

## The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 56

I managed to fall asleep in the early hours of the morning but it felt as if I'd just closed my eyes when loud knocking sounded on the door. It took a minute of the knocking intruding into my dreams for me to get the memo to move. Celeste got the door before I fully woke.

When I got out of my room, I came face to face with a grave looking Jabari. The memories I tucked away to sleep came flooding back into my consciousness when I saw him look at me like that.

“What happened to him?” I asked, swallowing down the lump blocking my throat.

“We received a call.” He paused and I wished he would spit out the words faster. The anxiety was choking me. “We – The Alpha pack, I mean. We are moving.” The look on his face was the same one doctors wore to deliver terrible information about their patient.

“So he isn't coming back?” Celeste demanded, crossing her arms.

“It doesn't seem like it.” He glanced over at me before looking away. “Usually he sets up an administrative before leaving but it looks as if he is abandoning Redville.”

Without an Alpha, our pack would really suffer. It would leave us vulnerable to rogue attacks and another Alpha could come in and lay claim to our land.

He was punishing Redville because of me.

“He’s leaving us to be ripped apart?” Celeste’s hands dropped to her waist as she assumed a threatening stance. “You better tell that man child that –“

“Celeste.” Jabari’s voice dropped low, his eyes fixed on her, the caution in his words apparent as he gave her a stern glare. “You do not speak of the Prince like that.” His words were harsh, the force behind them making my friend step back.

“So I’m not even given a chance to explain myself?” I laughed like a freaking maniac. “He doesn’t trust me so it doesn’t occur to him – he doesn’t even give me the benefit of the doubt. He just leaves me and my pack to the rogues?”

“If you could explain it to me, maybe I can make him understand.” I knew Jabari was trying his best to be helpful in this situation. Yet it felt surreal that I’d been dumped without given a chance by none other than the one person who was supposed to be by my side for life.

“I’ve been hurt, blackmailed, threatened but none of it hurts more than him not trusting me.”

“Valens is –“ I knew what to expect. I knew what was to come.

Valens had been betrayed one too many times. Valens had lost his parents to people he called uncle. Valens could not trust but he would believe an outsider over his own mate.

“Are you leaving now? Have you come to say goodbye?” I crossed my arms.

“No.” His eyes darted to Celeste who stood to the side glaring at him. “I can’t leave.”

“Why can’t you? It’s not as if you’ve given me an oath to serve me. You still serve Valens, don’t you?”

“Yes, but you are my Luna. If anything happened to you, I could lose my life. He charged me to protect you at all times so I must fulfill my duty.”

“But where were you when I was drugged and molested? I had no mate then and I certainly had no Beta!”

“What?” He seemed taken aback. “Who dared –“

“It doesn’t –“ The ground underneath me seemed to flip for a second and I felt airborne.

“Careful –“ Hands gripped my waist as my friend held me.

I felt lightheaded as if the ground underneath me was no longer stable. My vision seemed to dim for a second before it sharpened back.

“Has she had breakfast?” The question was directed at Celeste who gave a sharp answer.

“It’s barely six o’clock. You woke us. She threw up her dinner last night so she may be hungry.” She was trying to make me seat when the ground underneath me flipped again and my stomach turned.

I pushed her off me and dashed to the bathroom to unload the remnants of what didn't make it out of my stomach last night.

"We need to get you to a doctor. I think there may still be remnants of wolf's bane in your system and you're reacting to it," Celeste said as she patted my back with my head on her thighs, two of us sitting on the bathroom floor yet again.

She waited with clothes for me while I took a bath and brushed my teeth. I sat as she brushed my hair and put it into a ponytail. I objected when she tried to tie my shoes. I was heartbroken, not invalid.

Jabari waited for me outside the suite and like bodyguards, him and Celeste walked on either side of me, escorting me to the dining room. I passed a few people and they stopped to openly stare. I knew in a few seconds that this had escalated past Valens and I. People already knew. They pointed. They whispered. Some laughed.

Octavia and Claudia brought in my breakfast and I didn't miss the gloating smile on Claudia's face as she sashayed into the empty dining room. Jabari and Celeste were stood to one side, discussing something in hushed voices. They were talking about me.

"Not so mighty without an alpha beside you, eh?" Claudia muttered under her breath as she set a plate in front of me.

"What did you say?" I asked, my hands shivering against my thighs.

“Oh nothing.” She straightened with a false smile painting her lips. “I just saw something really funny today.” Her smile was disgustingly sweet.

