything ever easy?

I scoffed at my own thought. I knew the answer. Not when fairies are involved. I saw the king was about to summon me. I couldn't sit in court for hours tonight. I could pass out though. Well fake pass out anyway. Then I'd end up in the lab while they were all stuck in court. I'd get to Arion's room. Megan had cleaned him up after a fight with Fabian, surely there had to be something with his blood on it.

I was glad King Damon hadn't spoken to me much since our last conversation. I saw regret flash in his eyes when he looked at me. He motioned me forward. I took one step before he sped over to me. He spoke against my neck, "You always smell divine. Will you allow me the pleasures of your body tonight?" I declined, "Nope." He bit down with no reply. The other two vampires came forward and bit me as well. I looked at the King's second in command. He'd never tasted me. I wondered why. After each had a few pulls of my blood I dropped to the ground faking passing out. Damon roared, "I'm going to stop sharing her if you two can't figure out when to stop. Arthur! Fix her." Cold hands picked me up. Quick as a flash I was in the lab. It wasn't popping, but vamp speed had its perks.

Sir Arthur spoke, "I know you aren't truly unconscious, lass." I opened my eyes, "I need to do something, and sitting in court all night would slow me down. I'm sick and fucking tired of being here." He nodded, "I'd imagine you are. Well, go on then lass. Do what's needed then get back here as quick as you can." I smiled and leaned in to kiss his cheek. It was as much a surprise to him as it was to me. I hated touching men outside my family. Something about him screamed family to me. I told him, "You are a true gentleman and a great friend."

With that I left. I snuck through the hallways until I reached the door as described by Megan. At least I hoped it was. I crept inside praying this was Arion's room. Every room was black so it's not like it was easy to differentiate. GOD! It sucked here. I laughed out loud at myself. It was a little funny. They were vampires, I guess it should suck. I saw clothes that were undeniably Arion's on the bed. I ran into the bathroom and barely held back my squeal of delight when I saw a bloody washrag. I picked it up like it was pepperoni pizza from Bjourne and my special place in Chicago. I went back to the door and closed it quietly. I was creeping down the hall when I heard someone coming. I retreated back to Arion's room, leaving the door open a crack so I could hear them. I prayed Arion wasn't one of the people coming my way. That would be my rotten luck.

To my relief I heard a girl say, “I can’t believe the King’s pet passed out again. He really needs to treat her better. I hear she’s sleeping on the floor in a closet because she doesn’t accept pet status.” Another voice scoffed, “Can you blame her? Alpha Eric Connors is her mate. He’s outside. He found her when they said he wouldn’t be able to tell where she was. We will be lucky to survive when he gets in.” My heart swelled with excitement. Eric was here. Wait, I knew that... Didn’t I?
FOCUS HALEY.

The first girl said, “Well, as I was being fed on, they were talking about their plan to strike back for the club attack. They are attacking Alpha Lyons youth center. Can you believe that? They said their numbers were cut down because of the club attack and they needed to build them back up. I have been here for years and let me tell you, the arrival of the fairies sent this place into a bad spiral. I don’t know if I can stomach it anymore. I wonder if I ask for a transfer if they would send me go to another state. I love being a pet and being taken care of, but this is too much. Alpha Eric is feared for a reason. You don’t fuck with the Hackura for a reason. I don’t want to die.”

The other voice agreed, “I know. I heard them talking about how they are going after Alpha Lyons because he and Alpha Eric have been lovers. Do you think Alpha Eric’s wife has ever had a threesome with them both? They are so hot!” The other voice laughed, “He’d never share her. She’s his mate and she’s marked. Have you never met a werewolf? They are crazy possessive about their mates. Especially Alpha’s. It’s why I said we will be lucky to live when he gets in here, because I think he will get in.” Their voices carried out of the hall. I peeked out. They were gone.

I ran for the stairs. I made it without running into anyone else. I kept repeating to myself. Remember that. Eric is here, you have to tell him. The vampires mean to turn children. DO NOT FORGET THAT! I promised myself that I would get word to Eric. I would save those kids. It wasn’t that I didn’t like vampires, I just wanted them to have the choice to become one. That’s how makers and their children should work. Not as retribution for an attack, giving them no option, just ‘SURPRISE’ now you’re a vampire. That was wrong. I didn’t want them turned against their will to be used by someone for their own agenda. I knew all too well how that would end for them. I made it back to the lab. Sir Arthur nodded greeting, “Up on the table, Lass. Let’s get a drip started.” Once I was all hooked up. I managed to fall asleep.

