

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 11

Luci POV

Life went back to normal, it seemed. She did keep an eye on the pack end of the lake for a solid week, and never saw any movement other than the border patrol, which she noticed had been doubled up. Nothing less to be expected after an attack of that magnitude. There were no unusual movements or searches for Alari in the lake, or not that she saw, when she was home anyway.

It was completely possible that they did look into it during the daytime when she was in the human town at her human job. She wouldn't know. But had not seen anything while she'd been home.

Watching the boys swim on the weekend was good. Alari, however, was more than annoyed that she couldn't shift to swim with the boys due to all the humans also using the lake. The boys were excellent in the water, took to it naturally, no fear of the water, and with Alari's genes she was not really surprised at all.

She herself had never been much of a swimmer. She could swim. Her mother had made sure of it, but Luci had never liked the way the chlorine of the water felt on her skin. The few times she'd been to the ocean had been really nice though she had enjoyed that. Still preferred fresh water on her skin. Had always enjoyed laying in a nice warm bath for an hour or so after a long day while growing up.

The days passed quietly and without incident. Though Kali did scent out a rogue or two, they did not approach them. They saw them around the northern part of the lake. Prowling around in the same area, appeared to be looking for something, she thought 'me?' Alari queried.

It was possible Victor was known to use rogues to scout out things; he didn't lose his own men that way. Rogues were dispensable. Though those creatures had never been allowed in her stepfather's pack territory, but every time Victor arrived he brought half a dozen with him. They had

to stay outside the borders. How the man enticed them into doing his bidding, who knew? Nor did she really care for that matter.

Those rogues did not go unnoticed by the pack either, they were hunted once seen by the patrolling wolves and reported. Saw an entire unit leave the pack, 8 warriors to one rogue. She did not get involved, not her job. She would not be leaving the boys either. That unit was more than capable of handling it. It was a retrieving team, hunt and k**l.

If they were Victor's scout wolves, Rafe was sending a message. My numbers are bigger and I am prepared 8 to one. That he would show no mercy at all, anything that was sent would be killed, no prisoners taken.

Kali didn't like it one bit, her wolf wanted out, to go and get answers about those mangy critters being there herself. She, too, was an Alpha-blooded wolf and more than capable of taking on a rogue or two.

The full moon came a week later and with it were two rogues. They were a lot closer to her home than she liked. Looked at the boys sleeping. This was the second sighting in just four days, it was too many sightings now. And these two wolves were too far from the pack for them to be aware of the rogues.

"Boy's" Luci woke them. "Kali must go deal with something, stay inside. No matter what you hear."

"Yes mamma," they nodded.

She stepped outside of the hut and stripped off her clothes, glanced up at the full moon and felt Kali rip right out of her, it was fast and then she was gone a lone female wolf off of pack territory, she heard one of the rogues howl, they had scented her. It was what she wanted, to lead them away from her boys.

They would hunt her, and they did. She could hear them growling as they chased her. Whatever they were up to, they had been distracted by the scent of a female alone and vulnerable.

A female they thought they could corner and pin down to mate with. It was their singular drive. There were not many female rogues. The males would all be at them fighting and mating them till usually the female would die from it. It was not a pleasant way to die.

She ran, not at full speed, allowing the two rogues to keep pace with her, leading them well away from her home and further into the woods. Then just stopped and turned to face the two oncoming wolves. One did not stop its only desire now to mate her wolf, regardless of who she was, if she was Marked by another or not, it did not care.

She shot forward at full speed, right at them. Her cream wolf with white paws and underbelly was not that large but she was good and strong. They would likely scent her alpha blood now too, but all they cared about now was mating her. One peeled off out of the way in complete surprise to her actions and then Kali was in a battle with the other, her claws ripping into it and her teeth sank into its flesh and ripped out chunks, forced it down onto the ground and ripped its throat out. She'd not forgotten her training.

Once she'd gotten her wolf, Orien had put her into training properly and when she had moved to the Black Forest Pack, she had trained and hard. Wanted to be useful to the pack and, being alpha-blooded, she was good and strong; Kali had taken to training quickly. Had always wanted to train, but without an actual wolf had not been allowed to.

Her green eyes locked on to the other, it snarled right at her but did not back down. She lunged at it and it at her, fought it till it was almost dead, saw it being forced back to its human form, she shifted back to being Luci. "Why are you here?" she spoke to it "What do you want?"

The man managed to laugh menacingly, and she saw his eyes glaze over, he was mind-linking to someone. Did not hesitate to k**l him on the spot. Before the link was over, five seconds was all it got to pass its message to whoever it belonged to.

Though it was very uncommon for a rogue to be able to do that, it meant that this beast had a master. Her eyes glanced over his human form. He didn't look mangy to her. Likely not a rogue at all, just using a rogue's

scent to throw one off as to who he belonged too. Saw a camera attached to the man's chest and frowned down at it. That can't be a good thing.

Kali's hearing picked up movement in the distance, wolves were coming and more than one, she shifted them back to her wolf form and ran, though not for the boys, but a direct line to the lake. Hit that water at full wolf speed and dived right in, Alari shifted her and took full control and swam for their home, Kali's scent gone at the edge of the water.

At least that mangy rogue scent, of disgusting rotting flesh, from the two wolves chasing her would cover her scent, up until that battle scene, they would only be able to track her scent to the lake.

Kali knew that her scent was soft and gentle, or at least it had been. Her Alpha and Beta had told her she smelled sweet like white tea and thyme. Soft and gentle. Something they had once desired very much, sometimes it sent them crazy in their need to mate her, not anymore though. No longer did they desire her, or even care for her, in anyway. They had never looked for her, as far as she knew.

Sadness filled her at that thought, of them. Alari's soft melodic voice filled the water around her, that sad lonely love ballad that had called Luci and Kali to her the day she'd felt utterly broken. She sang as she swam for their boys. The song somehow comforted both her and Kali.

Shifted to Luci right before she surfaced by the jetty. They glanced around her before she walked over to her home and stepped inside. Glanced back along the lake's edge and waited. She had killed those two men wolf on wolf. The movement she had heard though, had come from the direction of the Pack.

It was likely that the patrol had heard the howling of that rogue wolf and then the fighting in the still of the night, had alerted their Alpha, who would have been out on the pack run under the full moon. If there was no mating ball, wolves did love to run under the full moon.

She was standing inside the hut, with the curtain tweaked open enough for her to see "mamma?"

“All is okay boys.” she answered them, but did not take her eyes off of the lake.

“Okay.”

“Back to sleep now.”

Kali was fast being Alpha-blooded, and she was watching where she had run right into the lake. They had fled the fight scene at top speed. Where she had entered the lake had not been all that far of a swim for Alari to get here. It took several minutes for her to see movement, but there they were, in the distance. She used her wolf’s sight to get a better look, four of them, she could see the glow of their eyes mostly, not who they were. She didn’t really care who they were, just watched to see what they did.

Milled around for a short while and walked that stretch of the lake’s edge. Then they headed back the way that they had come, gone back to get rid of the two bodies Kali had left behind. She sighed internally. It seemed things were once again escalating for the pack. Though the way that man had looked right at her and laughed, that worried her. Like he knew something she did not, and that camera; It would have caught not just her but Kali as well.

He was not from her pack, she had not recognised him. Then there was why would her own pack members make themselves scent like rogues. It did not make any sense at all. Something else was going on. Huffed in annoyance, it could be Victor, she thought.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 12

Jack POV

Jack was prowling around at the edge of the lake, a mind-link had come through about a wolf on wolf fight, out by the lake. He’d peeled off from the pack run and taken half a dozen men with him. This was now becoming more than an annoyance. They were on alert for Victor Sampson to come back. Were not risking leaving the pack to go and attack him, when he was notorious for a second wave.

If they left it undefended and took the battle to Victor, which is what the pack's warriors wanted to do, that man would swing round past them and attack their pack while the Alpha and his unit were away. It was the man's style. They knew this from coming across him in the Nightfall Pack, over the years. They were both allied to the Nightfall Pack.

Victor, it seemed, though had not yet come back for them, as they expected, was likely waiting for them to make the first move and leave their pack unprotected. He and Rafe were not that stupid. But it did seem that Victor was sending rogues out to their pack.

Rafe had declined an alliance with the man years ago. Victor had not seemed at all offended by this. Had likely been expecting them to say no, considering Luci was within their pack at the time and she was their lover. Part of Jack had wondered if Victor wanted an alliance with them solely because of Luci being in their pack.

He'd never really had an interest in their pack before, then Luci had come here and so had Victor. He didn't think it was a mere coincidence. But the Alliance papers he'd brought with him had not once mentioned her name, the man had never even brought her up at all.

It had been a good deal on paper, but they would not align themselves with him. Not when he was a brute with no morals. Victor had simply shrugged off their, no to an alliance with him and his pack, and walked away.

Though that attack on the pack last week had come out of nowhere. They had nothing to do with Victor and the Bloodless Moon Pack. An odd name for a pack, which was so steeped in blood. They still didn't even know what the man wanted.

There had been no communications from him, stating he was annoyed or angry with them, or that they had overstepped somewhere. No warnings aimed at them and afterwards no communication about why or what he wanted. Not that they expected that from Victor. Not his style.

Jack and his men found two dead wolves, and though they scented of rogues. They clearly were not too healthy looking, too well fed and

muscled up, though one was much thinner and wiry than the other. He sighed this was not the first time this had been seen. That attack on the pack six years ago.

Those were all rogues and that one prisoner; he'd scented like a rogue until the spray had worn off. Likely it was Victor that had orchestrated that attack too, he now realised. Which meant the man that had snuck in and around their pack was likely to have been Victor himself. Searching for something or someone.

Jack's brain was ticking, that attack had come six months after they'd met their Mate's, the man had searched the Alpha floor first. That bastard, he now realised, had been looking for Luci in all likelihood, he had snuck in and tried to take her. He'd not known she wasn't there. That was interesting to Jack. Being allied to the Nightfall Pack, he thought Victor would have heard she wasn't here anymore.

These two wolves were lying on the ground not that far apart, a few meters only. Had been killed by another wolf, there were plenty of bite marks and claw marks to denote that. Not killed each other either. There was another scent mixed in with the rogue, it was muted, and he couldn't quite place it, but it felt familiar to him.

That wolf had fled the battle scene itself, and in a hurry, tracked the creature himself. It was running at full speed, could tell by the tracks it was leaving its paw prints very far apart. Once away from the rogues, he could detect its scent better, female, smelled soft and a little sweet at that. Breathed in deeply, realised he'd only ever smelt something that soft and sweet on one wolf before. Luci. He could also detect the pack's scent, of pinecones on her.

He shot after that scent at full wolf speed himself, left the dead wolves. He could come back to them, after he found her. She couldn't have gotten too far, not really. Though she was Alpha-blooded, Flare could catch her, always had been able to. He was as fast as an Alpha Wolf himself.

They were racing with all they had now, after her scent, had to get to her, had to bring her home. Came to a dead end, right at the lake. Her

wolf Kali's prints never even slowed down, she ran full tilt into the lake, it seemed. Still in wolf form.

Stood and stared out at the lake, it was the last place she had been seen. Had gone in and not come out. Now wolf prints with the pack scent on them dove right into that lake. His eyes were on the water, searching for movement, looking for someone swimming, a wolf swimming even. Used Flares wolf sight to get a better look, though the moon was up and full in the sky the night bright.

He could not see a single ripple, out in the water, the lake looked calm and peaceful. Perhaps she'd gotten out already. He turned his eyes to look along the lake's edges, checking the shoreline for exit marks nothing close by.

"Check the shoreline for prints, wolf and human, two hundred meters in either direction." he rapped out to his men. She couldn't have gotten that far, there was no way he'd not been that far behind her. She had to be close by, surely.

Two of his men peeled off away from him, following his order without hesitation, while he stood and continued to look at the lake. "Where are you, Luci?" he sighed heavily. He knew why she'd left. Had been in love with him and Rafe only to have them hurt her terribly.

If that wolf, he tracked here, to the lake was Kali, she now smelled different to him, only slightly so, but out here tonight. There were no pack members off territory of late, without permission.

Certainly, none right this minute. All were within the confines of the pack, and any shifters were on the pack run, so it had to be Luci, could only be Luci in his mind.

