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Chapter 46

Garrett broke the silence.

"Look, Liam," he said, his tone softer and his jaw set, "I know it's hard. I've been there. But if you want a chance with her, you have to take it slow. Get to know her, and spend time with her. Don't rush things, or you'll scare her off for good."

Liam clenched his fists, struggling to find the right words. "I know, Garrett. And I want to thank you for being there for her," he said, his voice rough. "It's just... it's difficult for me to see her leaning on someone else."

James nodded, "I know how you feel, Alpha."

Garrett looked away for a moment, his voice slightly strained. "I lost my mate, Liam. I will never find love again. I've become guarded, believing that I'm incapable of truly loving someone else.

I was contemplating death when she came along."

He ran his hands through his hair. "She's become a source of hope. But it's nothing more than that, Liam."

Liam swallowed, "Tell that to my wolf," he muttered.

"I know, man. But you have to try. And if it doesn't work out, at least you know you tried your best. No one can replace Lola, and I miss her with everything in me. But I am grateful for our time together. Nothing can take that away. Nicole is just a wonderful person, a friend, but never what Lola was to me."

Liam nodded, and the emotions that clouded his brain cleared out. "Garrett. I'll try to do better. I promise,"

James cleared his throat as the tension dissipated.

"Well, now that that's sorted out, we should probably start making plans for the next full moon."

Liam and Garrett both nodded. To test Garrett's mental and physical stability, there would be a brawl on the next full moon. The pack would run together as a whole into the depths of the forest until daylight broke through the sky.

"We should get back to business. We need to have seen a complete change in both you and Nicole before then. We need to be sure that her wolf returns to the surface. That run on the new moon is important because it signifies that she belongs to the pack." James added,

They walked back in, discussing pack matters and the upcoming moon cycle.

~

The first thing the next morning, Liam headed to Nicole's cabin. He felt a lot better after his discussion with Garrett. Even his wolf was a bit pacified.

He found her sitting in a small garden beside her cabin. His heart felt full at how good she looked. Her eyes seemed to regain a bit of the spark it lost, and her countenance was a bit brighter.

She wasn't back to the Nicole he knew, but at least she was looking content and humming to the breeze. He had never yearned for anyone the way he yearned for her in his entire existence.

He tried to be as silent as possible as he watched her, his wolf purring as it bathed in her scent, but he stepped on a twig, and it startled her. She jumped to her feet, trembling as all mirth disappeared from her face.

"I'm sorry," he whispered, itching to hold her, wanting to be the reason why she stopped being afraid. "I didn't mean to scare you."

His voice was silent and delicate.

Nicole hugged her arms, her eyes wide with fear.

"It's not you," she said softly. "It's me. I can't help it."

Liam felt a pang of sadness in his chest. He wished he could take away her fear and pain. He stepped forward, and she watched him tentatively.

"I just want you to know that I'm here for you," he said gently. "Whatever you need, I'll be there for you."

Nicole gave him a small smile and then took deep breaths as she tried to relax.

"Thank you," she muttered, her eyes fluttering open and close. "Thank you. You've said it so many times since the incident, and I should know by now."

Liam swallowed. Never in his life had he felt the need to please anyone so badly. It was crazy. He took another step forward.

"It's okay," he said, stopping just by her.

He saw fear flash in her eyes, and he blurted out, "I'm sorry for the things that happened to you.

I'm sorry if, in some ways, I magnified those things."

Nicole swallowed and looked away. Liam had no idea of the abuse she had received under Shane.

No one did, not even Garrett. She couldn't tell them.

She only told Garrett of her supposed dream.

She was still finding it hard to believe that it was an actual dream. But she told him that she had been captured by Shane and tortured by unknown men.

As for Liam, she didn't know how to explain her fear of him. She didn't know how to say that

memories of him being mean and a jerk toward her had somehow made him look like a monster

in her head. She was afraid that he could turn to Shane at any minute. So he didn't know. He couldn't know.