An hour later I heard Damon ask, “Is she alright?” Sir Arthur replied, “Just some blood loss, combined with the pregnancy.” The King stroked my arm whispering, “I am sorry my fairy. I won’t share you any longer. They clearly cannot control themselves.” With that he left. I never opened my eyes. I was busy repeating what I heard to myself. I could feel it becoming fuzzy. Something about... a lion. I fell asleep on the table again.

The next time I woke up I heard voices above me again. This was getting so old. King Damon said “After we hit the youth center, we will confront the troops outside the next night. I can’t wait to see the distress on Alpha Eric’s face. His former lover will be devastated about those kids, it’s said they are his passion.” Another voice I recognized as Damon’s second said, “Should we talk about this in front of your pet?” Anger swelled in me. I was NOT a pet. Damon sighed, “If she was in her regular state no, but she’s been so confused lately. Her short-term memory is faulty. She thinks everything is a SIM. That stupid fairy thought he could break my new toy. Did you know before I started his punishment, he tried to fight her? Even in her state she took him down. She even got some iron into him. She is remarkable.” The other vampire snorted, “I’d hope you would think so. She’s going to be the death of many.” Damon replied, “I don’t intend to die.” The other vampire was quiet then spoke, “It doesn’t matter if that’s not your intention, it’s what your actions lead to. They found us. If they hadn’t there was a chance.” I faded out again.

I woke up on the lab table. My back hurt, but it really was better than my room. I needed to remember something. I tried to gasp it, but all I could make out was a lion attack, youths, lovers, and Bexley. I sat up and noticed the blood-stained rag underneath me. I stared at it until it came to me again. This was what I needed to try to bring part of the enclosure down. I winced. Then just the tiny detail of killing a vampire king. What the fuck ever. I could figure it out. Probably. No... I will!

I needed to tell Eric about the lion attack. I remember those girls said he was here. I slunk through the halls and reached a side door. I frowned looking outside, there was no one on this side of the house. Eric wasn’t here. I went back inside and cursed. I practically had to do gymnastics to get to the other side of the house. This time I stepped out and took a breath, sighing in relief when I saw Eric. I ran over to him.

I knew I had something important to tell him, but I couldn't remember. It was slipping from my mind. We figured it out together. We were such a good team. I was disappointed Eric didn’t know a werelion. It was just Alpha Lucas. Maybe someone knew a werelion. I felt like I had to explain everything several times to them. I knew it wasn’t them though. I wasn’t explaining it right.

What kind of fairy can’t remember about the shadow realm? I explained again about the lion attack. To my surprise they laughed. I will never understand men even after I’ve lived a hundred years. The lion attack wasn’t funny. Lucas was worried I’d be pissed they’d fucked. That was weird of my lion to be worried about. It was the past. No one can help their past. I knew that better than most. I evaluated Alpha Lucas. My husband had a good taste. I wouldn’t have sex with the lion, but I could see why Eric did.

I told him I could hook him up with Harper, but he wasn't interested. I'd seen Harper here I was pretty sure. I eyed my mate. God, Eric was so fuckable. GOD! I missed having sex. My hormones were going crazy with him being so near, but not being able to touch him. This was Eric's fault. I was perfectly fine not having sex ever, then HE went and started giving me mind-blowing earth-shattering sex. Then he had to go and end up on the wrong side of the stupid enclosure bubble. SIM Eric didn't even do more than touch me. GOD THIS IS UNFAIR!

I started to think about his hard chest. His glorious, I kid you not, eight pack. Arion appeared to kill the mood again. I couldn't help but think he was such an ASS! He was getting sex all the time. He had the NERVE to look at me like I was crazy. Sexed up stupid brother! He looked at me like I had fallen on my head. Jerk

Well, in his defense, I did a few days ago. I shook myself that wasn't the point. Arion popped me back to my "room" and left me there. He whispered, "I'm working on a plan, little sister. I'll fix this." What a strange SIM.

At dusk, the vampire who had to constantly fetch me came with Lisa to get me. They took me to the lab. I looked at Lisa. The question in my eyes was clear. She just shrugged. Sir Arthur came in the with the King. Sir Arthur smiled warmly, "Alright, we need to check on your bairns, lass." I nodded. I was actually excited to see them. I was still sad that Eric wasn't here to see it with me.

