

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 41

Rafe POV

Rafe sat behind his desk and Jack was standing beside him. They'd both slept well last night once Jack had settled and stopped being restless. He'd woken up to find his Beta curled around him, the man had been awake already and had hugged him good and long, sighing contentedly to himself. Then he'd smiled right at him, Rafe had smiled right back, he'd felt more like himself this morning than he had in ages.

Had found himself pinned down underneath his Beta unexpectedly barely 10 seconds after waking up. Flare had surged forward and decided to play with him. Solar had then pushed forward, and their two wolves had just rough housed with each other. Until Flare had been pinned down under Solar while he'd been chuffing, fully amused that his Beta thought he could out muscle him.

Both he and Jack had been fully amused by their wolves this morning and had been left laughing. When both Solar and Flare had relinquished control back to them, they'd still been smiling when they'd come downstairs this morning to have breakfast.

They had been requested for a morning meeting with Orien. No real surprise there after yesterday. Orien's Beta and Gamma were also in the office as well, and he'd been asked for a private conversation. Jack had closed the door once they were all inside.

He and Jack had both heard Orien and Addison's heated discussion this morning, everyone inside the packhouse would have picked it up. Addison was not shy about getting her point across.

It had not been a nice conversation either. He and Jack both thought that Addison had wanted everyone here to know exactly just what was going on between them. It was likely Orien's Luna was trying to put him firmly in his place, shame him for what he'd done. Neither of them had heard Orien apologise to her either. Had ended up mad at her.

Now the man was sitting in his office, having questions to be answered, it seemed. She'd outed Luci's lineage to him and now he understood just what he had lost when sending her here. Though Rafe did note that Thatcher was not in this room for this meeting. Also, knew Orien had faced off with Alari yesterday and lost. He now knew just how powerful she was, and he'd dismissed her and hurtfully so.

Rafe was still curious as to what had made Addison strike her own Mate in such a violent manner as well. Though she'd not told them yesterday, he was willing to bet there was some sort of insult towards Luci, before he'd known what she was, of course. It was now very unlikely that he would insult the girl again. Would come off the worst end. He also knew now with the sight of his own Luna's glowing eyes, he had likely never truly known his own Mate.

He was learning the very hard way just who she really was; the power behind her. That swaying her with a hug was not going to work. Likely he'd not been able to so much as lay a finger on the woman in a week, maybe even longer.

He asked for Orien's Beta and Gamma to take a seat, and waved them to the couch. This conversation was just going to be he, Jack and Orien. He did not care for others' opinions at all on the matter of Luci. Didn't really care about Orien's for that matter. Addison, on the other hand, he would care for hers. Not only care, take it under advisement.

"You and Addison are still fighting openly, I see." He stated.

"For now, she will come around." Orien nodded "She is just mad at me, it will pass."

"From what I heard and saw; her injury." Rafe stated, letting Orien know he'd seen it, and it wasn't pretty, it was never going to heal, was going to be a reminder to him every single day of what he did to her and Fallon. "That might take a while."

Orien frowned right at him "What happens between my Mate and I, stays between us. It's none of your concern." Orien told him flatly, sounding a little annoyed by Rafe's opinion of the situation.

Rafe didn't argue with him. "So you called this meeting for what reason exactly?" He asked.

"Addi stated that it was Alpha Victor, who tried to take Luci yesterday, that he...injured one of Luci's children."

"My son." Jack grated out, "Took a hit to his head, which slammed him into a parked car and knocked him unconscious." They had both read Petra's report this morning, that was exactly what it stated.

"Did anyone witness this?" Orien asked.

A snarl ripped right out of Flare and Rafe put his hand on Jack to steady him and his beast, saw both of Orien's men stand up ready for a fight.

"Yes, actually. I had people in town, watching for Victor himself."

"Why would you do that?" Orien asked with a frown.

"Because it was Victor who attacked us out of the blue and it was Luci who saved us. Luci who alerted the pack to the war that was headed our way, in fact."

He could still feel Flare's annoyance at being questioned about if anyone saw Victor hit his boy, he wouldn't lie about it. Why would he? What was to gain from lying about an attack on the pack or their own pup?

"Is there any evidence that it was Victor who attacked you?"

Anger rolled right off of Flare now "Calm down Jack, take a breath. And yes, everyone saw him. He was forcibly shifted from his wolf to his human form, as were half of his men, by Luci herself. I saw him. My entire unit saw him. Luci saw him. Feel free to sit down and question Petra herself, she was the one in town, she was the one to recognise Victor taking Luci."

