

Home sweet home

Eric couldn't breathe when Damon wrapped his hand and around Haley's throat. I whispered, "He can't kill her." Jackson said, "No, he can't. We still can't get in there, Eric. Whatever she and Bexley did didn't fully bring the enclosure down. Damon isn't going to kill her." I barely heard him because the vampire king called her a pet. Again. I growled. She was not a fucking pet! She had a plan. It's why she went at him with her left hand.

Liam linked me, "So, slight problem." I added my brothers and growled, "What problem." Liam sighed, "You're not going to like this, Alpha." I growled snarking, "My pregnant mate is currently being held up by her throat shouting for her cousin. What could I possibly like less?" Jackson frowned at me. Liam answered, "Bexley said the Luna told her she had to do one more thing to bring down the enclosure." I rolled my eyes asking, "What else does she have to do?" He winced, "Kill the vampire king." I couldn't hold back and yelled "FUCK!"

Bjourn, Marcus and Titus looked at me. I whispered, "She has to kill Damon to bring the enclosure down." Marcus winced, "She can do it. She has a plan." We nodded. I couldn't stop myself from smiling like an idiot while she talked. I narrowed my eyes into slits when Damon squeezed her throat. I declared to everyone on our side, "If she can't kill him, I swear I will get in there and rip him apart piece by piece!"

Pride hit me like a freight train when she said she wasn't waiting for anyone to save her I led my pack in a howl when she said she was our Luna. Then for a brief moment the world moved in slow motion as she dropped the stake from her left to her right hand. The hand that was waiting above his chest. I could hear my heartbeat pounding in my ears. My dad yelled, "Son of a gun, she did it!"

My head snapped to her when she detailed why Damon was unhappy. She didn't say he had cracked her skull. She's fucking pregnant! I roared in anger. God help me she said oops. She was not even moderately scared by my roar. This woman! She said oops. I hissed, "Oops? Oops? REALLY?" Jackson laughed, "To be fair, she is confused. She doesn't know what's going on." I snorted. It seemed likely she didn't tell me because even if she thought I was a SIM I would've killed something.

Haley was done talking. She beheaded him with his own sword. I was so hard it was ridiculous. I needed her now. She was covered in vampire blood, wearing that outfit, carrying my pups, and fighting her way back to me. I could not get harder. The power of the enclosure coming down knocked everyone down but my brothers, Lucas, and her family. I barely managed to keep upright.

I spoke to her family, “Order her guard to get to her, and get her the FUCK inside.” Veronica asked stunned, “You aren’t going straight for her?” I sighed, “I want to, but they will focus on me, and I won’t draw them to her. She’s not in her right state. She’s not going to be able to focus. I’ll keep their attention on me.” Titus looked at me with what I felt was pride and gratitude, as did Haley’s brothers. They all nodded. Marcus went over to tell her guard their instructions. When he returned, he and the rest of her family gasped as Haley spoke in Latin.

Veronica wiped a tear away from her face, “I have never been so proud of my little girl.” Her brothers were sniffing. Titus was beaming with pride. I needed to learn Latin. I asked, “What’s happening?” Titus answered, “Haley is commanding the army. She’s giving them orders to kill everyone except those in the lab. She wants them to capture her brother, cousin, and uncle alive. It’s... this is a big moment. She’s never commanded the army before.”

Marcus added, “The commander has to step forward and accepted her charge. She’s always been nervous he wouldn’t.” Titus stared at him, “That’s why she hasn’t done this before? Why didn’t you tell me?” Marcus looked at Haley and whispered, “I promised her.” Veronica patted him on the shoulder. Bjourn snorted, “As if my brother-in-law wouldn’t accept my sister’s commands I linked the pack, “Today we bring our Luna back home! Kill them all!” They howled with joy.

Bjourn translated for us as Haley spoke, “She’s giving the charge. For our honor, for our families, for our people.” We all watched Haley’s nerves overtake her as she waited for the Commander to step forward. He did and spoke in Latin. Bjourn’s eyes welled as he said, “He’s accepted and added for our Princess.” I felt my own eyes tear up for my mate. In this, her shining moment with her people. The Hackura roared. Marcus yelled, “She said attack!” I snorted, “I got that one, thank you.” I shifted and the wolves followed me.

As I suspected, the vampires were focused on us. It was the logical guess after our attack on their club. They were trying to taunt me. One hissed, “Your mate screamed for me in my bed, she said I was so much better than you were.” I rolled my eyes. I would’ve been in agony if that were true. Thor removed his head for his disrespect. My blood ran cold when I heard Haley scream in agony and panic. I whipped my head in her direction and quickly assessed the situation. Her guard hadn’t made it to her yet. She was standing over her brother screaming at him that he couldn’t die. She confounded me. If I reached him, he would die. Arion took her from me, and I couldn’t let that stand.

Taking advantage of my being distracted, a vampire managed to land a blow to my side. I roared and bit the offending arm off. I jumped to my feet focusing again. I bit back a growl when I realized Arion was gone. Now, I would have to go through Aiden. Perfect, just perfect.

I took down vampires left and right. Our entire pack paused when Haley screamed in anguish. I whirled towards her thinking she could've been attacked. My heart broke at what I saw. My mate was clawing at her own neck, drawing blood as she tried to get that damn collar off. Blade and her guard had reached her, but two of them moved to secure Fabian. Blade was the closest to Haley. He took out a knife to get the collar off.

Rage seeped into my bones as she didn't even react. She was so in her head about that damn collar that she didn't fucking react to a knife being pulled on her. I howled in anger and came apart at the seams. I glared at the forces before me. They had harmed her, all of them! They would die by my hand. I was a one man wrecking crew. All of their final deaths were mine. My breath was coming in gasps when the last fairy went down to my claws. I shifted and looked behind me. I nodded to Jackson who had kept up with me as I tore through the vampire forces.

I growled, "Where is she?" Jackson shrugged, "They took her inside, as you asked them to." I swore, "FUCK! Did you see that? She wanted that collar off and she didn't even react to someone drawing a knife on her! They could've killed her!" He whispered, "I did see that. She's not in her right mind, Eric. It's important to remember she's ok. Go to her. You'll feel more yourself after you see her and hold her."

Rain began to pour down on me all of the sudden. It was coming in buckets; I was soaked in seconds. I looked around. I narrowed my eyes on Aiden Holloran. He nodded to me. It clicked. He made it rain so I was clear of blood. I nodded to him, and he popped away.

