

Blast From the Past

Haley tried to fall asleep, knowing Fabian would die today. I tossed and turned. I must have closed my eyes because when I opened my eyes, I saw my uncle sitting in front of me. I went to move but my hand burned. I looked down and realized I was tied to a chair. I asked, "What the fuck is happening?" Fabian sneered, "Did you really think you could beat me? You are NOTHING! Now all your children will be for my experiments, not just one. I'll keep you alive to use your powers. You will be my shining jewel. I'll make you watch as I rape your daughter. I'll even send videos to your wolf of it." I woke up clawing the sheets with silent screams filling my throat.

I took a deep breath, and the scent of the ocean instantly calmed me. Eric. I looked over to see Eric was sleeping soundly. I didn't want to wake him up, so I went and stood in front of my window. I looked outside, just taking in everything and taking deep breaths. I told myself, "It was just a nightmare, he won't escape." I cupped my belly, "He won't hurt any of you. Mommy and daddy wouldn't let that happen." I stood there with tears streaming down my face. I just kept repeating to myself that today this would end. My uncle would die. My mother may never forgive me. I felt a small jab of pain in my heart but pushed that aside. This was about more than myself now, and what I went through. This was for our kids and Eric himself. For my family. For the pain and suffering we'd all been through. Fabian had to pay for that. Eric and my children deserved to live in a world without that monster being in it. I couldn't let him live. I just couldn't.

Eric woke up and we talked. I hoped my brothers would forgive me because I knew I stood no chance with my mother. I'm not a full fairy, so she excused my abuse. Fabian had even attempted to murder Arion and that didn't sway my mother from Fabian's corner. I mean damn, without me, it wasn't attempted. Arion would've have died. What the hell was my mother's problem? I knew she loved Arion.

Eric and I got lost in our passion again. I must have fallen asleep, because when I woke up Aiden was on the phone. He wasn't even upset with me. This was going to be over, and I could be in a good place with most of my family.

We got ready, and I thought about the events that were about to occur. I would probably have to pop us away and have my way with him once we were done. These events typically turned quite wild. I'd never had a romantic relationship before when this had happened, but I wanted to be prepared. I decided forgoing underwear was the way to go.

When we went downstairs, I looked around at the room. My family stood ready to avenge my childhood. My Uncle had tortured them through me, and I hated it. He

was finally going to pay. The second we stepped outside I felt fairy presences in the crowd. My insides turned to stone. NO... he couldn't escape. I shook myself. I needed to protect my children. I began to search the crowd and easily found the fairies. I wanted to scoff at them. They didn't even try to hide. How insulting. I had seen these specific people with my uncle often in Faerie. I was about to take some names off my brothers list. I was surprised to realize that Masium wasn't present. Did he truly think his father had gone mad? So mad he didn't even want to save him?

I stepped forward getting close enough that Fabian could hear me. I spoke confidently, "Zu will conuya kcasda, Uise fairies here cannot save Zu. Dondon even Uyla son came Ze try (You will die today; the fairies here cannot save you. Not even your son came to try)." Fabian snapped his head to look me in the eye. He looked momentarily shocked. I reached out my hand concentrating on pulling air from specific people, the fairies in the crowd. I killed them.

I was going numb. This is how I survived. I just needed to get through this. I popped us to the stage. My eyes found my cousin Hexxus' body. I felt a small part of pity for my cousin. He never had a chance. His father had poisoned him long before I was born. Hexxus and Masium were taught from birth to have hatred in their hearts. Masium seemed to have some kind of moral code that his brother never did. Hexxus and Fabian were always closer since Hexxus was more inclined to be like his dad. Depraved. Evil.

With every rock I saw thrown at my uncle I imagined everything he had ever done to me. A true punishment for everything he'd done to me, would require him dragged through our streets every day for multiple months to come close. We did not have the luxury of time. He could never make up for the threats against my children. His quick death would silence the fear in my mind. I stole a glance at Eric whose excitement was building.

Torvi quickly grabbed my hand when Eric left my side and gave it a light squeeze. I wanted to smile at her, but I couldn't. When the crowd booed my uncle, a rather large part of me felt vindicated. They saw him for the monster he was just like I did.

I nearly dropped to my knees when he said my mom would be involved. She had never participated in an actual blood eagle. The blood eagle orgy? Sure, every time. The actual cutting of the condemned? Never. I couldn't hide my shock when my dad said he would do most of the blood eagle himself. The crowd was deafening in their excitement when he announced that. My father rarely performed blood eagles anymore. It got the crowd ridiculously rambunctious and horny, the orgies that followed were legendary. I'd never seen him do one since I came to this realm, though I'd heard about them.

The crowd quietened the second Eric was handed the ceremonial knife. Fabian, of course, used the moment to speak to me, “Zu tyu killing Uyla own mother with Sefre action niece. Zu will oipo escape cye, Za'll Kekkel in Uyla dreams. Zu'll oipo Kekkel rid Fren cye (You are killing your own mother with this action niece. You will never escape me. I'll be in your dreams. You'll never be rid of me).” Anger coursed through me. My mother would be fine, eventually. I would spend time with the pack therapist, I needed to be rid of him. Even in my dreams. Something nagged in my head, but I couldn't figure out what his words meant.

I could feel all of my families anger in our bond. Marcus went last before my dad. He said something to Fabian no one could hear, but I knew what he said. He told me once when Fabian died, he knew what he'd say to him. Marcus was going to tell my uncle, “You tried your best, but she lives, and you will die you filthy, disgusting monster.” My mom stepped up and the crowd roared in excitement and anticipation. I couldn't take my eyes off the rising and falling of Fabian's chest. It wasn't over yet. He was still breathing.

My dad took the knife from my mom. My ears started to ring from the screams of the crowd. My heart was hammering in my chest. My Hackura side was loving every second of this. The desire to pounce on Eric was growing. My fairy side felt justice was being served. At the same time my mind was terrified because of the rising and falling of his chest. He was still alive and breathing. There was also a very small part of my fairy side sad it had to be this way. My Uncle Zader loved me. Why couldn't Fabian? He was my uncle. He could've stopped all this. He didn't even have to be kind to me as a child. All he had to do was not abuse me. He added the insult of taking me from my mate, and that was the last straw for Eric. We wouldn't be here if he could've just been a better man.

My fairy side was still wanting to hyperventilate because Fabian was still alive. My brain knew that was normal at this stage, but my heart was going into overdrive. My dad continued to rip Fabian apart. I forced my eyes away from Fabian's rising chest to look at my dad. I saw the pain, anger, and fury in my father's eyes. I knew how much it hurt him that I was abused as a child. It wasn't his fault and I'd never blamed him for one damn minute, but I knew he blamed himself for not knowing. I'm his partial Hackura child. He abided by the customs of his people, even though he wanted to see me.

My Hackura side was driving me crazy. Eric's nearness was becoming more and more apparent to me. I could hear the sounds of pleasure coming from many of the women in the crowd. The only thing stopping me from jumping Eric was the need to watch Fabian die. I knew my brothers and their mates felt the same as I did, or they would already be fucking each other.

When my dad was halfway through ripping Fabian's ribs out, my uncle's chest finally stopped rising as his heart gave out. A weight lifted off me. It felt like

several ribbons I hadn't noticed that were pulled tight against my heart were released. I was free. It was real. Fabian was gone. Really gone. He could never hurt me or my children. The nightmare that I had endured since I was a child was over. My thoughts swirled. The one word that kept ringing in my brain was over.

Torvi grabbed my hand again. I turned to look at her and she smiled at me. That's when I couldn't stop myself. The sense of finality caused the biggest grin to overtake my whole face. Torvi quickly yanked me into a hug, each mate of my brothers joining us. I couldn't stop the sob of relief that hit me. I felt Logan behind me. He put a hand on my shoulder. I smiled at him. He was looking in the crowd for someone to find release with. I felt slightly sad for my big brother. He was the only one without his mate now. I knew he'd find her though. He deserved the best.

