

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 31

Luci POV

She did not know what was going on between her mother and Orien, but he looked absolutely furiously mad, and when she saw her own mother slap him, saw him stumble back. She knew it wasn't just her mother but her wolf, Fallon, also behind that hit as well. She knew instantly something was wrong between them, and then when his own wolf surfaced and snarled at her. She knew that whatever it was, was not only wrong, but very bad.

Alari was on the move before she knew it, shot forward so fast it startled not just Luci but Kali as well. Put herself right in front of Orien and his wolf Rali, and a massive Siren hiss rolled out of her along with her aura, as she pushed her mother back out of the way, with one hand on her stomach.

Alari, it seemed, would not be standing for any harm coming to her mother. "Back away." Rolled out of her as a full warning. He had no idea what he was up against. She herself watched with full and pure satisfaction. As that man stumbled back and started to bow before Alari, who was showing him she was more powerful than he was. It was a sweet feeling too, and for not just her, but also Kali, to have that man bow before them.

Then they got to see their beautiful boys Siren-Wolves just a moment later, so very beautiful. Alari dropped down on her knees so that all three of them could get a better look at them. Saw they had the black eyes of a Siren with brilliant red iris' of a pure-blooded Alpha Wolf. It was a fierce thing to look at, they were going to scare many when they grew up, looking at their eyes was going to fill any enemy with fear.

Kali purred loudly for them, and Alari joined right in, a loud musical purring emitted from them.

Her boys wound around her smooching their heads along her arms and her back, all the way around to look at her, Astral and Spark so very

much alike, then the two of them just pounced on her and she could hear the two boys inside her mind laughing 'Play with us mamma.'

She could feel Kali's excitement, heard Alari chuckle at her boy's antics and simply relinquished control, and Kali ripped right out of her. Bowed to greet her pups, wolf to wolf, all their heads touched in that bond of love. That family showed to each other, her precious boys were big already. 'They'll grow yet.' Alari told her 'Still young.'

'Run.' Kali encouraged them and then they were off to chase them, uncaring of where they were, or who could see them. Uncaring that Oriem was back there, didn't even care that their Alpha and Beta were watching on. This was their moment to play with their pups, on their first shift all together.

They were encouraging them to play and chase each other. As she chased, she knocked them over, bumped into them and let them pounce on her and knock her down, and rolled around with them.

Fallon, her mother's wolf, was suddenly in amongst all the playing and the boys didn't hesitate to play with her, knew who she was, wasn't fazed by the size of her either. Were happy and excited to play with their grammy, wanted to spend time with her as she did with them.

'Mamma, can we run in the woods now?' they both asked excitedly.

'Yes.' She told them 'Go boys, as fast as you can.' She smiled when both Astral and Spark raced off towards the woods.

Kali raced after them, stayed just behind them so they could lead the way, to run as fast as they could, did not know if she could outrun them or not, had no trouble keeping up with them, neither did Fallon, who was running next to Kali.

She let the two of them just run freely wherever they wanted to, for as long as they wanted. All over the pack's forest. The first run in wolf form was always exciting and joyous. She and Kali had also had their first run here in this very forest.

Let them run until they just slowed down and started to smell the woods around them, everything from the trees and ferns to flowers and the grass, even the dirt on the paths they came across. She saw them look at Fallon many times. They seemed to want to connect with her but couldn't. She wasn't a member of the pack.

Heard Fallon howl and watched on as both Astral and Sparks' attention turned right to her, stopped smelling and investigating their surroundings. Kali howled herself, and she felt Alari push a little at her, part of her Siren's nature, and the howl became harmonic in nature. Only now did Luci realise it had always sounded that way, a part of Alari had always been with them, even if she had not been able to come forward before. Alari had been able to add to their howl without their knowledge.

Heard both her boys howl along with her, so very rich and musical in nature, their Siren-Wolves howl in full force for all to hear, was literally music to their ears, filled all three of them with joy and happiness. Pride.

Two more howls rang out and she knew it was Astral and Flare, their wolves wanting to join in the moment their pups were having, pure biological instinct on their part. She could see both Solar and Flare not that far away. No other wolves inside the pack howled in response to their Alpha and Beta, normally would have she thought. Wondered why not? Saw both Astral and Spark look over to Solar and Flare. This would be the first time they got to see their fathers as well.

Though they did not go over and join them, or smell them, did not try to connect with them, Luci was certain that they would want to, it would be a natural thing for them to do, but still, they didn't.

Watched as Solar took a step towards the twin's wolves, Flare moved right in front of him, blocked him from doing so, stopped his own Alpha from approaching his pup. She was curious as to why, knew that no Alpha should take orders from his Beta. Though they were more like two Alpha's, had always run this pack together as one.

Did everything together, but it seemed to her that right this minute, they were not on the same page. It was odd to her, she'd never seen them be at odds about anything at all, were always aligned with each other.

Practically thought the same thing most of the time, knew Rafe could read Jack with a mere glance at him.

It was clear to her that they wanted to be around their pups, and she was not going to stop them, but her boys also seemed to not want that right this minute. It was curious to her and Kali, but not to Alari, who didn't seem to care either way. She was closed off to them. Had no feelings of her own about the Alpha and Beta who ran the pack they belonged to.

Considered herself the Alpha of the Lake, that was her home, not this pack, she had not been born inside the pack but outside of it, in the lake. Had helped out against Victor, because Luci and Kali wanted to help, because they were the fathers of her children. She was not their Mate, so didn't particularly care at all.

Her only thought on the matter now, was that as long as the boys were happy, she would let them. If they didn't want to interact with their fathers, then she would not make them do it. No one could make her, or likely the twins, do anything that they didn't want to do.

Her Alpha and Beta would simply have to wait on the twins wanting to spend time with them. Getting to know them would be on the boy's terms. Only when they were ready. Alari, it seemed, would step in and stop anything the twins were not happy with, or thought that they were being made to do and were unhappy about it herself.

She encouraged both the boys to head back to the centre of the pack, where they had come from. Heard Beta Jack's voice inside her mind 'I'll have clothes waiting in the mud room, for all of us Luci.'

'Alright.' She answered softly as she saw both Solar and Flare turn and head back, leading the way.

'Mamma?' both boys asked as they watched both their fathers' wolves leave.

'Heading back, to make sure you have clothes to wear, when you shift back.' She told them.

Kali nudged them in the direction of Solar and Flare and found Fallon next to her. They walked behind the boy's wolves, who stopped to smell things along the way. Watched as both of them shot off to chase a rabbit and then dig furiously at the burrow it went into, but got nothing, the rabbits warren likely deep.

It was very cute to watch, both their wolves hunting and digging away together, seemed angry that it had gotten away from them. They both huffed and snorted at the burrow before re-joining them.

Both Alpha Rafe and Beta Jack were standing by the door to the packhouse mud room, wearing only shorts. Luci frowned at the sight of them, they looked smaller to her, felt Kali huff 'Weaker.' Luci didn't understand it. How could they be thinner and have less muscle tone? Wolves usually get stronger, not weaker, when mated to their Goddess Gifted Mates.

Fallon was the first to shift, accepted the dress that was handed to her from Rafe, didn't seem to care that she was naked in front of either of them. Though she did note that neither of them looked at her.

'Shift back.' She told her boys and watched as they shifted right in front of their fathers, accepted the pair of shorts they were offered. Watched as Beta Jack squatted right down to hand the shorts to little Jack. "Your wolf is amazing." He told him with a smile for his son.

Saw as Little Jack smiled up at his father, happy with the statement.

Jack reached out and tousled his son's hair, watched on as her son actually reached out and let Jack pick him up and hug him, touched his forehead to the boy's. They were bonding, it seemed, and willingly on both sides.

Her eyes moved to Alpha Rafe, wondering if he would follow suit. He was more dominant than his Beta, always liked to get his own way, he was looking at his son. Saw him kneel down as well, and little Rafe looked at him for a good 15 seconds, then just smiled back, and she saw relief on her Alpha's face as he reached out for his son. Picked him up when little

Rafe reached out for him, held on to him with his eyes closed and just sighed, sounded happy to them.

Kali stood watching them, and she and Kali felt a well of sadness inside of them, found both boys' eyes right on her and sighed. It was always likely going to hurt. Looking at them, they had mated themselves to the two of them during her heat, even though they were not their Mates, not that she had ever told them that, would never.

Could not, they had Mate's and she would never take another, could not. No matter how painful it was. Had to deal with it, for it was her shame, her mistake. One she and Kali had to live with, was their secret to bare. They should never have done it, knew she was not their Mate, but loved them and during her heat, the compulsion had taken her over and she nor Kali had not been able to deny their need to be closer to the ones they wanted.

Kali did not shift her back, just stood there, there would be no shift and being naked in front of either of them ever again. It was her mother who seemed to understand what the issue was.

"Alpha Rafe, Beta Jack, could you go inside please." She asked them.

They both looked from Kali to her mother and then, after a moment, just turned and stepped inside, after Rafe handed her mother a dress for her to wear.

They watched the two of them step inside and out of sight before shifting back, took the dress from her mother and sighed a little on the heavy side as she pulled it on. She'd not been inside this packhouse since the day she'd seen them with their Mates. The day she'd left.

"It'll be alright Luci."

No, it wouldn't. She thought to herself, she didn't know how she was going to handle living inside the pack, or where they would expect her to stay even. Only knew that she was not going to be inside this packhouse, where she would have to see them all the time with their Mate's. That was a definite no, she couldn't do that.

She would not keep them from their sons, but neither she nor the twins would live inside this packhouse. She doubted very much they'd even told their Mate's at this point. She also knew it was not going to go down so well with their Mate's at all.

Luci didn't even know if her sons had brothers or sisters. It was likely it had been six and a half years since she had left, it was very likely they had several. She sighed softly and turned her eyes on her mother "Why are you and Orien fighting?" wanting to think about something else right this minute.

"That is a long story, but in a nutshell, he wouldn't let me come here a week ago. When Jack told us they'd seen Kali.

Luci frowned at her, she'd not seen Jack, but let it go. It didn't mean that he hadn't seen her. "Why wouldn't he?" she asked instead.

"He told me it was dangerous, which is ridiculous. Rafe and Jack's pack is very big, very strong."

"To dangerous?" she asked, not understanding.

"After the attack."

"Victor." Luci nodded that man was vicious, though why that would cause Orien issues? Victor was allied to him, her mother would not be in any danger from Victor. It would sever their alliance.

"You saved them?"

"Alari and Kali saved them." Luci nodded "Why did Victor attack?"

"I don't know." Her mother shook her head. "We haven't spoken to him in a while. Not since our last mating ball, which was two moons ago."

Luci frowned. "He came for me in town today. Knew what we were, wore some sort of protection against Alari's Siren call."

"Strategic as always." Addi sighed "We'll get to the bottom of it, Luci."

“Oh, I know what he wanted. What Orien told him he could have, me as his Luna, he still thinks I belong to him.”

Saw her mother frowning, “Well Luci, you don’t have to go with him. I doubt very much he could make you do anything at all.”

“He can still tranquilise us and kidnap us.” Luci sighed. That had been his plan and if not for her boys he would have done just that. She, it seemed, was still susceptible to wolfsbane, or at least that’s what she thought, is what he used. She didn’t know. If he knew about Alari, which he did, he could well know about something that could bring down a Siren as well. “Alari will k**l him if she gets the chance. He hurt our son Jack.”

“What?” she saw her mother’s eyes go wide now.

“Struck him. Rendered him unconscious.”

“I’ll sever our ties with him for this Luci.” She heard her mother grate out.

Luci stood wondering how Orien would feel about that. Victor was one of his loyal allied Alpha’s. He was strong and ruthless and had been around as long as Luci could recall. He was at least twice her age, but she didn’t exactly know how old he was, didn’t particularly care either.

“Come inside, you must be hungry, it’s been a long day.”

She looked at the packhouse, a place she’d once called home, felt like she’d belonged in. Didn’t call it home anymore and didn’t feel like she belonged here anymore. It just caused her pain if she was honest. “I can’t live here mum.” She murmured softly and she knew she couldn’t.

“We’ll sort something out, sweetie. It might take a day or two, but I will, I promise you.”

Luci nodded, she had no choice but to go inside right this minute, her boys were in there. Would really prefer not to at all, took a long breath in and followed her mother inside.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 32

Rafe POV

Holding his son for the first time made his heart swell with both joy and pride. His small son had taken on a fully grown Alpha today and won. Protected not just his twin, but his mother as well. Had shifted for the first time, and without any hesitation, he had done what all Alpha's do. Assert themselves and fight for their loved ones, protect those that they love with all they have.