Lisa assisted Sir Arthur. After a few moments Sir Arthur announced, "The bairns are doing well, Lass." I smiled listening to their heartbeats. King Damon ruined the moment. He asked, "What is she having?" I panicked screaming, "NO! No! I don't want to know." I wanted to find out with Eric. It's all we had left. Lisa grabbed my hand. Sir Arthur said, "I could tell you in the hallway, your majesty." Damon hissed, "TELL ME NOW! You don't dictate things around here, fairy. I DO!" I started sobbing. It was yet another moment taken from Eric and me. Sir Arthur sighed, "She's having two boys and a girl." My heart surged with joy, then anger, followed by despair. I was so angry and hysterical nothing could calm me down. I swore I saw Arion and Masium looking at each other sadly at one point. King Damon stared at me in surprise. He turned to Sir Arthur declaring, "I have to get to court. Do something about this." He pointed at me. Arthur sighed, "I'll sedate her." I felt a prick in my arm and then I was weightless.

Hours later Damon's voice was above me. Oh, for god's sake! NOT AGAIN! I wanted to shout that at them, but clearly what I want will never matter. King Damon said, "We will confront them tomorrow night. Our attack didn't go as planned. Alpha Lyons is more prepared than we thought. I should've known those two would guard all his buildings. They let it be known Lucas was attacking us. I have split up our men. I will have men attack them from behind while we stay inside. It will show us their strength. We will see how they react, and we can watch how they fight." King Damon's second replied, "It will be as you say, your

majesty. You know as well as I, the Hackura do not lose. So, prepare to lose whoever you send out.” I floated away.

I woke with a start. I started to get off the table. Hands stopped me. I looked over to see Lisa’s hand grasping mine. She asked, “What are you doing?” I looked at her frantically, “I need to go time the guard patrols outside. Then I need to get a message to Eric.” She looked at me for several moments, then rolled her eyes. She gestured, “Get in the wheelchair then. We can time it and I’ll go tell him your message. The vampires would smell you in a heartbeat, and you can barely stand from the sedation. Not to mention your feet are a wreck.” I glared at her muttering, “Fuck your point.”

Somehow, she got us upstairs undetected, then took us to the side of the house Eric was on. We watched the patrols come and go. This was taking me too long to figure out. Lisa had to keep telling me to focus because she didn’t know how to do this. It was just so hard though because I could just see Eric out there. Still out of my reach. It hurt my heart. I just wanted run into his arms. Tears pricked my eyes.

Lisa pinched me. I looked at her startled. She whispered, “FOCUS! Then you will be back with him.” I nodded. I was able to focus long enough to get the timing down of the patrol. God, I missed Lexi. We could do this no problem. I looked at Lisa, “Tell them to watch their six. It’s happening tomorrow for sure.” Lisa frowned, “What if they don’t know what that means? What does that mean, their six?” I sighed. Lexi Scott where are you? She knew what on your six meant. I told Lisa, “You have to say it JUST like that. Tell them to watch their six.” I grabbed her hand and yanked her face down to mine. I told her seriously, “Watch their six.”

She stood and said, “Alright, alright. Which one is your Alpha?” I smiled, “He will be the hot, tall, blonde hair, blue eyed mountain of fucking muscle wolf in charge.” Lisa cut me off, “You NEED to get laid girl.” I scoffed, “Tell me shit I don’t know. GO! Go now you have five minutes.” I watched her take off. She bounced up and down at the edge of the enclosure trying not to yell at them to get their attention. I wanted to groan because they weren’t looking in Lisa’s direction. Then I saw someone point over to her. Everyone moved and I saw who it was. I held in my squeal of joy as tears fell from my eyes. My dad was here. He came for me. I whispered as I rubbed my little bump, “We are leaving babies. Your daddy and grandpa are right outside with all your uncles. We are going home.” They all kicked. I sighed as I saw Lisa run back inside. She was excited. She punched my shoulder exclaiming, “That was EXHILARATING!” She watched a patrol go by and became visibly more excited. She asked quickly, “Do you need me for anything else? I am SO PUMPED RIGHT NOW!” I laughed, “Sadly, no.” She took me back to my room. I hated it here. I tried to get some sleep, but I couldn’t, so I just stared at the cleaning supplies. I sat and talked to my children until the sun rose.

The next day passed incredibly slowly. I swore there was a Goddess somewhere fucking mocking me with how long the sun was staying up today. Finally, at three in the afternoon I decided to wait for Bex in the shadow realm. I grabbed the washcloth with Arion's blood and tucked it into the "skirt" I was still wearing. I let myself go to the shadow realm. I felt beyond gross. I must reek. I shook myself. This was going to end. Bex and I would complete this step together. Then by God I WOULD kill the vampire king. I would get home and NEVER wear all fucking black EVER again.