"Nothing Beta." his men reported after coming back from their search.

Jack sighed, gone into that lake and again, and it seemed hadn't come out. That creature they now knew was a Siren hybrid. He was damned certain it was Luci. Rafe was not going to be able to sway him on that it wasn't.

No wonder she'd never been seen again. Likely lived in the lake. Likely only came out and showed herself, because the pack was losing that day. Tonight was a full moon. Kali would want to be out tonight as well, would feel connected to it, would want to play under it, like most wolves.

Convincing Rafe of this was another matter, that was not going to be easy. Luci was a wolf from the Nightfall Pack. Both her parents were wolves. They were allied to that pack, had been for years, even before they'd met Luci. They had kept her hidden from most. Jack stood and stared at the lake for a long time, nothing, she couldn't hold her breath forever, unless she didn't need to anymore.

Turned and walked away. If she did not want to be found, it was likely she wouldn't be. If she was that hybrid, then she had likely shifted to her Siren form the minute she hit the lake, accounted for why Kali had not even stopped running and raced right into the water as well.

Back at the two dead bodies, he found both of them wearing cameras. Picked one up and looked right into it, it was still recording, raised an eyebrow at it. Then just pulled the micro-SD card from it and dropped it on the ground, smashed it with his foot. Did the same to the other camera.

At least he would be able to see what they saw, get a good look at the wolf in question. He knew what Kali looked like, he and Rafe had been the very first ones to see her wolf Kali at that. And Kali was just as cheeky as Luci was, just as naughty. It made him smile, both Flare and Solar had loved chasing Kali all over the Pack as much as they had Luci.

"Get rid of the bodies." he told his men and headed back to the pack, took those SD cards with him.

Jack did not care how late it was or would be, when he got back to the packhouse, he wanted to know if it was Kali who had taken down those rogues out there, and if so, what condition she was in. Though she was a female Alpha Wolf, she was alone now, and that would attract a lot of male interest.

Pulled pants on from the closet in the Alpha office, sank down at his desk and up-loaded the video footage from the SD card. Saw the man fitting it to his chest, looked to be in a van of some sort. Not a rogue either. This was all planned. Had to be Victor.

Then there were just woods as the wolf walked around, noticed that it kept its distance from his Pack's border, came close to the lake, many times. Prowled around and then moved on.

Heard it howl and then take off, likely had scented that female wolf. Then saw it was chasing a wolf and she was fast and agile. Watched on as that wolf stopped and turned around to face the wolf.

The moonlight showed her, and his heart near skipped a beat, he hit the pause button and let his fingers touch the screen, Kali. Luci's wolf was frozen on the screen for him to look at, all Alpha aggression showing, at the wolves chasing her, wolves she likely believed to be rogues.

Hit the play button and watched as Kali fought in wolf form, killed it and then was gone, nothing else useful on it, just him pulling the micro-SD card from its camera.

Put the other SD card in and up-loaded it. Saw Kali fighting the other wolf. While this one just seemed to stand back and watch the fight, it was interested in her, that was for sure. Sighed this wolf in particular had focused on Kali and he had a pretty good idea why. Victor had tried to claim her once before. She was not his Mate. Had stalked away from that man, refused to be his Mate, even though her father had set it up.

Victor had wanted her, a pure-blooded Alpha female, to give him a good strong heir.

He was certain now that these were all Victor's men. It was possible now, hell it was likely that Victor was behind them being attacked so regularly, had been trying to get Luci out in the open for the past year and a half now. She'd not been seen in years, but it was unlikely Victor knew this.

Jack still recalled the way Addison and Orien had stared at Rafe when they had told them what had happened. That she had run off out of the pack, when they had come home with their Mate's.

Orien had frowned at them both and stated, "Send her home, when she comes back," but had not said anything else, odd for a father. Rafe had explained she'd not been severed from the pack, presumed she was still alive, just missing. That was what Rafe had decided to tell her mother and father, because he had not felt her sever from him or the pack.

Addison, Luci's mother, had frowned deeply at them, asked not about Luci, had asked about their Mate's in fact. How and when they had met them. Had they informed Luci, prior to coming home? They had been honest with her, she'd sighed softly, sadness could be heard in that one sound, it still haunted him a little. Then she had turned and walked away from them both. Said nothing more.

They had lost the woman's only daughter, barely a year after she'd been given to them. Her mother had always liked them, smiled at them, liked that Luci was always happy with them. But Addison had not once smiled at them since that day.

She was disappointed in them now and their lack of concern for her daughter on the day they'd come home Mated, she had been their lover, or as her father had put it, concubine. Seeing as they were not her Mate's.

Saw Luci herself, in the footage, looking right down at the man. Her eyes were still brilliant green, but her long hair was much lighter now, no longer a rich chocolate brown, couldn't quite tell the colour, but it looked very light now. Still so beautiful to look at. The man was laughing as she asked him her questions. Then just killed him, saw her look at the camera and frown deeply, then look up, her head tilted slightly to the side, shift and was gone. His men were the next to be seen.

It was obvious she hadn't liked what she saw after talking to it. Who knew what she had seen, though that man had not answered her questions, hadn't been given the time to either. Rewound the footage and

paused it on her face. Though she looked unhappy, she was still beautiful. Printed that picture out.

Not only was she alive, but she was also nearby and looked to him to be healthy and clean. Still had the pack scent on her, but she didn't scent the same anymore, not to him. Smelled different. She could well be Marked and Mated, he supposed. Her long loose fallen hair did not allow for him to see if she bore a Mark. He sighed, it was likely though, if she smelled different, her mates' scent would linger on her.

She had left the fight scene and bolted for the lake, likely Kali had picked up on him and his men coming to investigate and run off, gone into the lake and not come out. Huffed in annoyance. Even found Flare felt annoyed that she would run away from him.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 13

Rafe POV

He saw Flare peel off from the pack run, knew why. A wolf fight had been heard not far from the pack out in the woods by the lake. But it was the night of the pack run and after the week they'd had here, inside the Pack. His wolves needed this, so Solar continued to lead the Pack with Melissa's wolf, Rella, next to him.

Left it to Jack to sort out, he could handle it, was more than capable and knew he'd report it when he got back.

He felt Flare leave the pack's territory and come back later on, though he did not re-join the pack run. Tracked that man through his bond to him, went right to the packhouse to their office. He was likely already working on the report. He'd thrown himself into his work over the past week, researching everything he could get his hands on. About Sirens and Crossbreeds.

Was practically ghosting his own Mate at this point. Ninety percent of the time he was in the office at his desk, only with Maria when he retired for the night, and he went to bed late.

Though Maria didn't seem to mind it at all, she was just going about her own business, her usual daily routine. Hanging out with Melissa in the Luna's Office and watching her attend Luna duties. Something they didn't share doing. Maria didn't want the job, stating, "I'm the Beta's Mate, not a Luna". They shared everything except he and Jack and the running of the pack. He'd seen them feed each other, even dance together all slow like, hands on each other.

Found Jack shirtless and shoeless, sitting at his desk in their office, he was typing away on his computer, looked to be composing an email. Odd thing to do at nearly 2 in the morning.

"Jack?"

"Luci is alive." He stated without looking up from what he was doing.

"You know we're still trying to confirm that, Jack. Don't jump to conclusions." He sighed.

"I have confirmed it." he snapped right at Rafe, sounded very annoyed with him at this minute. Then pushed a few photos across the desk at him.

Rafe picked them up and stared at them, more than a little surprised. It was definitely Luci and Kali, photos of both of them. "Where did you get these from?" he asked quietly, he'd not even known Jack had people out looking for her, let alone snapping pictures of her.

"Off the two dead wolves she killed tonight, she was the one in the fight that was reported." Jack sighed.

"What?" Rafe was completely shocked now, "Where is she now Jack? Why didn't you bring her home?" Knew that Jack would not only have wanted to do that, he would have picked her up and made her come home too. Likely she wouldn't have gotten a say in it. Not with how he'd been this week.

"In the lake, I believe."

Rafe frowned at him now, “What...I don’t understand.” though Jack had his thoughts on that hybrid, Rafe knew Luci was a wolf. A pure-blooded Alpha Wolf, it was not her in the lake.

“Kali’s tracks led right to the lake. I tracked her myself, she smells different now too. Kali launched herself right into that lake or that’s what the tracks denote.”

Rafe sat down and looked right at the man. “The photos?”

“Those wolves, they were looking for something. Victor’s wolves, I believe, and I think that one of the wolves she killed, was more than happy to see her, laughed when she shifted and looked down at him. Don’t know what happened, she killed him a few seconds later. Then fled the scene.” Jack’s eyes moved right to Rafe’s. “She went right into that lake, and did not come out, Rafe.”

“That does not mean, she is the Siren hybrid thing.” He frowned at Jack. Knew the man was already convinced it was her, had been prior to this event. But how could she be when both her parents were wolves?

“It would make sense. She didn’t surface, Rafe, not a bloody ripple on the water.”

Rafe sighed, he was not going to be able to convince Jack otherwise, not until they could actually confirm who and what lived in the lake. “You said she smells different?”

“Yes, but she still has the pack’s scent on her.” Jack nodded. “It’s odd, to say the least.”

“Could you feel her? Connect to her?” he asked. They couldn’t connect to the thing in the lake, though it could to them, and called him Alpha. Was part of the pack but could sever any connection to him at will. Had out ranked him and this was why it could disconnect itself from him.

“I didn’t actually know it was Luci, though I suspected. Not until I got back here and checked the footage did I confirm it.” he frowned “You should watch the footage.”

Rafe did just that, stood behind Jack as he loaded up the footage and then watched “It’s watching her.” he murmured, “stood back and just watched her.”

“Filmed her, not watched her.” Jack corrected him and Rafe knew he was right. “I think he belongs to Victor Sampson, and that laughing. They finally found her, and she is off pack territory. Victor still wants her and has just located her.”

“She’ll not go with Victor.” Rafe shook his head, knew that with full certainty “Not a hope in hell of that happening.”

“He, might not care. If she is willing to go with him, Rafe.”

That was also very true. That man would not care, she had nearly been his once, and the way that man had looked at her. He wanted her, most did, Luci was absolutely stunning to look at. From what he was seeing now on this footage, nothing had changed, still so very beautiful.

Smiled at her photo still in his hand, she was not smiling though, Luci looked more than annoyed, not something he’d seen often here in the pack, always a happy cheeky woman. But the look changed from annoyed to cold when that man started laughing, like an Alpha when k****g something. It did not mar her beauty at all, though, she would make a great pack Alpha, he realised. Strong and beautiful but could be cold and k**l when needed.

“I’m glad she’s alive.” He murmured, and he really was. Didn’t look to be emaciated or undernourished in anyway. He was also glad about that “She looks good.”

“She does.” Jack agreed with him. Leaned back in his chair, “I just sent Alpha Orien, and Luna Addison the photos of Kali and Luci, though have explain we didn’t actually see her, or have her yet, but is close by the pack currently. Still a pack member.”

“Good, Addison will be happy about that,” Rafe nodded. “likely come right here herself.”

“We need to find her, Rafe, bring her back in.”

“Agreed, what does she smell like now?” He was curious, Jack had said she smelled different to him.

“White tea and freshly fallen rain, it used to be white tea and thyme.”

“I recall what she used to smell like.” Rafe nodded. “Always soft and delicate to the nose. Liked it a lot.” and he had. Could drive him completely insane with wanton need some days. Never really understood why she wasn’t there Mate. They’d never had any inclination to have another from the day she came to the pack. Had known her since she was 18, not their Mate, but could and did have her like she was their Mate, more often than not.

Her needs matched theirs and he’d loved taking her on his own and with Jack, annoyed him a lot when he found them together without him, though he was certain she did that on purpose to rile up all his alpha needs, to be punished by him, in a good way.

Luci had enjoyed them as much as they had her. Sighed if her scent was different, she’d likely be mated now. Someone else got to enjoy her, felt a pull of pain inside his chest, hurt a little to think of another with her.

Not that he had any right to have pain where Luci was concerned, they’d been the bastards. Had hurt her, not the other way around. He had a Mate, had brought one home, uncaring how it would make Luci feel, to bloody wrapped up in the Mate Bond love bubble to think about anything or anyone else.