His wolf, Solar, was very happy and had been excited to see his son in Siren-Wolf form, so very unique and so very protective. Astral had ripped right out of little Rafe to defend his Grammy, as Addi had called herself to them. He'd not been there for Alari, had stood directly next to Addi, as had Spark; they knew their mother didn't need them.

Solar couldn't be prouder of his young pup, so very strong already, and to hear him howl, there had been no stopping Solar joining in on that family moment.

It seemed that their boy was willing to accept him, though he watched as both little Rafe and little Jack turned and looked right at Kali, at the exact same time. And even he knew something was wrong, he'd seen it before, the way they were connected to their mother.

Kali did not attempt to shift back to Luci at all, seems they did not want to; around him and Jack. Had nearly sighed out loud. But he went inside when he was asked to by Addi. She wasn't likely going to shift around them, didn't want to be naked around them. Not something she'd ever had a problem with before.

Heard her state she couldn't live here and felt Solar's agitation right away. He didn't want his child taken away from him. 'Perhaps she just meant the packhouse.' He told Solar, and he himself was hoping that was all it was. What she had meant, he also didn't like the idea of losing his son, when he'd just found out about him.

He could feel Jack's eyes on him, looked at him, he knew Jack didn't want Luci to leave at all, neither would Flare for that matter. He'd already voiced his wolf's interest in them 'We can't let her leave, Rafe.' Jack's voice came down the mind-link.

'She is more powerful than Solar, Jack. It's unlikely we can stop her. Do you really want a full-on fight over it? That's what will happen, I believe.' Knew that Jack would never want that, would never lay a hand on Luci, Kali or Alari, like that. 'Let's just wait and see what she really meant.'

Neither he nor Jack went far with the boys, just inside the mudroom itself, where they could hear what was going on, but gave her the privacy to shift and dress by herself. They'd never had to do that before, not once in all the time they'd known her, she'd never been one to be shy around them.

Her gym clothes had left little to the imagination. He'd seen how she was now all lean muscle, while he'd assessed her unconscious body and then, when Alari had walked ahead of them, she was much thinner herself than she used to be. Didn't look unhealthy, just all lean muscle now, there was no softness to her curves where there had once used to be.

He wondered if that was because of Alari, or because they did not eat enough to sustain being a double shifter. He was going to have to go out and look at the place they lived, it had been so small. He didn't think he had any rooms here that were even that small.

Saw her step into the mudroom with Addi. "We should get you all something to eat." He told her, it had been nearly midday by the time they had gotten back to the pack after retrieving Luci and the boys. Then they had run about and played for over an hour, before even heading back to the packhouse.

It was now mid-afternoon and he knew none of them had eaten since breakfast, though he noted none of them complained about being hungry. The boys had to be famished after their first shifts today and Jack's healing as well. There was no longer any bruising on his face. He walked

with all of them to the packhouse dining room and put little Rafe down, little Jack ran right over to him as they looked at all the food.

It seemed the two of them were completely amazed by all of the food on display. That hurt more than a little, knew right away just from their reaction to all the food that they didn't eat much.

Luci stayed with Addi, her eyes were on her boys the whole time; couldn't even look at him or Jack. They had hurt her, broken her, he realised. She'd once been a very lively and outgoing, expressive young woman, always smiling, always laughing and had no fear of defying anyone. So very stubborn, hadn't really cared who she looked at or how for that matter. Now her eyes were down and unable, it seemed, to meet his or Jacks at all.

She had to be worried about what he and Jack were going to do where the twins were concerned, likely very concerned about the Luna's reaction as well as Jack's Mate's reaction too. Not even he knew how that was going to go down. Didn't see it going over well at all. But it would have to be discussed and dealt with when those two came back to the pack.

Melissa and Maria usually only stayed away for a week and that was today, so they should be home later this afternoon. He'd not heard from her, and didn't expect to either. She'd never once called him when she went home, and he didn't call her anymore. He might love her, but their relationship was broken at the best of times. Loved her only because he was bonded to her and knew it. It's what the Mate bond did.

He didn't even know what to do about it anymore, had tried many times to make her understand his needs, Jack's needs at that. Both Solar and Flare's needs, as well. Not that she'd even tried to understand, wouldn't even give it a chance, to see if she would like it, not even once allowed it.

He sat down after getting food and found Ian next to him, mind-linked him and Jack 'Alpha, that Beta is dead, bled out. No one got to question him, never woke up, killed by his injuries.'

Rafe sighed 'Thank you, Ian. Is there any information?'

‘Yes, we pulled some sort of electronic device from his pocket when he was searched. Looked to be some sort of hearing protection.’

‘Put them in my office please.’

‘Already there.’ Ian told him ‘Luci is different.’ He commented.

‘She is, in more ways than you know. After we’ve settled her and the twins. I’ll want to talk with you and Allen in my office privately. Jack and I will explain everything.’

‘Alright Alpha.’ The man turned and walked away.

‘So much for interrogating that bastard.’ Jack’s hard voice came down the mind-link.

‘Sorry Jack. I know you wanted answers about what Victor is up to.’

‘I know what he wants. What I want is to know a way into that man’s pack, so I can beat the hell out of him till there’s nothing left of him. I don’t want to question him, I want him dead for hitting my boy. Trying to kidnap Luci and force her to be his Luna.’

‘Agreed, we need that information.’

Rafe’s eyes moved right to Addi. She’d told Luci she would sever ties with Victor, which likely meant that she would be willing to give up details on that man and his pack. Whether Orien was going to be happy about this was another matter altogether. He was going to have to wait and see on what happened between Luci and her family.

Though from where he sat and all he’d seen yesterday and then today, it was pretty damn clear that Addi was still furiously mad with her Mate. Whatever had been said between them earlier had led her to slap her own Mate, and that man had felt the full force of Addison and Fallon.

All her Alpha strength, likely not something he had ever felt before, had come as more than a shock to him, and the way he’d reeled back, that wasn’t just shock, she held real Alpha power and strength. It was also

clear that Alari was having none of Orien's or his wolf's aggression aimed at her mother.

She could take that man on now, was much stronger than he was, and Orien had found out the hard way that the daughter he'd tossed aside would have been his best asset. The daughter he'd insulted so many times, and tried to forcibly Mate off to a man that she did not want. Would have been the best choice as the Heir to his Pack. Strong even then, but now with Alari, deadly as well.

She would be the key to winning any battle brought to any pack she was in. If he'd kept her as his heir, treated her right and loved and protected her, it was likely that he wouldn't need as many allies. Word would get around quickly just how powerful she was and once it did and she was seen displaying that power, not many would attack or raid their pack.

Orien had lost the power of a double shifter and an Alpha female. One that would have the pick of any Alpha for a Mate, no forced mating would be needed. She would have been desired not just for her beauty, but the rarity of what she truly was.

She would be able to have children of either species or combined, as the twins seemed to be, a hybrid species of Siren and Wolf. Every unmated Alpha out there would want her for themselves.

He sighed internally, she still could have that, and if Orien accepted her back and Luci actually wanted to go to her home pack, to the Nightfall Pack once again. He was dead certain Orien would be doing just that. Letting everyone know what she was.

Trying to find her a suitable Mate, one she could see herself Mated to. Wouldn't be able to force her into any mating alliance. But he would be able to give her many options to choose from, and she was going to take the boys with her, would never leave them here, was to closely bonded to them.

Rafe did not see the twins wanting to stay here either, if their mother wasn't here, didn't even see them visiting without her. Siren families had extremely strong connections to each other, he'd seen it already for

himself today. Those boys knew when their mother was upset, they would go wherever she went without hesitation.

The question now was, could he and Jack convince her to stay here, in the Black Forest Pack? They would be safer here, than at Nightfall. Their pack was 5 times larger, had good defences and their warrior count matched more than the entirety of Nightfall's in total.

Though he doubted defending her would be needed, she would understand that here was the safer option, between the two packs. It was also not as close to Victor's home pack, or allied to him as was Nightfall.

Victor had rendered her unconscious and easily so, it appeared, which meant she was still vulnerable, as were the boys. She had also come back to the pack willingly, likely for this very reason, was vulnerable and now she knew it.

Though she'd not done that until Alari had given up control. The Siren they needed to connect with. If he and Jack could connect with Alari, they would have a better chance of getting them to stay here inside this pack, rather than go home to Nightfall with her mother.

He sat quietly and just watched her and the boys, on her plate was all fruit and both boys, though they had looked at everything, had chosen fresh fruit as well. He'd actually watched them look at the array of sweets and then at their mother, almost hopefully he thought.

She'd shaken her head 'no' at them. He wondered why the sugar would help with the energy they needed to sate some of their hunger needs after today's events. He had no idea if she didn't allow them to eat sweets or if they had allergies? That could be triggered by the sweets themselves. Or if their Siren genes only allowed them to eat certain foods.

He had a lot to learn. Jack would likely already have some of this knowledge. He could ask him later. He didn't want to overwhelm Luci right now. He just needed her to settle inside the pack once more. Then they could ask her questions about things that they wanted to know.

He was going to have to follow Jack's lead on this one, didn't much like that he was going to have to do that, but Jack, it seemed, just knew what she needed. Had done his research on Sirens because he'd thought that thing in the lake was Luci.

He'd been right as well, hadn't let it go. Unlike Rafe, he had latched onto the idea and not let it go. They'd both always wanted to find and bring Luci back, but Jack had made sure to study up on Sirens in case she was the creature in the lake.

Didn't believe Rafe's thoughts on the creature in the lake was what had killed Luci. Not when he'd seen the resemblance, he'd seen Alari and all he saw was Luci. His first thought had been Luci, and he had never let it go, there had been no swaying him. He'd been right as well, his instincts were still good where she was concerned.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 33

Jack POV

Jack was watching Luci, who sat quietly at the table to eat, had once been so very lively and animated, would once have sat there with them and chatted to nearly everyone, had fitted into this pack like she was born here. The pack had liked her as well, she'd had so many friends when she'd lived here. She was not herself anyone.

The twins were very curious about the goings on around them and had, from what he could see, her actual personality, openly looked about and at other pack members, that moved about the room.

He wanted to mind-link her, but wasn't exactly certain how she would feel about it. He knew she could mind-link him, hell, to anyone in this pack that had never left her. She was still a member of the pack. Yet she'd not once initiated any sort of conversation with either him or Rafe that he knew of. Alari had, but that was because she'd been agitated about being pumped full of adrenaline. Hadn't liked it.

Alari had severed his attempt to connect with Luci the day she had saved the pack from Victor. Had severed it today from Rafe, and interrupted Rafe from mind-linking to his own son. He was likely going to need to find a way to connect with Alari herself to re-establish a good healthy bond with Luci and Kali.

Though if Alari had come along because Luci had been heartbroken as Addison had said, it was possible that Alari simply surfaced as a way of protecting Luci from them. Likely from the pain they were caused by he and Rafe that day, still had when having to interact with he and Rafe now.

Alari was strong and detached from the pack, detached from both him and Rafe, therefore she was the one who would be best to handle them. They did not upset Alari at all. Probably had no feelings about them, knew who they were but didn't particularly care. He didn't want to upset Alari, Kali or Luci.

He really just wanted to get up, walk around the table and hug her right into his chest, tell her he was so very sorry, that everything was going to be okay. But he didn't think that would go down so well. Likely to set off all her defences and bring Alari right to the surface, he might get his a*s kicked clear across the room. Didn't want that, also thought it might set both the boys off as well, go into protection mode. Like they had with Orien and Addison. He didn't want to be suddenly on bad terms with his son.

He didn't really know, but did know he was going to have to try and soon. He couldn't let this silence go on forever, it would only widen the distance that was already between them, something that had never been there before. Something he and Rafe had created by being stupid and careless.

Though even that thought bothered him, they were not the stupid, careless types. Never had been, not back then, not now even. They were actually respectful of their pack and its members, and had always treated Luci well. Thinking about that very day, he didn't understand his own actions.

He also had to find out where she would be comfortable living as well. He had not liked hearing her state 'she couldn't stay here.' She hadn't wanted to shift in front of them, hadn't really wanted to come inside the packhouse either. Looked very uncomfortable being in here. Likely she had been in this very packhouse when they had come home. It was the last place she had seen them in all likelihood.