I bounded up the stairs thundering into the house. As I entered, I scanned everyone. I saw several tear-stained faces. This was too familiar as none of them were hers. I was beyond reason, or I would've used our bond to locate her. Instead, I grabbed the closest vampire and lifted him by the neck in the same manner Damon had held my mate. The difference was my hold was harsher. I thundered, "WHERE IS SHE? AND I SWEAR IF YOU ASK WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT, I'LL RIP YOUR DEAD FUCKING HEAD OFF!"

The vampire sputtered, "Alpha Eric, I mean you and yours no harm. I never fed from her, nor did I touch her." I glared at him, "WHERE IS SHE?" A different vampire answered, "The lass is upstairs. I'll take you to her." I dropped the vampire I'd been holding, turned without a word and followed the vampire up the stairs. After we'd wound around hallways for what felt like forever, he made a motion towards the room Haley was in.

I rushed in to see Blade and two other girls. One was the girl we'd met last night, Lisa. My blood boiled seeing the other one. This must be Arion's mate. I linked my brothers, "Get up here and make sure this girl is under guard, discreetly. If I'm

right her name is Megan, and she's Arion's mate." Everything left my mind when I saw Haley.

I drank in her appearance. Someone had brought her clothes. I couldn't believe I hadn't thought of that for her. She threw herself at me. I wrapped my arm around her. I inhaled her scent and growled at everyone. They flew from the room. I felt her emotions roaring through the bond, love, desire, longing, sadness. I was taken aback by her last emotion. It hit me the hardest. Lust.

I was trying to reign myself in from claiming her right here. Damn it if I didn't need her. She needed me too. Fuck everyone else. I was going to give my mate whatever she wanted. I was barely holding back Thor from taking over. A glow she didn't notice enveloped us. I looked at it in wonder. It was pink and it hummed, almost like it was singing. Thor took advantage of my distraction and took over. Her chest, where her heart was, began to glow gold. She was screaming in ecstasy, or I would've controlled Thor as he pounded into her. Slowly the glow around us faded. Eventually her chest stopped glowing too. I took back over from Thor.

I checked my watch; we had been going at it for three hours. Once we finished, she was asleep almost instantly. I frowned and pulled back so I could see her face. Her eyes were sunken in due to the weight she'd lost. One eye was bruised, and she had bags under both her eyes. Was she not sleeping? I picked her up and carried her outside where Jackson, Bjourn, Marcus, Titus and Veronica stood waiting.

Veronica looked at Haley and cried, "Oh my poor baby. She's so tired." Titus had tears in his eyes, "Up close... It's just... she looks so much like the broken little doll Marcus brought home." Marcus and Bjourn's eyes were blazing gold in anger. Veronica cleared her throat, "Right, well there's a Sir Arthur here who said he wanted to check her out once... Well once you were done reconnecting." I nodded.

Titus led the way down to the lab. I saw the man who had led me upstairs. I asked him, "You are Haley's Sir Arthur? The one she told me was taking care of her and our pups." He nodded, "Aye, this little lass has been keeping me busy. Poor child." I told him, "I want her checked out, and then I want to know all that happened to her here."

Sir Arthur sighed, "Aye, I'd imagine you do." He checked her out, hissing when he saw her feet. He groaned, "Ugh. You've messed up your feet again! If I could get grey hair little lass; you'd give me them!" He muttered curses as he bandaged her feet. Jackson spoke, "Once the iron is out of her system, she'll heal those." I touched her neck where there were puncture wounds from fangs. Sir Arthur replied, "Aye, but who knows when that will be. She kept running around, kicking people, going to see her wolf outside in the grass. She was not worried about an infection. She's not your patient, you don't understand."

I snorted, "You and my pack doctor will get along quite well." He looked at me, "Would that be Ethan?" I nodded in surprise. He smiled, "Haley has mentioned he and I would be friends commiserating over her." I nodded, "I'm sure you will. I want you to come and meet with him and tell him about her care here. I want to hear about it first; however, he's the doctor." Bjourn added, "As are we." He pointed to Marcus.

Sir Arthur considered, "Well, I suppose as King I'm entitled to go to the Alpha's pack and pursue peace." We all turned. I raised an eyebrow and asked him, "You've taken the throne?" He smiled, "It's why I came here in the first place. My dear old friend Queen Serena had worried her maker had lost it. She was making moves to install me as the King and take Damon to her territory. She wanted to see if she could bring the real Damon back." Bjourn broke out into a laugh, "Very sly, Serena." Sir Arthur smiled, "That she is. Now, as for your lass and her care here." He sighed and sat down, gesturing for us to do the same. I picked Haley up off the table and cradled her in my lap.

Sir Arthur took a deep breath, "When she first arrived, she had been shot up with iron. She was adamant I check the child..." He trailed off looking at her with worry. I eased his mind, "I know it's triplets." He smiled asking, "Did she get to tell you? She so longed to be the one to tell you." I shook my head indicating she hadn't. Sir Arthur nodded sadly, "Aye, well you have the lass back now. That's what matters. When I checked, I discovered it was three bairns. Her fairy uncle came in and they fought something fierce. She's feisty like her aunt." He looked at Titus and told him, "She does you proud, your Majesty." Titus nodded agreeing, "She always has."

Arthur continued, "Fabian wanted two of the children." I growled, "He said as much outside." Arthur nodded, "Well we lost a few days due to his insanity. When I got back to her the witches were guarding her. Fabian had put her through SIMS. I'm sure you know that and if you need me to explain why she's so confused I can." I shook my head, "No, her cousin is my head warrior's mate. She explained." He smiled softly as if he knew Bexley. I raised an eyebrow. Sir Arthur shook himself and continued, "We couldn't ascertain how many SIMS Fabian put her through. We do know it was at least two of them and they were back-to-back. He would torture her in between the SIMS. She lost her fingernails, and toenails. Her legs looked like shredded cheese because he took an iron comb to them. He used a fairy'd up cat o' nine tails on her back. It has iron spikes. It's over there if you want it."