“Perhaps Addison will come and stay, help us to look, search the area. They were always so very close.”

“Yes, they were.” He heard the smile in Jack’s voice “Always understood her daughter’s needs.”

Rafe chuckled, “Catered to her daughter’s needs, against Orien’s wishes at that.”

Jack's eyes turned right up to him, fully amused now. "That she did, always made sure we were invited to every Mating Ball she held."

"Mm, Addison is likely the only one to help us with this." He sighed "Luci will go back to Nightfall when we find her. She won't stay here." Rafe was one hundred percent sure of this.

Luci had left when they'd come home with Mates and never returned. She didn't want to be here, to see he and Jack with their Mate's and Rafe could not blame her. Neither of them could.

To date, Luci was their biggest regret. They'd never be able to fix it. Wouldn't even know where to start. How could he when he had a Mate, which had broken her heart! So callously and unfeelingly, he didn't believe a simple apology would do it.

Though if they did manage to find her, he would offer it, and it would be sincere and heartfelt. Felt Jack's hand on him and looked down at the man, shook himself, Jack had felt his sadness through their bond.

"We'll find her." Jack told him softly.

'Better do it before Victor does." Rafe muttered, that man was a complete brute, and he did not like thinking of what he would do to Luci.

"We need recon on him and his pack now," Jack stated flatly.

"Yes, we do." Rafe agreed, "though anyone he catches will be tortured for day or weeks, months even."

"Only one person I can think of in this pack, who will survive it unscathed." Jack huffed "They're not going to like it."

"Not they are not...but you're right." he nodded "Allen is the only choice. We'll talk to him in the morning."

"Perhaps..."

"Perhaps what?" Rafe prompted after the man didn't finish his sentence.

“Her mother, would give us information on Victor.”

“They’re allied packs Jack.”

“If Victor is after Luci.” He looked right at Rafe pointedly.

“Alright, Orien won’t though.” He huffed that man was a good ally and did not go about divulging information to others on his allied packs.

“We’ll try that first, though we will need to get Addison on the phone without Orien there.”

Rafe really didn’t want three irate witches stalking into his office and staring him down, for sending their Mate on a lone mission with no back up. But Allen couldn’t be harmed by anyone, not even in an unconscious state. Not by anyone. He was protected by his Mates.

Powerful triplet witches, who Allen liked to call himself their fun toy, but that man loved them as much as they did him, enjoyed being their fun toy a lot. And that spell they had on him, he’d agreed to it, had to, apparently, in order for it to work. Used all their blood plus Allen’s as well.

“How’d the pack run go?” Jack asked, pulling him from his thoughts.

“Fine.”

Saw the man raise an eyebrow at him “Then why are you here?”

Rafe shrugged, Solar had mated Rella, but then walked away from her. They did not Mate like normal bonded wolves did. It was also due to Solar being like Rafe, needed that connection of sharing with Flare. His mating with Rella was always brief. He had never knotted her, not once, Mate and walk away, and only ever on a full moon, just once a month.

Rarely did Solar even talk to Rella, his wolfen Mate. Didn’t have that connection to her that he wanted, he wanted more, both wolves as Rafe wanted both women. Rella was closed off to him, always had been, in fact. Never one to just talk to his wolf, or even start something with Solar.

Unlike other bonded wolves who would mate all the time, just antagonise each other into a game of hunt the prey for fun, to enjoy being with each other and mate like crazy in the woods. Rella was not interested at all. Bothered Solar as much as Rafe, those two should have bonded quickly. It was almost like they were contracted Mates, not something either of them wanted. Not even Chosen Mates acted like Sola and Rella. He had a few Chosen Mates here in the pack and they were as happy as if they were gifted to each other. They were Goddess Gifted Mates, but acted like strangers, it was unexplainable.

“You and Melissa?”

“No.” He shook his head “I came here to see what was going on.” and he had, Solar had walked off and Rafe had come right here to his office, to Jack, in fact. He was more comfortable around his Beta than his own Mate. More connected to him and as the years passed, the gap between his and his Mate widened.

“You should go upstairs then.”

“So should you.” Rafe shot right back a little annoyed, then sighed “Sorry Jack.” he apologised.

“Accepted, how about I get us both a drink?”

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 14

Victor POV

He was unhappy about the footage being taken by those pricks. His men had not been alone out there, never alone, not when cameras needed to be retrieved if the worst happened. Those two men, one was a former rogue, and had bloody lost control of himself upon scenting a female wolf out there. His long-term rogue behaviour still ingrained into him.

Though he'd not been a rogue for the past six months now, he still had that instinct to hunt and mate any lone females outside of a pack. Why that was, when he could, and Victor knew that he did, sate his needs here

the packs w***e house, it was a large place and had many she-wolves for his men to sate their needs with.

Though his man, Hugo, had mind-linked to their back up, that he believed that the wolf was Alpha Luci's wolf, Kali, and she was currently outside the Black Forest Pack at that, for the first time in years. He was a loyal man to Victor, and he had been around for many decades, had seen her wolf before on several occasions, when she had lived inside her home pack.

Then she had attacked them both one after the other. He'd stepped back to film her so Victor could get a real good look at her himself. He would not mistake any wolf for Kali. A pretty cream coloured wolf with white feet and underbelly. Her colouring was indicative of her bloodline, or at least he thought so.

Had yet to truly confirm that, but the timeline did fit. He knew she wasn't Orien's biological daughter, but that man had seemed to accept her as his, because he loved his Mate. And why wouldn't you when you had something that pretty to bed every night, and he was betting Orien did, bed Addison every night without fail.

Then the wolf had shifted, there had been no mistaking her for Hugo, looked just like her mother did. Victor was still allied to the Nightfall pack. He had eyed Addison off more than once himself. But she was Mated to Orien, and he was not about to get rid of that man yet.

He would one day, when he was useless to him, just stroll in there and take out that pack. It was only 600 wolves. And only a third of those were warriors. Not that hard to do.

Victor, however, wanted to make sure he did it the right way, that man's Mate. Had connections to a whole other side, though Victor was certain Orien did not know this. Addison, he was also certain, had no idea just who Victor really was, and he was not about to go letting that out of the bag. She'd sever pack ties with him so fast his head would spin and likely call all their allied packs, including those two pricks, to her to aid her in attacking him. He and his pack might not actually survive that.

Besides, that woman had something he wanted, and he fully intended to retrieve it. Might have to use her to get to it, gain control of it, when he was ready, likely have way more chance at controlling it with her in his clutches.

Victor doubted using Orien would work, had to use Addison, and she was more vulnerable anyway, and Alpha female, he'd not found one that he couldn't out power at this point and he was strong and could overpower her, but she was the long game and likely only to be used if he couldn't get his hands on what he truly wanted.

His two men had been disposed of by those pricks and Luci had gone back to the pack, he supposed, was more than annoyed, needed to let his frustrations out. Stalked out of his office and down to his packhouse's basement. Walked along the corridor and looked at his collection of women to sate his needs.

They were all well fed and clothed properly, no-one dared to touch what was his, or treat it poorly for that matter. Punishment was death. Only he was allowed to treat these women like that. Had a dozen women down here, varied in species and though that pleased him, most of them did not state his Alpha needs, only one truly could.

He could see and smell the fear in all of them, as he eyed them off, they all knew it was a full moon though, and though it looked like he was trying to decide there were only two he would use tonight. None of them wanted to be here, none of them liked him. It would be much easier for them if they did.

Well, one of them liked being here, too stupid to know better. He'd raised her, treated her right and when she'd become sexually needy, he'd taken her for himself. Her nature was her greatest asset, that thing enjoyed f*****g and vigorously so.

It annoyed him a lot that he had not yet impregnated her, stalked his way past all of them to the last two cells, glanced at the she-wolf in the cell to his left, smirked right at her, she knew what was coming.

Turned to the large tank on his right and tapped on the glass, saw movement in the water, found his little Siren smiling out at him a minute later through the glass, kissed the glass right in front of his face, a horny little creature if ever there was one.

He smiled right at her, and she giggled and swam away. She knew what he wanted, was only too happy to please him. Surfaced over near the tank stairs to get out and shift to her human form. She was the only one down here allowed to roam freely, was not in a cell and could come and go as she pleased, this was her home after all.

Got right out of that tank, smiled all happy at him, and trotted down the stairs "Vic Vic." she laughed and then threw her arms around his neck, wrapped her long legs around his waist and was kissing him in a second, rubbing her body all over his.

The only person in this entire pack to get away with calling him anything other than Alpha or Victor. Grabbed her a*s and kissed her back. Shoved her up against the wall and ravaged her mouth while one hand undid his pants, took her a second later, and pounded the hell out of her, all his Alpha needs shoved right at her.

She did not care, took it all was an aggressive creature herself in the s*x department. She didn't even care that others could see it, he didn't need to touch her, just f**k her relentlessly for as long as he liked. Turned her around and bent her over, to take what he wanted from her, till he was done.

Looked down at her on the floor as he got up off of her, she smiled up at him and he grabbed her hand and hauled her up onto her feet "Go sleep in my bed tonight." he stated, "I'm going to want to do that again."

Watched her look at her tank and then back at him, he frowned right at her, didn't like that she was thinking of disobeying him, wanted to be in her tank. "Do I need to punish you?" he rapped out, hated when he knew she would rather be in that tank than in his bed. Understood she loved the water, was a Siren, but he had needs to.

Saw her eyes move right to his. The last time she'd not gone to his bed, which had denied him the other he wanted that night. He'd drained her tank. For 3 days it stood empty. And to further punish her, she'd not been allowed a shower or a bath, not been allowed near any water. It was the only way to punish her. You couldn't beat a Siren, not when they could harm you at will with that Siren call.

"No Vic Vic." She shook her head.

"Good." he turned her and pushed her down the corridor. "Go up and wait for me, clean up too."

"Yes Vic Vic." she said, a little happier, he had a good-sized soaker tub up there and was certain that's where he would find her when he was done down here.

Waited for her to leave and heard the door close before he turned his eyes to the she-wolf in the cell right across from his little Siren. Put her here for a reason, so she could enjoy the show every time he was with her.

Not that all of them didn't get to hear or see it if they so choose to watch. And they'd all be on the other end of it themselves, though his little Siren was the only willing one down here, not that it particularly bothered him. He was only trying to get half-breed warriors out of them, had managed a few.

Though they were not raised here by their mothers, he had a house for them to go and live in, had several loyal she-wolves as nannies to raise them. Those children all knew he was their father, and they all knew to obey him as well.

Stood staring at his she-wolf, then smiled at her "You want to play with me. Little Silla enjoys my company, as you could well see."

"f**k you, Victor." she snarled right at him.

He laughed out loud, "I'll take that as an invitation." he smirked and unlocked her cell door, to let himself in, banged it shut. She'd tried to

escape before. “The moon is full Zoe, you must have need of me.” he was already pulling the rest of his clothes off, would be completely naked for her.

“Don’t you f*****g touch me.” she snarled at him.

“Now, sweetheart, none of that. You’ll be screaming my name soon enough. Like you do every full moon i’m home. I already got all my aggression out on Silla, so you won’t be hurt, I always do, don’t I?” and he did. Made her watch though. Walked across the room, grabbed her and smashed his mouth down on to hers.

“f**k you always feel good.” he growled right at her, as he ripped at her clothes, didn’t care that she fought him every step of the way. Tried to stop him, she would stop that before long. She couldn’t resist him and their Bond. He’d never claimed her, but she had been gifted to him and he to her.

Even with a full rejection in place, the s*x was still the best he’d ever had, and it was for her too. Cuffed her hands to the top of the bed, that was what he liked. And took his time sating his needs, touched every part of her, tasted every inch of her lusher body, relished in her cries of pleasure that she couldn’t deny.

Took her only when she begged him to, needed him as much as he needed her, moaned and gasped, cried out his name as she came. Loved hearing that, spent hours hearing it till she was utterly exhausted. And he was sated like she was.

He knew she would scream and curse him afterwards, cry and sob uncontrollably, hated herself as much as she did him, for enjoying their one night together. He didn’t care, just dressed himself, and looked down at her as he uncuffed her, tears already dripping from her blue eyes, leaned down and murmured softly “till the next full moon Zoe.” and then left her there.