I couldn't believe Fabian was really dead. It was finally over. He would never pop back up in my life. He would never torture me, and he would never take me from Eric's side again. The thought of Eric made my blood hot. I looked over at him. The thought of his body had my lust blazing. Looking at him... I was shaking with need.

Torvi laughed and asked me, "Are you joining the orgies now that you have a mate? Now you feel what we always feel. I'm happy for you. It's quite fun." She winked then added, "Little sister." She always called me that. But for the first time it really hit me. All of my brother's mates truly did consider me a sister. It wasn't duty or pity that had them calling me that. They meant it. I'd always loved them as sisters. I looked at Miley who winked at me as she grabbed Jim's zipper. I looked away from her.

My dad yelled, "Is est noster salvus sit filia reginae et eius pueritia aveneged (It is done and our princess is safe and her childhood avenged)." The second the words left his mouth my family was all over their mates. My need felt like it was exploding as I popped to Eric's side. Clothes were being torn and shredded all around us. Everything faded to the background when he looked at me. The lust in eyes fueled mine, bouncing back and forth between us in the bond.

I vaguely heard screams of joy from the crowd. I was too lost in Eric to register much else. I was consumed by our joint desire. In finally being free. I'd won the war against Fabian. He was dead, and my Hackura side demanded a celebration. His possessiveness surprised me. The orgies didn't usually make my brothers possessive; just horny. Wolves were different, I guess.

When we finished, I glanced around and saw many smiling faces and winks thrown my way. Most of the Hackura and my family were still having sex. Embarrassment flooded me. My Hackura side didn't care, but my fairy side did. I couldn't believe we had just done that. On a stage. I had planned to pop us away from the crowd.

I did pop us away, and we were on each other again. Eric was ready to head back, but I was still too amped up. My Hackura side demanded to fuck him again. So, I did the one thing guaranteed to make him fuck me. I called him Alpha. His eyes went black. It was fun to rile him up.

When we finished, I popped us back to family. All the women surrounded me. Miley whispered, "It's like you're officially a woman now." I scoffed, "I'm pregnant, Miles. I've obviously had sex, but now that I've participated in an orgy, I'm a woman?" Miley laughed, "Exactly. Wolves are like crazy possessive, aren't they? Jim growled at so many guys he thought were watching us. He definitely got all growly and fucked me so hard. Was Eric like that?" I thought about it, "I don't know if he was growling at anyone, but he definitely was possessive about it."

All the girls laughed. It was time to go. I created the portal and felt Eric's surprise. I guess I hadn't mentioned I can do that too. I grabbed his hand and walked us back into our home. We were immediately greeted by Jackson, Harold, Jessica, and Molly. Miley and I couldn't keep our laughter in at Jim and Eric's astonishment over the time difference. We did tell them. Well, someone told them... I was pretty sure someone had told them. GOD! Being confused was so damn annoying. Jackson and Harold were stunned about everything that happened. They seemed particularly surprised about the orgy.

Miley quickly explained. I swear all four of them almost fell over when they were told Eric and I participated. I was confused by their reaction. There was no way that was Eric's first orgy. Then I realized they thought he let other people see me naked. Even if he had, if I was fine with that... Why would that surprise them?

Eric quickly told them no one saw any part of me. I smiled. That's why I may have bruises on my ass. Because he didn't want anyone to see my bare ass. I linked Miley, "Wolves are weird." Miley winked back at me. I rolled my eyes. Eric had no qualms about anyone seeing his private parts, but no one can see me naked. So weird. What if I was a wolf? Does that change the rules? I needed to write this shit down.

We sat down and talked. Harold mentioned our nieces. I was confused. There was Saied... Did Eric's brothers have other kids? GODDAMN IT! Why couldn't I remember? Then it hit me. I couldn't help my excitement. Jessica was here, so that meant Shana must have given birth. I was really sad I wasn't here when it happened. I was taken aback when I discovered Eric had not met them yet, but he quickly explained he couldn't leave me at Damon's. I understood that. Roles reversed; I wouldn't have left. I felt a little guilty because I was pretty sure I'd begged him not to leave me.

Then the group mentioned Darrin knew about both pranks Shana and I pulled. I was pretty sad Darrin had found out about my pranks while I was gone. That was

the best part of pulling a prank, the reaction. It was always priceless. After a few more minutes of talking Eric carried me up to bed. I was really excited that this time I was going with him to the summit. He was on me as soon as the door closed. We fell asleep in each other's arms.

When I woke up Eric was still beside me. The man was spoiling me by not going on his morning runs. His eyes were closed. I just studied him. Eventually he murmured, "I can hear you thinking, Angel. What has those wheels turning this morning?" I bit my lip before asking, "Why aren't you going on your runs with your brothers? Not that I don't mind waking up with you, I rather enjoy it, but..." He smiled and opened his eyes. He answered me, "I couldn't leave you. It's too soon. Besides, I have another way to get my cardio in."

His index finger flicked my clit. I jumped in surprise as a spark shot through me. Eric chuckled and did it again. Then he began rubbing his finger in a circle. My hips arched into his fingers. His lips attacked my neck. He was going to give me hickey. He nipped at my ear and whispered, "Now everyone will see my mark on one side of your neck, and a love bite on the other." I snorted, "Hickey. They will see a hickey." He growled, "Don't heal it please, Angel. I want everyone to know you're mine." I laughed pointing out, "The mark I bear says that."

Eric growled and slid into me. He looked into my eyes, "Are you going to leave the love bite on your neck?" I whimpered as he pulled out rubbing his dick on my clit. I jumped and yelled, "FINE! I'll leave it." He smirked and slammed back into me. I couldn't hold back my screams of pleasure.

Eric pounded into me until someone knocked. Caleb's voice floated through the door, "Eric, we have to leave in fifteen minutes." Eric sighed, "We'll be right there." He turned to me, "Let's get in a quick shower." Walking sounded obnoxious so I popped us then I turned on the water. We both got ready to go. I was looking at my clothes trying to decide what to wear. Then I remembered they looked pretty nice when they left last time. I picked a red dress.

I popped down to the car. When Eric caught up to me slapped my ass as he opened my door to get in. He got in the driver's seat and everyone loaded up. Just like that we were off. I sighed. I could've popped us to the venue, but I wanted to watch the scenery. I was certain they didn't want to ask because they didn't want me to get worn out. We were close to our destination when Eric tensed.

I asked, "What's wrong?" He frowned and glared in the rearview mirror at his brothers. He spoke angrily, "Nothing. Darrin is being obnoxious." I laughed, "Aww give him a break! He has newborns. The man is probably pretty damned sleep deprived. Congratulations, Darrin! What are their names? Are they sleeping?" Darrin smiled stiffly responding, "Thank you, Haley. Their names are

Dana and Daisy. They are sleeping six hours solid.” I nodded, “That’s pretty good!” For non-fairy children at least, they couldn’t conjure their own bottles.

Darrin simply nodded. The tension in our car was thick. I linked Jim, “Um... is Miley with you?” He replied back, “Of course. What’s up?” I contemplated then asked, “Can you ask her if she knows what’s going on? Eric is pissed at his brothers and the tension is so thick you can taste it. I’m tempted to pop to your car for air.” Jim was silent for a minute then answered, “Miley says you can pop on back bitch. That is a direct quote by the way, she hit me and said I had to say it just like that. I would never call you a bitch, Luna. My dad said Eric should tell you himself about what’s going on.” I frowned, “I’ll ask Eric again. Tell Miley I might just pop on back, bitch.”