Liam, too, didn't understand why she recoiled from him. It was driving him crazy. He was starting to believe that he was the one she saw in her sleep-induced torture because, to him, nothing else could explain it.

"Thank you," Nicole said softly, then returned to her position and patted the empty spot next to her.

She might be afraid of him, but after the last time he touched her, he was the only one she felt secure around. So it wouldn't be bad if she sat close to him.

Liam's wolf jumped with joy as he sat beside Nicole. It had been so long since she had willingly let him come close. They sat in comfortable silence for a while, enjoying the peacefulness of the lake. Liam felt a sense of contentment wash over him. Being with her at that moment felt right.

As the days passed, Nicole began to slowly integrate with the pack members. She would join them in training sessions and even started to participate in pack events. Liam watched her from afar, proud of her progress but also longing to be closer to her. He wanted to be the one by her side to protect her and make her happy.

But he also knew that he needed to take it slow, to earn her trust and prove to her that he was not a threat. He continued to visit her, talk with her, and support her. And as they spent more time together, Liam realized that his feelings for her were growing stronger, and he didn't know what it meant or understand it.

The training arena was bustling with activity as pack members sparred and trained. The pack training arena was a large open space surrounded by trees. Liam watched as the pack members paired up and began sparring with each other. Nicole was paired with one of the newer members, a young werewolf who was still learning the ropes. Liam felt a bit protective of her as he watched her struggle to keep up with her opponent. Since her wolf was dormant, she was almost human in nature. He was overseeing the session alongside James and Garrett, barking orders and providing feedback.

Noticing her struggles, Liam decided to take matters into his own hands. He strode out into the centre of the arena and walked over to her. "Nicole, let's pair up for this one," he said, holding out his hand.

He was already on the edge. He wasn't sure he could watch her get beat up for another second without punching her sparring partner.

She hesitated for a moment but eventually took his hand, feeling the warmth of his skin against hers.

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Ignoring the world and focusing on themselves, they began, with Nicole dishing out the first strike, which Liam easily dodged. Nicole tried her best to keep up with his movements, but she was no match for his speed and agility.

As they fought, their bodies moved in a fluid motion, with Liam guiding her and teaching her new techniques. It was evident as they fought that Liam was holding back. He was careful not to hurt her, but still, he couldn't help but be impressed by her determination and skill.

Nicole, on the other hand, was starting to become more confident in her abilities. As they circled each other, their eyes locked in a heated gaze, the air between them thick with tension.

Suddenly, Nicole made a move, striking out with her leg in an attempt to trip Liam. He dodged it easily, but it brought him closer to her. Before he knew it, she had taken advantage of his

momentary lapse in concentration and tackled him to the ground.

Liam was momentarily stunned but quickly recovered, flipping her over so that he was on top.

As

they grappled with each other, their bodies pressed together, Liam's wolf stirred inside of him.

He could feel the heat between them, the chemistry that had been building. He had missed the feel of her. Her scent against his skin, the spark in her eyes as she fought him.

Nicole met his gaze, her eyes dark with desire. For a moment, they just looked at each other, their breathing ragged, and the tension between them was tangible. And then, without warning, Liam leaned down and captured her lips in a heated kiss. It was explosive, the heat and passion between them overwhelming. They broke apart, gasping for air, but neither of them wanted to stop. Liam's wolf growled in approval.

Mate. It growled, mate.

It stunned him. But he didn't pull back like he normally would. Instead, he wanted more. As they lay there, tangled together on the ground, Liam's head was swarmed with memories of them together. Memories of her lips, her supple skin, her crying out in pleasure.

Then he remembered where they were and the fact that she was still recovering. Nicole was still fragile, still recovering from her trauma. He didn't want to push her too far, too fast.

So, with a heavy heart, he pulled away from her and stood up. "We should probably get back to training," he said, his voice gruff with desire.

Nicole nodded, her face flushed. They both got up, and Liam cleared his throat, trying to hide his embarrassment.