“Are you okay, Luna?” Octavia asked in a small voice from across the table.

“Haven’t you heard? We don’t have a Luna anymore,” Claudia piped up, interrupting her.

“Claudia, you’re not very bright are you?” I clenched my fists to stop them from quivering. “I am still mated to Valens. He is still your Alpha and I am still your Luna whether or not you make snide, unnecessary comments.” She snickered at my words before sauntering off. She may have added an extra sway to her hips as Jabari looked over.

“She’s just jealous she’d never make it as big as you in life,” Octavia said when Claudia was out of sight. “I’m sure your quarrel with the Alpha will be resolved soon,” she added in a final bid to cheer me up.

“How do you know about that?” I asked her, picking at my food. Jabari and Celeste were back to muttering and it seemed things were getting a bit heated between the two of them.

“Oh, some gossip blog carried it. It’s all over social media.” She looked at me with pity and I hated that look almost as much as I hated the tight spot I’d been shoved into.

“And I’m a part of the Alpha Pack now so – uh I heard the Alpha call us on a new ‘adventure’,” she made air quotes around the word adventure.

“Are you leaving then?” I asked. My tastebuds did not register any taste from the food I was forcing myself to eat to save myself the hassle of making eye contact with Octavia.

“Of course not!” The girl exclaimed. “I like this place and I’m sure the Alpha will return soon. There is no need to stress myself packing my things only to unpacking them again.”

Six men entered the dining room before I could answer Octavia. From their build alone, one could tell they were from the Alpha Pack.

“Clover found him,” the man leading the men said to Jabari, paying the rest of us no mind.

Clover. Of course she would be the first person to find him. I wished she would find her mate and leave mine for me.

“You are all set?” The man nodded at Jabari’s question. “Godspeed.” They received his wishes with nods and thanks.

“You are not coming with us?” The lead asked.

“I have a Luna to protect.”

Jabari's words were not completely out of his mouth when we heard commotion at the door to the dining. Bile rose in my throat and I pushed the tray of food away from me.

"I want to see her, darn it! I have a right to see her." I swallowed down a lump as I stood from my seat.

I looked around me like someone trapped. I felt trapped. Trapped in this dining room which Lucien could enter at will.

"Aysel?" Someone called me. Celeste.

"I don't want to see him." I looked at the door right as Lucien barged in.

"Is he –" Jabari looked from me to Lucien.

"You heard her!" Celeste exclaimed. "She doesn't want to see him!" The men from the Alpha Pack blocked Lucien's path to me.

"What the hell is this? I can't see my friend?" Lucien was yelling, struggling to get through the men.

"I really don't want to see him," I repeated.

"Escort him to the dungeons." One command from Jabari and the men swung into action, bundling a yelling Lucien away from me.

I didn't know I was crying until Octavia hugged me, squeezing my tightly.

## The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 57

Are we still doing this?' Zino asked for the tenth time that morning.

'Yes, we are still doing this,' I snarled at the mutt.

'She is our mate. We have to forgive her,' he piped up but I ignored him. Now more than ever, I wanted to silence the voice in my head.

The voice in my head had been my companion since I was a child, had grown and developed with me until my body had the capacity to let it out. Zino and I were best friends and more than best friends, we were one; two parts of a whole.

'Are you listening to yourself? She cheated on us.' My wolf went silent at that.

Betrayal was not an easy thing to get over and for a man like me, it was downright unforgivable. With the shitty hand I'd been dealt once again, I wanted to curse the goddess. I had so many questions and only she could give me answers but for over a century, she chose to be silent about the betrayal and bad luck I encountered at every turn in my life.

I'd prayed and waited for a mate for over a century. Not only did it take her an unnecessarily long time to heed my prayers, but she also gave me a mate that was still attached to her ex.



‘What if she didn’t cheat?’ Zino asked in an uncharacteristically subdued voice.

‘Is this a joke?’ He must be joking.

We’d seen the pictures and although I broke my phone in anger after I saw them, one glance was enough to burn them into my memory for a lifetime. Pictures of my mate looking high on pleasure in the arms of a man that wasn’t me.

‘Zino do you remember how you reacted when we saw those pictures?’ He’d been murderous.

Rage like I had never known swept through me from head to toe. It took a second for me to revert back into a being of legend, the man I was at the initial stage of my curse; unable to control my thirst for blood and the need to punish any and everyone that dared cross my path.