I turned to Eric asking, “Anything you want to share with this SUV group?” His grip tightened on the wheel. He ground out, “It’s really nothing to worry about, Angel. It’s being blown out of proportion.” I sighed, “Alright then. I’ll be back. I’m popping to Miley’s car so I can breathe. You guys can figure out your damn tension. I’ll link you before I pop back in.” He was about to tell me not to go, so I just popped out.

I ended up next to Miley. My chest felt tight being away from Eric. I smiled through it greeting, “Hey bitch!” Miley laughed, “BITCH! Even when I know you’re coming you scare the crap out of me. What’s up in the main car?” I shrugged, “I don’t know. They are all so upset the tension is through the roof. Whatever it is Eric said his brothers are blowing something out of proportion. He said it’s nothing to worry about.” Caleb snorted from the driver seat.

My eyes narrowed, “Care to share, Caleb?” Caleb frowned, “Sorry Luna. Eric should tell you, but he’s being ridiculous. Hopefully, he’s right, and it’s nothing.” I frowned surmising, “But you don’t think it’s nothing. Please everyone in this car call me Haley.” He shook his head, “No, I feel like we are all heading for a train wreck.” I frowned, “Eric usually has really good instincts about things like that.” Caleb nodded, “Yes, he usually does.”

Jim groaned, “Oh please god, no. Dad... no.” Miley and I whipped our heads to him. Caleb shot a warning glance at Jim He spoke softly, “It’s not our place, son.” Jim frowned, “It is though, dad. Haley is our Luna.” Caleb frowned. Eric linked me, “Come back please.” I sighed, “Well, my moment to breathe is up.” I kissed Miley on the cheek and popped back.

I sighed when I looked around Eric’s SUV. The tension had gotten worse. I was exasperated, “Oh for god’s sake! How could did the tension get worse in here?” Eric growled. I looked at him and touched his arm. He immediately relaxed. I whispered, “Eric, it’s ok. You can tell me if you want to. Please don’t fight with

your brothers over something you don't want to tell me." Eric sighed, "It's not an issue. They just think it is."

Ok we needed privacy. I smiled and chanted, "Make Sefre space unheard (make this space unheard). Eric glanced at me. I explained, "I charmed our seats they can't hear us. Eric, they love you, they are clearly worried about something." He stared at me for several moments. I should've popped us if he wasn't going to focus on driving. I pointed at the road and told him, "Uh eyes on the fucking road there, buddy." He growled, "You know how I feel about that word." I laughed, "I do know, but it's fun to say. Besides, I'm only teasing. Are you ok?" He sighed, "Really Angel, they are overreacting. It's pissing me off." I studied him, "You don't want to tell me." He tightened his hands on the wheel. He sighed, "It's not that." I cut him off, "It is that. That's ok. I am here if you need to talk, but you don't have to tell me. Just know I am here for you."

Eric took my hand and kissed it, "I don't deserve you, but I'll never let you go. I love you, and only you Haley." I nodded, confused by the entire statement. I told him, "I don't know why you think that you don't deserve me, but you're really fucking wrong. We are two halves of a whole Eric Connors. We were made for each other, and I love you too. Make Sefre space heard (Make this space heard)."

Eric smiled asking, "So they can hear us again?" Jackson answered, "Yes, we can. Let me just say... that was weird." Darrin asked, "Did you tell her?" Eric growled. I put my hand on his arm to calm him down. I shot Darrin a warning look. Everyone remained silent until we pulled up to the convention center.

I got out of the car and took a deep breath of fresh air. I told our group, "Well, this has been a tension filled suck fest of a car ride. I love you so damn much Eric, but I may have to pop back and forth on the way home to sit with Miley. She and I have so much more fun on road trips." Eric responded by growling and pulled me to him. He whispered in my ear, "I didn't like it when you left. They will be fine when we leave." He glared at his family. To my surprise, they glared back. What the actual hell was going on?

We all checked into our rooms. Eric and I were sharing a massive suite with his brothers. I linked Miley, "Oh joy, this is going to suck." Miley shot me a sympathetic look. She linked back, "I'll try to get answers, bitch!" I winked at her as we headed upstairs. Our room had a shared common area. I sat down out there, but Jackson and Molly slammed their door shut. Eric held his hand out to me. The second our door shut he pulled me onto the bed. He kissed me hard. He was almost frantic. He shredded my underwear. I sighed. Why do I bother wearing any underwear?

Eric really wasn't kidding about the access with dresses. His fingers were buried inside me so fast I squealed in surprise. Eric looked into my eyes and said, "You're

mine.” I looked at him. I could see the panic and the storm in his eyes. I wished I knew what the fuck was going on. I answered him, “Of course I’m yours. Just as you are mine.” He removed his fingers. Somewhere along the way he had taken off his pants. He entered me and groaned, “I’ll never let you go, Haley. You can never leave me. I need you. You’re MINE!” He was growling by the end.

He started to move within me. My body was being swept away with pleasure, but my mind was trying to understand what the hell was going on. Why does he think all the sudden I would leave him? Didn’t I just explain I can’t be without him? Am I confused, or is he? My orgasm pushed all those thoughts out of my mind. Eric groaned his release but stayed inside me.

After several moments I asked again, “Eric, are you ok?” He kissed me, “I’m fine now. Thank you, Angel.” I frowned, “Of course.” Did I just get thanked for having sex with my husband? It made me feel oddly cheap. I brushed that aside and went to freshen up.

Jackson knocked on our door and angrily said, “We have to get downstairs, brother.” Eric opened the door and glared out. I could see everyone in our circle, Jackson, Harold, Darrin, Jessica, and Molly were all waiting. All of whom were staring at me with pity. Ok, Eric may not want to tell me what’s happening, but I am not above cornering someone and using my power on them. I do not like looks of fucking pity. That phase of life had passed for me. Now I was annoyed.

Eric grabbed my hand. I asked him, “Why aren’t your parents here?” Eric smiled replying, “My dad is running the day to day of the pack. He didn’t want to leave my mom behind again, so he offered to run things at home. When I was gone, you were in charge. This time since neither you nor I will be in our territory, someone has to be in charge. My dad being in charge is actually very helpful.” I nodded. Well at least one damn thing made sense.

We all made our way downstairs and Miley, Jim, Nick, Emily, Caleb, and I assumed Caleb’s mate were waiting. All of them had that same look of pity my mate’s brothers did. I leveled Miley with a look. She was the only person who was not giving me the look. Which was because she was looking at Jim, and she was pissed.

I tried to reach into my mind to figure out what this was about. I knew the SIMS confusion hadn’t worn off, but I couldn’t come up with a reason for all this. I smiled when I saw Alpha Lucas, my lion... I remembered I called him that. He waved us all over as the man beside him ran off to a corner to eat popcorn. He waved at me. I searched my mind and smiled as it came to me. That was Dylan. This man was my lion’s Beta. I waved back at him.

Eric shook hands with Alpha Lucas. To everyone's surprise, even mine, I gave him a quick hug. I took a deep breath. I was ok. That was fine. Progress. I spoke quickly, "Thanks for coming to help Eric and aide in my rescue, my lion." Alpha Lucas smiled, "So you do remember you called me that. I was wondering if you would." I laughed teasingly stating, "I was about to go hunt down a werelion to see them shift. Provided it wasn't another psycho ex of Eric's who was going to try to kill me, again." Literally, everyone tensed.

I was baffled, "Whew! Tough crowd. I thought for sure that would get a laugh." Dylan shouted, "I laughed!" I smiled at him. Eric growled. Darrin, Harold, and Jackson grimaced. Ok, I may not be all together mentally, but I could put the pieces together. An ex of Eric's was going to show up. Why was that a big deal? I was standing in front of one. Alpha Lucas and I were just fine. They were all clearly minding linking about it, too.

Out of nowhere a voice that caused the tension to somehow mount echoed around the room, "Eric, Darling!" I already hated the owner of this voice. I had no idea why, but this bitch needed to die. I turned to see an insanely beautiful woman. Seriously. She could make catwalk models jealous. She had long blond hair beautifully styled. She was tall, thin, and had giant boobs that could not be real.