He really did need to know what it was; she needed or wanted. To start making her feel anything other than uncomfortable. Mind-linked to Rafe about what homes were available close to the packhouse, just from watching her he knew she was not going to be comfortable inside it. A place that she had once called home, had her own room upstairs. It was still there, and they still considered it her room. Wondered now if Luci being a Triune was why Hannah and her sisters never went into that room. Luci herself had witch's blood in her veins. Intruding on a witch's place of residence was never welcomed.

'There is a cottage just past the single wolf apartments, which has three bedrooms. Belonged to Tamara and her two siblings, but she mated off out of the pack on the last mating ball and I gave permission for her to take her siblings with her, it's clean, neat and tidy.'

He thought about that for a minute. 'I think that might be a good option for Luci and the boys for now, until she is willing to tell us where she wants to be.'

'You don't think she'll stay in the packhouse?'

'No. Look at her, she is extremely uncomfortable.' He was a little annoyed with Rafe right that minute, for not noticing it, or if he had, still thought she would be willing to stay inside the packhouse. It was very clear to him how uncomfortable she was.

He looked right at Luci and bit the bullet. "Luci, there is a vacant house not too far from the packhouse, would you and the boys like to look at it?"

Her brilliant green eyes met his as she spoke “Thank you.” she said, her words were softly spoken, she nodded her head and then returned her attention back to her children.

He stood the moment everyone was done eating “This way.” He motioned for everyone to follow him and saw both Luci and Addi get up along with the boys. “I believe it’s got three bedrooms as well.” He said calmly, trying to get her to talk to him or interact in some small way. She didn’t say anything, though “I will have the kitchen fully stocked before dinner as well.” He offered. Still got nothing from her.

He walked outside and they all followed him. Rafe had fallen in step with him. “Luci, I’ll go and collect all your things from your place if you’re alright with that. Jack and I will leave you and the boys to settle in. Addison will stay with you.”

“Thank you.” again those softly spoken words.

They walked all the way to the cottage. It had a nice white picket fence, was unlocked because there was no need for it to be locked; no crime here inside the pack. He held the door open for her and Addison, then the boys. They all went inside and both he and Rafe followed as well.

The cottage was fully furnished, though if she didn’t like it, and wanted to stay in it, he would purchase her whatever she liked. It had a tidy kitchen with relatively new appliances, a neat little lounge room with a small lounge suite, seated three and had a matching armchair. There was a TV attached to the wall above the open fireplace.

A dining nook with a large window that overlooked the front yard and down the short hallway were the three bedrooms, two with a jack and jill bathroom between them and the master bedroom with its own ensuite.

The place had hardwood floors but nice dark blue rugs in each of the rooms. If she and the boys liked it, it was theirs for now. He’d talk to her once she was properly settled in, about the type of house she would prefer and where.

He was a bit worried about putting her right on the water's edge of the lake now, like she had been for the past six and half years. With Victor knowing what she was and trying to take her for himself. A house out on the very far edge of the packs border was likely not the safest place for them to be, especially her. He had wanted to give her that originally, but now?

From what he could tell, that man was not interested in her children and there was no way he would have missed that they were hers, not seeing as his Beta had been brought down by either his or Rafe's son. There wasn't a mark on that man, so a siren call had been unleashed on him. He knew they were hers yet hadn't tried to take them either. Only wanted Luci.

He left her with Addison in the cottage to settle in and mind-linked to the head chef and organised them to take over food to fully stock that kitchen pantry and fridge. To have someone go over and ask what she wanted food wise.

Informed her it was Luci and her two children in that house. That she was feeling uncertain as to being back in the pack and not to push her, upset her and not to make any comments about the children that were with her. Got a 'Yes Beta. Congratulations on your son. I'll go myself. I always got on with Luci, it will be nice to see her again.'

Left his chef, Nadia, to handle it, he looked at Rafe. "Nadia will go herself, to the cottage."

"That's good." Rafe nodded "They don't eat much."

"No protein," Jack nodded. "Could be to do with how far they live from town. I didn't see any electricity in the house."

"House?" Rafe muttered "that's not what I would call it."

He did agree with that statement, but it was their home. "We need to clean it out. Bring their things here. Before Victor finds out where she lived and goes there himself looking for something to leverage, to get her out of the pack."

“Sara is there still, I believe. Petra would have ordered a detail on the dwelling. She didn’t look happy about that place.”

“No, she did not, and I’m betting our parents will be on their way back from their vacation within a day.”

Rafe laughed “Vacation? They’ve been travelling for two years now.”

“A good vacation.” Jack smiled “Do we want to deal with Ian and Allen or Luci’s things first?”

“Let’s k**l two birds with one stone, we’ll take Ian and Allen with us, talk while we walk.”

They did just that but opted not to walk, to head on over there on quad bikes. It would be quicker and they could get all their belongings and put them on the back of the bikes for an easier trip back as well. Though it was going to be dark by the time they got back.

They left Petra in charge of the pack while they were off pack territory. She’d been in charge before, knew the rules and was a good warrior, fierce and loyal. They would likely come home to find a full protection detail prowling around Luci’s cottage. He’d not done that so as not to overwhelm her, but he knew Petra had orders and protecting the Heirs to the pack, while he and Rafe were not there would be her number one priority.

Stepping into the place where Luci and the boys lived, he sighed out loud. Although she had made it like a home, it was just a single room with one bed, had a small thin table and two chairs. He was willing to bet the boys sat to eat and Luci stood. There was a simple clothing rack that hung clothes, and there weren’t all that many. Though they were all clean and looked to be in good condition.

But other than her work uniform and the boys’ school clothes, there were only a half dozen sets of clothing for each of them, two pairs of shoes each was all he saw, just the bare basics and that was all.

If they'd been able to handle this properly, it was likely the boys would have been raised inside the pack and wanted for nothing at all. Neither would Luci have, for that matter, he would have made sure she had the best of everything. Ian and Allen set about packing everything up and it didn't take long at all.

Jack walked the outside, in the same way Petra had herself, found Sara's eyes on him. "It's not much." She commented.

"It's not." He acknowledged, and it wasn't, though there was a well-maintained vegetable garden and a couple of fruit trees out here. Likely what they ate most of the time. Accounting for why she'd vetoed the sweets, could well be as simple as their bodies weren't used to processed sugar and fats, and could well make them all sick.

There was no electricity, so no meat for the boys, though his research did show him that Sirens in their natural habitats would eat fish and sea creatures, so it was possible that Alari went hunting for fish and they ate that all the time.

Though he wouldn't know that until he could sit down with her and talk properly about things. Nadia may be able to report to him what they ate after she'd been to talk to them. Though he was of the opinion; from what he was seeing here, what he'd seen them eat in the packhouse, it was all going to be fresh fruits and vegetables.

No wonder all her softness was gone, and she was all lean muscle. He could only hope that she did actually eat enough to sustain her as a double shifter. Though he was certain she would put her children's needs above her own, if there was less food, she would be the one to go without.

Looked at the garden and wondered if she'd want another in the pack. Their chef did actually have quite a few large, raised garden beds for growing fresh foods. Nadia could likely help with something like that. He'd have to talk to her about it. He didn't think Luci was going to be eating inside the packhouse on a regular basis, at all, once their Mates came home.

The only thing this place had was portable gas and running water. She'd adapted and lived as was needed. He didn't really understand how one could do such a thing. Not from how she had lived in her old pack, then in their pack, supposed she just had no choice in the matter, wondered how she managed when the twins were tiny babies. Though he also knew that Sirens were not materialistic creatures, so perhaps she'd just let it all go, allowing her Siren side to dictate most things, it was possible.

Wondered just where the boys had been born, whether she had birthed them all alone or gone into town to the local medical centre, sighed heavily, just something else she'd had to do on her own.

"Anything?" he asked Sara.

"Nothing out of the ordinary, Beta." She answered him, "You want me to burn it down?"

"What? No, why would you say that?"

"Don't want Victor coming across it. Even with her gone."

Jack thought about that, he didn't think that Victor knew where Luci had lived. If he had, he'd never have tried taking her in town. Also, would have known about the twins and would have come with more troops to contain them.

"No, just clean it out, leave no trace that they were ever here. It was where she and the boys lived. Grew up, I can't destroy that, they likely have many good memories here." He'd heard the boys giggle, seen the way they had played, were likely happy children all the time. This was simply their life. They didn't know any better, it was home to them. They were Siren-Wolves; likely didn't need a million possessions either.

"Alright." She nodded.

He found Rafe standing out on the Jetty staring towards the pack, and walked over to him. "You alright?"

"She can see it from here. Likely Victor and his men came right past here and that's how she knew they were going to attack us...Alari would have

swum to the pack, they left the boys unprotected and defenceless to help us.”

“I don’t think the boy are defenceless,” Jack commented.

“I know that, but still...she risked them to save the pack...to save us.”

Jack sighed “Something we can talk to her about later on. When she is more comfortable and settled in,” he did understand the concern about their boys being left alone, “No one knew about them, that’s why she did it.” He tried to offer some sort of reasoning. “Don’t be mad at her.”

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 34

Rafe POV

He wasn’t mad at her. How could he be? When she had saved them, saved the entire pack, did what he didn’t think he could have done. She had hidden herself away from him for six and a half long years. Had stepped out of her comfort zone and outed herself and where she was to both he and Jack. To Victor himself.

She had risked her safe life and opened herself up to become vulnerable, just to save two men and their pack. The two men that had hurt her and broken her. Now she was in danger, real danger. Victor was not about to let go of her and his need to have her. No, he was going to come back for her, in full force at some point.

He was not only likely to come with his warriors, but with his allied packs as well. He was not only going to want Luci, but the twins as well, would understand there would be no separating them now. That man was a savage, he also wouldn’t care who got hurt in his need to capture Luci for himself. Knew himself, that if Victor thought taking or k*****g one of the twins would bring Luci or the other twin to him, draw them out of the pack, that he would do so and without hesitation. As long as he got Luci, he wouldn’t care about the method used, and one twin was better than no twin.

Now there was also Orien and Thatcher that he had to consider, and they were both here inside his pack. Luci would now be considered a threat to that boy's position within the Nightfall Pack. If Orien could get her to go back, she was the best option for the future of that pack. She might not be his blood, but she was his Luna's blood. She was so very powerful now. So, installing her as the next heir could be what Orien was now thinking.

Inside his own pack, she was going to have to deal with the Luna and that in itself was not going to be fun, not for any of them. Not that Melissa was any match for Luci. Though that didn't mean that Melissa wouldn't take great offense to the fact that his once, long-time lover had born him a child. She would likely also take offense to Jack's boy as well.

They both now had heirs to the pack, with their previous lover, where his own Luna had been unable to do that very thing. Blamed him for it, in fact, always told him it was his fault, not hers. She was healthy and fine, he was the one that was lacking in the conception department.

Well, now it was blatantly clear it wasn't his problem, he had a son, as now did Jack for that matter, two heirs' as they had always expected, if their mates had ever allowed them to share them, pups conceived and born on the same day, pups that would be as connected, as they were themselves to each other.

He wondered just when those two would come home. He wasn't about to call her and tell her. She was likely to bring her entire father's pack with her if she knew. To try and deal with Luci and the heirs, she was jealous of an empty room in the packhouse, she was going to be worse, knowing Luci was now in the pack and the mother to the pack heirs.

No, she could find out when she decided to grace him or the pack with her presence. If she didn't up and just leave all the time, for weeks at a time, she would have been here and would already know about it. Likely they would already be yelling and screaming about it for all the pack to hear.

He was actually glad that Melissa and Maria weren't here in the pack right this minute, it was going to give Luci a little bit of breathing room

and a chance to settle into the pack once more. Though how long it would be until those two returned he had no idea.

They returned to the pack and delivered all of Luci and the boys' belongings to the cottage Jack had organised for her. Addison accepted it all. Luci apparently was in the bath.

"There was no sign of Victor," he told her.

"Good." Addi nodded "Orien is still mad. I just thought you should know, he's currently stalking around in your packhouse foyer, or first floor in a temper."

Rafe nodded "If he comes at Luci, he will have to deal with Jack and myself."

He saw Addison chuckle "Oh, he won't come near Alari, she put him right in his place. He is angry about that in itself, and doesn't know what to do about it."

"Have you talked to him?"

"Not yet, I'll go after dinner, see if he is ready to beg for forgiveness, if not." She shrugged nonchalantly.

"Addi, you are welcome to stay here as long as you like." Rafe told her, and she was, being Luci's mother, he would not deny her or Luci the right to be together.

"Thank you, Rafe. But just to let you know, I won't be going anywhere anytime soon. You're Mate has yet to turn up and if she touches my daughter or grandchildren, I'll take to her as I did my own pack members."