Marcus strode over to where Sir Arthur pointed and yanked it into his hands. He spoke in a deadly tone, "Oh I WANT it." Arthur shrank back at the venom in his tone. He took a moment then continued, "The King punched her with such force that when she struck the floor, she fractured her skull. Later, Prince Arion explained you were twice bonded to her. I couldn't treat her for that. I imagine you

began to fix that upstairs just now.” I frowned interrupting him, “What do you mean?” He winked at me, “Notice anything strange about making love to your lass, did you?” I considered him then answered, “Yes. We were surrounded by a pink glow and her chest was glowing gold.” He nodded, “Good, good. Being with you will repair her further. When her chest glows pink, which I hear she’s fond of, you will know she’s fully restored.”

I glared at him demanding, “Explain.” He sighed, “Well, I don’t know all of it. A fairy would have to explain fully; however, being twice light bonded to you means she has to be near you. Her body and soul demand it, it’s rare that a fairy’s light will allow them to be twice bonded. Fairies are inherently selfish and self-absorbed. Not her obviously. Even before I knew she was twice bonded I knew that about her. You, Alpha Eric are in a rare group where you can know by her being twice light bonded to you that she is and will always be irrevocably yours. Heart, body, mind and most importantly her soul. She shared her life span with you, tying herself to you even in death. Should you die, she will as well; however, barring anything happening to you your life spans will be that of a fairies. Your being an Alpha, the lifespan deal extends to your pack and family.”

I started to speak. He put his hands up and continued, “I know werewolves have longer lifespans than humans, however, fairies live for centuries. They have mates, but they do what they want; having sex with lovers and others who strike their fancy. When their mates die, they simply move onto another lover. She won’t, she can’t. Without being with you, specifically being taken from you, her fairy side was starving emotionally. It was slowly killing her and contributed to her confusion. It’s why her brother allowed her to the edge of the enclosure to see you. She needed to spend time with you. It was also why he had begun to take steps to get her back to you. Arion truly did not want to see her die.”

I was stunned by all the information. Jackson spoke, “So if Eric has a trip, or she has a mission, they have to go together?” Sir Arthur shook his head, “No, they can be apart, just not for weeks at a time. It was an accelerated timeline because she was taken from him, and she wanted to be with him. She didn’t want to leave him; she was forced to.”

I admitted, “She didn’t mean to be twice light bound to me. It was an accident. She doesn’t know what that means.” Sir Arthur smiled, “So her brother said, but I have known a few fairies in my day. I was quite close with one for a time. Haley’s light knew what it was doing, for it is one with her. She may not know what it all means, but she wanted it. Her light called for her to do it because it knows her. Her light would not have allowed the second, or even the first light to be shared if it didn’t want it. You can expect her to have some PTSD. Especially with the confusion from the SIMS. You can also expect that she will not be able to be very far away from you.”

I scoffed, “She wouldn’t have any luck getting far away from me even if she wanted to.” Veronica spoke, “She’s always been such an independent little thing. What you’re describing Sir Arthur, doesn’t sound like her.” He nodded, “I understand that. I can see her independence. She reminds of someone I once knew. Her fairy side still needs to heal though. To do that, it will demand she be with him.” I frowned asking, “How am I supposed to fix her fairy side?” He smiled, “If you didn’t figure it out earlier, sex. As well as spending time with her. She just needs to be near you. To know that you aren’t going to go away again.” I smiled, “That I can do.”

Sir Arthur went about treating the other patients. We had some injuries on our side, but no casualties. Titus took all the fairies left alive as prisoners. He refused to let them receive care. Titus explained, “Many of them are on my daughter’s list. My sons Ubbe, Drake, and Logan will accompany the army back to our realm to secure the prisoners. All except Fabian. I am taking charge of him myself. I will take him back to your home for the time being, Eric. I know you would like a turn with him. My sons can rotate whose turn it is with him while the others run things in our realm. Veronica and I want to be close to Haley right now while she’s recovering.”

I nodded, “I will have my warriors prepare the dungeon for his arrival. I appreciate you keeping him here. I don’t want to be too far from Haley right now either, but I need to make Fabian suffer.” Titus smiled, “I always knew you were worthy of my Princess. I couldn’t have parted with her for less.” He shook my hand, “We will take him and secure him tonight in your dungeons. I want to be on familiar territory with him.” Veronica came up and sighed. She wrapped her arms around Titus. She whispered, “I don’t want to leave her, Titus.” He agreed, “Nor do I, but she is in good hands. Marcus is coming with us, my dear. He can’t get his anger under control after hearing what she endured here. Bjourn will stay and keep an eye on her, then he’ll come back with the rest of them.” They nodded and left through a portal.

Suddenly Bexley popped in with my mother and Molly. My mom walked over to see Haley. Bexley followed her path and touched Haley’s arm gently. She spoke softly, “See you soon, cousin. I’ll come back when the sun is up, and I’m not worried about being drained. I am glad you are ok.” She popped out just as three vampires came in sniffing.

They asked me, “Was that a fairy?” Jackson growled at them, “A fairy that is off limits. What’s wrong with you? You’ve been living with them for weeks now.” They sighed. One told us, “The fairies staying here had some sort of charm that didn’t let us smell them. I don’t suppose you’d let us taste her.” They pointed at Haley. I roared enraged. Sir Arthur flashed back into the room. Haley whimpered in my arms. I cradled her to me. I told my brother, “Jackson, get them out of here before I kill them.” He nodded and punched the one that had spoken in the face. He

warned him, "Do not be disrespectful to the Luna of the Black Mountain pack." He led them out as I rocked back and forth with Haley in my arms.

My mother came over to me and asked, "Is she alright?" I nodded, "For the most part, I guess. They fucked up her mind and now she's confused all the time. She couldn't remember that she was coming to see me. I don't know how much of that was the SIMS versus the vampire king fracturing her fucking skull though. She thinks we are all SIMS most of the time. She gets very upset with herself that she cannot remember things." My mom nodded sadly.

Molly asked, "Where is this Vampire King Damon who's going to get a piece of the Connors justice?" I looked up, surprised at her harsh tone. Molly raised an eyebrow, "Don't look at me like that. You seem to forget I am powerful in my own right. Haley is family. No one hurts our family." I nodded then told them, "Haley killed him." Both were stunned. My mom fired questions at me, "In her state, she still killed him? Why does she have bandages all over? Why hasn't she healed herself? Did she forget she can?" I shook my head, "She's been getting doses of iron every day. Not being with me, specifically being taken from me, seems to have emotionally wreaked havoc on her fairy side."