Silla was not going to be needed, but a warm body in his bed was always nice. Zoe would always be his. Only once a month did he touch her, on the full moon when his needs were the most. Always took Silla first and

right in front of Zoe, punishment for her rejection of him. Also allowed him to get all his aggression out on Silla, so he didn't actually hurt Zoe.

Despite her not wanting to be his Luna, he couldn't let her go, was never going to let her go and she knew it. He'd accepted her rejection as though it meant nothing to him. Had stood and stared at her, as she'd voiced it. Then had simply accepted it. She'd thought that was it.

Till he'd latched on to her and growled all soft and menacingly in her ear, "You're mine, given as the Goddess Selena sees fit. No-one will ever have you but me." had dragged her kicking and screaming to this very cell, and tossed her in there. Locked her up and left her there, hadn't touched her that night. Had been in too much pain from the damned rejection she'd voiced. He'd just not shown her that.

Zoe was actually the only one he'd never beaten senseless, had struck her once and only once. Had not gone down so well with Bane. His wolf still craved Zoe and her wolf, Halo, Bane had never allowed him to punish her again. Pushed forward to stop it every time. Zoe also knew his wolf would; her wolf understood his still loved hers.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 15

Jack POV

Jack was back out by the lake. He had left the packhouse more than annoyed with Maria. Who'd just told him she was going home to her father's pack for a visit. Didn't ask about going under the current circumstances. Told him in a matter of fact tone, she was going. He had offered to go with her, and she'd just stared at him, seemed annoyed by this.

"No." she'd stated, "I want to go on my own, but we should have s*x before I go." Had looked at him expectantly.

"Should we?" he'd asked right back.

“Yes, we’re never going to get an heir, if you don’t bother to touch me.”

That had ticked him off royally. “I touch you all the time, daily in fact.” he’d grated out, and they did have s*x every day well most days at this moment, even though he didn’t always want to.

“Well obviously, it’s not enough Jack, you need to put more effort in.”

It wasn’t, not to get her pregnant, but he had his own theory on why she couldn’t get pregnant, several of them in fact nowadays. “Well go to town.” he’d snapped out and promptly dropped his pants and sat himself on the bed “Climb on, f**k me as much as you want, as long as you want. The way you want.” he chose his words carefully, made sure it was all going to be on her and her way.

Maria had glared right at him “Well, if you’re going to be like that, just forget it.”

Exactly what he thought she would say, Jack stood, pulled on his pants and left the suite. It had not escaped his attention that for the past several years she’d not once actively initiated s*x, told him she wanted it but never actually touched him to get it. Today was the first time he’d pushed that button to see what would happen. Nothing. Just like he thought. If she had to do it, she wouldn’t.

Jack had not bothered to see her off or kiss her goodbye, though he had made sure she had a driver, one completely loyal to him and Rafe for that matter, he would follow their orders without issue. Maria’s orders, however, he could dismiss under Rafe’s order.

Jack had told that man as much. He didn’t care what she thought about suddenly having a driver, instead of being allowed to drive herself. She would either accept having a driver or simply be refused to leave the pack altogether. He was curious as to which it would be.

He walked now with Allen and Ian along the lake’s shoreline, trying to find out where Luci had exited the lake. She had to have done so at some point. If she lived in this lake was half Siren, half wolf. There had to be signs of her coming and going from the lake.

They were being extra careful and diligent. He knew where she had gone into the lake, that was their starting point. Wondered if he should get some scuba gear and search the actual lake himself, though it was very large and she'd likely be able to detect him long before he could her. Just move around him and stay out of sight. But it was an option.

Though he could feel Flare's unease almost instantly, they did not mind swimming, but being fully submerged like that for hours, it was not something Flare liked the sound of.

Heard Melissa's angry voice come down the Mind-link at him, all Luna Tone, his own Mate's twin sister. Was completely ticked off, it seemed, at him insisting on them having a driver. And he knew it was them. One never went without the other.

"You have no bloody right, Beta, to detain us from leaving the pack."

So, they'd refused the driver, it seemed, and the gate guards were detaining them in their car. The gates were shut and would not budge; not even for the Luna at this point. His word was as good as Rafe's.

"I have every right. Rafe agreed. It's necessary with all that has been going on. Deal with it or stay put." he shot right back. He was actually able to ignore her Luna Tone, always had been, likely because he was so closely bonded to Rafe, closer than she was. If they would allow them to share, he would be considered a second Alpha to the pack. Out ranked her so to speak.

She might be the Luna, but she was no friend to him, never did like him, no respect had ever been given once here inside the pack, and nowadays he showed none in return, ticked her off even more.

"We will be leaving." she snarled right down the mind-link at him.

"Then enjoy Titan's company. I hear he's quite chatty." He cut the mind-link off and blocked her from starting another. He had other things to do. It did not surprise him that Maria wasn't the one to mind-link to him. Not after their altercation, before he left. Always had her sister mind-link

him or turn up to have words with him, used the Luna Rank to try and put him in his place.

“Don’t you make my sister cry.” were her most common words. She’d threatened to sever his bond with her sister once, about a year ago.

Jack had stared right at her, more than shocked by her words, even Rafe had been rendered speechless on that one. Then Jack, after a moment, had laughed right in her face, his temper had surfaced and he’d sneered “Go ahead Luna, I’ll banish her in an instant. Toss her a*s out into rogue territory.” hadn’t even known where those words had come from, likely years of her blaming him for them not having a pup, he supposed afterwards. Jack didn’t even know if he would actually do that. Doubted it, but it had satisfied him, the horrified look on Melissa’s face. It had come across to her that he would. She’d turned and stalked from the room away from him.

He’d never, not once intentionally made Maria cry, didn’t or hadn’t once even liked the thought of it. Usually gave Maria everything she wanted, he’d never denied her anything, not even money for her father’s pack. And that pack was a bloody money pit. At least once a month, he or Rafe were writing checks to their old pack.

Goddess only knew where the money went, or how they could spend it so bloody quickly.

Maria always stated it was for security and upgrades, it had not been a wealthy pack and they had begged Rafe for assistance, were unaffiliated with them at the time. Rafe and Jack had gone to their aid out of pity, they were a small pack of 400 and had been told they were being attacked too often by rogues to continue to defend themselves.

Neither one of them had expected to find their Mates inside that tiny pack, but they had and twins at that. Those two girls had been standoffish at first, but being Goddess-Gifted Mates their father had persuaded them it would be a good thing. It was weird, even to this day, why their Mates had stood back and not really been interested and all drawn to them right away.

It had taken both he and Rafe a few days to even convince them to have dinner, they had been drawn instantly to the twins and only after Marking and Mating them did they seem to come around and be all ogling of them and giggly when looking at them. It was weird even now to think back on.

Shook it off, it was what it was for the moment. Guess not every Mate Bond was all loved up and happy times, all the time. Their affection towards each other dwindled over the years and only after the girls went away for a while. Gone back to their home pack actually, and then came back here after a week or so, did he feel that strong Mate Bond connection to Maria once more.

Only when she'd been gone away from him and returned, did he realise he missed her, loved her and wanted her constantly. But it only lasted a few weeks, even that now was getting less, the last time barely a week had passed before she been harping on him about a baby and blaming him.

Tried again to push it from his mind, he needed to focus on finding Luci. She'd not been seen in six and a half years, last night had been the first real sighting of her. He wanted to lay his own eyes on her. Apologise, he had many regrets where she was concerned.

He was often restless, put it down to how things had turned out between them, the way she'd left, that they had no confirmation if she was dead or alive, till now that was. It had bothered him greatly. Though, even now, knowing she was alive, he was still restless. Even Flare was agitated sometimes and didn't understand why.

Now that half Siren, half wolf in the lake, and Luci, well, Kali's tracks that led right into the lake. He was dead certain Luci was that creature that they had not only seen but had aided them and turned the tide of war for them. If not for her, they'd likely have lost two or three times that many men. Might not have won at all.

That Siren he'd seen, so beautiful just like Luci, only had a paler skin tone, it was her, had to be, too much of a coincidence in his book for it

not to be and now more evidence of her, here still nearby, tracks to the lake. He was not wrong, and he would prove it.

Rafe was not totally convinced, but Jack was going to prove he was right. It was Luci. Yes, he knew she had two wolfen parents, but who knew if something had happened to Addison before they knew her, and she'd become pregnant with another. It was possible. This could also explain why Orien never wanted Luci to be the heir to his pack. Always wanted it to be Thatcher instead, had always been at odds with Addison over it too. This would really explain why she was doted on by her mother and not her father as well.

Though he did know Orien had to care somewhat for the girl, had set all manner of rules around her, to stop his packs wolves from touching her. Though Jack believed that was probably more to do with Orien's daughter being seen as promiscuous and embarrassing him in front of other Alpha's, he supposed.

Not that, that had worked at all. Luci had been a law unto herself, that made him smile, defied her father right from the moment she'd gotten Kali. Cheeky she was, or that's how he and Rafe had seen her. Not Orien though. He'd told her on more than one occasion she was a disappointment to him and was too troublesome.

Jack had seen it affect her sometimes more than others. Though sometimes she'd just turn a blind eye to it, likely heard it all the time. He didn't think she was particularly promiscuous, or at least had not been here inside this pack.

Had only wanted he and Rafe, never with anyone else in the year she'd been here with them. In her home pack he knew she couldn't find anyone to sate her needs like they could. She was alpha-blooded and had likely just been looking for someone who could, but Orien had not seen it that way.

Saw it as an embarrassment, a dirty mark on his pack, that shamed him, Jack thought. Though he knew if Luci had been a boy, Orien would have turned a blind eye to it and let it happen, likely been proud in fact.

They searched all along the northern edge of the lake. There was nothing, no sign of prints coming out of the lake, human or otherwise, and her scent was no more, so soft and delicate to linger for long out in the open air.

Walked all the way around the lake, saw plenty of footprints along the shoreline near the human homes and cabins that had direct access to the lake. Saw and nodded to a few of the humans walking about themselves, didn't pay much attention to anything that led directly to a human dwelling, humans were not his concern at all today.

Nothing at all, it seemed, or the night had washed any evidence away. He sighed as he came back onto pack territory, walked himself back through the forest in no rush to the packhouse, it was lunch time already, had spent the entire morning out on the lake looking for signs of Luci.

He did not see Maria or Melissa at the table with Rafe, "Did they go?" He asked casually.

"Yes." Rafe nodded "Why Titan?" He asked, sounding curious.

"Got good eyes, that one." Jack shrugged.

Titan wouldn't let Maria out of his sight. That was the plan. Told that man it was to make sure she was safe with all that had gone on around here, but it wasn't really He was trying to see if any of his theories were true.

Jack was curious as to what Maria and Melissa, for that matter, got up to in their home pack. Neither of them ever wanted he or Rafe to go with them, told them it was better for them to stay there and look after the pack. Or that they would get bored with it being such a tiny place and all.

They always went home by themselves, stayed for a week or so, roughly every six to eight weeks, stated they just missed home and wanted to stay connected to their family. He was Maria's family now and yet some days he felt like he was nothing to her at all.

They had even offered to bring the girls' family here for a well-earned holiday. Their pack was huge and had way more on the entertaining side of things. Maria had shaken her head and stated her father would feel uncomfortable and like he was imposing on them. Couldn't come here for a visit but was more than happy to accept money on a regular basis.

So, yes, he was curious as to what they got up to out there, when they went home, had been for years now, but till this minute had no legitimate reason to send a guard with her.

With the attack last week, he had a real legitimate reason to do so and had used it. They'd not been happy about it either.

Rafe was staring at him now, mind-linked him 'are you concerned she's unfaithful?'

'No, I would feel that. Just want to know what goes on over there, don't you?'

'Never really worried about it. It's Melissa's home pack, she was safe there, still should be.'

Jack let it go. Didn't want Rafe to think he didn't trust the Luna. They might not get along, but she did do her Luna duties, without complaint and was more than capable of doing so.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 16

Luci POV

Her days had gone back to normal, the boys were back in school and she was back at work. There were more border patrols around the pack than usual. And she'd seen a few roaming patrols on the northern side of the lake, where there were fewer human homes. No more rogues had been scented by Kali over the past week, either.