I glanced at Miley who rolled her eyes. Eric greeted her tersely, "Claudia." She and I both glanced at him. He didn't say anything else when she clearly expected him to. Did he hate this woman too? I could work with that. I linked Miley, "Can we just kill her?" Miley snorted and spat out part of her drink. Everyone looked at Miley with a question in their eyes.

Claudia looked hurt that Eric barely looked at her. She turned her attention to me. I raised an eyebrow at her as she held her hand out to me. She put on a fake smile and said, "Well, hello there. You must be the wife I've heard was the cause of the ruckus delaying the summit. Aren't you just tiny? How odd. I've never met a short fairy." Ok bitch.

I shook her hand and said, "Sure, I'm his mate and wife. I'm not sure what you want me to say about the crazy vampire king who had me kidnapped. The summit wasn't exactly high up on my list of priorities at the time. I was just trying to avoid being drained and tortured to death. I'll be sure to avoid such situations in the future so as to not interfere with your plans. Don't you worry Claudia, I staked his ass. So, he's not a problem anymore." She frowned, "Well, aren't you soft spoken and poised." My jaw dropped as she continued, "Mate you say? Well, Eric darling, I can't believe you didn't call me."

Her actions...that tone. She'd better not be the Claudia I'd heard about. I spoke, "I'm sorry Claudia. I didn't catch you last name." She laughed, "I didn't give it little girl, but it's Harden." Just like that my anger came on stronger than it had

before in my life. I barely stopped my eyes from changing color. Eric grabbed onto my hand tightly, pushing questions into our bond. Yeah well, his ass didn't get the answers he wanted. We can't all get everything. I smiled at her menacingly explaining, "Actually, my name isn't little girl. It's Princess Luna CAMBRIDGE Connors. Speak to me that way again, Claudia. I fucking dare you." Her face went white as her smile faded.

Claudia turned to Eric and sputtered, "You... Eric." I cut her off, "Not Eric. He's Prince Alpha Eric. You WILL address him with respect if you wish to speak to him." Miley did a slow clap. Eric gaped at me. Jackson snorted. Claudia's eyes narrowed until she noticed Eric was watching her. Her fake smile was back on in a second as she said, "You don't understand, Eric and I are old friends." I glared at her, "Address him by his name and not his title on more time, and I'll call my guard. You are lucky his guard isn't here to address such things. As you are fully fucking aware, my people do not abide disrespect."

Eric cleared his throat, "Haley, Claudia and I are friends." Friends my ASS. I replied, "Oh, I figured that one out already. You still have to give her permission to call you by your name." Darrin was laughing. Dylan was howling. Eric pinned him with a look.

Claudia glared daggers at me. The second Eric glanced her way she had her face soft and understanding eyes. She spoke in a condescending tone, "So young, but I would say we were more than friends Prince Alpha Eric. We did try to have a pup together. We were together on and off for almost four years." Several people held their breath.

She let her eyes go wide and she then she touched her chest and falsely expressed concern, "Oh dear, I'm sorry. Did you not know that Haley?" Blade appeared and pulled a knife, "Is Princess. I heard Princess tell you she is Princess." Eric started to speak. I linked him, "Don't even." Claudia looked pleadingly at Eric. She spoke, "Er... I mean Prince Alpha Eric, please call him off."

I answered, "You seem to be hard of hearing, Claudia. I already told you Eric's guard isn't here. The person you need to appeal to is me." She gulped, "Princess Luna Haley, I apologize." I spoke to blade, "Scitis autem occultantur ea manere prope ad historia nostris volumus ergo non credidistis illi (Stay close but hidden you know her history with our people, we do not trust her.)" Blade put his weapon away and glared at her stating, "Insult Princess... I cut." He faded off into the background.

Claudia recovered, "Princess, I didn't mean to offend you with Prince Alpha Eric's and my past." She shot Eric a look a lust and love. BITCH! I told her, "The offense has nothing to do with your PAST with my husband. His PAST doesn't fucking bother me. By definition it has NOTHING to do with the damn present. The

problem, which you fully know, is with the disrespect of calling me a child. Also, you called me my name without being given permission to do so. A permission you will NEVER fucking have, which you knew already. People around here might not see you for who you are Claudia, but I always have. Watch yourself.”

Claudia paled again at my reference to her past with my brother. Marcus and Claudia had a past. I hated her. That she had a past with Eric was really only annoying in that he didn't want to tell me. Claudia turned back to Eric, “Prince Alpha Eric, I just came over to say I'd love to catch up.” I snorted, “I'll just bet you fucking would. See your eyes and tone suggest you want something from my mate. Something you can't fucking have.” Dylan shrieked, “I LOVE HER!” Eric growled at him again.

Claudia glared at me before she narrowed her eyes on Alpha Lucas. She smiled wickedly, “Well, gangs all here. We just need Christy, and the four amigos will be back together. Where is she? We could all catch up reminisce about the good old days. You know, before Prince Alpha Eric became a Prince and all the FUN, we all had together.” I linked Jackson, “She's one step away from her blood being on the walls.” Jackson looked away.

Eric cleared his throat, “It's just Eric, Claudia.” I linked him, “Fucking seriously Eric? Just seriously?” He didn't answer me. Out loud he said, “I'm sure we will run into each other later, but our group needs to keep moving.” She smiled triumphantly, “Of course, Eric.” She purred his name.

I linked Miley, “How bad would it look if I took her air? Just for a few minutes, so she turns a nice shade of purple.” Miley smirked replying, “Let's keep that in our back pocket.” I retorted, “Where is BA with a goddamn arrow when you need her?” Miley snorted, “BA would eviscerate this chick. She could get away with it too. She needs to be back from her mission.” She did. This bitch had to go.

Eric turned his back on Claudia, but I didn't. We glared at each other. Jackson was looking between us, both amused and confused. Eric linked me, “Haley, we need to keep moving.” I retorted, “Oh, and here I thought you forgot how to answer in link. So, you were just ignoring me. Good to fucking know.” Eric growled, “Haley, not here.” I hissed at him, “You do realize no one can hear us, right? Don't worry I am a master at showing nothing on my face. It's a survival instinct.” He sighed, “I'm not worried about that, Angel. That's not what I meant.” I sighed, “Whatever. Don't worry, even though I'm young, I won't embarrass you.” He growled, “I didn't say you would, nor did I think it.” I snapped, “No your ex bitchy, wannabe baby momma implied it. I didn't hear you say a damn word to the contrary.”

Before he could reply another man came up to Eric and started talking. Eric introduced me. The man bowed his head in respect as did his Luna. It went on for hours like this. Eventually, I excused myself to go to the bathroom.

Of course, when I stepped out of the bathroom stall, Claudia was there. I snorted, “Of fucking course you’re here. Watch it, Claudia. My guard is always around, and they HATE you. We all do.” Claudia laughed, “I’m not going to hurt you, princess. Marcus would be upset with me, and I barely escaped his wrath last time.” I glared at her, “Marcus would not just be upset with you. My brother would rip your goddamn head off if you TRIED to hurt me. You escaped the women in our families wrath because your father paid mine an exorbitant price to keep you safe.” She frowned asking, “What are you talking about?” I laughed, “You don’t know? Do you think your pack members just clean up after us and have for the past three years out of the goodness of their hearts? Your father paid mine. Your pack is in servitude to us for the next thirty goddamn years for what you did.”

Claudia was truly stunned. I incredulously asked, “Did you think you could just get away with trying to kill Torvi? She’s royalty and you’re a fucking rat.” Claudia frowned, “I wasn’t trying to kill her, I just wanted Marcus and her on an off period. It was food poisoning” I snorted, “Both of us know you’re lying. You may have everyone else fooled, but I see through you. You wanted Marcus, and you thought with Torvi out of the way you could get him. You may be able to pull your tricks on men, but my eyes are wide open honey.”