I saw those pictures and I saw red. The red of blood. If I didn’t have the self control to restrain my wolf and get out of Redville, if I had given into my primal instincts to destroy everything that had a link to my latest betrayal, Redville would have fallen. They would have fallen in their numbers. In thousands.

‘I am an instinctual being but thankfully you have better sense than me.’ My wolf sighed and I felt his restlessness. ‘Those pictures do not add up. She hates Lucien,’ he argued.

I had no substantial proof that she hated Lucien. In fact, all the evidence I had pointed to the negative. She’d been

caught kissing him and I personally walked in on him confessing his love to her without her protesting. The icing on the cake had to be her sudden need to postpone our mating ceremony.

‘She has scars that he inflicted on her and I’m not even talking about the scars on her back,’ he reminded me. ‘If you were in her shoes, would you choose someone who rejected and hurt you over an Alpha Prince?’

She hardly spoke of her scars and I never bothered her. I too would rather not discuss mine. She’d been bullied severely after her parents death and the scars on her back, she told me, were mostly the doings of the past Alpha who hated her for reasons unknown.

‘How do I explain the pictures? Like I said, pictures do not lie!’ My teeth gnashed, my nails dug into my palms and drew blood. The metallic scent permeated the whole room and a bit of blood dripped to the rug underneath me.

‘Only she can explain the pictures.’

The phone beside me started to ring. I knew no one else in this world could have gotten my number as fast as Jabari.

“Where are you?” I demanded once I picked up the phone. “I am waiting right at the borders of Red Moon’s pack and you haven’t drawn up a battle strategy yet.”

“Hello to you too.” His voice was low. “What the fvck are you doing?” I pulled the phone away from my ear to make sure I was connected to my Beta and not some vulgar impostor.

“Jabari –“ I paused when I heard someone knocking on my door.

The hotel service here wasn't the best but I made sure none of their employees would dare disclose my identity to the world, not if they didn't want me to slit their throats. I told them I didn't need any room service so who the hell was at my door? I took a deep breath and scented Clover.

“Hey, Val. It's me.” She knocked again.

“Is that Clover in your room?” Jabari hissed at me from the phone while I walked over to open the door for Clover.

“Yes. When are you coming?” I asked.

It was strange to be asking my Beta when he would be joining me as we always travelled and conquered together. When I took down my first rogue at fourteen, Jabari had been by my side. Our parents used to joke that he was my shadow because he took his duties seriously.

“I am not coming,” he hissed into the phone. He had been doing a lot of hissing on this call which was unlike him. He never stepped a foot out of line, never insulted me and certainly never hissed at me even if he was my best friend and I would easily let all these slide if they happened.

“I am giving you three hours to settle your business there and get on the road.”

“Valens you left Redville without an Alpha. I know you hate these folks but your mate is here!” I pulled the phone from my ear at the sudden exclamation.

“Don’t raise your voice at me.” I was wrong. I would never let disrespect slide.

“I have served you faithfully all my life.” His tone was resigned when he spoke after ten seconds of silence. “I have conquered alongside you. You are my Alpha, my best friend and brother but my duties to you have ended. I have found a Luna and her protection is the only thing I live for now.”

“You cannot be serious.” Clover was rummaging through a drawer so I figured the noise may have distorted Jabari’s words.

“You told me to protect her with my life and that is what I plan to do. You left her and her pack without an Alpha,” he reminded me.

“I am not a fool. Alpha Xavier will return soon to reclaim his pack. He never travelled far after I banished him.”

“And you are okay with that? You told me he hated her before. What do you think he would do to her when he returns?”

I would admit I never factored that in but I hadn’t taken much into consideration when I left Redville.

“What do you want me to do?” My bloody hands pushed into my hair despite how I tried to keep them out. “She cheated on me.”

“I have Lucien Strauss in custody. The former Alpha’s children are missing but I have assigned trackers to find them. None of you will tell me what happened but she mentioned pictures and being molested.”

“What the fvck do you mean by molested?” My hand dropped from my hair. Zino snarled and I saw a familiar red taint my vision.

“That’s something you should discuss with your mate because I don’t know. She told Celeste but the girl wouldn’t disclose any information to me no matter how much I threaten her.”

“Threaten her. Torture her! Someone needs to speak, darn it!”

“No, I won’t do that!” He exclaimed yet again. “Get yourself on the next flight here. Run. Do anything. I don’t care but get back here. She’s seriously sick. The doctor says it’s possible she may be having an allergic reaction to wolf’s bane but his prescriptions aren’t working. We can’t get a second opinion until tomorrow.”