I was so lost in my thoughts that I jumped six feet when I felt a hand on my shoulder. Bexley looked sad, "Oh, cousin. You did expect me, didn't you?" I hugged her for all I was worth. I whispered, "I miss you, Bex." She smiled and hugged me back. She told me, "I miss you too, cousin. I am so very sorry I've not been here sooner. My concupiscence came early, and you know how that is. I mean of COURSE it came early. Is there anything about being a fairy that is easy? That can help a situation and not heap more difficulty on you? What are you wearing?! Is this the same outfit? Vampires really need to get more style. I see you've added a blood-stained rag. It doesn't do much for the look." She was rambling.

I reached out and took her hand. "Bex, it's ok. I think I remember Eric telling me about your concupiscence, and even if he didn't, I don't blame you for needing to deal with anything that affects you, least of all your concupiscence. What were you going to do, ignore it?" I laughed, but it wasn't my real laugh. It sounded hollow and slightly hysterical. Bexley studied me then asked, "Have you showered at all?" I shook my head. Then grabbed the rag. I told her, "No I haven't showered. It's Arion's blood. We need this to take down the enclosure. You've had sex with Liam outside, right?"

Bexley tilted her head, "Does a rain forest have trees?" I laughed, "Right. Dumb question. Ok, we need to combine Arion's blood and mine. Then you'll have to repeat the chant with me. It's fucking long. I hope to god I'm remembering it right." Bexley nodded, "I have faith in you cousin. You can do this. Once we do this, the enclosure will be down, and Eric will bring you home." I winced. Bexley was suspicious. She asked, "What? What was that face?" I looked everywhere but at her. I told her "This is phase two of bringing the enclosure down. I have to do one small thing when I get back to reality to bring it down completely. This is the heavy lifting though." Bexley studied me. She asked, "What small thing?" I frowned, "You would ask. I have to kill the vampire king."

Bexley shrieked, "WHAT? SMALL THING? IN YOUR STATE? I don't fucking think so. Find another way." I huffed, "There is no other way. He has to die for Eric and our allies to get in. Come on Bex, I've got this. I may be confused about recent events, but I have been trained long before I got confused on how to kill. I have a plan." Bexley sighed, "You better be ok! Do you hear me?" I nodded and

raised my foot, shooting Bexley a look of apology. She gagged. I quickly rubbed the rag on my feet combining my blood with Arion's.

I closed my eyes. Let this work. Please let this work. I wanted to go home. I started to chant, "Hear cye crotj hear Freetra plea free cye from Sefre place. Za did dondon Sepl Ze Kekkel here Den wish Ze Kekkel Bets Uise other side mother earth please let cye go back Ze deft Za decside. Hear nor Terf far away take cye back Ze Freetra place decturn Sefre space Xed Op Astra before let Op Kekkel seen by Yuit outside again decmove Uyla enclosure around Sefre place let Op Kekkel through time Den space (Hear me now hear my plea free me from this place. I did not want to be here and wish to be on the other side Mother Earth please let me go back to where I reside. Here nor there far away take me back to my place return this space as it was before let it be seen by the outside again remove your enclosure around this place let it be through time and space)

Bexley caught on and started chanting with me. On the second round of chanting, her eyes widened as the rag started to rise off the ground. Moments later it started to spin. Hope swelled within me. I became increasingly confident I was coming home. Bexley and I could do this! We were strong enough together. I smiled at her as I kept repeating the chant. She smiled back doing the same. After what felt like forever the rag caught fire and disappeared. I jumped up shouting, "WE DID IT BEX!" She smiled, "Thank god! I was worried that meant we weren't strong enough." I hugged her, "I will see you soon, cousin!" Bexley squeezed me, "Be safe. Come home, Haley. Do whatever you have to. Just come home to us."

With that I returned to my body. I jumped up to my feet and ran out into the hall. I was at the edge of the main room, about to run through the front door when I heard a scream. I cringed. I knew that scream. It was Megan. I hesitated for a brief moment. I could see my freedom beyond the door. I closed my eyes then I turned and ran away from my freedom, towards Megan's scream.

I found a vampire on top of her in the kitchen. The vampire licked her neck and said, "Your fairy mate can't help you now. I need to gorge myself before battle and you'll do just fine. Then your fairy mate will find you dead when we are done fighting. No, he can't help you now." I grabbed a mop that was sitting against the door jam. I quickly broke it and ran over to them. I positioned the stake and said, "No, but his fairy sister can."

I shoved the stake down in through his back. He exploded all over us both. Not that anything could ruin this outfit, but now I really had to kill the vampire king. I was not going to walk around with a dead vampire stuck in my boobs. Megan hugged me. She whispered, "Thank you, thank you, thank you." I pulled her off me, "Get everyone disloyal to Damon to the lab. Tell Sir Arthur what's going on." Megan nodded asking, "Which is? What's going on? What are you going to do?" I sighed, "I'm going to kill King Damon so we can all go the fuck home."