Claudia taunted me, “Oh, your husband isn’t immune. He used to love my tricks.” I rolled my eyes, “As he has a dick, I would imagine so.” She laughed, “When is your off period? You’re looking quite fat, I’m sure it will be soon.” I raised an eyebrow. I told her, “I’m pregnant, not fat. With triplets. Eric and I don’t have off periods. We don’t want them.” Claudia paled then asked, “Eric is allowing you to keep a baby from your time in captivity?” I snorted, “You are such a wretched bitch. Allowing me? Fucking seriously? I am my own goddamn person. These are Eric’s children. I wasn’t raped in captivity, just tortured. You should REALLY learn to have background on people before you come at someone.”

Claudia seemed enraged. She smirked at me tauntingly stating, “You know Lucas and Eric used to fuck.” I nodded, “I do know that. I think everyone in the other goddamn room caught onto that. Other than you, my husband's past lovers show his excellent taste.” She growled, “You think you are better than me?” I stated, “By my birthright alone I AM better than you title wise. I’m a goddamn princess. You are a horrible human being. Your poor fucking wolf, whoever she is, deserves better than you. It’s honestly sad, Claudia. You are truly, stunningly beautiful, but you have a cold and nasty heart.”

Claudia stepped closer to me and hissed, “Eric will never be satisfied with you. He needs a wolf by his side. Eventually when the thrill of finding his long-awaited mate settles, he will see that and he will cast you aside.” I laughed even though her words hit some of my insecurities. I didn’t show it though. I taunted her back, “And what? Pick you? He already had the chance to do that and didn’t. Besides, he’s not going to cast me aside. He fucking marked me.” I showed her my mark and she hissed. She threw her drink in my face. Sasha appeared and grabbed her hand and twisted it until it popped out of place. Claudia yelped in pain. I ordered, “Let her go, Sash.” I snapped myself dry.

Claudia wasn’t done spewing hate though. She spat out, “You will feel that burn when he takes me back to his bed. You will be in physical agony and you’ll lose those pups. I’ll have him again princess, just you watch.” I laughed hollowly, “You’d be dead if you did.” She was taken aback, “The Hackura have off periods.” I nodded, “They do, but I’ve been told wolves do not. Seriously? Are you hard of hearing? I ALREADY told you Eric and I don’t have off periods. Do you know the penalty for being with a spouse of a royal Hackura on a non-off period? I’m pretty sure you do since you tried to MURDER Torvi because she and Marcus were back on.” Claudia didn’t answer me. Sasha snarked, “The penalty is death for even trying, Claudia.” Claudia frowned and backed away from us. She quickly left the bathroom.

Miley came in, “What did that bitch want?” I explained then broke down crying. I asked Miley, “What if she’s right? What if he needs a wolf by his side? What if the triplets can’t shift, and he resents me for it?” Miley rubbed my back, “We should’ve just killed her earlier.” I laughed, “That would’ve meant she matters. She does, doesn’t she? It’s just like Marcus all over again.” Miley sighed, “I hated her when Marcus tried to have a child with her, and I find my hatred growing. She is scum. No, she is WORSE than scum.”

Eric linked me, growling, “GET BACK TO OUR ROOM NOW!” I frowned replying, “Are you ok?” He growled again, “NOW!” I sighed, “Apparently, I have to go. Eric is pissed about something. Oh, fuck me. Don’t you just know Claudia went crying to him? Is she that fucking dumb?” Miley nodded, “She very well might be. Text me if you need me. Eric loves you Haley, not her.”

I popped to the shared space in the suite I had with Eric. My jaw dropped observing the scene in front of me. I thanked the goddess I had charmed our suite when I got here to be soundproofed. Eric hadn’t even noticed I was here yet; he was just throwing everything he could get his hands on.

Lucas and his brothers were trying to calm him down. I looked at Molly and Jessica with a question clear in my eyes. They looked worried. They were about to

speak when Eric whirled around and spotted me. He yelled, “YOU CANNOT just threaten to kill people!”

I was now at a loss. I asked, “Exfuckingcuse me?” He came closer to me. His face was beat red he was so mad. He almost looked possessed by something as he raged, “I don’t know why you’ve decided to have this teenage fit of jealousy. Is it pregnancy hormones?! Whatever it is, it’s OVER. You can’t threaten to kill someone because I have a past with them.”

My eyes blazed gold. I said, “Ok, I’m going to say Exfuckingcuse me one more time, because I MUST have earwax blocking my ear canal. I know you didn’t just accuse me of threatening to kill someone for sleeping with you in the past. As I recall, I didn’t even threaten Vanessa, and in case everyone forgot... she tried to kill me. TWICE! I don’t recall being even slightly rude to Alpha Lucas.” I glanced at Lucas and said, “I deeply apologize if I have been rude to you. I actually quite like you.” Lucas shook his head, “No, you’ve been very nice to me.”

Eric growled, “Claudia! She came up to us crying in the elevator. You cornered her in the bathroom and threatened to kill her because we had sex. You dislocated her wrist!” I rolled my eyes. Eric growled and lowered his voice “Do not do that.” I sighed, “Fine. I stop rolling my eyes when you grow a brain. You let me know when you start thinking with the brain in your head and not in your dick. I in no way threatened to kill her because you had sex with her in the fucking past. There were witnesses by the way. There was a woman that stayed in the bathroom stall when Claudia cornered ME. I do believe I saw this particular woman with Alpha Lucas’ group earlier.”

I turned to Lucas and said, “She has brown hair, green eyes, and she’s wearing a yellow suit.” Lucas nodded, “She’s with us.” I smiled at him. Then turned to glare at Eric, “There you go. Lucas’ pack member heard it as did my guard. Not that you fucking asked, but here’s what happened. Claudia accosted ME. She said a smattering of rude things to me, particularly about me being pregnant. I guess you don’t care though, do you? Because not unlike my brother was, you are wrapped around her lying little finger. Watch yourself there, husband. I don’t like her, never have never will. She wants you too, badly. I didn’t dislocate her goddamn wrist. Sasha did after she THREW her drink in my face. You’re fucking lucky Sasha was around instead of Blade. He’d have killed her for that. As for my... what did you call it? Teenage fit of jealousy? Is that what he said, Molly?”

Molly sighed, “He said something like that, yes.” I smiled, “Well dramatic teenage exit coming up, dear husband. Next time you should ask me what happened before believing the bitchy, wannabe, man stealing attempted murderer. Come on Molly and Jessica. We are popping to a bar where Molly is going to drink, since I fucking

can't. We are going to talk about what an ASSHOLE my mate is being. Miley says girlfriends do that kind of thing." Eric growled, "Don't you D..." I popped us out before he could finish his sentence.

I took us to an alley next to a hole in the wall bar I'd seen when we drove into town. Thankfully, no one was in said alleyway when we popped in. I pushed my bonds down. I collapsed clutching my chest. I hissed, "Stupid fairy side. Get over it!" I gasped for breath. Molly leaned down, "Haley, what's wrong?" I managed to gasp out, "Fairy side. I'm too damn far from Eric. Give me a second." I forced my Hackura side up because that side of me was pissed the fuck off. The pain lingered but it died down enough so I could stand.

Eric linked me, "Get. Back. here." I hissed back, "Are you going to be less of an ass?" He growled, "Haley, come back now!" I linked back, "Sorry Haley is unavailable. Please leave a message after the tone. BEEP!" He growled but stopped linking me. We walked into the bar and snagged a booth closest to us. I kept rubbing my chest.