“Put her on the phone,” I demanded.

“She’s asleep –“ The phone was wrenched away from my hand before Jabari completed his sentence.

“What are you doing? You can’t seriously be thinking of forgiving someone who betrayed you in the worst way possible!” Clover tucked my phone into her top. My anger turned to bewilderment at such an act.

“Did you just put my phone in your bra?” Even Zino was too stunned to speak.

“I’m sorry.” She didn’t look sorry. “You are my Alpha and it’s your duty to protect me and not the other way round but you are also my friend and someone needs to protect you.” What in the goddess’ name did she think she could protect me from when I could snap her neck faster than she could blink!?

“You may be protective of her because she broke your curse but if your curse is broken and you cut ties with her, then there is every possibility that you can get a second chance mate.” She paused and took in a deep breath for a long winded speech that I had to interrupt.

The Clover standing before me was not the same one I remembered from my years as an ordinary prince and my early years of conquering.

“The pictures you sent to me –“ I cut off her speech. “How did you get those pictures?”

## **The Cursed Alpha’s Mate Chapter 58**

I asked Jabari to add Skylar and Bethel to Lucien’s cell but it turned out no one had seen them all day. I fiddled with the

heart-shaped pendant on my throat as a feeling of being overwhelmed washed over me.

Celeste had to report back to work for a few hours and Jabari assured me that he would secure the pack until Valens' return. He seemed to have a lot of faith that Valens would return soon. So much that I kept looking out the window expecting to see my mate. That was how assured Jabari made me feel.

I looked at my allergy medication and wondered why it wasn't working. If anything, it just made me feel even more tired.

Octavia brought me lunch and when she tried and failed numerous times to get me involved in a conversation, she finally left with an empty tray. I was hungry today and not as queasy as usual.

"I brought some snacks." Celeste came in holding a bag. Whatever was in her bag smelled delicious and I went at it with fervor. Celeste had a big grin on her face when I was done devouring the snacks like a starved animal.

"I think I'm pregnant." I wiped my mouth as I raised my head from the bag.

"I thought so too so I got tests." She held up another bag which I hadn't noticed when she walked in.

It didn't occur to me since that I may be pregnant. I always had irregular periods. My period had come a week late before and once I'd had a missed period. I no longer had a

period diary but by my rough calculations, it was close to two weeks late now.

Celeste followed me to the bathroom and pulled out three pregnancy tests. She told me how to use them. I half listened to her words and half panicked.

A part of me admitted to wanting the test to come out negative. What did I know about children to be having one of my own? The comment I made about being pregnant wasn't supposed to be anything more than a comment!

“Excuse me for a second.” I looked at the tests while speaking to Celeste. She left without a word and I may have shed a tear as I tore the first pack open.

My hands shook as I took off my underwear and a flurry of mixed feelings plagued me. I used the three sticks and read the instructions on them to pass the time. They had varying instructions on how long I had to wait to determine my fate.

One after the other, I checked the tests and let out a sigh. The first one came out negative while the next two were positive.

I was pregnant.

I wasn't sure how to feel. I didn't think of children any more than I thought of my period. I looked at the sticks again. One of them indicated I wasn't pregnant but the other two begged to differ. Was it possible the other two had malfunctioned and I really wasn't pregnant?



Celeste knocked on the door, jostling me from my state of indecision. Was it a good time to be pregnant? Did I even have any idea about raising kids? Was I ready to raise kids? Valens was desperate for kids and yes, I knew one day in the future we'd have a family. I was certain of it but I didn't think the future would be so soon.

"Can I come in?" Celeste asked, knocking again. I opened the door before she knocked again. "What's the result?" She asked. She wanted to enter the bathroom with me but I stepped out instead.

"I am pregnant." I flopped into a seat and raised a pillow to my face.

"Congratulations?" I chuckled at the uncertainty in her tone but the laughter died a quick death. "How do you feel?" I felt the chair dip beside me as she took a seat and I pulled the throw pillow from my face.

"Truthfully?" I asked and she nodded. "Equal parts excited and terrified." I sat upright, wishing I'd lied instead of telling her the truth.

I was supposed to be excited about pregnancy. Over the moon. Wasn't that the reaction of expecting mothers? I should be thinking of baby names now. I should - I should not be wondering if I knew the correct way of changing a diaper.

"That's to be expected, isn't it?" My friend nudged me.

“It is?” Hope filled my heart. By my reaction, I already felt like an awful person; a bad mother even.