My mom gasped, "Iron is poison to her! The pup? Is the pup, ok?" I smiled saying, "The pups are fine, mom." Both women gaped at me. Eventually, Molly asked, "She's having twins too?!" I shook my head, "No, she's having triplets." My mom burst into tears. Molly smiled at me, "I'm so happy for you, Eric."

Jackson came back in as I said, "I can't even really believe it. She's given me everything." I whispered in Haley's ear, "I won't fail you again, Angel. I'll keep you and our children safe." Jackson admonished me, "You didn't fail her. Goddesses couldn't even stop this path. We are here, we found her, we helped save her." I laughed, "I didn't even save her. She saved herself. She is truly a wonder. How long will she be broken because of this? We have pups on the way." Jackson frowned pondering my question. My mom spoke, "We will all be here for you both, as a family. I'll guide her."

I nodded. Liam brought in the girl I assumed was Megan, who was crying. She spoke to me, "Alpha Eric, I asked if I could come speak with you." I nodded, "So, speak." She cried, "Is he dead?" I glared at her, "I assume you speak of my wife's treacherous brother, Arion." She nodded, "He did wrong by her, but it was for me." I laughed, "He did wrong by you as well. Considering he turned her over, and when I met you there was still a collar around your neck." She frowned, "The deal was never for me not to be a pet. It was for me to be treated better. I was here because I was taken from my coven, who were bartering my release. Until Arion found me, I was on the lowest rung of the pets. When he got here, I was moved the top." I scoffed, "What a generous mate. Though he is a fairy, and he doesn't feel as wolves do, any of us would've fought the vampires or at the very least secured

your release. Arion was injured fatally by his uncle.” She wailed. I sighed, “Masium took him to Faerie at my wife’s order. I believe it was to see if he could be saved. I will call King Aiden and inquire as to their status.” She nodded.

I got out my phone and placed it on speaker. Not so she could hear, but so I could keep holding Haley. Aiden picked up the phone with a sigh, “Haley’s wolf, I have been expecting your call.” I heard wailing sobs in the background. I sighed, “King Aiden, did the prince make it you?” Aiden sounded tired, “He did. He and Masium arrived in the healing waters just in time to save Arion.” I rolled my eyes. Fabulous. I asked, “Then why do I hear sobbing in the background. Arion’s mate he left behind is most pleased he lives.” Aiden sighed, “Mother is distraught that Fabian tried to kill Arion. Do we need to barter Megan’s release with you? Arion wants her here.”

I growled, “Does he? Did he think to ask if she wanted to go there? Or does he think he just knows where it’s best for women to be? I do not care what he wants. He stole my mate from me.” Aiden replied, “He was making moves to give her back. He contacted me, and I was working on a plan.” I growled, “You thought not to share this plan because?” Aiden ground his teeth, “It was just starting to come together. He reached out after we last spoke of YOUR plan. Had your plan failed, I would’ve told you where we were at with this plan.” I stared at the ceiling, “I’ve had quite enough of fairies. Keep your brother out of this realm if he wishes to live.”

Aiden quickly replied, “Wait! What of his mate? Arion is here because Haley didn’t want him to die.” I growled, “I’m well aware of why he’s there. His mate is not my prisoner. She helped my wife and is no enemy of mine. I think she deserves far better than your brother though. She chooses where she goes next. I don’t kidnap innocent women or children; I have more integrity than that. You insult me by suggesting I would keep her from him when she has done nothing wrong.” Aiden groaned, “No disrespect was intended, wolf of my sister’s. We are in laws after all.” I rolled my eyes, “Yes, half of my in laws are amazing. The other half drive me insane. I’m told that’s common.”

Aiden ignored that dig. He asked, “Do I take that to mean it doesn’t matter to you that Haley doesn’t want Arion dead?” I growled, “Do you know what was done to her here?” He was silent for a few moments. He then answered, “Some of it, not all.” I replied, “Alright, the some that you know, imagine it was Lucinda who I hear is back with you now. Imagine she was taken from you, and this happened to her. Would you see the person who caused all her suffering simply walk away? Would you let him live because she wished it?” Aiden was silent then replied, “This is different. He is her brother.” I sighed, “I don’t care. I thought I would, but then I heard from a doctor was done to her. He told me how hard her recovery will be mentally and physically until she can heal herself.”

Aiden sounded proud for the first time, “Yes, Arion mentioned our sister can heal. That is quite the power to have. When she is well, I would like to speak to her about coming here on occasion and healing our people.” I growled in anger, “In the words of my wife, that will happen when a leprechaun rainbow springs from my asshole with a pot of gold. You and YOUR people will not come near my wife without me. Maybe not even then, however, you certainly will NEVER have her alone in your realm ever again. I knew she could heal within twenty-four hours of meeting her. She kept it from you and yours for nineteen years. You could’ve had her and all the powers she has at your side. You could’ve had her loyalty as I and her Hackura family do.” Aiden interrupted asking, “Powers? She has powers?” I grinned, “Yes, powers. She has so many. When you discover the others, you will truly rue the day you treated her as you did.” I hung up the phone as he was saying he did regret her childhood. I had no more sympathy for them.

I looked at Megan, “I have nothing against you. If you need transport to a portal to meet Arion, I’ll have you safely taken there. If you wish to go back to your coven, I will get you there instead. Know this though, if you have feelings for Arion in any way you will keep him out of this realm. I have just found out my lifespan is going to be much longer than I thought. No one holds a grudge like I do. I will NEVER forget what he has done to my Angel. Nor will I forgive it. She is everything kind, sweet, beautiful, and pure in this world. She is my life, and he took her from me. Then he didn’t even have the courtesy to keep her safe and cared for while she was here.”

Megan glanced at Haley and nodded. She told me, “I understand how you feel, but he is my mate. For better or worse, he’s who was chosen for me. If she had done this to him, wouldn’t you feel the same?” I shrugged, “I’d never have to imagine it. Haley always finds a way to save everyone. She would’ve never done this. Even now, she wouldn’t betray Arion in this way.” Megan cried, “She saved me.” I raised an eyebrow asking, “What are you talking about?” Megan was shaking, “She ran past me. She was going towards the front door when a vampire cornered me. She heard me scream. He was going to drain me because I was Arion’s mate. She staked him and then told me to get everyone to the lab. She told me to explain the situation to Sir Arthur. She risked not getting home to save my life. She... she didn’t deserve what was done to her.” With that Megan left.