Jessica asked, "Should we go back?" I snorted, "No. If I'm going to be accused of being a hormonal, pregnant teenager then I'm going to at least act like one." Molly sighed. Our waitress came over. I quickly ordered two sprites and two strawberry martinis. The waitress walked away. Jessica said, "It's just something about Claudia that makes Eric lose sense. It's always been something about her. It's not that he's in love with her or anything. He never was he just could never see reason about her. All his brothers hate her. Cassandra LOATHES her. She and Nathan fought about her because Nathan says she's a nice girl."

Molly cut in, "We told him you didn't threaten to kill her." I laughed, "Oh, but I fucking did. After she said she would have Eric back in her bed; I reminded her of the penalty for sleeping with a royal Hackura's mate not on an off period is death. I just didn't threaten her for her past with Eric." Both of their mouths dropped. Molly sputtered, "Umm... Eric would never sleep with her again." I nodded, "I agree with you. I don't think he would." I rubbed my chest again.

Our waitress came back with our drinks. Molly took her drinks. She took a few sips then asked, "Then other than being too far from Eric... What happened that has you so upset? What did Claudia say?" I sighed, "She just said things that I'm already scared might happen. She's a wolf, and I'm not. She said that Eric needs a wolf by his side, and he will realize that. She said that he will cast me aside. It worries me that he will resent me one day for not being a wolf. Especially if our children can't shift."

Jessica reached over and grabbed my hand. She spoke confidently, “That doesn’t matter to him Haley.” I sighed, “Not right now it doesn’t. Like I said, Claudia played on fears and inadequacies that I already have. We already hated each other. That I’m with Eric grates her ass. I’m sure she knows about my damn insecurities surrounding men. She used it.” Molly admitted, “It was obvious that you two hate each other. I thought she was going to wet her pants when you told her to call him Prince Alpha Eric.” Jessica asked, “Why don’t you like her?” I sighed, “I maintain she tried to kill my sister-in-law. I mean, ok technically speaking Torvi isn’t my sister-in-law according to these realms views. Marcus hasn’t married her yet, but I consider them all to be my sisters in law.”

I took a sip of my drink and explained, “Claudia was with Marcus on one of his off periods three years ago from Torvi. He tried to have a child with her. It didn’t work, thank god. He and Torvi decided to be back on in their relationship. He took Torvi on a date to a restaurant here in this realm. Somefuckinghow, Claudia knew what restaurant they were going to be at. She poisoned Torvi’s food. When Torvi got sick and ran to the restroom Claudia came out to speak with Marcus. She was flirting and saying shit like ‘Oh what a coincidence to run into you.’ Torvi texted me she needed my help. I popped to her and immediately took her home. I healed her the second we got back. I maintain that if I had not healed her, she would’ve died. Most of the men in my life decided to believe Claudia was just trying to make Torvi sick. As if that’s an ofuckingk thing to do. Claudia’s father is paying a huge fine to mine, and having his people clean up after us in this realm. God! I am so sick of men falling for her shit!”

Molly and Jessica were staring at me. I added, “Great. Just fucking great. It’s probably going to take her trying to kill me to get Eric to wake the fuck up. Oh, but lord help me there had better be witnesses to see her with a weapon in her hand or he won’t believe me.” I started to cry and muttered, “Damn hormones.”

Molly and Jessica grabbed my hands. Jessica said, “It’s ok Haley. Harold said Eric has calmed down. He’s worried about you.” I snorted, “Let him worry then.” Molly frowned, “You’re hurting, Haley.” I smiled sadly, “I’d rather have this pain than the pain of knowing he doesn’t believe in me. That all it took was some tears for him to completely lose faith in me and say hurtful things because of her crazy fucking ass.” I looked at my phone and saw a text from Miley

Miley: Bitch, why did Jim just get a link from Eric asking if I knew where you were? WTF

Me: Claudia fucking happened.

Miley: I WILL KILL HER!

Me: Get in line, bitch.

Miley: What did she do?

Me: What she does. She lied. Eric did what men all do with her and believed her.

Miley: UGH THAT WOMAN!

My phone beeped. I looked down expecting to see Miley's name, but instead saw Marcus.'

Marcus: What is going on?

Me: Whatever do you mean, big brother?

I linked Eric, "If you called my brother." Eric growled, "I needed answers, and you popped away." Oh, that ASS. My phone beeped again.

Marcus: You ran, you promised not to.

Me: I promised to try not to run and to talk to him first. I did both those things AND I took Molly and

Jessica with me when I popped. I did NOT run. You said I could pop away if he was unreasonable.

Marcus: What happened?

Me: Ask him. Apparently, it's take everyone's side without asking Haley hers day.

Marcus: Hales

I put my phone down and didn't answer him. My chest was pounding with pain. I texted Miley.

Me: Can I pop us to your room? Or will Jim tell Eric we are there?

Miley: Jim isn't here

I threw money on the table. I announced, "We are popping to Miley." Molly downed her drinks. Then we walked out and into the alley so I could pop us out. When we got there Miley smiled initially then frowned looking at me. She asked, "Other than Claudia is a bitch, what's wrong?" I rubbed my chest, "My stupid fairy side needs Eric. Since he's being as ass it's a fucking problem." Miley looked worriedly at Molly and Jessica who shrugged. Miley asked, "Well, how long can

you hold out?” The pain was lessening. I told them, “It’s better because I’m in the same place he is.”

My phone blinked and this time it was Bjourn, I yelled, “OH THAT TATTLETALE! Seriously is he going to call ALL my brothers?! I opened my phone and read the message.

Bjourn: I heard. I’m here if you want to talk.

Me: No one is even asking me what happened. It’s just my fault because that fucking psycho bitch lied

Bjourn: What happened then?

Me: She cornered me in the bathroom. She flipped shit that I was pregnant, turned vicious saying

Eric would eventually resent me for not being a wolf. She said he will cast me aside and she would

have him wrapped around her finger and back in his bed.

Bjourn: Did you threaten to kill her?

Me: OF COURSE, I DID. She said she was going to sleep with my mate and husband. I reminded her

of the penalty of sleeping with a royal Hackura mate on a non-off period, which is death. So,

technically yes, I did threaten to kill her. Or Sasha did.

Bjourn: LOL I love you so much little sister. That is so you. You didn’t actually threaten to kill her

then. You simply told her what could happen as a result of her actions.

Me: :P fabulous now go tell my tattle tailing mate how much I HATE tattling. You could throw in that

he’s the fucking wrong one here. Until he would like to admit that my and I quote “Teenage hormonal

jealousy fit” continues!

Bjourn: He did not say that.

Me: HE FUCKING DID

Bjourn: LOL I'm so coming back to your realm once you guys are home. This shit is better than cable.

Me: I live to amuse you, big brother.

Bjourn: :) love you

Me: Love you too

I threw my head back and thought. Eventually I said, "Ok, Molly, Jessica, I love you both, but you need to leave. I have to come up with a plan and your mates could ask you about them. Then you'd tell them, and they'd tell their dickhead brother." Molly frowned, "Miley's mate would do the same."

Miley smirked. He would, but we had a trick up our sleeve. I smiled, "Well since there are witnesses. Miley as your Princess, I command you not to tell Jim, or anyone else, what we are about to discuss." Miley nodded, "I happily accept your command. Douchebags are not welcome here." Molly and Jessica left.

I concentrated for several minutes. Focusing was so hard. Damn SIMS! I sighed, "I can mute and confuse our bond so he can't find me, but I need to be near him. I can't fucking hide in your room because he will come look for me." Miley smiled deviously, "The room under yours is unoccupied and paid for. I heard Jim say Eric always does that for the summit." I smiled, "That's fucking perfect. He wouldn't think we know that." I grabbed her hand and popped to the room below Eric's. It was a replica of our suite. Miley snorted, "I would've thought he would've been pissed and yelling while throwing shit." I smiled, "I charmed his suite to be soundproofed."