“It’s your first pregnancy and judging by the look on your face, it’s not one you’ve taken time to consider.” She leaned back into the seat and put her hands behind her head.

“It’s not as if I’m surprised. We never used protection and Valens has been dying to have a child. I’m just –“ I just hadn’t really thought of it.

He’d been told he may not have a child but he’d also been told a lot of things by the dozens of oracles and prophets he visited in his desperation to end his curse. I knew we’d have kids but I never took time to consider the fine prints of having kids.

I’d be pregnant for nine months and then I’d be responsible for a whole human. I never had younger ones. No nieces or nephews to babysit. In fact, I’d never been around babies much. What the hell did I even know?

A stray thought entered my head and it almost made me explode with the anxiety that came with it. “What if I’m a bad mother?” My heart pumped with anxiety and horror.

“You won’t be a bad mother if you’re already so concerned about being a bad mother. Cheer up.” She pulled my cheeks.

Valens would be ecstatic, I think. No, no. I didn’t think. I knew. He would be over the moon if he knew he was about to be a father. And I wouldn’t be a bad mum. I laughed at the absurdity of the thought. As if Valens would allow me be

a bad mum to his children. I placed a hand over my stomach.

I didn't feel pregnant but I didn't know what pregnant felt like. Was it pregnancy or was it the food I devoured like an hour ago? Was I full with food or was it love flooding into my heart and tightening my chest?

"Just so we are clear, you are totally naming her Celeste." My friend piped up from beside me. "Congrats, Aysel. I'm super proud of you." She hugged me. "Doctor Clarke will be in by tomorrow so we can get you tested. You'll have to register for antenatal as soon as possible."

Someone knocked on the door with Celeste still hugging me.

"I've got it." She dashed to open the door and Jabari came in holding a phone out to me. My heart leapt into my throat. I knew who it was already.

"Hi." I cleared my throat as I held up the phone with shaky hands.

"I -" I was glad to know I wasn't the only one nervous on the call. "We need to talk."

"Nothing happened. I swear it."

"Jabari says you're sick. Wolf's bane poisoning?"

"Yeah. Skylar used wolf's bane on me but that's not why I'm sick." I glanced at the two others in the room who were watching my every move.

Celeste blushed when I turned to them. Surprisingly, she pulled Jabari with her and the man allowed himself to be dragged out.

“What is it then? I’ve sent over a doctor since Redville’s is incompetent.” There was a bit of noise in the background so I didn’t speak until I was sure he could hear me.

“I think – Well, I took a test. Three really and two came back positive.” More noise in the background made me pause. “I’m pregnant.”

I pulled the phone from my ear when the other end of the phone went dead silent.

“Hello?”

“I am at the airport. Can you imagine these idiots don’t have a flight to Redville today? It’ll take them four hours to arrange a private plane for me.” The infuriation and sudden topic change took me aback.

“Oh no. Umm what will you do now?”

“It’ll take me two hours on a run to get to the closest airport but then I have to deal with morons who think I may be invading but am I really going to be a father?” I laughed.

“You’re losing your mind, aren’t you?” I asked and then he proceeded to lose his mind.

I’d never heard anyone ramble as much as he did then. He word-vomited anything his mind set on. After a good thirty

minutes of rambling, my stomach hurt from how much I was laughing.

## **The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 59**

Five weeks. The doctor confirmed that I was indeed pregnant.

“Congratulations, you are carrying the next Alpha.” She beamed at me and I managed a weak smile in return.

What if it wasn't an alpha but an omega?

“Are they healthy?” Valens asked the doctor.

I wished he was physically present but he couldn't get a flight even after he travelled to the next airport. I wanted to wait for him but he insisted I see a doctor as soon as possible. He was paranoid something drastic would happen to the baby if I didn't see the doctor. Or maybe he wanted to be sure the pregnancy tests hadn't glitched.

“Yes, everything looks fine to me,” the doctor replied.

“She has lost a ton of weight. Is that normal?”

In truth, I hadn't lost a lot of weight. I did lose weight as I wasn't really eating and I had a lot on my plate this period. I lost weight but not a 'ton' as Valens put it.

“Some women lose their appetite during the first trimester so a little weight loss is not uncommon but a ton?” The doctor looked to me for clarification and I shook my head.

“I’m just not hungry and everything smells weird.” When food came, I was either extremely repulsed by the smell or enticed enough to devour the whole plate like a glutton.