I switched the stake from my right hand to my left. I walked back out to the main room and stepped onto the porch. I was just in time to hear the king tell Eric about the triplets. My Hackura side fully took over as I saw red. They kept taking things from me. I was SO done with this shit. I blacked out for a moment, but I knew I was ranting at the stupid vampire king. It was fine, he would die soon. My dad tried to cut me off, but I was going to have my say goddammit.

I ran at the King. I thought briefly this was going to be easier than I thought. I almost had him when at the last minute he put his loosely gripped throat. He sighed, annoyed. He asked, "Was that really necessary? I have to punish you now..." He trailed off then frowned, "Why are you smiling?" I smiled brightly explaining, "Because in the immortal words of Inigo Montoya. I know something you don't know." Gasps echoed from outside the enclosure. Damon groaned, "WHO is Inigo Montoya?!" I screamed, "WHAT?! MILEY!" I heard her laugh and my breath hitched. She yelled back, "Yeah, bitch."

I couldn't stop my smile at the sound of her voice. I tried to turn towards where she had to be, but the angle wasn't working. Fuck Damon and his stupid hand placement. I missed Miley. I wanted to see her. I heard Eric yell, "FUCK!" As silly as it was, I laughed. I quickly gathered myself and said, "Ok, I can't see you at the moment Miles, but we have a new initiative of the utmost importance! We have to make sure vampires have seen the classic movies. This asshole hasn't seen The Princess Bride! It's a travesty! He's centuries old. This is just unacceptable. We must get moving on this right away!" Miley laughed in response.

Damon squeezed my throat a little harder until I looked back at him. He told me, "She will have to carry that cause on without you. Tell me what you know that I don't know then run back inside and await your punishment like a good pet." I growled, "She will NOT do it without me!" I turned as far as I could and yelled, "Miley, I also need a billboard ad that tells this motherfucker I am not a fucking pet! Nor am I some damsel in distress waiting for someone to come save me. I am the Princess of the annoying pains in my ass fairies. Not to mention the Princess of the Hackura" I pause and smiled as the Hackura army hit their swords against their shields at my words.

I continued, "I am the mate and WIFE of Alpha Eric Connors. I am the Luna of the Black Mountain pack." Howls erupted from the clearing. I smirked at Damon and told him, "I know MANY things you do not know. The important one at this moment is... that I am not left-handed." I dropped the stake from my left hand into my right and shoved it into his chest. He dropped me and staggered backwards staring at his chest in horror. He asked me genuinely confused, "Why did you do that? We would've been happy eventually." I rolled my eyes at him. I grabbed the sword from his waist.

I retorted, “I was decidedly and outspokenly unhappy. If you were being remotely fucking honest, you would admit you weren’t happy with me. Let’s walk through the damn list. You were unhappy because I refused to sleep with you. You gave me a black eye and cracked my skull on your floor. That doesn’t shout happy.” I heard Thor’s thunderous roar. I smiled like a lunatic. I shrugged, “Oops... I may not have told Thor about that. Now he’s mad. Maybe I did tell him. God, don’t let this be a SIM.” I shrugged and added, “I really don’t know anymore. Why aren’t you vampire goo yet?! GOD! This is why I behead people.” With that I swung his sword and took off his head. He finally exploded.

I sighed because I got more vampire goo in my boobs. Hopefully, it doesn’t stain my skin or something. That really does sound like something that would happen to me at this point. Focus Haley. I sucked in a breath and used the moment of shock etched on everyone’s faces on this side of the barrier, plus, the force of the enclosure coming down knocked everyone but the Alpha’s, my brothers, and my dad off their feet to do something I’d never done before. I stepped forward and addressed the Hackura army.

I shouted, “Hackura exercitus.” Shocked gasps echoed all around. Miley screamed, “FUCK YES BITCH!” I took a deep breath and continued, “Omnis occiditis et sta in atrio: sed nec quisquam noceat intus in Lab. Ut avunculus meus et frater vivere parvo. (Hackura army. Kill everyone who stands in this yard, but do not harm any inside in the lab. Take my uncle, cousin, and brother alive.)

I turned to the wolves. My pack. I told them honestly, “I don’t know if you all do speeches before a battle, but I want to go the FUCK home. I really miss you guys.” Howls erupted again. I looked to the commander of the Hackura army, Astrid’s brother, Aaron. I spoke directly to him, hoping he would accept my charge. I spoke confidently even though I was terrified, “Nostri honoris familiis ad plebem (For our honor, for our families, for our people)” I held my breath as Aaron stepped forward. He added, “Quia princeps noster (For our Princess).” A traitorous tear slipped out of my eyes. I muttered, “Damn hormones.” I shook myself and yelled, “IMPETUS (Attack)!” They all yelled and ran full speed towards us. The wolves shifted and howled with joy when they crossed the barrier where the enclosure had been.