He understood it was a full warning, couldn't blame the woman, just nodded, couldn't argue with her, didn't like hearing the threat to his Luna, but it was to be expected. He just turned and walked away back to the packhouse. Walked into his office and sat down at his desk, Jack trailed him. He'd not said anything about the threat either.

The earpieces were on his desk as Ian had told him they were. He could tell just from looking at them that they were custom-made. He didn't like it. Victor clearly had knowledge of Sirens and not just recently either, likely had been studying them for a while now, likely to have more knowledge than Jack had.

He had been prepared to come and take Luci, knew what she was, had likely recognised her the day he'd brought war to them, and had come prepared to defend himself against that Siren call of Alari's. The two earpieces didn't look brand new to him, probably a year old or so, and were in pretty good condition. Which meant that Victor had dealt with a Siren before. Knew how to handle one, how to protect himself from one.

Which meant that he was now back inside his home pack, plotting and planning on how to get Luci out in the open, for he or his men to get a hold of. Though how he thought he was going to be able to control her, or Alari, even Kali, for that matter, was curious to him. Even if he marked her while she was sedated, she'd get up and reject him. Rafe knew it, was Victor so stupid as to think that just marking her would make her stay put and be his? If so, he was in for a very rude shock.

He obviously wasn't out to hurt her, wanted her for his Luna, she'd said as much. He'd not harmed her either, only sedated her, that was curious to him. The man was a savage but hadn't used brute force to snare her, used the mildest manner of k*****g. Wanted her not only alive but unharmed.

He wanted her to breed him an Heir, he realised after thinking about it. One that was good and strong was all and to do that he needed her alive and well. Couldn't risk hurting her in case it lessened his chance to get that Heir he wanted.

Addison had said it was hard to k**l a Siren, but then someone had killed her Mate and his entire pack. So, there was knowledge out there about how to bring down not just one Siren but a whole pack of them. He was going to need that knowledge himself, so he could defend against those very things. Hell to keep her alone, safe.

He sat and scrubbed a hand over his face, it wasn't as though life wasn't already hard enough around here. He was going to have to train his warriors to defend against Victor and his men, who worked in teams like Alpha's and their units. He didn't think that Victor was going to come back on his own either. No, he would be coming with whatever he brought to bring Luci down, would likely be looking for something to bring the twins down as well now.

There was a war coming and he just knew it. Victor was going to bring everyone he had at his back, this time. Likely under the guise that they had stolen his future Luna, and he needed to get her back. That would rally all the man's allies to him. A Luna was a precious thing to not only the Alpha but the Pack itself.

Rafe's pack was larger from what he had heard about Victor's pack, but that was not a guarantee that they would win. He'd seen over the years how that man operated, how he planned attacks and how he had trained his men up. Likely, if he brought all his allies, it was going to be a massive s*****r on both sides, not something he wanted.

He might have to request help from his own allies, not something he had to do very often either. It was usually the other way around, most relied on he and Jack to help defend them. Only twice since taking over had he actually requested help, and that was more in a hunt and retrieve mode. They'd not been looking for war assistance.

He looked at Jack who was studying one of the earpieces. "I think we need to bring some or all of our Allied packs into this. I don't think Victor is going to let go, he's going to bring everything he has, to try and get Luci now that he knows what she is. Still holds a claim to her, one Orien stupidly gave to him. Will likely use that to bring his allies to him."

"More than one at that," Jack sighed. They both knew it was true as well. Though he could only hope there was no actual paperwork for it. No contract, so to speak. He would produce it to get his allies to agree, use it as proof she was to be his Luna, the reason he was wanting to take war to them and get her back. "I agree, help will likely be needed." Jack stated, "Who were you thinking about?"

“West and Terence from the Eclipsed Moon Pack. They are both strong and only a few hours away.”

“Alpha Bradley would be good.” Jack nodded “The Black Haven Pack is not that far away either.”

“I might bring them both in on it. They are also allied to each other as well, so that is good we’ll all know each other.”

“Get along as well. Brad is good with strategy, being a smaller pack, is big on defences as well now, amped it up a lot out there after gaining Piper for his Luna, and will not allow any risk to come to her. West and Terence”, Jack smiled. “Very strong, Royal bloodline there too.”

“The question is, do either of them align with Victor?”

“I doubt it.” Jack shook his head “Brad is well liked, and doesn’t seem like the type to get involved with a man like Victor. West and Terence, I don’t think so either, they rejected the royals for trying to take West’s Mate. So I’d be willing to bet they’d not be interested in aligning themselves with one that is seen to always want to take something that is not his. But wants it to be, regardless of what the other wants. That will hit home for West, they’ll offer aid. I’m certain of it.”

“I’ll email them for a meeting, see if I can get them here on the same day.” Rafe nodded.

“This I am willing to bet blocks the pitch of a Siren’s call. I wonder if it would work against the boys? It was not designed for them.”

“I don’t know, not about to test it either.” And he wasn’t, whoever they got to test it would likely end up dead if they didn’t work. “Though Petra might know if it worked or not to some degree, but Victor did get away. So I guess it did.” It was curious to him, it had worked on Luci, had it worked on the twins just as effectively, as well?

“I’ll register the boys to the pack,” Jack said with a smile as he put the earpiece down, “and enrol them in the school too.”

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 35

Rafe POV

Rafe smiled at Jack himself, at those words, it made him happy to hear those words. Then he realised this was the first time they had been alone since finding out about Luci and the boys. "Our boys are beautiful Jack." he smiled, truly smiled, about knowing of them finally. That they were here, how good and strong they were, that they were so very connected and not just to each other but to their mother Luci as well. He really did love that about them.

"I know, amazing aren't they." Jack smiled right at him.

Rafe got up and walked over to him and just hugged him.
"Congratulations Jack, you're a dad."

Jack hugged him back. "Congratulations yourself on that, you are too."

He could feel their bond with each other, and he felt just that bit more connected to him, pulled back and looked at him 'I love how connected they are.' He smiled, all his joy and happiness on the surface for the man to see, couldn't help it, there was no containing it.

"Me too, and their colouring, a full blend of both of us and that shimmer in their fur." Jack smiled widely now. "they almost glitter in the sunlight. That I bet they get from Alari. Her scales were opalescent."

"Their eyes, so unique too. All power no one will ever doubt their power. Likely put fear into many."

"Yes, they have Alari's eyes with a pure Alpha Wolf eyes blended right in." Jack smiled.

"Deadly and stunning." Rafe smiled.

"They have Luci's personality. I bet they're going to be a real handful." Jack laughed. "Just like she was."

Rafe laughed himself "Goddess help the girls when they come of age."

“Oh, yes. I can only imagine they’ll be just like us in that department.” Jack nodded.

They were just staring at each other now, smiling at each other, truly happy for the first time in many years, talking excitedly about their children. Somehow, Luci had always been able to bring happiness to them. Even now, with all that was going on and all they had to prepare for. Luci, just being here, had managed to bring joy and happiness to them.

She really did belong inside this pack, there was just something about her, always had been that attracted them to her, likely it was her nature. So very stubborn and so very open about what it was she wanted. It was likely all her needs had come from her Siren bloodline, only no one, bar Addi, had known about it. Why she’d just accepted it and catered to it even.

“I’ll send that email.” Rafe told Jack as he stepped away from the man, looked right at him. He was as lit up as Rafe himself was. Hadn’t slept in the same bed as him inside this pack in years, might just do that tonight. He could feel his connection to Jack really strong right this minute, couldn’t not smile at him. He knew he wanted to be with him, there was no doubt.

“Jack, stay with me tonight.” He stated after only a moment’s thought about it.

“Alright.” Jack answered, without hesitation, could even hear the smile in his voice as he walked to his desk “Luci’s suite?” He asked as he sat down.

It was normally where they would go to feel comfort and relax. But that was not what he wanted. “No, my suite,” Rafe told him. He and Jack used to sleep in there even before Luci came into their lives. They would stay in one or the others room on occasion, and always if there was a girl involved that was willing to let them both have her.

“Really?” he was asked, “If Melissa comes home and finds me in there with you.”

“She can deal with it. I’m done being denied Jack. She goes off and does her own thing, spends all her time with her twin, but won’t allow us to do that...Not anymore.”

“Alright.” Jack looked right at him, smiled himself, seemed happy with this.

Rafe sat and composed an email to send to both his Allied packs, included the information about Alpha Victor Sampson of the Bloodless Moon Pack, the attack they suffered, then the attempted kidnapping of Alpha Luci just today, to try and claim her against her will. That they had finally managed to find her and bring her home, she was currently inside the pack once more. Bradley, Cooper, West and even Terence all knew Luci, they’d been allied for many years.

He also let all of them know that Luci was a mother of two. That they’d just found out today they had a child each to Luci, she’d born them twins. How Victor had injured Jack’s son and the future Heir to their pack without concern, that the boy was just six.

That he and Jack would appreciate a meeting with all of them to talk strategy and what, if any, available assistance they would be able to offer. Seeing as he believed when Victor did come, he wasn’t going to be coming alone. Would likely bring all his allied packs with him and whatever rogues he had under his influence.

They had seen that once before, not very pretty and a whole pack had been destroyed by that man. Any remaining pack members had been split up between the four packs that had been there for assistance. He still had a few here, their Gypsy princess had yet to find her Mate, she was only now just 18. It would likely take some time yet.

Signed it as always, Alpha Rafe and Beta Jack, The Black Forest Pack.

It was never just his name. Although he was the Alpha, it was he considered their pack. He’d hoped that one day they would Mark and Mate the same woman and he’d raise Jack to that of an Alpha himself. Though they’d never talked about it out loud, it was what he wanted.

Might have to Mark that man to do so but he didn't think Jack or Flare would care about it.

Sent that email off to both of them, with not just his thoughts on the subject of Victor coming back to bring war to the pack, but with his thoughts of him once again coming for Luci even though she had never wanted to go with him. Still didn't. Both of them were attached to the same email so that they could all see everyone's responses.

It did not take long for his pack phone to ring. He saw Alpha Westly, flashing up on the caller ID "Here we go Jack, it's West."

He answered the phone, put it on speaker phone "Hi West, Terence." He greeted them, knew that both men would be there, had an office just like this one, two desks for a dual running Alpha pack.

"Rafe, Jack, you have Heirs? Twin boys" West's voice came right down the line, seemed surprised.

"Yes, one to each of us, unknown to us. As you know, Luci was missing for some time." Rafe nodded.

"Presumed dead, wasn't she?" Terence asked him.

"Yes, I did presume that. I was very wrong." He admitted "Didn't even go that far, still a pack member even."

"Where was she?" West asked, "Out of curiosity, if you don't mind, of course."

"I don't mind she was across the other side of the lake, in the human town. Looks very different. I would not have picked her from behind."

"Changed her look to hide from you? hid the children?" Terence asked him.

"Not exactly. You'll understand when you see her, I believe."

"Cryptic like your witches." Terence chuckled softly.

“How is Luci?” West asked. They’d both seen her here on visits during Allied meetings and mating balls.

“Not so good. Nearly got kidnapped today, and when the twins came to her aid, Victor injured Jacks’ boy.”

“Bloody man is a savage.” Jack grated out “My boy is just six.”

“Six?” West asked, “Sounds like you and Bradley will have a lot in common.”

“We all do.” Jack smiled, each of them had a run away she-wolf, though Luci was not their Mate, as were West and Brads.

He heard both West and Terence chuckle now. “Any day is good for T.J. and I, just let us know when Brads available, we’ll come the same day save you rehashing everything.”

“Got ourselves a helicopter now.” Terence stated. He could hear the excitement in the man “You got somewhere for me to land it.”

“Yeah, there is plenty of room in the training grounds to land a helicopter.” Rafe chuckled and shook his head, those two really did love to fly, wondered if it was just one or if they had themselves a whole fleet at his disposal.

“Alright, that is where I’ll put it.” he heard Terence state, sounded happy.

“Thanks, West, Terence, I’ll send you a message when I know about Brad.”

“No problem, happy to help.” West stated.

He looked at Jack who was sitting on the edge of his desk as the line clicked closed “What type of helicopter do you think those two bought.” Jack asked him.

Rafe smiled. “A big one, likely to fit a dozen of their warriors in it.”

“I’ve never known wolves that love to fly and be off the ground as much as those two do.”

“Me either, but they are happy and that’s all that matters. Get here quicker in a chopper as well, than by road.”