Miley nodded then asked, "Are you ok?" I shrugged, "I will be. I know he loves me. I also know men lose all common sense because of that woman. Is it too much to ask that he simply ask me what happened before flying off the handle? I can't lie. A simple goddamn question would've solved this. I'm his mate. Why doesn't anyone believe me when it comes to her, Miles? She can lie and I cannot." Miley rubbed my back, "It's not too much to ask. He's just being a guy. Are you going to stay here all night?" I nodded, "I'll wait until he's asleep then I'll pop beside him for a while. I'll come back here before he wakes up. Then I'll meet everyone in the conference hall. I'm a professional at acting like nothing is wrong. I will be a good Luna and put our best face forward here." Miley nodded. Her eyes glazed over.

She sighed, “The girls made it back, and now I’m being summoned.” I squeezed her hand offering, “Text if you need me.” She saluted and left.

I curled myself into a ball wanting to un-charm Eric’s room so I could hear him. I just didn’t want everyone else to hear him too. Marcus called me repeatedly and I ignored him. Which hurt. Miley texted that Eric was rip roaring mad but accepted that she couldn’t tell him anything. Eric linked me, “Where are you?” I sighed, “Why don’t you ask Claudia? I’m sure she’s got a lie ready to go. She’ll probably even spoon feed it to you.” He growled, “Come back, please.” I rolled my eyes, “I see you finally found your manners. I don’t want to be around you right now Eric.” His hurt flooded through the bond. He sounded anguished when he replied, “Haley... I should’ve asked.” I answered, “You should’ve. After the incident in our home with Alpha Oliver, you promised you would. A fucking ex-girlfriend shows up and cries to you and you forget all about that. She manipulated you, and you let her Eric. I’m only answering you right now because I promised I would always answer your links. I keep my promises.” His hurt was overwhelming, but there was a touch of shame there too. His pride stopped him from responding though.

My phone rang. I sighed answering, “Hello Logan.” Logan asked, “So... you’ll take my calls?” I snorted, “Why wouldn’t I take your damn call, brother?” Logan answered, “I hear via a group texting chat that you aren’t taking certain people’s calls. I’m on a mission at the moment or I’d come talk to you in person.” I sighed, “I’m not talking to people who won’t listen to my goddamn side of shit. ESPECIALLY about that vapid bitch!” Logan laughed, “Which vapid bitch would that be, little sister?” I snorted, “Claudia. Marcus didn’t include THAT in the group chat, huh?” Logan sighed, “No. No he did not. Alrighty then. I see the problem. Are you ok?” I whispered, “No.” Logan said, “I can come to you.” I sighed, “It’s fine. Do your mission. I’ve got this.” Logan responded, “I love you, little sister.” I smiled, “I love you too, big brother. I love all of you, even when some of you are pains in the ass. Make sure to tell the group chat what’s going on so I don’t get all of you calling.” Logan laughed and we hung up.

I monitored my bond with Eric. When I knew he was asleep I popped beside him. I studied him. He was beautiful. I wanted to touch him, but he would wake up. Even though he was asleep he looked sad. I simply laid beside him until five in the morning. My eyes refusing to close and sleep. I gave up and popped directly below him. I let my tears go. After a few moments, I gathered myself and showered. I snapped on another dress and put my war face on. My brothers’ mates said you always had to have your war face on. It was just makeup, but they seemed to swear by it. I did a smokey eye then decided I wanted a different dress. I snapped into a short, emerald, green formal dress.

I waited, monitoring where Eric was. The second he was in the elevator I popped myself right outside the convention center doors. I walked inside when someone

asked where I was. I greeted them smiling, "I'm so sorry. I took my time getting ready this morning." They smiled at me. He looked back at Eric. I could feel in our connection he was stunned by my arrival. Like myself though, he showed nothing.

The man shook Eric's hand and exclaimed, "We are so happy for you Alpha Eric, finding your mate after all this time. We heard she's pregnant." His wife laughed, "We... this is the royal we he refers to. I heard." I smiled as Eric confirmed, "Yes, she is. With triplets." The man smiled and his mate grinned broadly as well.

She spoke to me, "I'm so happy for you both. Pups are a fabulous blessing. Princess Haley, I would like to have a word with you." I nodded, "Of course." Eric grabbed my arm and pulled me back to him. I looked up at him, surprised. His eyes briefly showed panic before he shut it down. He kissed me hard. The man laughed, "Oh now, let her go. Let the womenfolk talk." I could tell he forced himself to let me go.

I went off to talk to this other Luna. We'd walked a few feet away when Eric felt a jolt of lust. I looked out of the side of my eye smiling noticing he was looking at me. Then I heard grumbles around the room. I turned in time to see Claudia had joined the rest of us. I barely withheld an eye roll. The Luna I was speaking to snorted, "Land sakes alive. She looks like a trollop! What is she wearing?" I smiled, "A club dress." She was. It was a form fitted black dress. It had a v slit in the front to show off her boobs. She did look good. Damn her. The other Luna scoffed, "She looks like the whore she is." I raised my eyebrows in confusion. Was she supposed to say that?

The other Luna smiled, "None of the women like her, my dear. You should be weary of her, though, she was deeply infatuated with your mate. I'd say love, but I don't think she knows what the word means." I sighed and felt pain shoot throughout my whole body. I still showed nothing but looked over towards Eric. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw her kiss Eric's cheek and grab onto his arm laughing at something.

I gritted my teeth, "I figured as much. She tried for my brother once too." Claudia's hand was still on Eric's arm. The pain was becoming unbearable. I had no idea why that was causing me pain though. The other Luna took my hand and led me outside. She looked around making sure we were alone. She sighed, "Men, honestly. They don't see her for what she is. You are good at hiding pain, aren't you? I know you must in some, but I see nothing on your face. How odd for a fairy." I looked at her in surprise. She smiled, "I was in a similar situation when I was pregnant with my mate's first pup. I was from a different pack than his and there was a girl who everyone thought would be his mate. They were quite close. Every single time she touched him I was dying from pain, even though the touching was innocent. I hid it from my mate until his Beta found me curled in the fetal position in the bathroom because she'd given my mate a hug. It's the pups

amplifying the pain of their father being touched by a woman who isn't you. Or related to him." I smiled, "Are you fucking serious? That's... horrible." She nodded, "Isn't it though?"

We'd stopped walking. She was just behind a pillar out of sight of anyone coming from my left. A voice called, "Well, look at this, the lovely princess all alone." I was about to answer him when he grabbed my arm. My skin started to crawl. I hissed, "Let go of me." He smiled, "I don't think so. I want a taste of the princess." Before I could react, he licked my face. I almost threw up on him. I grabbed his arm and twisted it, ripping it off me and followed through with a knee to the balls. I was breathing heavily, trying desperately to not have a panic attack. Not here. Not now. Eric and our pack needed me to keep it together.

The wolf who'd accosted me was howling in pain. So of course, that's how Eric, the other Alpha he'd been speaking to, Claudia, Eric's brothers, and their mates found us. Fucking perfect. Just what my damn day needed. Focus... keep breathing. NO PANIC ATTACKS!

Eric growled, "WHAT is going on here?" Claudia screamed and ran to the man on the ground. She glared at me shrieking, "Asher! Asher, are you alright?" He was still gasping for breath. I saw Lucas come around the corner. OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE! Was everyone here?

Claudia hissed at me, "What did you do to him?" I replied in a steady voice, moderately impressing myself since I felt anything but steady, "I defended myself against the unwanted actions of grabby mcfuckinggrab hands down there." Eric roared, "WHAT? YOU TOUCHED MY MATE, ASHER?" Eric was so pissed he missed my quirked eyebrow, but Jackson didn't. Seriously? Irony thy name is Eric, or is it hypocrisy? I couldn't decide.