"Uh, sorry about that," he said, rubbing the back of his neck. "I guess I got a little carried away."

She didn't respond, and he began to feel bad.

"I'm sorry," he apologized. "I didn't ... I did."

Nicole shook her head. "It's not that," she said, "it's just...I don't know if I'm ready for this."

Liam nodded, understanding. "We can take things slow," he said, "I'll be here for you, whatever you need."

Nicole smiled at him, and Liam knew that he would do anything to protect her, to help her heal from her trauma.

~

Long after training had ended, Nicole asked herself why, despite everything, she had only noticed a change in herself when she interacted with Liam, especially when they touched.

The effect of his mark on her had faded with her wolf. She wasn't supposed to be affected by him, yet he was indirectly the reason why her body came alive.

She had found herself getting lost in the training, feeling a sense of excitement as she pushed her body to the limit. She was starting to feel alive again, and for the first time in a long time, she felt like herself.

She remembered it clearly as she lay in her bed that night; the electricity that coursed through her when they sparred, when they toppled on each other. She remembered clearly how she felt when their bodies pressed against each other. The kiss.... The way he looked at her... the way he held her protectively as they walked away.

As the training session came to an end, Liam and Nicole were the last ones left in the arena. They had stood facing each other, panting from the intensity of the workout. Liam had looked at her with a mixture of admiration and desire that had her body trembling.

The voices in her head screamed and asked her to walk away from him. They reminded her of everything she had been through but she couldn't walk away from his heated gaze.

The first kiss awakened needs she had neglected for months. Shivers coiled down her spine, she

wanted more.

"Nicole, you did great today," he had said, his voice low and husky. "You're getting better every day."

Nicole blushed at his praise, feeling a flutter in her stomach. She had always been drawn to Liam, even when she was afraid of him, and being this close to him was both exhilarating and terrifying. Liam moved closer to her, his eyes locked on hers. Their bodies were inches apart and Nicole could feel the heat radiating off of him. She could smell the intoxicating scent of his wolf and it made her heart race.

"I know we've been taking things slow," he said, "but I can't resist anymore." His eyes glinted dangerously. She remembered how he made her feel.

Suddenly, Liam's lips were on hers, and she felt a jolt of electricity shoot through her body. Their kiss was slow and sensual, with Liam's hands moving down her back, pulling her closer to him. Nicole's arms were wrapped around his neck, pulling him closer. The voices in her head were zipped shut. Her body remembered too well how he always satisfied her, but had her wanting more. She wanted more from him.

As they broke apart, Liam looked at her with deep intensity. "Nicole," he whispered, his voice full

of emotion. "I..."

He trailed off but her heart skipped a beat. She was mad with hunger for him. She remembered too well the feel of his lips, his fingertips. Their chemistry was undeniable and she felt a sense of belonging in his arms. She could sense his protectiveness and strength, and it made her feel safe and secure.

As they stood there, wrapped in each other's arms, Garrett walked in on them and the pull shattered. She immediately leapt out of his grasp as everything she felt fizzled out and she went back to feeling numb.

Nicole went to bed that night with a small grin etched on her face and worry in her mind.

Nicole slowly opened her eyes, feeling an unfamiliar but pleasant sensation in her chest. She sat up in bed, her hand instinctively reaching for her chest as she tried to identify the feeling.

It was her wolf, a small resonance that had been absent for so long. She smiled, tears welling up in her eyes as she felt the familiar presence of her wolf. It was still late so she couldn't do anything but try to reach out to her wolf, but like a summer's dream, it was gone.

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The next morning, she woke up with a familiar feeling in her chest. It was another small vibration that made her jolt up in bed. The faint sensation made her happy.

She quickly got dressed and went to find Asha. She burst into Asha's room in the packhouse, almost jumping with joy.

"Is everything okay, Nicole?" Asha asked, wide-eyed. Nicole hadn't been this excited about anything in months. It was a bit troubling.