“That they will. Go from a six and a half hour drive, to around a two and a half hour flight time, I’d say. Cut that trip considerably.”

“Yes, and that will be good for us, good for all their allied as well. Wouldn’t surprise me to hear they’ve got more than one, likely got enough to take all their warriors for allied assistance.”

“Mm, that would mean a dozen of them likely.”

“Yes, but they already have an airline. What’s a chopper hanger attached to it?” Rafe smiled and shook his head.

They both looked at each other and chuckled, stated “nothing.” at the same time.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 36

Addison POV

Addison watched as Luci finally started to relax; it wasn’t until both Alpha Rafe and Beta Jack had left her here to settle in. She could see that being around the two of them was causing her daughter to feel all of her old feelings again. She could tell that she was having trouble dealing with their sudden appearance back in her life.

The boys she knew were happy enough, already sitting on the lounge watching the TV, she’d offered to make them a snack, but they had both shaken their heads up at her and stated they weren’t hungry. Addison didn’t know how they weren’t starving hungry. She thought that they should be.

They had eaten a big bowl of fruit salad after coming back to the packhouse, but that was it, nothing else. They had drunk water and now

weren't hungry. She wondered about that, they should be ravenous. But perhaps what they had eaten was more than they would normally eat.

Or perhaps because they were just six, her definition of enough food was not the same as for them. She was used to newly shifted wolves eating massive amounts of food, but then they also had bigger bodies, were all adults and the twins were just six.

Nadia turned up at the cottage not long after Rafe and Jack left. She'd sat at the table with her and Luci, heard Luci ask for fruits and vegetables, didn't ask for any snack foods of any kind, not for herself and not for the boys. Requested fish and eggs only. This had made Nadia frown, she was the pack's head chef.

Luci had explained to Nadia "That is what we are used to eating."

"Hm." The woman had looked her right over, then just nodded "Alright, we can start introducing other things back into yours and the boy's diet, till all of you can eat anything you like."

She'd seen Luci just nod her head in acceptance.

"This will include sweets and snack foods. We could start with yoghurt and flavoured milk, maybe a little bit of chocolate, the small individually wrapped ones."

"I don't know." Luci had sighed "I gave them chocolate cake once. It didn't go down so well, they got sick."

"Sick?" both she and Nadia had asked. Wolves don't generally get sick.

"Mm, it went right through them. They liked it, but suffered for it a few hours later."

"Alright," Nadia nodded, "definitely start small then. I think they're just not used to sugars and fats is all. What about meat Luci, Chicken, Beef, pork?"

"They can eat those, but only get it occasionally. I didn't have the capacity to keep it cold or from turning bad."

“Alright, I’ll sit down tonight and make up a menu a few meals that are healthy and we’ll add in one or two things a week, to get them used to it. Are there any snacks they can already eat?”

“They like air popped popcorn, rice crackers, the cheese-flavoured ones and I make pancakes sometimes. Strawberry ones.”

“That’s a good start. Is there anything they can’t eat?”

“I don’t think so.” Luci shook her head.

“Okay then, most wolves don’t have food allergies, so I’ll go with that. Now, if the boys have a severe reaction to anything, you’ll let me know right away yes.” At Luci’s nod she went on “I’ll drop it from the list and provide something else.”

Addison smiled at Nadia. She had come into this cottage with a friendly smile for not just herself but for Luci too. Addison saw her out and she stated she’d be back within the hour to stock the pantry and the fridge. True to her word she had been. Brought two omega’s that worked in the kitchen with her. They had both also greeted her and Luci in a warm, friendly manner.

No one seemed to be judging Luci at all about the twins, they all also knew Luci, greeted her by name, smiled and welcomed her back to the pack. Luci had started to relax after that. It was good, it seemed that the other pack members understood why Luci had left or not said anything about the twins. Either that or Rafe had warned them all to behave. She didn’t really care which it was. But was hoping for the first.

She’d encourage Luci to go and have a bath, that she would stay and watch the boys, they were easy to look after. Right now, were in their new home, happily enjoying having a TV of their own for the first time in their lives, sitting watching it. She’d found them something appropriate for their age to watch.

They’d told her they got to watch TV at school sometimes and had gone to the movies with their mamma a few times. She loved how they were just

open to talking to her about whatever came to their minds, just like Luci had been when she was that age.

She stood by, leaning on the wall and smiled at them. Loved them as did Fallon, nothing and no one was going to keep her apart from her grandbabies. Though as she watched them she wondered what they did in their home after dark, she'd seen there was no electricity where they had lived.

Orien had mind-linked to her to request she come to his suite and discuss what exactly was going on. Addison had told him flatly 'I will come when Luci and the boys are settled and not before.'

He had seemed more than annoyed with her response, but she hadn't cut the mind-link from him, waited on him, knew that he would only establish another one when he was ready to talk to her. He'd stated, 'Come to my suite then, when you are ready.'

'Why?' she'd asked right back, they'd been separated for a week now, and if he thought she was just going to forgive him for all he'd done, roll over and crawl into his bed, he was dead wrong.

Told her 'Because it's where you belong.' And then stated, 'doesn't Fallon miss Rali at all?'

She'd sighed, of course she did. But Fallon was also mad at her Mate for allowing his human to put that silver cuff on them. It wasn't right. It should never have been allowed 'Yes.' She answered honestly 'but neither of you have even bothered to apologise for all you did to us. Stopping us from coming here, putting us under house arrest, binding us with silver, of all things. Now you insult my daughter the moment you see her. You're the one to blame for us not wanting to come to you.' she'd stated and cut that mind-link to him without waiting for a response.

He needed to come and apologise. She'd already apologised to the warrior's families for what she and Fallon had done, though they were sad. She'd found their mother's understood her need to get to her daughter. Couldn't actually understand their own Alpha's refusal to let her go to her daughter, when she'd explained to them what had really

happened out there that day. Which she had. He'd not been happy about that either. Now his own pack knew he'd refused his Luna to go to her daughter who'd been missing for six and a half years.

Her own Gamma right this minute was even keeping his distance, but she knew he wasn't far away. She also had a feeling he knew she wasn't just a wolf anymore, was a little more than on the weary side. She thought it was very unlikely that he was going to try and contain her again, not even if Orien ordered it.

He would do his job if it was needed by her, but she was happy and calm now that she had found Luci, and to have two precious grandbabies just filled her with joy. Her Gamma would know that. He was not needed by her at all right now.

She put Luci's clothes in her bedroom when Rafe, Jack, Allen, and Ian brought some boxes over. It wasn't all that much, but they were hers and the boy's things. Addison could online shop from here and have lots of stuff delivered for her daughter and her grandsons. Though she would do it with Luci and the boys right there as well. So, she knew what to get them.

Rafe and Jack had left them be as they said they would, and were giving her time to settle in. Seems the two of them weren't at all mad, which was a good thing. They really had no right to be, considering just how inconsiderate of her daughter's feelings they had been at the time she'd left.

Perhaps she could be okay here, taking her back to Nightfall? Addison didn't know about that. Victor was currently still allied to them, and he could just walk into the pack and try to take her all over again. At least here he couldn't do that at all. He would have to get past Rafe and Jack, plus hundreds of their warriors.

No, it was better and safer for Luci here inside the Black Forest Pack, as uncomfortable as it was, and even if she was upset about being here. It was for now the safest place for her. She was going to have to talk to Orien about Victor, as well. She didn't think that was going to go down so well.

She was also going to have to tell him about who Luci's real father was, he'd seen Alari on the surface, felt the raw power of her Alpha Siren and he was going to have many questions she could well imagine. Seeing as she'd never once spoken of Lucian to him, kept Luci's lineage a secret from everyone.

She stood with Luci in the kitchen and helped her make dinner. It was a hearty vegetable soup with bread rolls and some chicken b****t meat diced up and put in it. She watched Luci just go about cooking. It was such a natural thing for her to do. Smiled to herself, not many Alpha wolves knew how to cook, let alone did cook. Most of them had omegas to do that for them.

She sat and ate with them. Told Luci she would spend the night here as well. But she did want to go and get some of her clothes. Luci had just nodded. They had all chatted about things, mostly the boys who were excited to finally be here in the pack. Not having been here before, they wanted to see everything.

They'd run in the woods now, had a meal in the packhouse dining room, got to live in a real house now, a bedroom each. But she knew they were going to be amazed by a real tour of the Black Forest packhouse, the pack itself as well. They were going to want for nothing ever again.

Jack and Rafe didn't even work in the city, they ran all of their businesses from right here in the pack. If she recalled correctly, they owned an entire apartment building in the city and most of the employees that worked in the city, lived in that one building, a tiny part of their pack out in the city. They always had help close by.

She was certain that was where the previous generations also lived on the top floor of the apartment building in the city, never really saw Rafe and Jack or Allen and Ian's parents walking about here inside the pack. So, they must be off in the city. She knew Orien's father was dead, that's how he'd inherited the pack. His mother had left years ago, gone back to her home pack, to be closer to her family is what she'd heard. They'd both not been there when she'd met Orien.

He was older than her by 8 years and had been in charge for four years before, he'd scented her out and convinced her to let him claim her. Sighed to herself, perhaps she should have just returned to her lake after that war was over and raised Luci all by herself. Then sighed, if she did that, she wouldn't have Thatcher or her two grandchildren right now.

Might just have to take a trip out to Lucian's home and talk to him, missed that lake of his, of hers. Technically, she supposed she was still the Luna of it. Just hadn't been there since he told her to run and not look back, not to come back no matter what she felt. To leave and protect their daughter. Which she had done.

"Mum, are you okay?"

"Yes, Luci. Just thinking about the past is all."

"Sad?"

"Yes, I guess you could say that. Miss my home."

"Nightfall?"

Addison shook her head. "No, the lake I met Lucian at. His and my home."

"Oh, where was that?" Saw Luci's interest was piqued, right away.

Addison smiled a little sadly. "To be honest, I'm not a hundred percent sure exactly where it was, I have a basic idea, know what state. But..." she sighed "I came across it when I was a rogue she-wolf, running away from anyone and everyone. And I had to flee from it myself when I was pregnant with you. It wasn't very big, was somewhere in the Glacier National Park in Montana, up north. Was very pretty."

"You were a rogue she-wolf?"

"Mm," she nodded "We can discuss that another time. Long story."

"I'd like to hear it at some point."

“I’ll tell you some day. Not today though, I think you, the boys, Kali and Alari have all had a long day. So, for another time when things settle down a bit more.”

Luci hadn’t pushed the subject, but Addison could tell that her daughter was interested in her true lineage, she would get around to telling her about it, but had other things that were more pressing right this minute and not just for her but for Luci as well. This all needed to be sorted out before they could go delving into her history.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 37

Jack POV

Jack was more than surprised to hear Rafe ask him to stay with him the night here inside the pack, and in the Alpha Suite at that. They often shared a room when travelling to other packs, but not here inside the pack, not since they were mated off. Their Mates wouldn’t have a bar of it.

He was showered and stretched out in Rafe’s bed, just staring up at the ceiling, had both his hands behind his head, and was currently smiling to himself. For though it had been a somewhat traumatising day for he and Flare, nearly losing their son, they didn’t even know they had. Little Jack was doing well now, and there was no bruising left on him at all.

Alari had healed him and then, with his first shift, his Siren-Wolf had fixed everything, now had healing abilities, and at just six. Little Jack was beautiful and precious, and he loved that he was so much like his mother when she’d been happy. Her real personality, couldn’t wait to truly see him really shine, and become everything he was meant to be.

He relaxed and thought about the last time he’d been in this very bedroom. Luci had been between them, she had often woken up between the two of them, though usually that had been in her room.

Rafe had caught her and Jack naked in her room and had stood at the end of the bed and stared at the two of them, stated “What is this, without me?” His arms had been folded across his chest and he’d looked all Alpha at the two of them.

Jack had not stopped taking her, not for one second, he’d been enjoying himself way too much, taking Luci all eagerly, hearing her crying out for him, but had looked right at Rafe, smiled right at him. He knew that Rafe didn’t like to not be involved. But sometimes Luci did like to just be with one of them and she had called to him via the mind-link, to come to her room all sultry like, telling him she had an itch that only he the Beta could scratch. He’d gone, how could he not!

He’d scratched that itch good too, and was still doing so when Rafe had banged the door open to her bedroom and seen them, Jack taking Luci from behind. He’d looked more than annoyed that he’d not been invited himself.

The minute Jack had sated her and his needs and let go of Luci’s hips, Rafe had picked her clean up from the bed and tossed her over his shoulder, carried her out of her room across the hall to his Alpha Suite, dumped her on the bed and told her she was going to be punished. Jack himself had followed the man.