Claudia screamed, "She's lying, Eric! Asher would never!" I scoffed, "I can't lie. I'm a partial fairy." She paled. Yet another man ran around the corner taking in the situation. Eric grabbed grabby mcgrabhands by the throat. He roared, "YOU DARE TOUCH MY MATE?" Asher was coughing. The new man who'd joined spoke, "Alpha Eric, we should hear his side." Eric growled, "Alpha Harden, your son grabbed my mate." I rolled my eyes. Of course, he's her brother and that's her father. The whole DAMN family sucked ass.

Claudia put her hands on Eric's back. Pain gripped me but I shoved it down. Claudia whispered, "Please Eric, let him explain." Eric dropped him, but her hand remained. Pain laced through me the longer she kept it there. Eric cut a glance at me as I couldn't keep it from the bond. My heart hurt too. Eric had listened to her. He was still doing nothing to stop her from touching him. Which she still was!

Asher coughed for several minutes then spoke, "Look, she pinned me against this pillar and said she wanted me. We were about to kiss when she must have heard you coming and attacked me." I had never been so offended in my entire life. I shouted, "Oh for god's sake! Did no one with the last name Harden hear me say I can't lie? Also, grabby mcgrabhands, YOU are the one with superior hearing, not me. I have kissed ONE man in my entire life. The thought of kissing you actually makes me want to vomit. Besides, I'm not alone." Claudia snorted, "Your guard is hardly a witness. You are their Princess; they cannot speak against you. Besides why would they let anyone lay hands on you?" I felt Eric feel that her words made sense. Really?

This time I sent him my pain, hurt, and anger. He staggered a step and that fucking bitch reached to steady him. If she kept touching him it might kill me. Claudia was full of fake concern when she asked Eric, "Are you alright, Eric? It must be hard to know this is who your mate is. I hope you don't wonder if the pups are yours." I hissed, "Look here bitch, you can take your fake ass concern and SHOVE IT UP YOUR ASS! GET your hands OFF my mate BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR MOTHER FUCKING HANDS! Insult me one more time... JUST ONE and I'll call my father and have you brought up on charges so fast your head spins. My guard lets me handle assholes. They appear IF I need them. Also, I was not referring to my guard when I said I wasn't alone."

The other Luna stepped out from behind the pillar. Both Harden children sucked in a breath. I looked around. Did anyone need a bigger sign they were liars? The other Luna sighed, "Hello Claudia and Asher. Your father should be ashamed of you, Asher. You grabbed the princess forcefully. You said you wanted her body; you even licked her face after she told you to let her go."

Eric roared in anger. Sure. Now he was on my damn side. Ass. I sighed. He did have such a beautiful ass. STOP IT HALEY. We are MAD. Bad fairy side... we are mad. Get with the damn program.

Alpha Harden cleared his throat, "Alpha Eric, I apologize for my son. I can send Claudia to do chores at your home for two weeks as recompense." I might actually murder someone if he said yes. Claudia put her hands on Eric's chest again and said, "She's a fairy. She has an allure. Asher, couldn't help himself."

I laughed then threw her away from Eric by calling the wind. Everyone stared at me. I snorted, "What? Two minutes ago, she called me a whore and a liar. Now, it's proven her brother is the liar and it's still my fault because I'm a fairy. Which she conveniently forgot when she called me a liar, but hey what do I know? I warned you, Claudia. Stop touching my mate. I WON'T say it again. Next time, you lose a fucking hand. Got it?" I turned on my heel and stormed off without waiting for a reply.

People smiled at me as I walked past them. Several women were raising their glasses to me. I made it to the elevators and slammed my hand on the button to call it. Lucas appeared by my side. He smiled, "Hello Princess." I gritting my teeth answering, "Hello, my lion." He asked, "Where are you headed?" I sighed, "Away? I don't really know. He agreed, didn't he?" Lucas frowned then sighed, "To the restitution? After he broke Asher's arm, yes, he did agree. I don't think he actually was listening if that helps. Caleb usually deals with those things. Alpha's get single minded when their mates are involved. Particularly when their mate walks off." The elevator doors opened then closed.

I screamed, "MOTHER FUCKER! He's letting that woman into our home without even fucking asking me?! Oh, that's it! It's time to fight fire with fire." Lucas looked nervous when he asked, "What does that mean?" I ignored him. I was trying to think of a plan. I didn't have an ex to throw in his face. Astrid or Torvi could help me if I asked them though. I got off on Eric's floor. Much to my annoyance Lucas followed me.

I whirled around, "Why exactly are you following me?" He admitted, "Eric wants to know where you are." I hissed, "Then Eric can tear his ass away from Claudia and find out for his damn self. His concern for his pregnant mate is truly overwhelming, staggering even. I'm astounded by his care for me. I'm sorry Lucas, but I need to take a shower. My skin is crawling. I really..." I trailed off and started to cry, "I really hate being touched by other people." Lucas was baffled, "You're... you're so touchy feeling with Eric though." I sobbed, "He's my mate. Other than my family I can't bear to be touched really unless it's my choice. Not even then sometimes though. Oh god... I have to go. I'm going to be sick."

I popped as he was trying to ask me not to. I popped to the suite below Eric's, running to the bathroom where I was violently ill. I felt Eric's concern in our bond because I knew he could feel this. If he didn't throw up too it would be a miracle. Hopefully, he wasn't on the main floor anymore. No... I take that back. Hopefully, he was. I hope he threw up right into Claudzilla's cleavage. It was her new name, and I wouldn't hear of anyone calling her anything else.

Miley came storming into the room. She grabbed my hair and pulled it back. She was on her phone, "No, you all stay put. I've got her. We are handling this." She hung up and told me, "The whole family is ready to storm the summit. Don't worry though, bitch. I've got your back." When I stopped throwing up, she whispered, "Haley, you need him. You don't have to talk to him. Just sit by him. I know this is because that creep touched you. I'm so sorry I wasn't there. I'll go talk to Eric and tell him the terms of seeing you. You need to settle yourself. Unfortunately, to do that you need him right now." I nodded, resigned. She stormed back out of the room.

I turned the shower to scalding hot, desperately needing to feel clean. I just kept scrubbing my skin trying to achieve feeling normal. I felt like there were bugs crawling over me. Miley came back in. She gasped and ran into the bathroom. She turned the water off and pulled me out of the shower. She whispered, "Oh Haley." She dried me off as I sat there like a rag doll. I whispered, "I feel like nothing again, Miley. I froze. He licked me, like a psycho." Miley hugged me and whispered back, "You were never nothing. You are Haley Cambridge Connors." We were both in tears by the time she said, "Fuck it. Just pop us upstairs after you snap clothes on." I snapped and popped us upstairs.

A collective gasp at our appearance sounded. Eric growled, "WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED TO HER?" Miley hissed, "I told you no talking!" Eric growled, "You said no talking to her. I asked you." Miley sighed, "If you must know, Haley hates people she doesn't know, or men in general touching her. I am pretty sure you saw the panic on your wedding day when I had to take the massage on her behalf. Now, you are seeing what happens physically. She loses it, rubbing her skin raw because she feels dirty. That is why everyone gapes at you for how touchy feeling she is with you. Because this..." She pointed at me and continued, "Is what we've seen happen when men touch her. That and what you felt earlier was her being violently ill. She will be ok in a few hours. I'll be back to get her ready for the afternoon sessions. Where we will all go continue on as if everything is fine, and pretend our Alpha isn't an inconsiderate ass with wool blinders on."

She left in a rage, with Jim following behind her. Eric cautiously walked over to me and scooped me up. I instantly felt better. Stupid mate bond. Stupid fairy side. He took us to what was supposed to be our room. He laid us on the bed and pulled me into him so we were cuddling. After several moments he cleared his throat. I turned to face him noticing his eyes were black. I smiled sadly, "Hi Thor." He smiled, "So, you will talk to me, but not Eric." I smiled, "You didn't do anything. I'm mad at him, not you." He nodded, "Well, we have a few things to talk about, little mate." I sighed but nodded. Yes, we did.