Alari stayed out of the water because it was now clear they were watching the lake and she was certain that Victor would also be trying to find out about Alari as well. Likely why those wolves were wearing camera's, trying to catch Alari and what interaction she had with the pack.

So, at this point, it was just Luci. Both Kali and Alari stayed put inside of her. She looked different, much taller now, so she should be okay. She had seen several wolves in town this week too, more than normal. She stayed on the other side of the road from them, and had purchased and wore a body mist spray that scented of rose and white musk, strong enough to cover her natural scent and alert them to her presence.

Had so far escaped their attention, it was likely that these wolves were in town on an order to check for Victor's men, to keep a look out for more attacks that might be coming. Luci did not dress to attract attention, wore jeans and a loose-fitting tee-shirt most of the time. Unlike how she'd dressed in the pack, completely the opposite she supposed. But then she had always been trying to draw the eyes of her Alpha and Beta and it worked most of the time.

She, herself now, was on the lookout for rogues or unknown wolves. Did not want unwarranted attention for herself or the boys. Those two she had killed had likely been disposed of by her Alpha and Beta, but they would also know it had not been one of their patrols that killed them. It was possible they could pick up their own pack scent on her trail that night. The boys did have that pinecone scent of the pack, so it was likely so did she.

There had not been any patrols on her side of the lake, at this point. She was still hidden from her own pack. Had sat the boys down and reminded them, what to do if there was trouble, they had nodded and told her "go to our pack around the other side of the lake."

It was something she did worry about. Especially since it had been Victor who had attacked the pack and seen Alari, and now that man with the camera had also seen her. It had creeped her out completely, the way he had looked right at her and laughed. Then mind-link to someone. It made her wonder if he had been looking for her. What if Victor still wanted her

for his Mate, shuddered at the thought, did not want that man touching her ever again.

He had done once, and she'd not enjoyed it at all. Told him so, in fact, called him useless to his face and had stalked away from him.

Had not appreciated anything about s*x with him, hadn't even been that attracted to him, had just been young and stupid at the time. Thought being that he was an Alpha male, he could help the itch she needed scratching. It had not. She had not liked being held down by that man, so he could have what he wanted for as long as he wanted, without a care for her needs.

Had told him he'd never be touching her again and she'd never let him, not once either.

Never going to be that man's Mate. Pitied the poor creature that was his Mate if he had one. If not, hoped he wouldn't get one at all. She'd seen how vicious he was, when dealing with enemies, he'd assisted in rogue attacks on her home pack and that man left nothing alive, took pleasure in torturing anything injured. Let his men have them for fun and games too. He was sick and twisted. Made her wonder how he was raised.

Had never gone to any of his Packs mating balls. Even though Victor had specifically written her name on each and every invite he sent. She had told her father "He's not my Mate, I'll stay and watch over the pack."

He'd not been able to argue with her about it, she was not Victor's Mate, he had been to plenty of mating balls inside Nightfall Pack, always eyed her off. She'd stuck close to her mother most of the time, or had already found someone to be with, mostly Alpha Rafe and his Beta Jack, when they had been there. A good pair to sit and talk with, made it always look like business talk, talked pack related things, her father had hated it, knew better. But to all others it looked completely normal.

He had not been able to stop her, she'd still held the position of future Heir to the pack. Thatcher had been way too young. He was 8 years younger than she was. Though Luci herself, had never expected to claim

the Heir title that she was born into. It did get her plenty of time with Alpha's.

As long as she had stuck to talking business with Alpha Rafe and Beta Jack, her father could not say anything. She'd often sit herself between them, though that was mostly to stop Victor from sitting next to her. Luci had never minded being between them. They knew that, and so did her father, unfortunately. It irked him to no end. He'd always mind-linked to her to remind her of the rules. Of which he knew deep down she was going to ignore the minute everyone went to bed.

She'd known the bloody rules, wasn't to go about sating her Alpha needs and disgracing him or the pack, and having a daughter who slept with one that wasn't her Mate did just that. She herself, didn't see the need for those rules, had always known that Thatcher was going to take over, not her. It was what her father wanted, only her mother was pushing for her to take over.

Her father had always sat Victor near her, had even asked her on more than one occasion over the years, to be nice to him. Told her once that Victor had expressed that he liked her. This had come after their one s****l encounter, and she'd stated flatly "I don't like him." Also knew that Victor wanted her to be his chosen Mate. He'd expressed that to her father as well when she'd turned 20 and was still unmated herself. Had not agreed to that at all.

She had hated it when her father had pushed her towards Victor. He'd always told her it was a good match for her, that he was a good strong Alpha male and was a very reliable allied pack. Not even her mother had agreed with him on this.

The day he had brought it up with her mother, about Mating her off to Victor, had turned into a yelling match between her mother and father, in the end, her own mother had been the one to put a stop to her father's plans. Had told him she would not force her only daughter to be mated off to that man. That if he tried to do it, she would leave and take both her children with her and he'd have no Heirs at all.

Then they had argued over her threat to leave and take both Heirs away. Luci had been sent out of the office when that started, and they'd continued to yell at each other.

It had been one of the worst fights in her parent's history, to the point where her own mother had moved into Luci's room and stayed there until her father had come and apologised and promised he'd not Mate Luci off to Victor. Even then she'd stayed put for four more days. A full week and a half and she'd not once left the room.

Her father had prowled a lot in that week and a half, Luci knew her mother was not allowing him to mind-link to her either. Cutting him off every time he tried, he had told Luci herself. She would not bow down to him and he needed to learn she meant what she said. Though the man should have known that by then.

Though Luci had seen how much being away from him had hurt her mother, had caused pain for her to be separated from her Mate, she'd stood her ground. Orien had actually come and begged her to come back. Looked as tired and worn out as her mother had, their bond had been in trouble, Luci had thought.

She had even tried to get her mother to go back to him. Had relayed how her mother was doing daily to her father. Even told him she was worried and wanted them back together, and actively went out of her way to try and help her father. Even took some happy photos of herself with him to show her mother that they were getting along, that everything was all good and their fight had been all patched up.

Nothing had worked. Her mother was also Alpha-blooded and was so very stubborn and would not let anyone threaten her child. It had been a week and a half of misery for the both of them. Then, when she had finally allowed him to hug her and apologise in person, he promised to never do it again.

They'd spent three solid days in the Alpha Suite making up. Both had come out happy and looking much better. It had surprised Luci that she'd not gotten another brother or sister out of it.

It was just her and Thatcher and they were eight years apart. Though from her understanding of it, not for lack of trying. Perhaps it was just how the moon goddess wanted it. Who knew?

Luci pulled herself from the memory and tidied the hut that was her home. Not much to do really, but still had to keep it clean and orderly, so there was room for the three of them. She went outside and collected vegetables she was going to make with dinner, washed and prepared them. Left them in a pot of cold water, while she walked into town to get the boys from their school.

Crossed the road and stood just outside the gate with the other parents waiting to pick up their children. Chatted casually with the ones that she knew, some of these women and men, for that matter, attended the gym where she worked so they knew her. It was nice.

Shivered quite violently and glanced up the street, then turned very quickly to face the school as she saw the cars coming down the street. It was her father's car. She would recognise that anywhere. A white Lexus LX luxury sedan. The number plate gave it away instantly. 'Orien 1' there was also another following it. Likely his whole unit was with him, she was mildly curious as to why he was here, but not so much she was going to concern herself with it. They were allied packs it could be for anything at all.

Hadn't seen them in a long time now, thankfully she was taller, and her once chocolate brown hair was much lighter now, a golden brown in colour. They would not pick her from behind. Kept her back to the road till they passed and were gone.

Heard one of the women state, "The rich off to their private gated community." Dripped with sarcasm. Needed to get her boys and head home fast. Where Alari could use her Siren call to divert any wolves away from them if they got too close to where she lived.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 17

Rafe POV

Rafe stood with Jack, at the front of the packhouse, on the stairs. They were waiting for Alpha Orien and his Luna, Addison, to arrive. Mostly they were waiting for Addison. Jack had been emailing the pair of them, had been called and always got Orien, even when they wanted to speak with Addison, they had been calling back and forth all week long in regard to Luci.

It had apparently been a long week over in the Nightfall Pack. Their son Thatcher was away at Alpha College and Orien wanted him to be here as well. Stated it was to try and bring a solid family connection to Luci, as she and Thatcher had always gotten along well. Wanted a good connection to be made with his daughter so she would come to them.

Thatcher had returned 5 days ago, but had not returned home alone. Apparently, he had found his Mate at Alpha college on the previous full moon and so she had to be brought to their pack and a celebration had to be attended. As the future Luna to the Nightfall Pack, her introduction to the pack had to come first. According to Orien.

Though her Luna Ceremony was years away, a celebration had to be held, and Orien had insisted on it. Addison was more than pissed off about this from what they'd heard. She had wanted to come here to their pack ahead of Orien, but again that man had stopped her from doing so.

They watched as Orien stepped out of the front passenger seat of the lead car, with his Beta who'd been driving. Watched as Addison had gotten out of the following vehicle, along with the packs Gamma. This surprised Rafe. Usually they always travelled in the same car, both in the backseat, liked being together.

It was likely Luna Addison was very unhappy with her own Mate, possibly pissed off at him. No real surprise there. Luci had been missing for six and a half years. Was the woman's only daughter, her eldest child at that. Addison, he knew, had doted on Luci, always.

He watched Addison stalk right passed her Mate, Alpha Orien, and didn't so much as glance at him, or even acknowledge that he was right there. She was definitely not happy with her Mate. Stalked right over to he and Jack. Saw her eyes move passed them was looking for their Mates. Who were still in their fathers' pack, had yet to return, nearly been a week now.

"Where did you see her? Take me right there now." Did not even greet them, didn't care to in all likelihood.

"Addison, let us settle in first." It was Alpha Orien. "My apologies Alpha Rafe." He said, indicating a hand towards Addison likely for her attitude.

"I don't want to settle in." Addison snapped "You put me off coming here for a whole bloody week." She shot right at the man. "I want my daughter. She needs me." Turned and glared right at Orien.

"If she wanted her mother, she would have come home." Orien shot right back.

Rafe's hand snapped out and latched on to Addison as she spun on her heel and he felt anger roll right off of her in waves. They were going to get into a physical fight over this. His gut instinct was rarely wrong. His hand was gentle on her arm and before she could say anything, he spoke first "We'll take you Addi." He used her shortened name, trying to appeal to her gentler nature. He kept his voice soft and gentle as well, showing her he understood her need as a mother to reach her daughter.

Looked to Jack "I'll take the Luna, you welcome and settle Orien and his unit."

Jack nodded in response.

Rafe turned his eyes to Orien, who was now glaring right at him. Rafe knew why. Another Alpha male was touching his Mate, trying to calm her down, something only he should do or their own Gamma. Curiously, that man was still over with the Alpha and not here with his Luna. Something was off.

He saw Thatcher get out of the car and step over next to his father, with a tall blonde girl next to him, likely to be his Mate Cathy. They were both Marked it seemed. "Orien, Thatcher, it's good to see you." He stated "Let me ease the Luna's stress and show her where Luci was last seen."

"I don't care what he wants." Addison's voice grated out "I want my daughter." Turned away from her own Mate, who actually looked a bit pained by her words. It was definitely not good between them. Then she turned and put her hands on his chest and shoved him backwards, all her alpha strength used to do so. "Take me now Rafe."

He sighed internally at her but would not argue with her. He didn't like being ordered around inside his own pack and wouldn't normally stand for it. But it was his own fault that her child was missing, so he could not deny her needs or wants in this regard. She was also an Alpha female and could challenge him if she liked. Not that he thought she would, was usually a happy woman.

Turned and walked away from the front of the packhouse, motioned for her to follow him, got to the forest line, and looked down at her "Addi, it might be quicker if we shift and go in wolf form, though it is afternoon. We will have to stick to the forest."

"Then shift." She stated flatly and stopped to pull her clothes off, so she to could shift.

Her wolf, Fallon, ripped right out of her, she was a large light tan-coloured wolf with grey eyes, not green or red like a normal wolf would.

He shifted to Solar, who then led Fallon at a good run, stretching out his legs, knew that Fallon could keep up with him. Took her right out of the pack's territory and around to the north side of the lake where he knew she had fought and killed those two rogue wolves.