Gotten to see Luci kneel before Rafe on the bed, bat her eyelashes up at him and pout more than just a little “Alpha how will you punish me?” she’d said softly, she’d been all desire. The damned girl loved to taunt Rafe into mating the hell out of her.

Rafe had looked right down at Luci that day and stated “You’ll be screaming and exhausted when I am finished punishing you.” He stood staring down at her, his arms folded across his chest once more, rapped out “Undress me Luci.” Gone all Alpha on her, she had, all slow and fumbling like she was nervous, it was just another way to torment her Alpha, delay him from getting what he wanted and rile him up further.

Jack had known this, had sank himself down on Rafe’s bed to sit and watch her, loved watching her. Any punishment was fun for all three of them, especially when she had faked trying to run away and he got to

snag her and bring her back. Pinned her right down on top of Rafe, hold her down on top of his Alpha and murmur “Take him Luci.” Right in her ear and then get to watch her take Rafe for herself. Which she always had, but had looked right into Jacks eyes while she’d done it, “Yes Beta.” She’d always say as though she’d been properly admonished.

He liked it as did Rafe when they were both on her, when she would ride Rafe while Jack knelt behind her and allowed his hands to roam over her body and touch her. It was never just his hands, Rafe’s as well. They would be on her hips pulling her harder against him. Sometimes it would be Jack in control of her while Rafe’s hands wandered over her body.

They both liked to watch and Luci had seemed to really love it, never cared. Enjoyed both of them all of the time, one on one or at the same time. She could just get so lost in her own desires and needs that nothing was off limits. She was amazing, would sleep between them often and wake up all wriggling and teasing them all over again.

“Good thoughts Jack?” Rafe asked as he strolled from the ensuite, drying his hair.

“Mm,” Jack nodded “Thinking about you punishing Luci right here in this bed.”

“It’s been a very long time since then.”

“It has.” Jack sighed “But it was always fun.”

“I only needed to do that, because the two of you excluded me.”

Jack looked right at him, smiled. He knew that, laughed softly “I think she did it on purpose, to get punished. How’d you always know I was upstairs having my way with her?”

Rafe laughed now. “I always know where you are, and how you feel. It’s not hard, Jack, to know when you’re enjoying yourself, especially with Luci, kind of just rolled off of you the way you felt about mating her.”

Jack smiled, really smiled “I always did love being with Luci.”

“We both did.” Rafe agreed with him as he tossed the towel on a chair and got in the bed himself, and turned the lights out. Jack could feel how happy Flare was right this minute, just being there in their Alpha’s bed. Missed his Alpha’s company. Their relationship might not be s****l in nature, but they still loved being this close to each other. Luci had given them that, the three of them in the same bed all the time. They would wake up all arms and legs around each other.

Sometimes he and Rafe would wake up and just watch her sleep between them as they chatted quietly, just enjoyed lying in bed with her on their days off as well. Happy to laze about and just watch a movie with her as well, though that did usually end up with the three of them naked at some point, one of their hands would wander or Luci herself would start something. Or they would just scent her arousal out of nowhere and know she wanted them.

It was likely that he would wake up in the morning to find himself curled around his Alpha or the other way around. This was their normal when in bed together, didn’t bother either one of them or their wolves. They did it all the time when off pack territory. It was the only time they could sometimes.

Going off pack territory for an allied pack meeting was a blessing for the both of them, over the past 6 and a half years, seeing that Melissa and Maria kept them separated from each other at all times. It was why they went off in wolf form to hunt together as well. To give Solar and Flare time together away from their own Mates. Not something that should be needed but had to be done to keep their connection to each other.

Though even sometimes when they did this, Melissa would demand to know where they were and tell them to come back. Was always unhappy even about their wolves spending time together. She really didn’t like Rafe and he together, it did make him curious if she felt threatened by the bond he and Rafe had.

Just how close they were, when it was clear that she was not as close with Rafe. Though he believed that was her own doing. If she just allowed them to be with her, or didn’t interfere with them trying to

spend time together even, she'd likely have a better bond with her own Mate.

He would find out soon enough just what was going on out there in their Mate's home pack, though both of them should have come back today and had not. Likely having Titan with them was interfering with their usual plans, what they normally did out there.

Likely they were having to try and get around him. That wouldn't be at all easy to do. At least not without Melissa actually dishing out a full Luna's Order and if she did that, it would be very suspicious indeed. Why would she need to? What reason would she have to hide something from Titan, if it was just a regular family visit? None of that.

Jack, however, was betting on that was exactly what was going to happen, that Titan was going to come home, ordered by the Luna to not breathe a word to he or Rafe about what those two had gotten up to in their old pack. It was likely why he hadn't heard from him at all either. He was under orders not to tell him anything that happened out there.

He sighed and tossed and turned quite a bit, unable to get comfortable or sleep. It was eluding him. "What is it, Jack?" Rafe finally asked him.

"Restless." It was an odd feeling. He was usually calm when in bed with him or they were around Solar or Rafe, and could sleep like the dead with that man in his bed. He sat himself up and took his phone from the bedside table, clicked through till he got to Titan's number and texted him 'What's going on out there?'

The man would answer if he could.

"Do you think something is wrong with Maria?"

"No." and he didn't "With Titan, to be honest with you."

"Why did you insist on sending him with them, Jack?"

"To see just what they do out there, I'm curious." He answered him, and he was.

“More than curious, I’m guessing.” Rafe stated, sitting up himself now.

“Yes, and I’m expecting Melissa to put a Luna Order on him, not to say what he saw out there.” He answered Rafe honestly, the man would find out himself at some point.

“Why?”

“I just am.” Jack sighed “To be completely honest with you Rafe, I don’t feel at all connected to Maria right this minute. It’s like she’s not even my Mate at all.”

“Odd.”

“How do you feel?” Jack asked him, curious as to what he thought about it.

“I know Melissa is my Mate. But our relationship is not what it should be, it feels completely broken.”

“I’m betting, Rafe, there is a reason for that. For us to be like this. Both our Mate bonds so broken and our Mates have never been receptive to our needs. Something is not right. I know we have tried for a long time, still are, but something is not right.”

“That’s why you sent Titan, to find out what it is?”

“Yes. To trail them after the attack here, I had a good solid reason to do so. They needed protection, never had that excuse before.” He looked at his phone. It was still silent, no reply text from Titan “That man wouldn’t ignore me. Something is going on.”

There was silence for a solid minute in the darkness of the room, then Rafe turned the lamp on and picked his phone up, dialled Titan’s number, got nothing either, it just rang out and then went to the message bank. He left a message for Titan to call him back.

But saw Rafe’s deep frown now, Titan would never not pick up the phone when his Alpha was calling him. He shouldn’t ignore Jack either.

“Something is not right.” Rafe agreed. “He’s not picking me up either.”

He was quiet for a good 20 seconds “His tether is still there, so nothing has happened to him.

“Something is deeply wrong, Rafe. I think it always has been.”

“I’ll call Melissa,” Rafe offered.

“Don’t, just leave it, wait until they come home. I want to see just what happens.”

He heard Rafe sigh “And if something is wrong out there in their pack?”

“They would have called for back-up. If something happened, that pack is tiny and always calling for help.” He was not wrong on that, they did call for all things, attacks and money. If they were in danger or that pack had been attacked, they would have called for assistance. Titan would have called instantly. It wasn’t that they weren’t in danger as far as he was concerned.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 38

Victor POV

He was standing in his office in front of the aerial view photo of the Black Forest Pack. It was updated regularly so he could keep track of their upgrades and know where things were. He was still more than angry that nothing had in fact gone his way over the past few weeks.

Nothing had gone to his planning and he was damned good at planning and strategizing. It was why he was a good ally, why his pack was intact and growing every year. How he managed to keep those rogues loyal to him all the time.

He stared at all the buildings, the largest being the packhouse itself, then the two buildings on either side of it, single dorms or accommodation for visiting packs. He wasn’t exactly sure of which, never having been invited into it, never having any of his wolves mated off into it even. That annoyed him greatly. Needed a spy in there. Just couldn’t get one, it seemed.

There was a circle around that cabin out in the woods, where those three witches lived, and he'd marked the area in the woods where he thought but had no proof of where those two pricks would house their cells and prisoners. It was where he would put it, had to be somewhere out there, he also needed to think about that. If he ever got caught and he or his men found themselves in there, they needed to have a rough idea of how to get away once he escaped.

Their pack was large and not being allied to them. He had no idea who those two pricks had allied themselves to either. But Victor was willing to bet that now they knew it was him that had attacked them. Then had tried to take Luci, they would be looking to bolster their numbers.

None of his rogues had returned alive over the past few weeks of him sending them in for recon, those two pricks had slaughtered all without hesitation. Likely had guessed that they were Victors and were showing him they were now prepared for another attack.

They were not dumb and now understood what he wanted as well. Knew that he was unlikely to give her up either. They might not be allied, but he'd seen them inside Nightfall often enough, for them to get to know him and he them. They both knew he'd been trying to get his hands on Luci for a long time, and he wanted her even more now.

He looked at his map of the United States and where he knew other packs were, always marked them here on this map for reference. It was a good idea to know what other packs were around, and therefore one could hazard a guess as to who was allied to who, even if you didn't know them.

He was looking at those packs that were closest to the Black Forest Pack. It bothered him even more as he looked at one in particular, knew in all likelihood those two would have many allied to them. Not just the small packs they helped out, but larger packs as well, ones more like their own. Though there was only one he was truly concerned about. The Eclipsed Moon Pack, it was filled with the Royals, and his gut was telling him those two bloody pricks were going to be allied to that pack. They were only a few hours apart.

He had sent men up there now, they'd left this morning to watch for any kind of movement of other packs, anything that was headed towards the Black Forest Pack. He'd sent several teams out. They were watching the roads 24/7 in all directions or would be once they got to their designated destinations to cover the roads.

He needed to know who those two were going to pull to them, so he knew what his own strategy was going to be. What he would be up against and how many allied to him he would need, if he couldn't get a hold of Luci or Addison outside of the pack.

He knew those twins were going to be inside that pack from now on, likely inside the packhouse itself. Protected at all costs, by their Alpha and Beta fathers. But he was willing to bet that Luci and Addison could come and go as they pleased still.

He also knew that the Luna and her sister weren't currently inside the pack either. He had an in on that tiny pack. One that told him when they were there, though them coming and going was odd to him. Not even his spy knew why, had reports of them though every time they were there.

Mostly they just hung out with their friends, lazed about and did nothing much at all. Things they could do in the Black Forest Pack, and in much more comfortable surroundings as well. Victor didn't understand them, though over the years those two had attended medical appointments on nearly every home visit. Were always at the packs hospital. Not that his one she-wolf could gain access to why. She was a lowly omega and not treated so well by that pack. She was compensated by her family here, being treated very well. Had a good home and were provided with all they needed. Even had nice easy jobs within his pack. She couldn't get into the hospital. It was locked up tight and not where she worked.

Those two women were a curiosity to him, they'd left that pack after his attack on the pack and hadn't even returned, stayed all of a week after his attack. Hadn't even stuck around to help with the grieving pack members, that was a Luna's job. It was almost as if the Luna didn't care at all about that pack of hers.

It had been reported to him that Melissa and Maria had arrived and had lazed about the pool sipping on cocktails with their friends, were laughing and happy the whole time. He got the impression that the Luna and her sister didn't give a s**t about the Black Forest Pack members.

He wondered just how he could figure out what was going on, could he help if it would bring those two pricks to their knees and get him inside of that pack, wondered if he could get them on their own and make a deal with them, if they didn't actually like being mated to those two pricks, he had no idea, but anything was possible.

Thought about going directly to their home pack and seeing just what was going on, Victor turned and looked at his Gamma, Dane. "Put that pack on the next mating ball invite." He tapped the women's home pack. "I want a better spy. Let's see if I can get someone mated off to a higher-ranked wolf. I need more information."

"Yes, Victor." He nodded, "The other packs you want have responded. Only two declined."

"Which ones?" he asked.

"The Pale Moon Pack."

"No real surprise there." He shrugged, were not affiliated and he had no ranked members to mate off currently. That pack, though small, was strong. He left them alone, offered invites once or twice a year, but didn't bother with them. All his wolfen strength alcohol came from them. He needed that pack intact if he wanted to have a drink and get drunk.

"The Cloudy Haven Pack also declined," Dane continued.

Now he frowned. "Did they say why?" Victor asked.