I took my eyes off them. I raised the Kings’ sword and set off towards my brother. I owed him a punch in the face. I cut down fairies and vampires in my path, making it to my brother easily. Arion looked at me sadly, “Do what you must. I won’t hurt you, sister.” I yelled at him, “You won’t HURT ME?! You took me from my mate. You shot me full of iron. I have been tortured, beaten, and I’m fucking confused about everything. I haven’t had sex in for however fucking long I’ve been here. Yet now you say you won’t hurt me?!”

Masium fell to the ground shaking with laughter. He sputtered, "OH MY GOD! I feel robbed during our time with her in Faerie. We could've had this spitfire." Ironic, since he was a large reason for that, but whatever. Arion sighed. I threw my sword on the ground and put my fists up. I punched him square in the nose. I decided to follow up with a few more punches to his annoying face. When he was bleeding from a few spots I stopped.

He looked at me in surprise, "That's it? Aren't you going to kill me?" I glared at him, "No, you moron! I don't want you to die. I love you, you idiot!" At that moment, a dart hit him in the shoulder. He dropped like a rock. Masium was staring to our right. Horror colored his features. I turned to see Fabian some distance away holding the weapon that shot Arion. Of course, he had shit to say. He yelled, "You always were weak, Arion, just like your father. Now you will die like him." Fabian turned away.

I knew he was going to pop but I shouted, "STAY!" He stared at me astonished. Masium spoke, "You... you have the power to not allow fairies to pop? How did you even do that? You shouldn't be able to do anything fairy right now." I actually didn't know that, but apparently, I did. I said nothing. Fabian shouted, "Your brother will be dead in minutes." I turned to Arion in horror. He couldn't die! I screamed, "No! No, you can't die. The ONLY person allowed to kill you is me! Do you hear me, brother? You do NOT get to die because of Fabian's stupid fucking ass." Arion smiled sadly, "It's what I deserve." I yelled, "I don't give a flying fuck what you think you deserve. You are NOT dying!" I placed my hands over him willing my healing powers to work. They barely did anything.

I screamed in frustration, "STUPID DAILY DOSE OF FUCKING IRON!" Arion gasped, "You did something sister. I feel a little better. You can heal?" I rolled my eyes at him and sarcastically said, "No, I just have a healing light that comes out of my hands. YES, I CAN FUCKING HEAL!" I turned and spotted my cousin. I ordered him, "Masium! Take him to Faerie. Take him to the healing waters. NOW!" Masium frowned, "We were declared traitors." I stood and slapped him in the face. I hissed, "Aiden loves BOTH of you. He won't let anyone harm you. It's not like if you stay here you won't die. POP. HIM.HOME. NOW!" Masium smiled like a moron. He told me, "I like you so much better this way, cousin." I rolled my eyes, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. Get a fucking move on. If Arion dies Masium, I will ask my brother Bjourn to torture you for however long he wishes." Masium paled and popped them away.

I turned and looked at Fabian, enraged. I screamed, "You keep trying to take EVERYTHING FROM ME!" I picked the King's sword up off the ground. I ran full speed at him. That fucking coward turned and ran away. I picked up a rock and threw it at him. It hit him in the head, and he went down in a heap of limbs. I made it over to him. I gaped. The fucker was passed out cold. I hissed, "Son of a BITCH!"

You can't even take one hit. One measly little hit." I kicked him in the ribs because he irked me.

I went down to my knees. I clawed desperately at my neck trying to take the stupid collar off. My fingers dug into my flesh. I had blood coursing my fingers, but I didn't care. I just wanted it off. I NEEDED it off. I WAS NOT A DAMN PET! I began to sob. I couldn't get it off. Whatever the secret was to this thing, I didn't know it. I screamed, "SOMEONE GET THIS THING THE HELL OFF ME!" I heard a knife click from behind me. I could feel the cool blade as it slipped under the collar. I was yanked back as it fell from my neck, crying in relief.

I heard my guard's voice, "Is ok, Princess. Blade has you. Will get you inside. Clean you up." I turned to see my ever-faithful guard had surrounded me. Sasha and Javi had placed iron chains on Fabian. Thomas was cutting down fairies to cover them. Blade was by my side, as he always was.