Jackson and I stared at each other for several moments while conflicting emotions wared within me. Bjourn finally broke the silence, “She and I are going to have a long talk, which will result in absolutely NOTHING changing, but that girl needs to develop a sense of selfishness. We could still be without her because she delayed her plan, to save the mate of her traitorous brother. As though he deserves ANY kindness.” Fury flooded through my veins, but I couldn’t ask my mate to be someone else. We all sat in silence for several hours. I just held her in my arms feeling Thor grow stronger in her presence. It was odd I was weakened, but now I was getting stronger by her side.

Towards dawn Sir Arthur strode over to our group. He told me, "As the new King, I would like to apologize for the kidnapping the treatment of your mate here." I nodded then asked, "Are the ones who tasted her dead?" He nodded, "Well, all but Xavier. He's been missing for a week or so. The lieutenant never tasted her, but I imagine he was outside by Damon's side." I nodded, "All who were outside are definitely dead, Xavier included." Arthur raised an eyebrow, "I should've guessed that. I will meet your Ethan a little past dusk tonight to discuss the lass." I nodded, "I appreciate it, I know you have a lot to get done with the takeover."

He laughed, "Not the undertaking I thought I would. The lass here took care of the typical takeover paperwork. I didn't stake the bastard myself, so I just have to take the throne. Which no one opposed. Most were greatly relieved to hear you were no longer on the warpath with vampires. Along with Prince Bjourn and his father." Bjourn smiled, "I was having such fun too." Arthur cringed, "I'd say so from what I heard. Have a good day, I must retire." We nodded and he went to his resting place.

I held Haley in my arms and sent Jackson and Bjourn to do a perimeter run. My mother came in. She crossed her arms, "Son, go take a quick shower. I'll sit with her. That way when she wakes up, we will be ready to go." I sighed, "I don't want to leave her." She frowned, "Eric Connors, you haven't showered since before you left to scout this place. You stink. Go!" She shooed me out the door after I laid Haley down on the table.

I went upstairs to find a grim-faced Harold and Darrin. I asked, "What now?" They both turned, stunned to see me. I shrugged and explained, "Mom insisted I shower. Apparently, I smell." Darrin laughed, "You do smell, big brother." They both shifted back and forth on their feet. I rolled my eyes and asked, "What's wrong with you two?" They looked at each other clearly arguing in their mind link. I simply waited, too tired to drag it out of them. Harold sighed, "We saw where Haley's been staying. It's... it's a closet." I shrugged, "Ok..." Darrin sighed, "Come with us. We will show it to you."

We trudged up the stairs. I was looking in the rooms as we passed them. They weren't large but they were typical pet rooms. I had no doubt that Haley probably hated all the black decor, but that was ok. These rooms weren't closets. We reached the end of the hall, and they opened a door. Her scent hit me full force. This was her room? I looked in and ripped the door from the frame. I yelled, "ARE YOU FUCKING SERIOUS? He had her on the floor in here? There's not even a pillow! She's been breathing in all these chemicals while carrying the pups?! No wonder she's so fucking tired! I want to bring that fucker back from finally being dead to kill him again. Do we know a witch that can do that?" Darrin shook his head, "It's unfortunately not possible."

I growled, "I am going to come up with something so inventive to do to Fabian for this. He will pay." My brothers nodded. I went back to the room Haley, and I had been in when I first held her in my arms since this ordeal began. I took a quick shower. Her scent was still strong here, it calmed me down. I found new clothes my brothers must have laid out. I went downstairs to find complete and utter pandemonium. I saw my mom crying in the middle of the room.

My heart stopped. I called, "Mom! Where's Haley?" She cried, "I don't know. I had to go to the bathroom, but there wasn't one on that floor. I went up one floor and came right back Eric, I swear. Haley was just gone! I called out an alarm. Everyone is looking for her. I'm sorry. I know I keep saying that but I'm so sorry." I nodded to her, "It's ok mom. She's confused. It's not your fault." Caleb was frowning.

I linked the pack, "The Luna is confused, and she's run away. FIND HER NOW!" I began to feel our connection. I spoke out loud to no one in particular, "She's not too far, but she's not close." I ran to the porch, shredding the clothes I had just put on, headed in the direction I felt her. I was barely starting out when Jackson linked the pack, "I've got her." He linked just me, "Eric, we are in the forest about half a mile in. She's confused. She's telling me she's your mate and that she doesn't have any money, but you'd pay me to return her. In fact, she's swearing it." I picked up my pace. I linked back to Jackson, "She's not wrong. I would've paid anyone who brought her back to me handsomely."

I linked Caleb, "Why were you frowning?" Caleb answered, "It's probably nothing. I just find it odd your mom left Haley alone. She insisted you shower, then left. That's not like her." He wasn't wrong. It was weird timing, but it was my mom. She wouldn't do this purposefully.

My paws pounded into the earth. I reached them in record time. Haley was inconsolable. Jackson explained, "She thinks this isn't real. She said if you were really here that she wouldn't have woken up alone. She said she woke up in the lab when she fell asleep in a bed. I've tried to calm her down, but... she's just... hysterical. We might need to sedate her, Eric." I frowned. I didn't want to have to do that to her. I tried to explain what had happened, but she just kept saying I wasn't real.

I cursed inwardly. I knew I shouldn't have left her. I could've showered when she woke up. Hell, we could've showered together. I was about to link someone to bring a sedative when Bjourn showed up. He calmed her down. I was beginning to notice a pattern with her Hackura family. They'd bribed her with food to get her to talk. It seems to have been effective. She finally calmed down and believed we were all real.

I picked her up and examined her feet first. The bandages were gone, and she'd ripped the scabs open again. Her concern was of course my family. I wanted to kiss her for always thinking of others. I linked Mrs. Blanch, "We will be coming to you shortly." I knew for a fact the steely eyed woman planned to have Haley eat the majority of the food she'd prepared. Not to mention extra food during the day to help feed the pups and be sure that Haley was healing and healthy.

Haley sighed and spoke words that even though I knew already, filled me with joy. She told me she was pregnant. I smiled and talked about our pups. I would keep her safe now. When the babies kicked, I felt a jolt down to my toes. I was going to be a father.

Anger flooded me again. Fabian didn't know the levels of hell he was about to see. I knew we'd likely have a big fight about this at some point about Arion but for now; I shoved it aside. We walked inside where Bexley was waiting.