After the snacks Celeste got me yesterday, nothing else seemed good enough to eat. The knowledge of being pregnant made me want to eat but there was only so much I could stomach. Nausea hit hard after dinner last night but I thankfully didn’t throw up.

“You should regain your appetite very soon. I’ll write you some vitamins before you leave. As for the smell, it’s something you will have to deal with. Most she-wolves complain of heightened senses during pregnancy. While they appreciate the clearer vision, the sounds and smells aren’t so welcomed.” She patted my shoulder with a knowing smile.

“When should we expect our child?” Valens’ voice sounded from the tablet propped against a desk at the side.

“You can come in for an ultrasound in two weeks. We should be able to tell when your little bean is due by then.”

Unsurprisingly, Valens had a long list of questions he wanted to ask. The more questions he asked, the less the doctor smiled but she answered them as politely as she could. Even I got tired of his questions soon enough so I grabbed the tablet off the stand.

“Wait, I’m not done!” He exclaimed.

“You can ask any other questions you have when you get here.”

“Or when you come for antenatal.” The doctor piped up from behind me.

“When will you get here?” Just as I asked that question, I heard them announce his flight. I smiled. I couldn’t help it. My heart warmed and my wolf perked up.

“I will see you both in a few hours.” His baritone dropped, sounding more intimate. I ended the call with a sigh.

Finally, things were getting back into place and I had hopes that they would actually be better this time.

Cold zapped through my spine when I walked out of the doctor’s office. I looked around me as my heart rate spiked but I didn’t see anything out of the ordinary. A few people were waiting to see a doctor but no one paid me any mind, everyone consumed by their own problems.

A nurse handed me my drugs before I left and I met Celeste outside the hospital. She’d gone back to work this morning after Jabari drove us to the hospital.

“How did it go?” She asked, taking the pack of drugs from me to examine them. “Oh, Doctor Clarke knows her stuff.” She handed me back the drugs.

Celeste developed a flair for medicine during her days of stalking Levi. Up until then, she had no career path but since she started volunteering at the hospital, I kept waiting

for the day she'd break out the big news that she'd finally decided to be a nurse but she still hadn't even hinted at going to college.

"Do you feel like something is out of place?" I asked when the odd feeling returned, chiller this time. My heart missed a beat and my palms grew sweaty. I looked around but nothing was out of the ordinary.

"What is it!" Celeste asked, looking around too but it wasn't before I caught the guilty look on her face.

"What aren't you telling me?" I probed.

"What? Nothing." She looked away. I'd been friends with Celeste for long enough to know when she wasn't telling the truth.

"Celeste," I said in my best imitation of Valens' authoritative tone.

"I'm not supposed to tell you this." She sighed but I held her gaze and refused to look away until she caved. "I don't want to alarm you but you know how we've been without an Alpha for a few days?" She asked and I nodded in response.

The Alpha seat had been vacant for five days now. Usually, that was enough time for a stronger pack to launch an attack to expand their territory but Valens would be here soon and Jabari had worked around the clock to secure Redville against any potential attack.



He may not be an Alpha but he was Beta Jabari. He had a legend as terrible as Valens' so people surely would give Redville a wide berth for as long as he was here.

“Alpha Xavier has been circling the perimeter.” My attention snapped back to Celeste.

With all the things going on in my life, Xavier was the last person on my mind but I always assumed shame would make him travel far away from Redville.

“But he doesn't have any backing if he plans on returning,” I reasoned.

A few people fled the pack when Valens took over, but it was mostly people who had relatives in other packs. No wolf would willingly leave his pack to wander.

“He has my father. And my mother.” She looked away. I saw her cheeks colour when she turned away. “And a bunch of people that hate Valens.”

There had to be an army of people that hated Valens but he wasn't here so why would they care about Redville? Oh.

It hit me like a ton of bricks

Valens wasn't here but I was.

“So I'm in danger and no one thought to tell me.”

“You're also pregnant and there's no need to worry you when they won't get in.” I wanted to believe her but I felt it

in my guts that something wasn't right. "The Alpha will be here soon so there's no need to fret." She smiled at me.

The car that brought me pulled up in front of the hospital, ending our conversation. Celeste waved at me as I got in and the car peeled out of the hospital in a minute.

I let my head fall back with a sigh. My recent discovery bothered me. I couldn't shake off the dread in my guts and the chill in my spine.

Valens really left my pack vulnerable because he didn't trust me. I wished I could say I wasn't mad about that but it was just something I chose not to dwell on. He hadn't just abandoned me, he'd also put my life and the life of my entire pack in danger. He would be back soon so I tried to put myself at ease.