Blade picked me up bridal style. I sobbed into his chest. I cried out, "Eric. Where is Eric, Blade?" Blade smiled, "Wolf fighting. Blade gets Princess inside. Cleaned off. Miley packed clothes. These are terrible. Covered in vampire." I laughed hysterically as he carried me inside. I directed him to the lab where everyone would be.

Megan and Lisa ran to me. Lisa yelled, "HOLY SHIT! You did it! You are such a badass!" Blade pulled me back from them. He spoke in a tone that brokered no room for arguing, "Princess needs shower. Have new clothes. Where shower?" Megan and Lisa looked at each other. Megan sighed, "Well, she doesn't have fond memories of the King's chambers. We can take her to the second's room." He nodded. Sasha appeared out of nowhere as we were led to the second's room. Blade stood outside the bathroom when we all walked in. Sasha came inside with us. She helped Megan and Lisa get me out of my dreadful clothes.

Lisa had started the shower. I stepped into the warm water and nearly started crying all over again. I used some soap and got all the gore, guts, and blood off me. I even washed my hair for the first time in... oh god... I have no idea how long it's been. I stepped out feeling like a new person. Sasha pointed to the tub. She had filled up the tub with bubbles. I squeezed her hand, "Thank you Sasha." She nodded to me, "Of course, Princess. I am sorry we were not there for you." I shrugged, "It wasn't your fault. I stepped into the tub.

After a while I asked again, "Where's Eric?" Sasha smiled, "He's currently asking where you are. Well, asking is a nice word. He's shouting." I smiled and stepped out of the tub. Sasha handed me the bag Miley had packed for me. I opened it, and this time I did actually cry. Miley had put pink sweatpants boyfriend style from Victoria secret, paired with a bubble gum bright blue cami. I put them on and just sat on the floor rocking myself until I heard Eric enter the room. He yelled,

“WHERE THE FUCK IS SHE?” I picked myself off the floor and ran out the bathroom door and threw myself at him.

The room cleared like rats fleeing from a sinking ship. I kissed his face. Every single part of his face until I got to his lips. I poured all my feelings into that kiss. Eric whispered, “Angel.” I wept with joy and bit his lip. He growled, “Angel, you need to stop that.” I hissed at him, “No, I need you right now Eric. I’m not asking you. My hormones are demanding this. I need you. I need us.” I bit his lip again. He growled in response as I watched his resolve crumble.

I pushed off his shorts with my toes and he carried us back to the bed. He yanked off my sweatpants. He started to kiss his way down my body, but I brought him back up my lips. I shook my head, “No Eric. I need you inside me right now. Well, more like yesterday but fucking right now works.” He growled and entered me quickly. I cried in relief. I felt whole again. He groaned, “God, Angel. I missed you.” He leaned down and kissed me. Then he began to move. I could swear I heard a chorus of angels singing. I didn’t know how long we were together, but I knew my soul was rejoicing. It felt like my heart was being repaired in my chest. I was home. I whimpered when he pulled out of me when we were done.

Eric asked me, “Are you ok, Angel? We need to get the doctor to check you out.” I shook my head. I told him, “I’m fine. Just don’t go, please.” He sighed and grabbed my sweatpants. He put them back on and grabbed his shorts. He got back into bed and held me. He kissed my forehead and said, “I’m going to get you checked out by the doctor here. For me, Angel.” I closed my eyes against his chest. I was so tired that as soon as my head hit it, I was asleep.

I woke up startled and looked around. I burst into tears. I was alone in the lab again. It wasn’t real. It was a cruel SIM. I didn’t bring down the enclosure. I was still in this fucking nightmare. I bolted up off the table. I was alone though. I had to get out of here. I slunk down the hallways. I made it up the first flight of stairs when I heard people screaming. They were alarmed that I wasn’t in the lab. FUCK! I had learned these halls though. I made my way through and made it to the side door. Eric wasn’t where he normally was. I ran off the porch and headed in that direction. Maybe he was further back than normal. I frowned when I didn’t feel the enclosure where I should have felt it. I was so confused.

I pushed past that and kept on running. I reached the forest. Maybe I could find a phone. If I could get to a phone, I could call Eric. He would come get me. A wolf came bounding towards me. FINALLY! A break. This was handy. I quickly said, “Hi, I’m Alpha Eric Connors mate. Please get me to him! I don’t... I don’t have any money on me, but I swear he will pay you.” The wolf snorted. He ran behind a tree and shifted. He came back out with shorts on.