Haley seemed calmer in Bexley's presence. I had known that, though, Bexley had told me she would be. It was a fairy thing. Bexley popped us back home. Haley looked around and openly sobbed in relief about being home.

I consoled her, "Angel, it's alright." She hiccupped, "I'm just so happy to be back here!" Marcus and Titus came into the room quickly followed by Veronica. Veronica ran to her. As soon as she touched Haley's arm she said, "Oh! My little girl! I am so proud of you. I'm so happy to see you, and in a color. It's just more you. Your father and your brothers were just beside themselves. You can't leave me to corral them like that all alone ever again. It's too much for one woman! Even with their mates... it was... well, we just can't do that again." Haley laughed, "You're right, mom, I don't know what I was thinking!"

Marcus came over to her. She looked him up and down and asked him mischievously, "What took you so long to get to me, big brother?" He stared at her in surprise. Eventually he said, "I stopped for cheese curds." She laughed teasingly answering, "Oh yeah? Were they good?" He smiled, "They were delicious. I saved some just for you." She smiled and held out her arms. He took her from me pulling her in for a hug. My arms felt empty, but I knew they needed this moment.

Haley whispered, "You must really love me then." He held onto her and cried, "I really do, little sister." She rubbed his back, "I'm alright, Marcus." He sniffed, "I'm so sorry I wasn't here." She kissed his cheek, "That wasn't your fault. No one blames you." she turned to me and added, "Or you. So don't either of you think about spend one more damn minute blaming yourselves. Do you hear me?" We locked eyes above her head. We both said, "Alright." She sighed in annoyance, "I know you are lying. Fucking men." Bjourn laughed, "We missed you, little sister."

Mrs. Blanch came around the corner. She gasped when she saw Haley's appearance, crossing her arms over her chest. She chided, "You have LOST weight! That is unacceptable in your condition! You get that little girl into my kitchen right now!" I took Haley back from Marcus and carried her in the kitchen. She asked me, "If I told you I could walk you'd ignore me, wouldn't you?" I smiled at her. Before I could answer Ethan strode in and looked at her. He offered, "I'd tell him to ignore you. I assume you are unable to heal what happened to your feet?" She nodded amending, "At the moment." He frowned, "I'll check your feet first, they are quite dirty." Mrs. Blanch cleared her throat. Ethan added smoothly, "After you eat of course." Haley giggled.

I put her down next to Titus. He put his arms around her shoulder. Emotion shook in his voice as he said, "Princess, we missed you." She smiled at him, "I missed you too, dad." He smiled, "I was so proud of you when you made the charge to the army. You are my shining little star, Princess. I have told your fairy brother, the King, should any fairy take you or threaten you ever again I will obliterate the lot of them." Jackson waggled his eyebrows at me. He knew I felt the same way. I didn't care if they were family, I would wipe out any and all threats to my mate.

Haley spit out the water she had sipped and started coughing. Once she recovered, she said, "Well, I suppose that's not altogether surprising." Titus laughed. Haley continued eating. She paused for a moment when Titus grabbed her hand. He held it for a moment then spoke, "None of us were the same without you, princess. Don't do that to us again." Haley smiled, "I'll try not to dad." I couldn't deny I was glad to hear it. I knew it wasn't her fault. In fact, I blamed myself for the whole thing. I couldn't go through this again, though.

Haley ate an inordinate amount of food. When she was done, she smiled at Mrs. Blanch telling her, "I told the babies once we got back, you'd feed us more food. I also told them it would be delicious. One of them kicked the shit out of my kidney when I ate my slice of bread and cheese." I stiffened asking, "That's all they gave you to eat?" Mrs. Blanch looked horrified. Haley thought about it for several moments, eventually answering, "Arion had to fight them to get me that. I can't remember, but I'm pretty sure I only got to eat a few times." I growled in anger.

Haley quickly added, "I could be wrong though." All the Hackura's eyes were blazing gold. Marcus passed Haley a plateful of cheese curds. She squealed, "You DO love me big brother." She dug into them. She didn't notice the pain and anger on my face, which I was grateful for. Mrs. Blanch cleared her throat, "Babies? It's twins for you as well?" Haley smiled and looked at me. I touched her stomach and offered, "It's triplets." Mrs. Blanch smiled, and everyone congratulated us.

Ethan cleared his throat, "Let's get the Luna checked out over at the hospital. I have a meeting with Sir Arthur later to discuss what he treated her for, correct Alpha?" I nodded. Haley squealed, "Sir Arthur is coming here? Did you meet him,

Eric? I really like him.” I nodded informing her, “He’s the new King.” She smiled, “I figured that’s why he was there. He is a spy.” I laughed correcting her, “He was a spy. Now he’s on the lookout for spies.” I carried her over to the hospital.

Once we arrived Ethan cursed while examining her feet. He glared at her admonishing, “You’re going to stay off your feet, until you can heal them. You are officially wheelchair bound if you want to go somewhere.” Haley agreed, “Fine. They hurt anyway.” He sighed asking, “Are you trying to get them infected?” She stuck her tongue out at him. She teased, “No. You should ask Sir Arthur about bedside manners. His is better.” Ethan laughed, “You wound me, Luna.” He continued examining her. He cleaned out the cuts on her back and applied a salve. He gave me a meaningful look that said we would talk after his meeting with Arthur.

He had just finished when Catherine entered. She smiled at Haley, “Hello and welcome back Luna. Rumor is you are having triplets. That little nugget spread through the pack like wildfire. Let’s check on the pups.” She ran an inordinate number of tests, making me feel more anxious by the second. Finally, Catherine came back to speak to us, smiling. She told us, “I’ve run every test possible. The pups are perfectly fine, despite the iron doses you were getting, Luna.” Haley nodded, “I was using my healing light for them. What little I had anyway. It always worked better after I saw Eric.”

Haley seemed to consider that for a moment. Catherine asked, “Do you want to know what you're having?” I looked at Catherine in surprise as Haley started sobbing. We were both shocked. I quickly said, “Angel, we don’t have to find out. It’s alright, please don’t cry.” Haley sniffled, “I already know what we are having. I told them I didn’t want to know, but King Damon made them tell me. I wanted us to find out together.” Anger welled up in me, but I shut it down. She didn’t need my anger. I took a deep breath and told her, “Angel, it’s alright. You can tell me what we are having, and Catherine can confirm.”