"Asha! My wolf, it's here, I can feel it!" Nicole exclaimed, jumping up and down with joy.

Asha's mouth fell open as she took a minute to process and it lit up with joy. "That's amazing, Nicole! I'm so happy for you!" she exclaimed, pulling her friend into a tight hug.

Nicole wanted to recoil from her touch but she was so excited that she began to weep. "My wolf, Asha. She's back," she cried, unable to contain her joy.

Asha held her tight. "Yes she is, she has to be back."

Garrett, who had been passing by, overheard their conversation and walked in. "What's all the commotion about?" he asked, raising an eyebrow, his eyes searching Nicole's face for any signs of distress.

Nicole beamed at him. "My wolf, Garrett. It's back. I can feel it!" she said, practically bouncing with excitement.

Garrett's face broke into a smile, and he hugged her tightly. "That's amazing, Nicole. I'm so happy for you," he said, his voice full of genuine happiness. Nicole felt as if she wanted to explode with happiness. Although her wolf's presence wasn't complete yet, she felt whole for the first time in forever.

"We should tell Maya," Asha grinned, her eyes twinkling with joy.

"Yeah, and I should let Liam know. This is exciting news," Garrett added.

Nicole's smile fell off.

"Wait no guys." She said, her voice trembling, "I'm not ready. It's not back yet. Not fully. Let's wait until it's back,"

Garrett narrowed his eyes at her, then shrugged.

"If you say so," he said.

Asha wasn't having it, "Why?" She asked, "You guys have been making good progress, Nicole.

You said it yourself that being close to him helps you."

Garrett raised a brow, "Being with him helps you?"

Nicole gulped then palmed her forehead. Slowly she nodded, then stepped away.

"I'm not ready. I'm nervous."

Asha shook her head and folded her arms. Garrett stared at her with a mixture of curiosity and surprise.

"I thought you were afraid of him?" He whispered. Nicole's head snapped up and she looked into his eyes. She didn't understand or like the emotions, she saw it flashing within them.

She opened her mouth to speak, but Asha, who was seemingly oblivious, beat her to it.

"Who isn't? They're marked and might bond to become mates." She said.

Both heads snapped in her direction and she raised her hands in surrender. "Sorry," she muttered, "I'm just saying what we all think. Maybe Alpha Liam was acting like a jerk before, but have you seen him now? He's made a complete turnover when it comes to Nicole and females."

Garrett grunted and said nothing. Nicole's cheeks flamed red. The truth was that she was afraid that once she returned to her normal state, Liam would begin to treat her like he did before.

She could never trust Liam and as for Garrett, who was pinning her with an uncomfortable stare, she had yet to understand what was going on in his head.

She had noticed that he was also taking a protective stance when it came to her and she had no idea what to make of it. His eyes also seemed to linger, but unlike the pleasure Liam's stares always gave her, it was weird.

"We-" she started to say, but at that moment, Liam burst in.

"Nicole," he breathed, his eyes flashing gold. His voice made her body come alive, butterflies began fluttering in her belly and then her wolf purred again.

Nicole felt out of breath, she staggered from being overwhelmed. Liam ran to her side but stopped himself from touching her.

"Liam," she whispered. At the same time, her eyes fell on Garrett, who looked away.

She quickly looked away too, not failing to catch the glint of anger in his eyes. Nicole was confused. Her brain was befuddled.

Liam caught her by her arm and pulled her into his body.

Her wolf purred again, as she was enveloped in Liam's warmth. She could feel his presence

drawing out her wolf from whatever corner it had been hiding. Her worries seemed to melt away in his arms. It was like falling in the clouds. She had missed it. But like always, the voices came again.

Her body stiffened as her bleak memories flashed in her head. Noticing that she was beginning to get uncomfortable, Liam let go.

"It's okay, Nicole. I felt it. I felt it last night," Liam said, resting his head on hers.