I gaped, “JACKSON?” He smiled, “Yes, Haley. You can’t run away you know. I believe you promised my brother, who is frantically looking for you, that you wouldn’t do that. I’ve linked him though. He’s on the way.” I sat down. I hit myself in the head. I spoke aloud, “This isn’t real. I’m not in that horrid fucking outfit. I’m in my own clothes. There’s no enclosure. It’s another SIM.” I started sobbing. Jackson came over and sat beside me. He spoke softly, “It’s not a SIM, Haley. Do you remember last night?” I thought about it, “I... I’m not sure, but if Eric were here, I wouldn’t have woken up alone. I fell asleep on a bed, but I woke up in the lab. It’s not real. It’s not real. You’re not real. I just want to go home.” The SIM Jackson just rubbed my back for several moments.

Thor bounded into the area we were in, and I sniffled. I wiped my tears and said, “Hey Thor. I miss you. I miss you so much.” Thor shifted back into Eric. Jackson threw him a pair of shorts. Eric spoke softly, “Angel, you can’t just run off.” I screamed, “No! They can’t know you call me that. It’s not fair.” He looked bewildered. SIM Jackson explained to him what was going on. Eric winced, “Angel, I am so sorry. I left to take a shower. My mom was sitting with you, but she had to go to the bathroom. The damn vampires don’t have a toilet on that floor. She had to go upstairs. I’m so sorry.” I shook my head and repeated, “You’re not real. You’re not real. This isn’t real.”

I saw Bjourn enter the area. God, everyone was in the SIMS now. He took in my state of distress as he sat next to me. He squeezed my hand and asked, “Do you remember the first time we spoke? Not that I spoke to you, but the first time you spoke to me?” I stared at him, “Of course I do, brother.” He nodded and told me the story, “You had come down for a late-night snack. You still didn’t believe us when we said you could eat as much as you wanted. I had just returned from a mission in Chicago. I was sitting down to eat my pizza when you crept into the kitchen, opened the fridge, and grabbed a Dr. Pepper. You dropped it when I said hello to you. You froze and you got very pale. I pulled out a chair and asked if you’d ever had pizza. You shook your head. I told you to come get a slice. I handed it to you, and after you took a bite, you barely whispered, ‘This is really good, thank you Bjourn.’”

He was right. That was exactly what happened. No one but the real Bjourn could know that. I wrapped my arms around him, burying my head in his chest. I whispered, “It’s real. It happened. I’m free. You all are really here.” He pulled me back and looked into my eyes. He told me, “It happened, and you are safe now, little one. This will NEVER happen to you again.” I nodded. Bjourn helped me to my feet. He gave me a hug that I returned. I didn’t want to let this real version of my brother go again. I’d missed him.

The second Bjourn let go, Eric picked me up bridal style. He teased me, “You messed up your feet again. Sir Arthur was most put out last night, I imagine Ethan will be quite upset as well.” I actually laughed. “I told Sir Arthur he and Ethan

needed to meet so they could commiserate over what a terrible patient I am.” He held me close. He whispered, “I truly am sorry you woke alone. My mom is beside herself.” I asked, “She’s alright, isn’t she? I held them off as long as I could.” He nodded, “Thanks to you, she is fine.” I rested my head on his chest. Eventually I asked, “Can we go home now, Eric? I’m so hungry.” He laughed, “Bexley is waiting back at the house to pop us back. Mrs. Blanch has prepared a feast in your honor.”

I smiled at him and said what I’d been wanting to say in person, “I’m pregnant, Eric.” He stopped walking. He put one hand gently on my bump. He had tears in his eyes as he responded, “I know, Angel. I am so happy. You’ve made me so happy and now you’re giving me pups. Three pups.” I cried, “I really wanted to tell you at home.” He told me, “It doesn’t matter. We are together now.” He gasped as he felt three kicks.

I smiled, “They like the sound of your voice. I told them you were going to come for us.” I looked around and asked, “Where is my dad?” Eric smiled, “He’s back at our place with his prize.” I shuddered. Fabian. My dad had Fabian. Eric held me tight, “He will never harm you again. He will pay. I swear to you that he will pay.” I nodded, “Is Arion, ok?” Eric nodded stiffly, “Aiden has him and Masium.”

We walked in the main room. My eyes met Bexley’s. Her presence immediately comforted my fairy side. She smiled brightly, “Hello cousin. This is a much better color for you.” I groaned, “I’m burning ALL the black clothing I fucking own. Or I’ll conjure them all to Lexi’s place. I never want to see anything black touch my skin ever again. Get us out of here Bex, please, I can’t stand it anymore. I hate it here.” She nodded. Everyone held hands and she popped. I opened my eyes and sobbed in relief. We were standing in the main room of my home. I clung to Eric. I rested a hand on my bump. I whispered, “We are home babies. We are home.”