The chill returned, this time, like a ball of snow smacking me in the face. I jerked upright as my body froze. Even Artemis perked up and whined in distress.

"This isn't the way to the pack house," I said, looking out of the window.

"We are taking a shortcut," the driver responded.

Jabari told me he wouldn't be able to pick me up after my appointment and that someone from the Alpha Pack would come get me. There was nothing strange about this man but I'd lived in Redville all my life. Most of the pack's facilities were around the same area. The maternal and child hospital

wasn't so far from the pack house that we'd need a shortcut.

"A shortcut?" My heart galloped. "Stop the car." The man turned to me with a confused expression. He slowed down but he didn't stop. "What's your name?" I asked.

"I am Andrew," he replied, then he sighed. "I am sorry if I've alarmed you. We aren't really taking a shortcut but this is supposed to be a surprise."

"Stop this car, Andrew!" I snapped, adrenaline fueling me and raising my voice.

Finally, the man stopped the car, parking on the side of the road. An empty road.

"Are you kidnapping me?" I fumbled to get off my seatbelt.

"What!?" The man exclaimed. "Of course not! I was told that there's a surprise planned for the Alpha's return. I am to take you to the airport to greet him. I am NOT kidnapping you."

"Who sent you?" I demanded, opening the car door.

"The –" The rest of his words were drowned out in a deafening collision.

## **The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 60**

I was going to be a father. My curse was broken. I don't think I had ever been happier than I was then.

When we landed in Redville, I took a deep breath of the stent of the place.

When I first arrived, there was no indication that this place would be any different from the others. When my mind set on claiming Redville, it didn't feel any different from all the other times when I seized on an idea.

I'd long since adapted to the life of a wanderer. My leaving a pack was as swift and unexpected as my taking over it. My wolf told me he wanted a place and my body itched until I got up and went to take it. I'd repeated that process over forty times so there was nothing special or exhilarating about it.

In the early days of my curse, I'd assumed the itch to move, to settle someplace else was a sign. The itch controlled me as I first saw it as a clue. I thought of it as a prompt from the goddess to enter a new land where I would find my mate.

I couldn't spend more than three months in the first five packs I conquered. After the first month of conquering, the itch to leave returned and I foolishly thought it was a sign that something different awaited me in the next pack.

It took me a while to realize I was driven by the curse, that the goddess was not directing me to a land where I would find my mate. That realization was a harsh blow and with it came bloodlvst.

Coming to Redville did not spark anything inside me. I didn't know it would change my life. I didn't expect to find

my mate here. In fact, I fought the urge to come here for a long time. From what I'd bothered to gather about the pack before invading, I'd learnt that the Alpha was without a mate and the pack was horrible to lower-ranked wolves. They had a smear on their reputation and nothing was appealing about them. Though they were many and strong, they had no natural resources and no wealth.

I'd have met Aysel six months earlier if I'd given in to the first urge to come here. I'd have met my mate sooner and the knowledge that I'd delayed made me annoyed with myself. If only the goddess had given me a hint. But alas, she preferred not to meddle or so her oracles liked to say.

"Welcome back, Alpha." My driver greeted me.

I got into the car and called my Beta.

Zino started to pace when the trip started. 'Something is amiss,' he said and I felt it in my guts that something was out of place.

"Where are you?" I asked once Jabari picked up the call.

"I'm in my office." He sounded disgruntled when he picked up. "There hasn't been any sign of Zavier in his usual hideouts today."

"Do they know about my return?" I looked out of the window at the buildings speeding by as we drove.

"The whole world knows of your return. There are dozens of pictures of you at the airport." Jabari grumbled.

“He will retreat if he knows I’m returning.”

Zavier was a trash Alpha and we had a score to settle but I would give him grudging respect for putting his pack before him. A handful of Alphas had run off when I entered their pack and a number of others had chosen to wage war with my pack.

Zavier handled things better than any other Alpha I ever displaced. He didn’t run away in the middle of the night like a scared dog, neither did he drag his pack into his battle. He fought like an Alpha and accepted his defeat like one too.

“I think so too but I’d feel better if I knew that for sure.”  
Jabari sighed.

“How is Aysel?” My fingers drummed on my thighs.

I wanted to get her something upon my return but I couldn’t put off seeing her for long enough to buy her a present. I’d asked Jabari to arrange something instead.

“I haven’t seen her since I dropped her at the hospital this morning but she should be fine. I sent Andrew to pick her up.”