Haley calmed down and looked into my eyes. She whispered, “We are having two boys and a girl.” My eyes lit up. I looked over at Catherine who smiled sadly, “She’s right. Two Alpha’s and a little Luna.” I picked Haley up and spun her around. I laughed and told her, “You give me so much, my mate, my wife, my angel, my fairy.” Haley winced, “Please don’t call me that.” I looked at her and asked seriously, “Which one?” She whispered, “My fairy.” I nodded, “Alright, so long as I can still call you, my angel.” Haley smiled, “No one could take that from us. Not even the SIMS.”

I took her to our room and set her on the bed. I spoke “Sir Arthur said Fabian put you through the SIMS to try to take our children.” Haley nodded telling me, “That’s very clear. He wanted me to fairy promise two of them to him for his experiments. I know he’s here. I want him to be dead before our children are born.

I do not want to bring them into a world where he exists. He called them mutts!" I nodded. That was more than fine by me. The time frame gave us plenty of time to play with him.

I asked her, "Do you know when we will be seeing our pups? I forgot to ask Catherine." Haley whispered, "Sir Arthur said four months." I smiled, "That's plenty of time." She nodded then told me, "I want to speak to him." I considered that. Eventually I told her, "Not alone." She laughed, "Are you kidding? I'm practically going to be your shadow." I sighed, "We should discuss that." She straddled me, "Sure, but I think there are other pressing matters to attend to."

She took her top off exposing her breasts to me. God, I'd missed them. My hands automatically went to cup them. They were perfect. I groaned, "Haley." She smiled and nibbled my ear. She whispered, "We can discuss anything you want later. I know you know how long we were separated. I'm a bit murky on that point; however, I know it was too damn long. I want you, no I need you. Right fucking now." Who was I to argue?

I took her nipple in my mouth, enjoying her moan. I chuckled and teased her, "You're so responsive." She snapped her fingers, but we were still in our clothes. She frowned, "I forgot I can't do that yet." She ripped my shirt over my head, then jumped off me to pull off my shorts. I smiled and told her "You seem to be overdressed now, Angel." She smirked and got onto her knees and took me in her mouth.

I threw my head back as she took me in, her mouth hot and wet. Haley used her hand on what didn't fit in her mouth, moving her other hand to play with my balls. Suddenly she moved her hand back towards my anus and circled it. I came quickly with stars in my eyes. I wasn't even able to warn her I was about to come. She smirked and stood, pushing me back to lie down. I was still hard despite the fact that I'd just had an orgasm.

Haley straddled me again. She lowered herself onto me and locked her eyes on mine. She spoke seriously with tears in her eyes, "I love you, Eric." I said, "I love you too." She moved us at a slow, steady pace. I reached my hand in between her legs and played with her clit. She threw her head back and quickened her pace. She came quickly, but she didn't stop moving her hips in rhythm with mine.

Light began to envelope us again, though Haley still didn't notice. Her chest began to glow. I flipped her onto her side and entered her from behind. I rocked our bodies together nibbling on her ear. We came again. Haley's eyes were fluttering closed. I pulled out of her and started to get up. She instantly reached for me, sounding a little panicked, "Please don't go, Eric." My heart hurt that she kept saying those words to me. I told her, "You've said that far too often as of late, Angel." Haley whispered, "I just... if you leave, what if I wake up back there? I

can't take it." I whispered in her ear, "You're here with me. I have you and I'll never let anyone take you again. Any of you." I touched her stomach. Her hand followed my motion. She looked up into my eyes, "I told them you were going to make everything better." I smiled, "I will never fail you again." She frowned, "You didn't fail me, my brother did."

I sighed and the words just blurted out of my mouth, "Then why did you let him go home?" Haley looked confused. She asked, "Let him go home? Arion is gone?" I held her to me, cursing the fairies in my mind. I told her, "Yes, you made Masium take Arion back home to Faerie to the healing waters." She thought about it then agreed, "I did do that. I don't want him to die. Whatever he is, he is my brother. I especially don't want him to die at the hands of Fabian." I told her, "I won't let him live if I see him again."

She was quiet for a moment then whispered, "I know." I stared at her, "You're not going to get upset about that?" She frowned admitting, "I don't want him to die, especially because of me. Roles reversed I wouldn't let anyone who took you from me and hurt you the way I was live. So, while I one hundred percent do not want my brother to die... I actually believe if anyone gets to fucking kill Arion, it's me. There's a small part of me that knows that's not true though. He didn't just do what he did to me. He put you through hell too. The fact that you were in pain hurts me more than what he did to me. He's my brother, and I'll always love him. I honestly wish for him to be happy in Faerie. I will be sad if you kill him, but if you haven't already told him not to come here." I cut her off, "I have." She nodded continuing, "Then it's on him. He can make his choices. I made mine."

I kissed her, "You astound me." Haley sighed, "I'm not saying I'll be happy if you kill him. I'm just saying I'll understand why you did." I nodded, "That's more than I thought I would get when we had this fight." She asked, "Was it a fight?" I shook my head, "Nope." Haley laughed, "Damn. I was going to say, we could have make up sex." I changed my tune, "You're right. It was absolutely a fight." We made love for hours. I was trying not to be concerned about the fact that she never noticed she was glowing. Nor did she notice the pink bubble that enveloped us.

I fell asleep almost right after Haley did. I pulled her in close to me and wrapped my arms around her finally feeling whole. I woke hearing a blood curdling scream. I jumped up ready for an attack. Instead, I found Haley thrashing around in the bed crying. She rolled onto her stomach and fury filled me. There was blood running down her back. I yelled, "WHAT THE FUCK?!"

Jackson and Marcus came into our room at a dead run. Marcus cursed, "FUCK! She's having a flashback." I yelled, "Why is her back bleeding?" I linked Ethan "Get to my room, NOW!" He replied, "Is it the Luna?" I replied, "NOW!" He replied, "I'll be right there, Alpha." Marcus cringed and told me, "When she gets flashbacks, her injuries can reoccur." I sighed, "So you're telling me that fairies

relive flashbacks and panic attacks? Do fairies do anything that's not incredibly inconvenient?!" Jackson frowned muttering, "Obviously not." I wanted to comfort her. Thor and I were both desperate to.

I asked Marcus, "Is a flashback like a panic attack where I can't touch her?" Marcus frowned, "Not usually, but in her state; as confused as she is, I really don't know." Ethan burst into the room, quickly surveying the scene. He winced, "A flashback? It's to be expected." Haley started screaming, "You can't have my children! I'll tell Eric to kill you all!" Anger coursed through me. I hissed, "Fucking Fabian."