Nicole swallowed, feeling overwhelmed. She was grateful that her wolf was finally back, but with it came a sense of awareness that she wasn't ready for.

"I'm so happy, Nicole. I'm happy your wolf is back," Asha gushed in the corner.

Nicole was speechless. She didn't know how to react.

"Now we can begin to prepare to defeat the witches," Garrett said suddenly.

All heads snapped in his direction,

"What?" Liam growled.

Garrett shrugged, "Her wolf is back, Alpha."

Liam snarled in his direction, "Can't you see that she's in no shape for that?"

"Yes, her wolf is not completely back," Asha growled.

Nicole's heart began pounding in her chest. She felt guilty for what was happening to Garrett.

Garrett held up his hands in surrender, staring pointedly at her. "I understand that, Alpha. But we need to start preparing for the witches. We can't afford to be caught off guard again."

Liam clenched his jaw and took a deep breath, trying to control his wolf's rage. He knew Garrett was right, but he didn't want to put Nicole in any danger. He wouldn't dare it.

"Were you of all people, depending on her to defeat the witch?" Liam growled, his dominance spread through the air.

"No," Garrett gritted out and rubbed his temples, "I'm talking about harnessing her power."

Liam snarled, but Nicole unconsciously held his arm and began rubbing circles to soothe him.

"Alpha, you misunderstand me. We need to make sure that Nicole is at her full capacity for her good."

"We'll start preparing," Liam finally said. "But Nicole will not be involved until she's fully ready."

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Nicole looked at Liam and then at Garrett, her heart pounding in her chest. Liam huffed and gripped her arm. Her wolf purred again. She liked this new streak in him. He had become so protective of her, even when she didn't want to have anything to do with him.

"Thank you, Liam," she whispered into his ears, enjoying how it seemed to calm him down.

Liam turned to her and gave her a small smile.

"Always, Nicole."

Garrett nodded, he seemed satisfied with the outcome. "We'll start training the pack tomorrow. This time around, we'll stop physical training and focus on other aspects. The witches won't know what hit them."

Nicole felt like a weight had been lifted from her shoulders, and she felt a renewed sense of hope. Her wolf was back, and she knew that she could finally start to heal.

Over the next few days, Nicole spent most of her time training and bonding with her wolf. The more time she spent with her wolf, the more she felt like herself again.

She was more confident, more sure of herself and more in control of her emotions. The bond between her and her wolf grew stronger with each passing day and she knew that she was finally on the path to recovery.

~

Liam paced back and forth with his arms crossed behind his back, with the Pack stakeholders surrounding him. They were discussing the coming full moon and some strategies to figure out why the witch was after Liam.

"It doesn't make sense," Garrett mused.

"There has to be something," Connor added, "the witch has to have some sort of goal. Her attacks, I noticed, are carefully crafted and direct. She plays mind games, and she understands Dark Moon's psychology too much."

Liam threw his arms in the air. Nothing came to mind, nothing that could point to where his feud with the witch was coming from.

Suddenly, messengers burst into the council room, interrupting the meeting with urgent news.

Lilian had been attacked and threatened by the witch in her pack.

Liam's eyes widened with alarm as he listened to the messenger's report. His wolf rose to the surface, ready to fight and protect his sister. He was about to dash out to rescue her when James tried to stop him.

It took the combined effort of James and Garrett to hold him back.

"It's just like last time. An ambush." Garrett growled.

It took a while before they stabilized him enough to let go. Liam's mind was flooded with worry for his sister. He couldn't bear the thought of losing her. He had to act fast before the witch's power grew stronger.

He raged at the thought that the witch was attacking the ones he loved. First, it was Nicole, then Garrett, and now his sister.

Why didn't the witch come directly for him?

"Send out scouts and guards," Liam growled, "Bring her back," Liam raged.

As they discussed the situation, a messenger burst into the room with another urgent message.