"No, just got a polite 'No thank you Alpha Victor, perhaps next time'."

Victor turned and looked at Dane, sighed. He wanted a look at that pack. It was small and he could absorb it into his pack easily, he thought. Though had not yet been inside it to check it out. Which he would want to do prior to the take over.

He needed to go there for a mating ball, or get them here for a mating ball, so he could bed one of their she-wolves and get her talking about her pack. It was only small, he thought about 300 and only a third of them would be warriors. Easy enough to take over and absorb, he did need a few more wolves now, to train up and send out to be on the front line before his own loyal men. Had lost quite a few to Luci's siren and then those two pricks afterwards while his men were recovering.

"Everyone else accepted?"

"Yes, but I'd be expected Orien to back out any minute now."

"Perhaps," Victor commented casually. He wasn't concerned about Orien, he had plans for that man and his pack. Though he was expecting a call from him. His Mate was going to be upset about it being Victor who had tried to take Luci. He knew if Orien wanted to keep that little half breed happy and in his bed. He was going to have to call Victor and ask him to explain himself.

Not that Victor cared about explaining himself at all, but he would talk to the man. Orien didn't care for Luci at all, was not attached to the girl and Victor knew why. Addison had never allowed Orien to bleed that child to him. There was no real father-daughter bond, she was just an annoying pack member to Orien or had been. He did not care for the girl.

Which had made Victor's offers to take the girl off his hands easily accepted by Orien. That man wanted her away and gone from his pack, saw her as promiscuous and a disgrace. Wouldn't if he knew what she truly had been back then. Hell, that man would have given her every man she desired to keep her at his side. Was a complete fool. Also wanted her gone, to instate his own flesh and blood, Thatcher. As the heir to the pack.

"Dane get me new aerals on the Black Forest Pack daily. Twice daily, in fact. I want to try and capture exactly where my Luna is situated, will make getting to her much easier later on."

"Yes, Victor. I'll have Walter get on that right away." Dane answered him and was gone from his office.

Victor didn't think Luci would be in the packhouse, or wouldn't be, the moment that Luna and her sister returned home anyway. Regardless of what was going on with those two women inside that pack. No Luna would stand for their Mates' former concubine, who outshone her a hundred fold to be housed within their packhouse.

Victor also didn't think that Luci would want to put her boys anywhere near those women either, likely not even want to put herself near them.

It annoyed him to know that all those years, he'd thought she was still inside that pack. Had attacked it and lost men on more than one occasion over the past few years, sent heaps of them off to that pack and lost over a hundred wolves during the past 6 and half years. Only now to find out his future Luna hadn't even been there inside that pack at all.

She had left them, lived within the lake and the human world, all his efforts now felt wasted. Sighed to himself, not even Orien had told him Luci wasn't within that pack anymore. That man had held out on him. Why didn't he know?

He'd made it more than clear that he wanted the girl for himself and Orien was more than happy to hand her over to him, or had tried to on more than one occasion. Not that Luci or Addison had wanted it. Perhaps Addison had told Orien not to tell him. Really thought about that, knew that was it. Orien also knew that he, Victor, would search constantly for Luci, would be relentless in his mission to obtain that girl for himself.

Perhaps Orien didn't want her found at all. He returned to his desk and thought about that. He would have hunted Luci, brought her here and told no one. Certainly not her mother, though Orien and Thatcher did come here for mating balls and allied meetings. They would have seen her on his arm, bearing his Mark. Well, at some point, when she stopped fighting him and accepted her place here as his Luna.

Addison never came here anymore. Had been here once and to his surprise had felt a connection of some sort to one of the women he had down in the basement. Which one he didn't know. She herself was a half breed. He knew that before she was even mated to Orien himself.

Though she was using that other half of her to hide her lineage from her own Mate. Had learned how to do that from her first Mate, he thought. That lucky bastard had gotten the girl before Victor himself had gotten his hands on her.

He'd made a connection with her original home pack but had gotten it too late. Her stepfather was trying to Mate her off to some other pack, a large one for a strong alliance, seeing that she was so very beautiful. He wasn't about to send his own flesh and blood off to be a chosen Mate, not when he had a bastard daughter to get rid of, from his Luna's r****t. One that the man hated even looking at.

Victor would have taken Addison off of his hands, but she'd gone rogue a week before he'd turned up for his alliance meeting with her original pack. He'd not made that alliance in the end, told her stepfather, if his own daughter felt that going rogue was better than staying within her home pack. That he didn't think it was a decent pack, so it was not in his interest to be allied to them anymore. Then had simply left, had shocked that man completely.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 39

Luci POV

Luci sat watching her boys as they slept, despite being in a three-bedroom house, both her boys had still climbed into her bed with her when it was time to go to sleep. They were still there with her when she had woken up in the morning.

She was used to having to get up at the c***k of dawn to organise breakfast and get not only herself but both boys ready for the long walk to school in the human town. Now it was likely that wouldn't take all that long, she had a fully stocked kitchen with electricity.

She knew there would be no school for them today. It was also likely that she nor the boys would be allowed to go back to the human town for her work or their schooling, both Rafe and Jack were likely to flat out refuse it, after yesterday.

It was also highly likely that Rafe and Jack would take it upon themselves to enrol both the boys into the pack's school here. Just a matter of time, she thought absently, seeing as they were their children. Not that they had done or said anything at this point to her about it.

But she did know they would be protective of the boys, likely her as their mother as well. They were good leaders to their pack, protected everyone in it with all they had. She did not think they would approve them going to the human school anymore, not with Victor knowing about them, it would be considered too dangerous.

Even she was not particularly comfortable with the boys being out in the human world right now. She knew she couldn't go back to her job either. Not with Victor knowing where she was and him telling her she belonged to him. No, she didn't belong to him, had never belonged to him and would never either.

That man had seen both her boys now and so knew they existed too, likely what they were, who's children they were as well. She looked right at both her boys sleeping so peacefully. Little Rafe alone had made that man run away, or so she thought. It might have been an accumulation of things; she had no real idea. Had been unconscious, but coming too, there had been many pack members in that town. Not just her Alpha and Beta, but warriors and teens she knew with wolves.

There had been several pack members always in town since Victor's last attack on the pack, so it was possible they'd stepped in and helped out. She really didn't know, was going to have to ask more questions than she had of the boys, if she wanted all the answers from everyone. But didn't know if she was ready to talk to them.

Her head turned at the sound of movement outside her room, knew it was her mother, the door was ajar, and she could smell her. Got up out of bed, leaving the boys to sleep. They'd had a big day yesterday. Though didn't seem all that upset about it, kind of like Alari just let it go once it was over. Had been more excited about being here and their Siren-Wolves ripping out of them to run about, all excitedly for the first time not just in the woods, but in their own pack.

Her mother was in the kitchen making coffee “Morning Luci. Coffee?”

“Morning mum, I can make it.” Luci offered.

“So can I. I do know how to turn a kettle on.” She smiled at Luci, “Though Orien is already insisting I go and have breakfast with him and Thatcher, his Mate.”

“Thatcher is here?” Luci asked, a smile touched her face. She hadn’t seen her little brother in a very long time.

“Yes, along with his Mate Cathy, he met her at Alpha college apparently.”

“That’s nice.” She was happy for him to find his Mate. The next generation of Nightfall pack was safely secured then, “Is she nice?”

“I don’t know to be honest, I haven’t had much to do with her, Orien and I, have not been getting along since he stopped me from coming here.”
Heard her mother sigh heavily and looked right at her left hand.

Only now did Luci realise it was scarred, she’d been too preoccupied yesterday to notice it, stepped over and took her mother’s hand in hers, “What happened to you?”

“Orien put me in lockdown, much like he used to do to you. In the Alpha Suite, bound me with a silver cuff.” She turned her hand over and looked at it. “I removed it, took a lot of my skin with it. Fallon has done all she can to heal it, this is as good as it will get.”

Luci could see where the skin had been ripped away from her mother’s hand, from the wrist down over her thumb, and the back of her hand, across the meatiest part of her palm, looked almost like she’d skinned herself alive in an attempt to get it off, some of the skin had been put back but it was never going to be perfect. A full permanent reminder of what her own Mate had done to her, for the rest of her life and they led long lives.

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"I'm so sorry mum."

"It's not your fault Luci. He had no right to stop me from coming here to help look for you. He did it solely because he..." she sounded a bit on the angry side, but stopped herself from stating the rest of her sentence.

"Wants Thatcher as his heir." Luci finished for her "and my coming back threatens that." Luci sighed herself now. She knew how it was. The same as it had always been, she was not his, though she had not known that at the time, he always had, now she realised.

"Yes, he thinks that...So does Thatcher as well, I believe." Saw her mother sigh once more.

"I'm no threat, never was. He was never going to instate me as the Heir, played at it a lot, but I always knew Thatcher was his choice, his son."

"Luci he's."

"I don't care and I'm not a threat any more than I would have been back then. Thatcher can still have the Nightfall pack, I don't want it." and she didn't. Had learned even before coming here it was never going to be hers, that it was all a game and a show from Orien to her mother.

"He might think differently now. Luci."

"And I don't care." She took her mother's hand and looked at it properly, only a week-old scar, "Why did he think it was necessary to do this?" she needed all the information, wanted to know the reason behind it, before

she went and confronted him and she was likely too. No Mate should bind their own Mate with silver, disconnecting them from their wolf, it burned the skin and caused pain. He would know any wounds inflicted by silver would never heal completely, would leave one scarred for life.

“I tried to leave the pack, to come here and he had the border patrol stop me, and then came for me himself, brought his entire unit plus others. He was not having me leave to come look for you. Was against it right away. Pack members died when they tried to contain Fallon. My own Gamma was badly injured, as was the Delta. He tranquilised me in the end, and I woke up bound by silver in the Alpha Suite.”

Luci was just staring at her own mother near horrified at the tale she was hearing, it was so very wrong, “mum!”

“Fallon and I are not affected by Silver like normal wolves, our lineage.” She shrugged “Stops that.”

“Only part wolf.” Luci nodded “What is the other part?”

Saw her mother blink in surprise that she would ask that so easily, smiled at her “Your eyes would glow sometimes when you got really mad. I’ve seen that before, not a wolfen trait.”

“Oh.”

“It’s alright, I was never afraid of you or it.”

Saw her own mother smiling now. “I’m half witch, half wolf.” Her mother told her without hesitation. “Fallon and I used all of her strength to rip that cuff off of us and then I stalked down and threw it right at his head. A full warning that if he dared to try it again...” she shrugged “Then I moved out of the Alpha Suite,” snorted, “right into your room and have been there ever since. He put a guard detail on me instead.”

Luci sank down onto a chair, she could hardly believe Orien’s behaviour, and over something so stupid as her coming home. “What did he think was going to happen, by not letting you come here?”

“I believe he thought that you would get away and not be found...but I had my suspicions, where you were concerned.”

“You knew what I really was.”

“Of course I did. My first Mate Lucian was a Siren.”

“Lucian the water Deity?” had been told she’d been named after a water Deity all her life.

Saw her mother sit and smile at her a little sadly “Sorry, a little lie on my part. He was an Alpha Siren and he was killed while I was pregnant with you. Made me run away and not look back, not come back.”

“He was your Goddess Gifted Mate, and then you found Orien? That would have been quickly done.”

“Lucian was not my Goddess Gifted so to speak, but he truly loved me, and I loved him. Siren’s are very different to others. He knew what I was. Also didn’t care that I was a rogue or a half breed. He couldn’t wait to meet you Luci, he was so very happy and excited about you.”

“Never got to meet me.”

“No,” her mother sighed “I met Orien only a few weeks after that and he was my Goddess Gifted Wolfen Mate. Though I did not know what to do, was still grieving and at a loss at the time. We did know and understand being inside a pack would be safer for us, for you. He told me he would accept you as his own, and only then did Fallon and I agree to accept him. We have never stopped loving Lucian. I also never let Orien bleed you to him. He wanted to, to show me he meant that he would take you as his own...I just couldn’t. Though I let him Mark me before you were born so you would be part of the pack, this is likely why the two of you don’t get along though.”

“I’m not his is why he was the way he was with me.”

“Yes, it is likely the real reason. The more like a Siren you became in nature, the more he didn’t like it.”

“Like a Siren?” Luci frowned at her.

“Mm, Siren’s by nature are headstrong, and...” she looked right at Luci
“s***l creatures.”

“Oh, that probably explains a lot.” She shook her head, she’d always been looking to sate her needs, bloody couldn’t half the time. Not till Rafe and Jack had come along.