Saw her shift back to human form and stare at Solar expectantly, they couldn't talk to each other via the mind-link, not being from the same pack. He shifted back knowing Orien was not going to be happy about this, neither was Melissa, for that matter. The pair of them out here in

the woods alone together and naked. Not that anything would happen, just pure Mate jealousy was all it would be.

“Right here?” she asked him.

“Yes, and the other wolf she took down was over there.” He pointed behind her right shoulder “They both scented of rogue, but did not look like rogues. To well fed and muscled up. We got attacked by Victor Sampson a few days prior to this.” Rafe commented “I believe, as does Jack, that they were both Victor’s men.”

Saw Addison frown right at him “Why would Victor attack you? That would be suicide. Your pack is larger than his.”

“We don’t know.”

“How come you didn’t mention this earlier in the week?”

“Orien was always with you for all calls.” Rafe answered honestly “Information like that.” He shrugged.

Addison huffed and then nodded a moment later “I understand, our pack and Victor’s pack affiliate.” Saw her look about and then stated “You know, we never acknowledged to any of our allies that Lucian disappeared. As far as they are all aware, she is still here a part of your pack.”

“She is, still has the pack scent on her. Jack said.” Rafe nodded. “I also never felt her sever from the pack itself, just can’t reach her.”

“If Luci doesn’t want you to, you won’t be able to. She is a pure-blooded Alpha female Rafe.”

He wanted to ask her more questions. But did not want to do it out here in the open, didn’t want anyone over hearing that conversation. “Jack and I do have some questions, Addi...though in private would be appropriate.”

Addison turned and looked at him, stared at him long and hard “How’d she get away from your men?” was all she stated in the end.

“Smells different now and it was Jack, who she got away from. He didn’t know it was Luci because she smelled different now.”

“The new scent?”

“Freshly fallen rain, is what Jack said, still smells like white tea as well but not Thyme anymore.”

Saw the woman again frown deeply but say nothing at all other than “Where did he track her to? Show me that too.”

“I think she has a Mate now.” Rafe commented “Why she smells different?”

“No, she doesn’t, and she wouldn’t smell different to you, even if she did.” Addison shook her head “Show me.” She prompted.

Rafe frowned at those words ‘No she doesn’t.’ sounded so very certain, like she knew something they did not. It was likely she was the girl’s mother after all. Shifted as she did, and he took her to the edge of the woods, as far as they could go in wolf form in daylight. Couldn’t take her all the way to the water’s edge, being naked, pointed out the place. “There, Kali ran full tilt into the water and we could not find any tracks that lead out.”

Saw her turn and look right up at him “None at all?”

“No.” Rafe shook his head “There is something else I want to talk to you about. Both Jack and I, in private.”

“Mm...” was all she said as she stood there and looked out over the lake. For a long time she looked at it, allowed her eyes to follow it and appeared to look at the entire thing, well all that could be seen from here. Then she just sighed “I miss my little girl.” Sounded very sad.

“I’m sorry, Addison.”

She nodded without looking at him. “I’m sure you are Rafe.” Sadness etched every word “Let’s go back.” Then she just turned and walked away

into the woods. They shifted and headed back to the pack, but at a much slower pace.

Stopped and shifted where they had left their clothes to redress. Addison looked him over while he was getting dressed and Rafe raised an eyebrow at her. "Addison?" he questioned her, for it was not something a Mated female would or should do, actively looking at another male's naked body.

"You've lost more weight and muscle tone, I see."

"I'm still strong Addi."

"I know. Has Jack as well?"

"What? Why do you ask?" He was more than a bit confused.

"No reason." She shrugged as she finished dressing herself. "I'd like to see the actual footage."

"Of course!" Rafe led the way to his office.

"Where are your Mates?"

"In their home pack. Went home a week ago." He answered, it was the truth, and she was of no threat to him or his mate.

"What? Why would your Luna leave the Pack? It would weaken you and Jack for that matter." She was frowning up at him. He'd not seen the woman smile at he or Jack in years, not since Luci had gone missing.

"They do it all the time." He shrugged "I don't understand it, every six or eight weeks. For a week most of the time. Sometimes longer."

Addison was really staring at him now. "That's like 6 weeks a year away from you and Jack. I presume, being twins, they always go together."

Rafe nodded "It's not something Jack and I ever tell other packs."

“I can see why. It would be the best time to attack you. When they’re not here. Or go and k**l them on their journey home or in that tiny pack they came from.”

“Mm...it’s not something Jack and I like.” He admitted, though he had never been able to stop it. No amount of reasoning or arguing had ever stopped them from leaving and going home.

Addison sat down at Jacks’ desk and he played both the camera’s footage for her. Saw her touch the screen, rewind and pause it, watched it many times. Then just sighed heavily “She looks different.”

“Yes.” Rafe nodded. He couldn’t quite put his finger on it, but she did to him as well.

“Her hair colour is different, it’s much lighter.” Addison told him.

“Could have died it Addi to keep herself under the radar.”

“Not my girl...loved her dark chocolate brown hair. She thought it was her best feature.”

“No, it wasn’t.” Rafe chuckled softly.

Felt Addi hit him in the arm. “Stop that.” She shook her head.

“Her eyes, Addi.” Rafe tapped the screen, frozen on Luci’s lovely face, even though she looked more than annoyed in it. “Never seen anymore prettier than hers.”

“They are beautiful.” Again, she sounded sad.

“Jack and I have a theory, but...”

“I’ll find you after Orien goes to bed.”

“We’ll be here. Make it easy for you.”

“Good.” Was all she said and then got up and walked out of his office.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 18

Jack POV

It appeared that Alpha Orien was more than annoyed by his Luna's attitude and the yelling at him in front of others, especially an allied Alpha and his Beta. Out on the front steps of the packhouse for all their pack to see, and there had been a fair few of their pack members about, not to mention half the teens strolling home from school had witnessed it as well.

Orien stalked right past Jack, didn't even so much as greet him, asked somewhat angrily "My usual suite?"

Jack had simply nodded "Yes. I have placed Thatcher in the room next to yours." Then Orien had simply stalked away from him and up the stairs to where he knew his suite would be on the first floor. It was the same one they'd been using since Luci had first come here. In fact, Thatcher was being placed in the adjoining room where Luci had used to stay, when she visited with her family prior to moving here.

Jack let the man go, the door was unlocked at this point and the security cards to access and lock the doors were in their rooms on the bedside tables. He was not about to go getting into anything with the man. An Alpha male in a mood, not something anyone wanted to deal with. He could handle Rafe because of how close they were. Very like-minded about most things.

He turned his eyes to Thatcher. "It's been a while, Thatcher." He commented "Nice to see you again."

The boy just looked at him, was practically the spitting image of his father, even had that attitude as well, it seemed, though he'd always had an attitude, brought up to be just like his father. He just frowned at him, nodded his head and then turned and followed his father up the stairs, took his Mate with him, without so much as an introduction.

A little on the rude side, considering she was here inside the pack, there should have been an introduction and that boy knew it. Was acting just

like his father was, rude and arrogant. Like talking to a Beta was beneath him.

Though it was also to be expected, the boy had not spoken a single word to he or Rafe since Luci's disappearance. He'd been 13 at that time, so nothing really new on that front. Thatcher blamed them for Luci going missing, and he was right too. It was completely their fault.

His Mate had looked at him and smiled, though a little apprehensively. Had likely been expecting Thatcher to introduce her, but he had not. She didn't scent of Alpha blood, so how he'd met her at Alpha college Jack wasn't certain. Likely had been visiting someone or picking up someone from her pack and come across him accidentally.

"Don't take it personally Jack." It was Orien's Beta, Milton. "There was a massive disagreement before coming. Thatcher is ticked off at everyone right now."

"Where's the boy's Alpha Unit?" he asked out of curiosity. If he was home, they should be travelling together. Bonding, considering they had been Luci's unit and then given to Thatcher, he knew they liked Luci. She was fun for them, even growing up as small children and being a year or two older than her, they'd all gotten along. They were a good nine or ten years older than Thatcher.

"At the pack..." he sighed heavily.

Jack looked right at him at his hesitation, that Unit had once been going to be Luci's Unit. They had grown up with her, were much older than Thatcher, perhaps with her being found there was now a conflict. He didn't know he would have to find out though. Jack did recall they all liked Luci, thought she was a riot and a half.

"Is it so bad, in Nightfall?" He asked as his eyes moved to their Gamma. That man should have gone with Addison. Was likely here to try and keep her calm, though it didn't seem to be working.

"Tension is high, since Luci's reappearance." Milton nodded "We'd better go up."

“Across the hall from your Alpha, Milton.” His eyes moved to Chad. “I put you two in a two-bedroom suite, hope that’s okay.”

“It’s fine.” Chad nodded.

Jack stood and watched the two of them go on up the stairs to the first floor. They had been here many times before, though under much better circumstances it seemed. They both knew their way around. He would let them all settle in. Those two also looked like they could use a break from their own ticked off Alpha and his Heir for that matter.

Saw Allen walking towards him. “Hannah is agitated.” He stated with a frown.

“About?” Jack asked. He did not need agitated witch’s right now.

“I don’t know.” Allan shook his head “I was sent to stay here in the Gamma suite, for a few days.” He was frowning now. “needs peace and quiet to meditate with her sisters.”

Jack sighed as he looked at the man. “Great” he muttered, it was just what they needed right now.

“Mm, trouble is brewing I think.” Allen nodded “All three of them kissed me good and proper, then walked me out the door.” He was frowning deeply, shook his head after a moment “Whatever is going on, it’s not going to be good.”

“Agreed.” Jack nodded “I’ll let Rafe know when he comes back.”

“I felt him leave the pack. Where did he go on his own?”

“Took Addison to where Luci had that fight with those rouges, she demanded it of us.”

“Alright.” Allen nodded “Hannah did say something last night that got my attention. Said Ian’s Mate could be in trouble.”

Now that grabbed Jacks’ undivided attention. “Really?” Ian didn’t have a Mate.

“Mm, it was odd...she didn’t elaborate.” Allen shook his head and then walked away.

Jack stared after the man, but said nothing, knew he would have asked a million questions himself. If he wasn’t forthcoming on who Ian’s Mate was, then Hannah herself had not said who she was, though it was now clear to him that they knew who she was. Interesting turn of events.

Walked into the Alpha’s office and sat down at his desk and opened up his Hannah file, added her comment to it. He knew Hannah wouldn’t say it unless it was important. Those witches were always cryptic. Never spoke plainly about anything they didn’t truly see the outcome of.

Sat and wondered if Ian’s Mate was about to make an appearance. Jack hoped so. That man had not so much as looked at a she-wolf in his entire life. Stated he was willing to wait on his Mate, not many did that. Had needs to be sated, but Ian seemed happy enough as he was.

Those witches liked Ian, watched him sometimes and then just smiled right at him occasionally. It was weird they only ever smiled at Allen otherwise. Jack had never gotten them to tell him what it was about Ian, that made them smile and watch him. Neither had Allen.

Allen wasn’t at all jealous or even slightly concerned about the way they did that, found it somewhat amusing from Jack’s point of view. They just like Ian for some weird a*s reason, only they knew about it. It was their little secret and they were not willing to part with it.

Jack personally thought it was because the man was willing to wait for his Mate, to be honest. They liked people who were innocent, so to speak. Odd creatures, reliable and loyal, but never really cared much about anything other than Allen.

Jack thought that they were old, ancient in fact. Not that they looked it. But it was very clear to him, a bloodied and death-strewn battle was nothing to them, the sight, sound and smell of war did not bother them at all. They’d seen many battles before, he believed, very clear from the way they just strolled about and didn’t react to it.

Their power it was also strong. Those witches were steeped in blood and used blood magic. Used the blood of others to help achieve their goals at times. Though surprisingly, only blood that was freely and willingly given. They did not appear to be evil, but could be completely ruthless and he knew it. They had the potential to rain death and destruction if they so chose to, he believed. Though mostly they stayed out of everything, just cleaned up after battles and then did their own thing.

Jack had spoken to the three of them after their battle with Victor, about that creature in the lake. It had not escaped his attention that they had been by the lake, which meant near it. They had all just stared at him, said nothing for several minutes and then stated, "It's a Triune." And walked away from him.