"The witch is growing stronger," the messenger announced breathlessly. "She has attacked and killed innocent wolves in different packs. She's gaining more power by the day."

Liam clenched his fists in anger and frustration. His mind flashed to Nicole. He had to act fast, but he was also worried about Nicole's safety. He couldn't afford to lose her, not now that she was beginning to trust him and open up to him.

"We need to come up with a plan," Liam said, his voice stern and commanding. "We can't let this witch continue to terrorize innocent wolves. We need to stop her, once and for all."

The council members nodded in agreement, and their faces grimmed with determination.

"How ready is the witch bane?" Someone asked.

"Don't you dare," Liam growled. He was at his wit's end and ready to fight. His wolf was very pissed and it feared harm to his sister.

"We need to gather more information about the witch's movements," Liam said, his eyes darting around the room. "We need to know her next move before she strikes again."

"We can not let this continue. We must stop her," Garrett said, his voice low and determined.

The council members murmured in agreement, their faces serious.

"As the Alpha said, we need to gather more information, strategize, and act quickly," James said, his brow furrowed in concentration.

Liam nodded in agreement. "We will form a team to gather intelligence and plan a coordinated attack. I will lead the team myself."

The council members nodded in agreement.

"The scouts will be sent forth," James said. "Before any move is made, they will be sent forth."

It was not in Liam to be patient, but he nodded and dismissed them to carry out their tasks. As they left the room, Liam remained behind, deep in thought.

The next few days would be crucial, and he couldn't afford to make any mistakes. He had to

protect his pack, his sister, and Nicole. No matter what the cost would be.

~

The atmosphere in Dark Moon slowly morphed into something tense. They could feel it, everyone could sense that the witch's power was growing stronger with each passing day, and Liam had to prepare his pack for the inevitable showdown.

The training sessions became a lot more intense, with him drilling them on various combat techniques and even having them practice fighting while under the influence of the witches' spells.

Slowly and steadily, Nicole's wolf returned. It grew stronger, and soon, she began to display some unique abilities that even Liam was surprised to see. Her senses were sharper, allowing her to detect motions and waves of energy easily.

It amazed Liam. While watching her train, he battled with the need to claim her as his mate and make her his permanently, but he wasn't sure. He needed to be certain that his wolf wasn't acting as a result of the mark.

Plus, although Nicole had shown great physical prowess, he knew that she wasn't okay mentally.

It seemed like she had a lot of healing to do.

It was why he was watching her as he tried to figure out what he could do for her. A small smile

slipped on his face as he saw the progress she had made. His attention was drawn away as James approached him.

"Alpha, the scouts have returned. Your sister is safe. She didn't suffer any harm," James announced.

Liam's eyes widened in relief. "Thank the Moon Goddess," he said, exhaling deeply.

He turned to James, "Where is she now?"

"She's resting in her quarters. She's shaken up but physically unharmed," James replied.

"Thank the moon goddess," Liam whispered, running a hand through his hair. He couldn't believe that he had sent her away for no reason.

He turned his attention back to the training session and watched as Nicole fought with increasing confidence and skill. He was proud of his progress and determination to improve.

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As soon as James left, he stopped Nicole's session and took her for a walk.

He ignored her curious glances until they were far enough from everyone.

"What can I do to make you feel safe with me?" He asked suddenly.

Nicole blinked severally.

Liam ran his hands through his hair, allowing his frustration to be visible for the first time.

"I know you're recovering and still have a long way to go. But it irks me. I want to make things better. What can I do for you?" Liam said, not believing the words coming out of his mouth.

Nicole stood frozen as she stared at him.

"What's wrong, Nicole?" Liam gritted out, trying to be gentle. "You can talk to me."

Nicole hesitated for a moment before answering.

"I...I just need some space. I need to feel like I have some control over my life."

Liam's lips pressed together.

Nicole thought for a moment before continuing,

"After the witch is defeated, I want to be given my freedom as a free woman. I want to be able to make my own choices and live my life the way I want to."