“It’s why I never admonished you and pretty much support your behaviour. I knew what you were and that you would want to explore your s***l needs and desires. Also knew you being Alpha Blooded on my side and Lucian’s side, that you would need to be, crave it essentially.”

“Orien hated that about me.”

“He did.” Her mother nodded. “We argued a lot about it behind closed doors.”

“I bet he didn’t care when Thatcher started having s*x.” Luci muttered.

“He did not. Smiled right at him, congratulated him.” her mother shook her head “Two very distinct rules for you and Thatcher.”

“Chauvinistic pig.” Luci stated flatly, a full double standard.

“Agreed.”

“So, what now?” Luci asked her. “I don’t think I can stay here, and I don’t want to go back to Nightfall.”

“You’ll be staying here Luci, at least for now. I know it may be uncomfortable right this minute. But you’re safe here from Victor, much more so than in Nightfall.”

“The Luna is not going to want me here.”

“That is her problem, she’s not here anyway, often just up and leaves to go to her home pack, she and her twin sister...” saw her mother shake

her head “I don’t know why. but you’ve seen Rafe and Jack, are thinner now.”

“Weaker is how Kali put it, how is that possible, for them to be weaker?” she didn’t understand that at all.

“I personally think that there is more going on here than even Rafe and Jack let on. They never come to Nightfall with either of their Mates. I heard that both their Mates also go back to their pack a lot.”

“Why?” she couldn’t understand that. No one wanted to be away from their Mate, you were drawn to them, relished being in one’s company, or at least that’s what she’d heard. She herself was not so lucky on that front. Never would be.

“I don’t know. It is odd, I don’t know many Luna’s that are willing to be separated from their Mate’s by choice many times a year. Just to go home to their home pack and visit their parents, practically unheard of, your Mate would go with you.”

It did not make any sense to Luci either. She frowned at this news, but it was not something she had a say in, or could help deal with, but knowing that woman wasn’t here, at this very moment, was a bit of a weight off her shoulders. It meant no one banging down on her door with accusations or threats against her children. Not that she would be standing for that, Alari certainly wouldn’t be. That was a given.

It was a concern how and when it would happen, what her or Alari’s response to it would be. She was a deadly creature, and protecting her boys from any threat, verbal or physical, would be something Luci knew she would get no say in it. Could well end badly.

Both the boys walked into the kitchen and smiled right at her, “Mamma.”

She smiled right back at them, happy as they always were “Hungry?” she asked them.

They both nodded “Sit down, I’ll make you some breakfast.”

“Let me.” Her mother smiled “I would love to cook for my grandbabies.”

Luci let her, it was nice to sit and have breakfast for the first time in years that she didn't have to make. Sit just the four of them and chat to the boys during breakfast. She did see her mother's eyes glaze over more than once, she looked annoyed by the third time. It was likely it was Orien trying to talk to her and she either didn't want to or wouldn't.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 40

Addison POV.

Addison walked into the Black Forest Pack's packhouse to find Orien standing at the bottom of the stairs waiting for her, it seemed. He was looking right at her, obviously tracking her with that tether between them. She looked right at him with a raised eyebrow as she walked over towards him.

Saw him reach out both his arms as though he was going to hug her, or hold her in his arms, she simply side stepped him and his attempt to touch her. "If you think it's going to be that easy, you'd be dead wrong." She snapped right at him as she walked by him.

"Addi, please. Rali and I miss you."

She stopped three steps up the staircase from him and turned to look right at him, raised her hand at him and turned it for him to see all the scaring "you caused this to happen to Fallon and I, you and your wolf. Do you think a hug will fix it?"

"Addi please, you hurt pack members."

"I did." She nodded, admitted to it, wasn't going to deny it. "Tell me why I had to in the first place." She shot at him, her anger showing. Clearly, he still thought it was all her fault.

She saw him frowning right at her now. "We should discuss that in private." He stated flatly.

Addison stared right at him for a moment and then turned and stalked away from him up the stairs, but shot over her shoulder “Why? so no one here knows you bound your own Mate with silver.”

“Addison.” He yelled right at her anger in his tone.

“Yes, be angry.” She stated calmly “Come at me again with all your men, though I think now, you’ll have to deal with Luci instead of me or Fallon. She saw my injury this morning and asked me how I got it. My daughter didn’t look happy at all.”

“What you’re going to let her fight your battles now.” He snapped at her, and she could hear him stomping up the stairs now.

Addison stopped walking and turned on the first-floor landing to look right at him. “I just might, though with her next to me I feel much stronger, I think you felt that yesterday yourself. But you go and explain to Luci, why you wouldn’t let me, her mother, come here to help find her, bring her back into the pack. Your selfish needs to keep her away, so Thatcher will stay as the Heir.”

“That’s not why Addison.” He muttered.

“Really, I could have her order the truth out of you. Do you think you’ll say the same thing to her, under the full weight of her power? She made you bow down. If I’d not stopped her, you’d have been on the ground bowed with head to the ground and you know it.”

“What is she, Addison?” he asked right away.

She smiled right at him “A double shifter.” She told him.

“I got that, her other side Addison?”

“My daughter.” She looked right at him “So very beautiful, so very strong, who you turned against, turned away and sent out of the pack, because of her nature...” saw him frown right at her words, they were all true and he knew it. “Is a Siren.”

Watched as his eyes go really wide, as the realisation hit him of just how powerful Luci was. She stood watching him and could almost see the wheels turning in that Alpha brain of his, about the power he had once held and then rejected “you never said.”

“No, I did not. Because you would have used her or tried to. I didn’t even know if she would be Wolf or Siren. She is magnificent, isn’t she, and you rejected her. When you promised Fallon and I a long time ago, you would raise her and love her as your own.”

“I did raise her, Addi.”

“Did you? Would a real father turn on his own child for what she did? You certainly didn’t treat Thatcher the same way, now did you?”

“That’s not fair, Addi, she was more than a handful, at the best of times.”

“Only for you. Because you antagonised her at every turn, didn’t want her to be the Heir to Nightfall. Don’t think Fallon and I don’t know this, aren’t hurt by this thought every day, our Bond is the only thing saving you right now.”

“Addi please, if you’d only told me, confided in me.”

“What would you have done?” Saw him stare at her. “Nothing good, I imagine. Other than Mate her off, oh wait! You already tried that twice, to Victor of all people.”

“He’s a good strong Alpha, would have been able to handle her.” Orien tried once more to defend his choice of a Mate for Luci. She’d never once seen him offer up anyone else, only ever Victor. Not that she was having a bar of her daughter being mated off against her will.

“Ask Rafe and Jack, who attacked this pack, what that person wanted. Ask Rafe who hurt little Jack, Luci’s son, with Beta Jack, who hurt him, uncaring that he was just a six-year-old boy and trying to protect his mother from being forcibly taken against her will. Then come and see me and tell me you think Victor is a good Alpha, would make a good Mate for

Luci...I will never believe it...I will never allow it either.” She turned and walked away from him.

‘Addi we love you.’ Orien’s voice came down the mind-link to her.

‘We’ll see who you love more, your Mate or your Allied savage?’ she said softly in return and then cut the link to him.

She had absolutely no idea who he would choose, her or Victor. He’d known Victor a long time, so had she, for that matter, he was a brute and not, as far as she could tell, had a single caring bone in his body. She had no idea how he’d become an Alpha to a pack, how he had a loyal pack to him, likely she thought. They were all afraid of him, instilled fear into them so much so that they just fell into line.

She showered and changed, went to find her son Thatcher. She’d not seen him at all yesterday afternoon or evening, likely he’d been with his Mate in their room, enjoying each other’s company. Found him in his suite, he opened the door and she looked right at him. “Your sister has been found, is a mother of two. You might want to go and say hello.”

“A mother?” he sounded completely shocked to her ear. Seems he’d either not talked to his father or Orien hadn’t yet seen fit to impart the news to him.

“Yes, twin boys. Are Rafe and Jack’s. She is and always was a pack member. She never even went that far, just stayed out of sight was all. Due to them both having Mates.”

Saw her own son sigh at this, he understood why “Is she well at least?” he asked.

“Go and see for yourself. Oh, and Thatcher, she is no threat to your prize as the Heir to Nightfall. You won that years ago, before she even left.” Saw him frown at her words, ignored it and went on “I won’t have her go back to Nightfall. To be treated like she was back there, once more. As your father always did, you might also want to tell your Mate about your father’s stupid rules where women are concerned.”

“Mum.”

“Don’t you mum me, you’re no better. Happy to hear that Luci was found, but then ticked off by the thought I was going to bring her home and that would threaten your position as the Heir.”

Saw him sigh again more on the heavy side this time, “I worked hard to be the Heir.”

“And Luci didn’t? He kicked her out at twenty, Thatcher, because she would not Mate off to Victor against her will.”

“I know.” He nodded.

“She trained till then, all that time. So, she trained just as hard as you have. Technically longer than you and he still found a reason to toss her out, Thatcher. Just so he could instate you as the Heir, instead of her.”

“Mum, that’s not true.”

“Yes it is. She’s not his daughter.”

“W...What?” Thatcher stared at her now.

“Not his, I had a Mate before your father, was pregnant when your father met me...you saw how he was with her. Think about it...I don’t want you to become like him, in that way.”

Thatcher was just standing there staring at her now, he didn’t seem to know what to say at all. “We’ll see who he chooses, me or Victor.” She stated flatly and then just turned and walked away from the suite. He had a lot to absorb. Let’s just see what he would do with that information. Will he dismiss everything or would he question everything, try to find answers?

A good Alpha would try to find the answers, not just take the side of their Alpha father, because they were to inherit the pack someday. Addison truly hoped that he would sit and think about it, about everything his whole life around Luci and his father. She was his half-sister, and she did

know that Thatcher loved her. He had been more than sad and then just ticked off about what had happened to her here in the Black Forest Pack.

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He hadn't talked to Alpha Rafe or Beta Jack since Luci went missing, Orien didn't seem to have cared all that much, had simply shaken his head and that had been it. But Thatcher had understood she'd left them when they'd come home, walked in with their Mates. He also knew that neither of them had bothered to prewarn his sister, that she was not going to be theirs anymore, had been there for that conversation, heard them apologise for their own behaviour.

She left out that Luci was now a double shifter, he did not need to know that right this minute, though it was highly likely that Orien would come and tell him. They, as the Alpha and his Heir to the pack, would need to sit down and discuss it at length. How they were going to deal with her?

What neither of them knew or understood at all, was that Alari would only do as she pleased, what she wanted to do, no one could make her do anything, not even Rafe and Jack would be able to make Alari do what they wanted. She had not been born inside this pack but out there in that lake, outside of the pack territory, likely didn't consider this pack her home at all.

She wondered if Alari had the knowledge of how Sirens got Goddess Gifted Mates, they were unlike other creatures. It was not as easy for them as just scenting out one's Mate. Was going to have to sit down and talk to Luci. Though Addison had only knowledge of Kali and presumed she'd find a Wolfen Mate, now...didn't know herself how it was going to work.

She herself only had the knowledge that Lucian had once told her, though Luci was different still. So, it could well not be the same for her as it was

for her father. She might never have a mate, wolfen or otherwise. Sighed to herself as she made her way back to Luci's cottage.

She didn't see Orien, his Beta or Gamma on her way through the packhouse, though she did notice that Alpha Rafe's office door was now closed, whereas when she'd come here earlier it had been open.

It was possible that Orien had requested a meeting with Rafe to discuss what she'd told him about Victor. He was not a stupid man, he understood her meaning. Would he side with Luci, about the injury to her boy and the fact that Victor had tried to take her against her will? or blip over it?

Addison could only hope so, if not? If he chose Victor over her daughter, it was going to break what remained of their fragile bond and she knew it. She had also implied as much to him before severing that mind-link to him.

She wondered if Orien thought siding with her and Luci was going to bring Luci back into his pack. All Alpha's wanted power and the strength to defend their packs. Luci was raw power and he would likely want that back now. Would likely try to use herself to sway Luci into coming home if she would go at her request. Addison was, however, going to decline it.

Luci was no longer a Nightfall pack member, hadn't been since she was twenty, was now 27, she had been initiated into the Black Forest pack at 20. The moment Rafe and Jack had brought her here after Orien had kicked her from Nightfall.

She only ever called home to talk to herself and Thatcher. After that, had not once spoken to Orien since the day she'd left. Had thought that her own father cared nothing for her, so no longer cared for him at all either, rejected that man as much as he had her.