"A trune?" What the hell was a trune? It didn't even sound like a word to him, didn't sound English either if it was a word. So, he'd researched that word only to get it wasn't a word and then had set about different spellings of it in case he'd not spelled it right. Only one came up Triune.

It was likely that it was an otherworldly word that only those women knew and understood because all he could find on that word was that it meant three fold. Having three components that are all separate and united at the same time.

Jack had not been able to get them to elaborate at all since they'd stated that word and he'd gone back twice. On the second time, Hannah had glared at him and stated, "It is what it is. Leave the Triune alone." Then had shut the door in his face. He'd called out to her that he thought it was Luci to try and get them to open up again.

That had not helped him either. The door to their cabin had stayed shut, and now they were all locked up tight meditating on something. It could be Ian's Mate, of course. Though it could be absolutely nothing to do with the pack at all. Who knew? Only they did, that's who.

Though for them to send their Mate away, they didn't do that very often, so something was definitely brewing behind the scenes, even Allen thought so. They had outright refused Allen going to the Bloodless Moon Pack for recon of Victors pack. Stated "No" all in unison without any

hesitation at all and then had just walked away. It was clear they were not going to change their minds.

Neither he nor Rafe had overruled them, and they both could. But the way they'd all been united on it, spoke volumes to them. Nothing could touch Allen in a harmful way, or not that they had ever seen. It was likely Victor had a way to do so something inside his pack, that he himself had not thought of. Something Victor wasn't willing to let anyone know about, so wouldn't bring it out of the pack. It made him curious.

So, they would wait until Luci was back in this pack and approach again. Luci was currently their most pressing need. If she was out there all alone, it wasn't a good thing. Wolves didn't do so well on their own. Though she had smelled different to Jack, she shouldn't unless she had moved to another pack and that other scent he now smelled was the new pack scent that would make sense. Though he had picked up his own pack scent on her trail, so then it didn't make sense, it was all very confusing to him.

He did not think like Rafe did, that she was Mated, that would not have changed her scent not to them, only her Mate would smell something different about her, that unique Mate scent that only one could smell used to identify one as your Mate.

But she did smell different to him, and Jack now wondered if it was because she was that Siren in the lake, to him that would account for the change of her scent, likely it was the Siren he smelled and freshly fallen rain; what else would a water creature smell like to him, but water. It was fresh and pretty still delicate to his sense of smell. Quite liked it.

It was Luci, his gut told him so. Convincing Rafe was another matter, but with Addison here, he knew she could answer some of, if not all of his questions. Neither he nor Rafe had ever really believed that Luci was Orien's child. Not after the way he treated her and then there were those brilliant green eyes of hers. They were not like her mothers or Orien's either, they were so unusual and he was willing to bet. That was also why Addison doted on the girl so much. It was likely that Luci was a child from another, and not just any other, someone that Addison had loved. It was completely possible that Addison had a Mate before Orien.

Orien had never wanted Luci to be his heir either, but Addison had. It had always been a sore point between the two of them, for as long as he had known Luci. That girl had been kept out of his and Rafe's sight until she was 18, or at least that is what they believed. Smiled to himself, he was certain it was because of their reputation which had preceded them.

That Orien had not wanted Luci anywhere near he and Rafe, she had likely always been beautiful, stunningly so, even likely to have been as a child. As she had grown up into the beautiful woman she now was. Orien would have known that he and Rafe would have been attracted to her. Hell, she'd not even survived twenty-four hours in this pack without the two of them tasting her.

Once they had, they'd certainly wanted more of her. She was amazing. So free-spirited and very open-minded. How could they not have been drawn to her and her needs as an alpha-blooded female, he smiled to himself, well they were high, and he and Rafe had enjoyed sating her every little whim.

Jack sighed and got up from his desk. He should not be thinking like that, he had a Mate. Currently not here in the pack, one that hadn't even so much as called him in the six days since she'd left. Jack had steadfastly refused to call her either, like he normally would do, daily to make sure she was doing okay. No, not this time, he wanted to see what would happen if he didn't call her. Would she call him? Apparently not. Didn't feel the need any more than he did.

Walked out of his office, better be prepared for Addison to not want to stay with Orien. He was hoping those two were still on good enough terms to share a room. If not, that could mean that their Mate bond was in trouble. Organised with one of the omega's to prepare a few of the other rooms, also had one of them go up and clean Luci's room just in case they could find her and bring her home too.

Would start prepping for that, he was hoping she would be willing to come home, willing to stay here. Jack didn't believe that she was going to go home with Orien. Not after he'd handed her over and told her to go be a concubine, who did that to the Heir to their pack.

Sighed he'd been happy to have her, but those words had hurt her feelings. He'd known it. She'd played it off as though it didn't matter inside her pack. But once in the car with them on their way back here, she'd been quiet and why wouldn't she be? Her own father had tried to give her to Victor even though he knew she would never want that.

She'd turned to them for help, they both knew that Orien had tried to give her up to Victor and more than once, since turning 18, had tried pushing the girl at him even. They knew from her she didn't want it. So, they had given their help without issue. Of course she was welcome here. Hell they enjoyed every visit to her pack and her to their pack.

Jack was going to convince her to stay here, he would do whatever it took to get her to stay, regardless of what that was, or how much anyone hated it. Luci belonged here, always had he thought. The whole pack had liked her, she trained with anyone and was friendly and fun, fitted in like she had lived here her whole life, like she was born here.

It was just that he and Rafe had royally screwed things up was all, and now she was gone and had been for too long.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 19

Addison POV

Orien had been unhappy with her, that she was travelling in a separate car from him, but what more could he expect? He had stared right at her, expectantly, as he'd held the car door open for her like he'd always done in the past. Addison had, however, turned away from him and snapped at her son Thatcher, to go and travel in the car with his father, then walked over to the second car they would be taking and got in and banged the door shut.

Her Gamma Chad, he'd already learned the hard way that week to stay the hell away from her, regardless of how she was feeling. He'd tried many times to use that Gamma Charm of his on her, had been sent by Orien to contain her. When Orien himself had refused to allow her to come to the Black Forest Pack on her own ahead of him.

That man had actually had the hide to tell her 'no' and then, to back it up, had put word out to the packs border patrol and the gate guards to stop her from passing them and leaving the pack. Had done everything he could to keep her inside his pack and not come here to find her daughter.

It had not just ticked her off, it had pissed off Fallon herself, and they'd taken an actual piece of the pack Delta himself. Fallon had shifted her and attacked the Gamma as well, all her Alpha Wolf's aura rolling out of her to keep him at bay, and keep those Charmed hands of his off of them.

Chad had still tried to put hands on her and so it had ended up in a wolf-on-wolf fight as he realised he was going to have to defend himself. It had become the pack Luna against the pack Gamma. Chad had come out the worse off. They had no idea what they were dealing with, she was pure Alpha-blooded on both sides of her family bloodline. Not that she ever brought that up, who her mother and father were.

When Orien had heard what was going on, he'd turned up with not just the rest of his Alpha Unit, but his most formidable and highest ranked Elite Warriors Unit as well, to contain her and Fallon. Pissed both her and Fallon right off to epic proportions, he had no idea what she was either, the venom that ran in her veins. Not something he had ever seen the likes of, before that day.

Orien had lost two of his own men that day. Fallon had killed them in her effort to get out of the pack and to their daughter or to her daughters' pack. It was all she wanted. It wasn't that much to ask. Then that bastard, her own Mate, had tranquillised her to stop the fighting and keep her within the confines of his pack by force.

She had woken up inside their suite, a silver handcuff attached to her wrist to contain her beast as he'd put it. He had been sitting in a chair in their bedroom waiting for her to wake up. Had told her not only was he completely disappointed in her for attacking their Delta and her own Gamma, putting both of them in the hospital. But for her to k**l two of their own pack members was wrong, and she had disgraced herself and him by doing so.

He'd told her this was for her own good, and it was all he could do to punish her because he didn't want to see her hurt, himself. Addison didn't believe him, not for a second. She had told him that he didn't care about Luci, that she was out there so very close, he didn't care that she wanted to see her daughter at all.

Orien had used the excuse that the Black Forest Pack had only just gotten over being attacked by an unknown enemy, a threat that could still well remain. That she was not safe there, like she was here in their pack. Certainly, wasn't safe to travel there alone on her own, that it could wait until things calmed down. Then he would go with her.

That Thatcher had called while she was unconscious and announced he'd found his Mate and was bringing her home to the pack. So, she'd had to be there for that as well, another reason she couldn't leave the pack. It wasn't that she wasn't happy for her son, she was. But Luci had been missing for six and a half years and finally they had caught her, well seen her. A picture of her had been captured.

Luci had gotten away yet again, though it did not really surprise her that Luci had run off again. Her daughter had been in love with Rafe and Jack and once they found their Mates, of course she was going to be devastated and leave them. Though it had shocked her that Luci had never come home, Addison had thought that she would.

Addison didn't think that Luci had just run off, something was off. Luci would have known to come home, had to know that her own mother would comfort her, but she hadn't and now, six and a half years later got caught on camera and still so close to the pack. It wasn't like her to get caught. That girl knew how to sneak around and not get caught, had been doing it her whole life to stay off Orien's bad side.

No-one in the Nightfall had come near Addison in the past week, since she had killed two of their own, she was forced to wear a silver cuff that only Orien had the key to, to contain her beast. Is what he'd told her, along with to make the pack feel safer. Little did he know about her or her beast. They had ripped that damned bracelet off, got a nice wound doing so as well, dislocated her thumb in the process and skin had been peeled off along her hand, practically degloved her entire hand, but it

wasn't going to be staying on their arm. Would have cut her own hand off if need be. Had stalked herself into his office and pegged that bloodied cuff right at his own head and he'd only just gotten out of the way of it, had thrown it with all her Alpha strength. He had looked more than horrified by the state of her bloodied hand.

She had shown him right then and there she was not going to let him contain her or her beast in anyway, that she was strong enough to get rid of anything he tried to contain Fallon with. Had a whole Elite Warrior unit on her, after that, 12 of his best men, to make sure she stayed put.

She'd moved herself right out of their suite and into Luci's old room. It had not gone unnoticed by the pack either, that she had pretty much left her Mate, even stopped attending to the Luna duties as well. When Orien had found out he'd blown a gasket and the whole packhouse had been on edge after that, they were all waiting for the inevitable fall out. Still were, in fact.

When Thatcher had come home with his Mate Cathy, a Delta's daughter who'd been making a delivery to, the Alpha College for her Pack, they'd met and he'd been attracted to her right away, convinced her to stay till the full moon, was dead certain she was going to be his mate she'd shaken her head but her own future Alpha who'd she'd been there to deliver stuff to had convinced her to wait and see. What harm could it do?

Addison had met the girl, congratulated them both then informed Thatcher promptly, seeing that Orien had not done so over the phone. That Luci had been seen by Alpha Rafe and his Beta, Jack. He'd looked surprised and happy to hear the news that his sister was okay. He'd been happy until she had told him, that she had every intention of bringing Luci home to their pack.

Then Thatcher had looked very angry, looked just like his father when he was angry. He knew that Luci was the eldest, technically the Heir to the pack. Clearly, Thatcher didn't like the thought of his sister coming home and taking her rightful place as the packs' Heir. Happy she was safe but not happy to have her here in the pack. Just like his father.

Addison had watched him stalk off to his father's office and slam the door shut, to speak with his father in private. That had started a full-blown argument between the three of them over who was the rightful Heir to the pack. Thatcher had no idea Luci was not his father's child. They'd always agreed to never say anything to him.

Luci had always been going to take over, until he'd tried to once again forcibly Mate her off to Victor. Not something she had ever agreed upon, and he'd known that, had nearly torn them apart once before. He had even promised her he wouldn't, then had gone behind her back one day and asked the man to come to the pack and just take her off his hands. She'd lost Luci that day.

Watched her only daughter attach herself to Rafe and Jack, who'd been in the pack already, they were the reason he was so pissed off with Luci, had found her with them yet again. Ticked him right off and he'd gone off on his own without consulting her and called Victor.