“Alright.”

I watched as we passed an accident scene. An overturned car, partly burnt, lay on the side of the road. My wolf paced when we saw the car.

“Stop the car.” My driver pulled our car to a screeching halt. “What happened here?” I asked as I got out of the car.

“I don’t know but I heard it was a hit and run.” My driver also got out of the car with me as I approached the scene.

“Gentlemen,” I called to the officers circling the scene to get their attention.

“Alpha!” They snapped to attention. “Welcome back.” The longer I stood here, the faster my wolf paced. The whole place smelt like smoke and petrol and it irritated my senses.

“What’s going on?”

“A hit and run. One casualty.” I walked around the vehicle, surveying the area while the police officers filled me in.

My phone rang again and I fished it out of my pocket. “Valens, where are you?” Jabari sounded frantic on the other end of the phone and it made my wolf perk up.

“Did you know there was an accident?” I asked instead of answering.

“Yes. The police will send a report. I can’t handle everything but that’s not why I’m calling you. Celeste called. She can’t find Aysel.” My ears rang but I tried to keep my composure.

“Officers, are you sure there was only one person in this car?” The men nodded. “Who was he?”

“He hasn’t been identified yet. He is in critical condition and we’re not sure he’ll make it.”

“Jabari, call the hospital. Ask them if the casualty is Andrew.” I ended the call with Jabari.

I closed my eyes. I had to be calm to open a mind link. I didn't have one with Aysel because we hadn't performed the Mating Ritual yet. I only had one with my Beta. I closed my eyes and concentrated on the never ending buzzing in my head.

There were threads of the numerous packs I controlled, my connection to the Alpha Pack being the strongest.

I fought to maintain control, to hold on to a bit of my sanity. I needed to concentrate to find which of the threads linked me to Redville but I felt my sanity slipping. The longer I searched, the more frantic I got.

One opened. I heard Jabari. ‘The car. It was Andrew.’

I opened up all the channels.

“Find my Luna. If anything happens to her, all of you will perish. My wrath will be felt down to your third generation. I swear it on King Thomas' grave.”

I heard the silence. I felt the scramble. I shut the channels as an overwhelming sense of fear rocketed into me.

“Alpha – Ah – We –“ The officers standing beside me had gone white as paper.

“She was here. In this car.” I glared at the men one after the other. “I better find her unhurt.”

Herself and our child.



Jabari called again. “Now the world knows she’s missing. Celeste has put up pictures on social media. I’m on my way to you.” What good would social media do at this point?

‘We can’t just stand around. She was here. I can feel it,’ Zino said. ‘My senses are better than yours. I can sniff the place,’ he suggested but I knew the smell of petrol would hinder even his senses.

I focused on the screech of tires as officers started to troop to the scene. They asked questions amongst themselves. Trackers arrived and they sniffed around the car but the smell of petrol was too strong.

“We need something of hers.” The head tracker said just as Jabari arrived in a car with Celeste.

“I brought something of hers.” Celeste brought out a familiar shirt. She handed it to the head of the trackers and the men passed it amongst themselves. One by one, they started to shift.

“It’s trending on several platforms already and now everyone seems to have seen her in one place or another,” Jabari said, typing away speedily. “Another message, wait –

“Someone from Blue Moon says they just scented her along Mason Boulevard,” Celeste read from her phone.

“How do they know her scent?” Someone asked while others shifted and followed that lead.

I called the Alpha of the neighboring pack. He picked up on the first ring as if he had been expecting my call.

“Lock down Mason Boulevard.” I ended the call.

Celeste listed off other places around us where people said they’d seen her. More officers arrived. More trackers. Nosy people. The place started to crowd.

Everything was happening fast yet nothing was happening.

“No –“ I heard Celeste exclaim. My phone rang. I picked it up.

I’d spoken to at least five Alphas at this point and my phone was constantly ringing.

“A- Alpha – We have a situation.” Jabari shoved a phone in my face. What I saw on the screen made my blood run cold. “They have her hostage.” The Alpha of Blue Moon and I said at the same time.

“It’s Zavier and Bethel.” Celeste said. One of them had a knife to my mate’s throat and it didn’t look like she was conscious.

“Should we let them go?” The Alpha was asking but my head was swimming.

Anxiety and rage. They swept through me in equal parts.

“They shouldn’t hurt her. I –“ Even the person recording the video screamed when Bethel shoved her away violently and dashed into his car, leaving his father.

“Kill them.”