Blood began to run down her face from her temple. I growled, "Ethan, stop this!" He frowned, "I can't... but you might be able to." I turned to him demanding answers, "What? How?" Ethan sighed, "Sir Arthur was talking about you being twice light bound. I think if you touch her, it will calm her." I nodded and touched Haley's arm gently in case he was wrong. Haley froze then relaxed into my hand.

I got back onto the bed and pulled her to me, rocking her back and forth. I told her, "You're all right. He can't hurt you, and he will not take our pups." She whimpered but eventually she was silent. She'd never even woke up. Jackson sighed in relief, "Thank god for small mercies." Ethan nodded, "I also suspect, as does Sir Arthur, if someone isn't able to convince her she's not in a SIM; if you kiss her, she will know it's real. From her discussions with Sir Arthur, in the SIM they had you being mean to her. Even when you were nice to her, you'd only touch her hands." I could get on board with that. I told him, "It's certainly worth a try. I had never felt more useless than this morning when I couldn't convince her we weren't in a SIM until Bjourn showed up." Jackson and Marcus left.

I cradled her to me. "I promise Angel, I'll always be here for you." I woke up to a link. Jackson asked, "Eric, are you coming for our run? I looked at Haley's sleeping form. I replied "I can't come. She ran away the last time she woke up without me. It's just too soon. She could get hurt." Harold linked back, "We understand. Darrin just went to sleep a few hours ago anyway, so it's just Jackson and me today." I realized I hadn't met my nieces yet. I felt a little guilty about that, but Haley needed me right now. My nieces would never know I hadn't seen them yet.

I went back to sleep and woke up to Haley giving me a kiss. She smiled at me greeting, "This is a fun SIM." I kissed her hard. She gasped. I told her, "I'm not a SIM. Don't you remember killing the vampire king? It was pretty hot. It would be a shame to forget that." Haley asked, "It was real?" I nodded. She sighed in frustration, "I'm sorry, Eric. I'm trying to remember what's real. I just... everything is muddled in my head." I kissed her forehead, "It's alright. You'll get back to normal eventually. Until then, I'll have fun showing you I'm not a SIM. Ethan has told me if I kiss you, it will make you realize I'm real."

Haley mischievously told me, “Well we should test that theory out.” We kissed lazily for a while before she whispered in my ear, “I promise if you fuck me, I’ll know you’re real.” I laughed and rolled on top of her. I asked, “Oh yeah?” She nodded, “Yup. SIM Eric wouldn’t even try. He was not good for my pregnancy hormones.” I smiled and slid into her.

We stayed like that all morning until Mrs. Blanch banged on the door. She yelled, “LITTLE GIRL YOU GET YOUR BUTT DOWNSTAIRS AND EAT THIS INSTANT!” I groaned while Haley laughed. She kissed me softly and said, “That might also make me believe I’m not in a SIM. I like your way better though.” We both got into the shower. I stepped out to grab us clothes when I heard her frantically calling my name. I ran back into the bathroom.

I asked, “Haley what’s wrong?” She took deep breaths apologizing, “I... I’m sorry I turned around and you weren’t there. I’m just... I’m sorry.” I frowned, “You don’t need to be sorry. Why did that scare you?” She turned off the shower and sat down. She spoke softly, “I thought it was a dream or something. That I’d finally gone mad.” I consoled her, “Hey, it’s alright. We are all going to be a little raw from this experience. You were gone for almost three and a half weeks. We just got you back.” She cringed, “It was almost three weeks?” I nodded. The very worst weeks in the history of my life. I got dressed and we went down for breakfast.

None of us could stop smiling about how much food Haley ate. She ate two dozen chocolate chip muffins. I laughed and told her, “Maybe eat some fruit too, my Angel.” She nodded and continued inhaling food. Marcus walked in and watched her in fascination. Miley came in with Jim in tow and laughed, exclaiming, “Whoa there, Hales! When was the last time you saw food bitch?” Haley frowned, “Well... yesterday. I’m pretty sure I ate yesterday. Before that... I think I ate once. I know it was at least once.” Jim’s face went rigid. Miley eyes went gold.

Nick came in with a save, “We could get you a chart, Haley. We could put it on the fridge for food. That way you’d know when you ate last. Not that there’s anything wrong with the Mrs. Blanch barometer. It may help you though to physically mark or put a sticker on something.” Haley agreed, “I like that idea. It could help.”

When Megan walked into the kitchen, I almost choked on my food. Who the hell brought her here? Megan spoke quietly, “Haley, can I speak with you for a moment?” Haley agreed, “Sure.” She stood and they walked out. I noticed she kept me in her line of sight. Megan sighed, “Can’t we go somewhere else? Werewolves have really good hearing.” Haley shook her head, “I’m sorry, I physically can’t. My body is refusing to take another step.” Megan nodded and started chanting. All of a sudden, we couldn’t hear them speaking.

I growled, “Great. We’ve got fairies with their space unheard. Now witches are getting in on it. Who brought Megan here?” Marcus shrugged, “Beats me. I’ve

been trying to make myself feel better by torturing Fabian and killing his son.” I froze with a banana halfway to my mouth. It couldn’t be Masium. I asked, “Hexxus is dead?” Marcus nodded, “I instructed Logan through his first solo blood eagle after her episode last night. He’s having a good day.”

I sighed as I watched Haley and Megan who seemed to be having a heated exchange. I told Marcus, “I would like a turn with Fabian today. Haley wants to talk to him as well.” Marcus agreed, “I don’t see a problem with that as long as we are in the room. If he says anything to upset her, we can hurt him. He’s a bit of a mess at the moment. My mother... well, she is a terrifying woman; she was PISSED.”

Haley stepped back into the room with Megan just behind her. She told me, “I’d like to speak to Fabian now.” I nodded and said, “Afterwards, would you be alright spending time with Miley? I have some things to attend to with Fabian.” She smirked, “You can say torture, Eric.” I smiled, “Fine, I would like a turn at torturing Fabian.” She nodded. Miley joined our group and to my surprise, so did Megan. She hung back out of Fabian’s view once we’d reached him. Haley stepped forward. She glared at Fabian and spat, “Hello, Uncle you’re looking quite terrible.” This ought to be interesting.