Liam was taken aback by her request, but he knew that he couldn't deny her this one thing. "I

accept your terms, Nicole. You will be given your freedom but with the option to stay. You will become a part of the pack."

Nicole shook her head. "No. I need to be free. I can not be shackled to any pack. Not now, not

until I've healed. I was a lone wolf before I became a slave. I need to be a lone wolf again before I become a member of any pack."

Liam nodded gravely.

"If you say so," he agreed. "But you'll finally agree to therapy sessions. That's it. Attend therapy."

Nicole stared wide-eyed at him.

"You're free. You've been free since you walked into this pack. But you can only completely attain that freedom when you finalize your therapy sessions."

Nicole looked away. She wasn't ready to open up.

"You need to get over what happened and stop being afraid."

Nicole nodded and smiled. "Thank you, Liam. That means a lot to me."

Liam's heart fluttered. He wanted to hold her, but he held himself at bay. He didn't want to crowd her space. Not after the conversation they just had. So instead, he reached out and held her hands, then walked back to Darkmoon.

As Nicole spent more time with the pack, she continued to discover new abilities. According to Asha, who had spent most of her time researching Nicole's kinds, she was supposed to possess some semi-magical abilities.

One day, as they were walking in the forest, Asha asked her to concentrate on a nearby tree. "Just

feel the tree," Asha said. "Can you feel any energy around it?"

Nicole concentrated and soon felt a strange energy around the tree. She didn't understand it. It was like nothing she had ever felt before. "What is this?" she asked, her voice filled with wonder.

"It's natural energy," Asha said with a smile. "You have the ability to sense and control it."

Nicole's eyes widened in amazement. She had never thought she could possess such abilities.

With Asha's help, she begins to learn how to control and manipulate the natural energy around her.

She found out that she had enhanced senses, especially around energy or magic. She could feel it from far away that others couldn't and could pick up on scents that were barely perceptible to others.

Another time, while training, she discovered that she had the ability to create a shield around her.

It was an instinctive reaction when her partner had thrown a punch at her. The shield had formed around her, blocking the punch. These things made her feel good.

With time and practice, Nicole's abilities grew stronger. She learned how to create a force field and expand to those around her. It was like her senses had been heightened to a new level each day.

Nicole also discovered that she had an uncanny ability to sense danger. She could tell when something was off or when there was a threat nearby, even if she couldn't see or hear anything. It was like a sixth sense that she had developed over time. It was similar to that of an Alpha and his pack members.

Despite all of these new abilities, Nicole never loses sight of her ultimate goal: to help Liam and his pack defeat the witch and protect their land. She knew that she still had a lot to learn and that there were challenges ahead, but she was determined to face them head-on.

Aside from discovering her newfound abilities, Nicole finally agrees to undergo therapy sessions with a pack counsellor. It was a challenging process for her, as she had to confront her past traumas and fears.

Her biggest challenge remained; holding back. She didn't know why she was unable to tell her past. She was unable to say what she had gone through under Shane. But with each session, she felt a little stronger and more in control of her thoughts and emotions.

The pack counsellor taught her techniques to manage her anxiety and flashbacks, such as deep breathing exercises and grounding techniques. Nicole also learned to recognize the triggers that

set off her panic attacks and how to avoid them or cope with them in a healthier way.

Nicole's abilities were becoming more and more vital to the pack's success, and she was starting to see herself as a valuable member of the team.

With each passing day, she felt more confident in her abilities and more connected to her wolf.

The therapy sessions, combined with the training and the support of the pack, helped Nicole to overcome her past traumas and reclaim her power.

She was no longer the scared and helpless girl who had been captured by the witch. She was a warrior, fighting for her pack and the future of all wolves.

As they continued to prepare for battle, Nicole's abilities grew stronger, and she became an even more integral part of the pack.

She had found a home with them, and she knew that she would fight to protect it no matter what.

But most importantly, she knew that when she was done, she would leave for good.