When Luci put herself right between the two of them, rubbed herself all over Rafe, while reaching out for Jack to pull him up behind her. To show not just Orien, but Victor as well, that she had no intention of going with Victor, she would rather be with Rafe and Jack. Orien had lost his temper completely.

Had yelled at her, yelled she was useless to him, nothing but a complete shame to the pack, to go. Leave the pack for good and be a bloody concubine to the two of them and Luci had. The only reason Addison hadn't stopped it herself was because she knew that Victor would have taken her for himself, if she stayed in the Nightfall Pack.

So had told her to go, to stop Victor from getting his hands on her. Told her that at least she would be happy with Rafe and Jack. They were the only two men that had ever satisfied her daughter completely. It was likely she needed two Mates, due to her bloodline.

Though she was the only one to know Luci's true heritage, no-one knew, not even Orien. They would all just use her for their own means and there was no way Addison was having that for her daughter. She had only ever wanted Luci to be happy. Had not expected her to be.

Alone without her real father and true family around her. Thought she would of made for a sad child. Was glad that she had not been. This had surprised Addison a lot, but she was a bit on the naughty side. Then, when Luci had not gotten her wolf at 16 like everyone else, Addison had worried a lot over it.

Not Luci though. No, she'd seemed fine with no wolf. Though Addison had learned after Kali had come along when Luci was 18 that Kali had always been with her from 16, she just couldn't seem to get out of her. It took the full moon after her 18th birthday for that to happen.

Now standing staring at the lake and being told Kali had run right into it and had not come out...she understood everything, why her little girl had been missing the past six and a half years. She wasn't actually missing at all, just living like her real father would have, down inside the water of the lake.

Addison did recall that Rafe had told her Luci had run away, and that they'd lost her once she'd left the eastern border to the pack. This lake backed right onto that border. It was likely her daughter had found her father's lineage inside of her finally. That the heartbreak she knew Luci would have felt at Rafe and Jack finding their Mates, had brought out the Siren in her bloodline.

Lucian had told her that their child would be very special. He had used to sit and sing to her and their unborn daughter while she was pregnant with Luci. Before he'd made her flee, when war had come to the small Siren pack he commanded. A war that had decimated all her pack. Addison had not lived like them, couldn't being a wolf.

She had a nice little cabin on the shoreline to live in. Lucian had been a very loving Mate, could still smile when she thought of him, those brilliant green eyes of his so full of desire for her, so full of love. They'd created a child very quickly. To his delight, he'd thought it would take years. He'd been very excited for his daughter to be born, but sadly had never lived to see the day. She'd felt his death and stumbled and fallen over, howled in pain at the loss of him, but had made herself get up and run to protect their unborn child like he'd told her to.

His last words to her “Run Addi, don’t look back. Don’t come back if the worst happens. Know I love you always, protect our daughter always.” And that was what she had done, ran even when she just wanted to lay down and die from the pain of losing him.

Walked into the packhouse with Rafe beside her, he looked drained to her, and not just because his Mate wasn’t here. Because she knew, that he and Jack didn’t get what they actually needed from their Mates, those two men were bonded so closely, shared everything including her daughter. Now they did not have that, she’d seen them over the years since they’d been Mated off. Not once had she ever seen any affection between them and the other’s Mate.

It was harming them, slowly but surely, wondered absently how long it would take for one of them to become so ill that they’d likely die. Knew that if, hell, when it happened, the other wouldn’t be far behind, she was certain of it. One could not live without the other. They had practically glowed with Luci here.

Luci would have been the better choice, a much better fit for them. That much she did know, Luci had loved them both. Nothing they wanted would she have denied them, it was not in her nature, not once she had truly chosen them and Addison knew she had. Luci had told her she’d gone into heat. She’d heard Luci’s fears on the matter and those fears no sooner had been said aloud, had come true.

Saw the footage, really looked at her daughter. Kali looked good and healthy and Luci too. But her hair was much lighter now and when she stood up, Addison realised she was also taller now too. Her first shift as a Siren had changed her like sometimes it did when a wolf shifted for the first time. It could make one taller and more muscular, showing the strength of the wolf.

Luci was all Alpha Siren on her father’s side and she herself was Alpha-blooded. That Siren part of her had changed what her body and hair looked like, but she was still beautiful, typical of Siren genes. They were some of the most beautiful creatures in this world.

Everyone was drawn to them, like she had been Lucian, he'd not been her Goddess Gifted Mate, but she had loved him, he'd chosen her and, with her acceptance and love, a true bond had been gifted by the moon goddess herself.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 20

Victor POV

Oh, it was too good to be true, his men had filmed Addison out there by the Black Forest Pack with that prick, Alpha Rafe, openly discussing Luci. It was now clear to him that the girl was missing, she had run off away from that pack.

That was much better for him, he just needed to locate her before they did. Addison was there to help them get Luci back, return her to their pack. There was no doubt about it in his mind, she had always been really close to her mother. No surprise there.

But seeing Addison and Rafe go to the lake. His heart was hammering inside of his chest. Saw that woman staring at it. Victor knew who she really was. Finally, he was going to get just what he wanted. Watching Addison by that lake confirmed everything in his mind.

Luci was going to be his, he knew just how to take her down too. Watching that video footage, he couldn't stop smiling at all. Her little girl was finally realised, and she was just learning it for the first time. What she didn't know was that he, Victor, was going to get to her first and claim what was rightfully his. Should have always been his.

Now he just needed to hunt one runaway Alpha-blooded female, and bring her right into his pack. Make her his Mate and breed the hell out of her. He'd finally get the perfect heir, so damned strong for his pack. A ruthless k*****g machine it would be.

Though only one problem he saw, convincing her of this was going to be the biggest problem, she was not one to be messed with and he knew it. Had seen her power and it had been on full display. Was likely going to need some sort of leverage over the girl. Victor didn't think Luci was

going to come willingly. She knew him, didn't like him at all. So he couldn't even act all loving and caring to charm her socks off. No, she'd seen the real him before.

Wondered if he should try and bring her in himself or have someone else do it. Didn't really think she'd trust him at all, certainly had not wanted to be Mated to him in the past, had actively chosen those two pricks over him. To be their bloody concubine, instead of the Luna to his pack.

Victor had never understood that, her choice. Who the hell chose the life of a concubine over a Luna. A concubine was nothing, just a glorified s*x worker. Who only serviced one or, in their case, two. She held no power, there was no bond. He'd have Mated and Marked her and bred a bunch of little Alpha pups with her without hesitation.

Likely wouldn't need all them women down stairs to sate his needs if he had Luci. She was so like her mother, beautiful, he'd liked her right from the first time he'd laid eyes on her at the age of just two. When he'd heard her laugh, it sent a shiver down his spine. Had told himself she was going to be his Luna when she came of age. He had watched her grow and by 10 she'd looked like her mother, but those eyes of hers he'd only seen one like them before and her laugh, had a melodic sound to it. Had made him dig his heels in real good, knew that sound could only have been what he was looking for, there was no other creature in all the world that had a melodic laugh that could send shivers of pleasure down one's spine.

Had held onto the Nightfall Pack alliance just to get to her, had been very disappointed when she'd not gotten her wolf at 16, he'd nearly severed ties with the pack over it, thought he'd been wrong, had actually doubted himself for the first time in a long time. But there was that something about her that he just couldn't let go of. The sound of her laughter intrigued him completely.

He had to know of the other bloodline, had to wait to see if her true lineage would show itself, what she would turn out to be and was glad of his obsession to know the truth of things. 18 and gained her wolf, just a later shifter was all. It made him happy, even as a wolf she'd be good and strong, had that pure Alpha-blood he craved.

Knew she knocked about, watched and waited. He didn't want some prissy girl who was inexperienced, he wanted a woman. One who knew how to please him, so didn't concern himself with her need to f**k ranked members. That just meant she would know what to do when he told her to do it, to him.

Had gotten a taste of her himself when she'd been 19 and he had really liked it. Enjoyed holding her down and f*****g her good and proper, relished in it, enjoyed every damned second of it, though apparently, she had not. Didn't understand that.

But it seemed she didn't like being dominated completely, hadn't really seemed to enjoy it, even though he had. But that was what he liked anyway, holding them down and taking what he wanted for as long as he wanted and he could f**k a woman for a long time.

The only one who could satisfy his needs and make him groan as he came, was Zoe. They might be rejected Mates, but his damned body still craved hers like no other. It's why he kept her around. Once a month had that woman, gave him so much pleasure and hell, not just him either, but for her too. Not even Silla came close to how Zoe made him feel.

Though Silla did get him off and was up for a really good and rough time, it was lacking in the mate bond department. She was only young, but hopefully would mature into something stronger and more useful to him, fertile would be good as well.

He mated that Siren good and proper all the time, still there were no little half-breed bastards between them, he'd told her he wanted a child with her, even gone so far as to tell her he'd like more than one, smiled at her after they'd finished f*****g. Silla, however, had just stared at him, said nothing at all on the subject. Damned Sirens so freaking picky and choosy.

A part of Victor wondered if she wouldn't give him an heir because of all the other women he had down there in the basement with her. She'd have seen him f**k them all at some point, all bar Zoe that was. He always sent Silla upstairs to his room before that happened.

Victor did not want her getting any ideas about him touching her like he did Zoe. No-one got that but Zoe. If Silla ever saw it, he knew she would want that herself, was a s****l creature by nature. She would be more than curious and want him to do all those things he did to Zoe to her, and he had no intention of doing that.

Zoe was different to him. Was his actual Mate and he kept her because it made him stronger to have her around, even if they weren't Mates anymore. The s*x with Zoe was still the best damned s*x he'd ever had.

Luci had come close though and he knew if he Marked and Mated her, it would be even better. That had always been his intent, until those two pricks had taken her away from him, that was. Now he had a real chance at bringing her in and gaining her for himself. He just had to find her before they did, that was all.

Grabbed his unit and the specialised gear he would need to capture one so very powerful and headed out to scout the area himself. He couldn't leave it too long or they would find her and get to her before he did, and he did not want that. Though he could take Addison if he couldn't get to her, use her to bring Luci right to him. Knew it would work, those two were so closely bonded Luci wouldn't be able to refuse him.

He could strike a deal with her, Alpha to Alpha, so to speak, would even put his word on it an Alpha Oath from him to her. He'd let Addison go unharmed, wouldn't even take pleasure in her himself, or allow any of his men to, if she would come to his pack and be his Luna, willingly take him as her Mate. That should work with the girl, she'd not want to see her mother come to harm. He'd also have to make sure no harm came to her before the deal was struck, take care of the woman. Might even be able to keep her in his pack to make Luci happy.

Though it was likely going to bring Orien down on him when he found out Victor was the one to take his Mate. It would sever their alliance instantly, but Victor could live with that as long as he had Luci as his Luna.

His pack was bigger than the Nightfall Pack, they'd be easy enough to get rid of or claim for himself. Thatcher had just found his Mate or at least

that was what he'd heard, so weakening their pack was easy. Take Addison the Luna, kill the future Luna and weaken both the Alpha and his heir at the same time.

Then he would just send in his men to slaughter anyone that resisted him and his men taking over the pack. It wouldn't be the first time he'd done that, wasn't going to be the last time either, not with Luci by his side. Could take down the largest packs out there and be the biggest and strongest pack within a year of her being in his bed.

Smiled to himself as he drove with his unit out of the pack. He was going to get Luci one way or another. If she'd left the Black Forest Pack and not gone home, then she was an Alpha female that was pack-less and fair game to any Alpha male that came across her, and he fully intended on being the first one to do so.

Would take the long drive out there to the outskirts of Black Forest Pack to let his Unit know that what he had been after all these years was the damned thing in the lake. That Luci herself was now a fully realised Alpha Siren that was pack-less. Had likely only helped those two pricks because she hated him. Well, once he marked her, she'd be bound to him and their bond would grow, he'd treat her right as long as she treated him with respect and produced those heirs he wanted.

Not that he was planning on letting them take over for many years intended on running his pack till he couldn't at all. Would be centuries of him being in charge. Liked being in charge and wasn't about to go given up his power to some twenty or thirty year old, who had to do nothing to gain it. Like so many other packs out there. He'd worked damned hard to get where he was and wasn't going to give it up to some child that thought they had the right because they were of the same bloodline.