"We have his dead Beta, if you want to see proof yourself." Jack snapped right at him "Do you?" there was a warning edge to his voice.

He saw Orien bristle at Jack's tone, wouldn't, Rafe thought, take him on, he would have to deal with Rafe himself, not to mention Ian and Allen,

and no one wanted to fight Allen. It was a death sentence, and they all knew it.

“I would actually,” Orien stated.

Rafe felt fury roll off of not just Flare but Jack as well at the man’s words, implying he didn’t trust them to know who Victor’s Beta was.

“Show me, I know what Gary looks like.”

“As do we,” Rafe stated, “Seen that man in your pack on more than one occasion and at Alpha meetings. He was alive when we got to town, didn’t survive.” Rafe looked at Jack. “I believe it was little Jack’s siren call that killed Gary.”

“It was from all reports,” Jack acknowledged. There was pride in his voice about that.

“What? A six-year-old killed a fully grown Beta?”

“Yes.” Rafe nodded “So I’d watch your tone around accusations, that imply I, Jack or any of my pack are lying about it being Victor.”

“I didn’t imply anything, Rafe. Just getting the facts is all.”

“Didn’t believe your own Mate?” Jack stared hard at that man.

“She was not there.” Orien stated.

“Luci was, who do you think told Addison? It wasn’t us that told her,” Rafe commented.

Saw that man huff in annoyance, “Look, all I’m saying is I wasn’t there. I can’t go and confront a man like Victor without evidence now, can I?”

“Get up.” Jack snapped right at him, his anger was on full display. “I’ll take you right to that dead body, you want to see...just to prove to you, we’re not lying, Luci didn’t lie, Petra didn’t lie. Half the pack’s teens, who went to aid, saw him. Didn’t f*****g lie.” Then he was stalking out of the

office, he knew right away Jack was barely containing Flare right that minute.

He sighed himself and stood up. Jack didn't like being called a liar, didn't like that fact that Orien wasn't willing to take his own Mate's word for it either. Even when told Alpha to Alpha they'd both seen Victor's Beta Gary, had his dead body in their cold storage at the pack hospital, didn't believe them.

"Get up Orien, or Jack is likely to drag that dead body here to you. Throw it at you uncaring who sees it."

He walked that man to the pack hospital; Jack was already there, had yanked Gary's body out of the draw to be on full display, got to see Orien frown right at it. "Good enough evidence?" Jack snarled right at him.

"Why would he come to take Luci after all this time?"

"Because he knows what she is," Jack rapped out at him.

"How could he? I didn't even know. Addi never said anything to me, so she certainly didn't say anything to Victor."

"He saw her in her Siren form," Rafe stated "The day he came and attacked the pack, she was there helping us. Came to our aid."

"What?" both Orien's Gamma and Beta exclaimed. They had not yet been informed about what Luci was, it seemed.

"She is a double shifter." Orien told them "Leave it boys, we'll discuss it later." He turned right to Rafe now, "You didn't call and tell us then that she was here." Sounded a little accusatory to Rafe's ear.

"We didn't know it was Luci, no proof." He added, before Jack could state he knew it was Luci. The man had not been wrong. "Jack informed you the minute he had a visual on Luci, we believe Victor's men were sent in, scent masked as rogues, took that footage of Luci we sent you."

"But you've got no proof of that, do you?"

“He was here in short freaking order, and tried to take her. It’s pretty damned obvious they were his men.” Jack snapped at him. Rafe could tell he was going to lose it completely if Orien kept on the same track. There wasn’t likely much he could do about it, it was even starting to test his patience now.

“To you.” Orien frowned at Jack. “When in reality it could have been anyone’s men.”

“So!” Jack and Flare snarled. They’d clearly had enough. “You’re going to take Victor’s side.” He was watching Jack, even Solar was. Saw his green eyes glowing indicating they were both in agreement “If that is the case. I no longer want an Alliance with this man or his Pack. He can take his men and his heir and get the hell out of the pack. Now.”

“I’m not saying that, Beta.” Orien sighed but spoke quickly “I just want all the facts.”

Jack’s eyes moved right to Orien. “You want the f*****g facts, here they are. Victor’s dead Beta by my boys Siren call. Before Victor tried to k**l him, after Victor tranquilised Luci and tried to kidnap her for himself. They are the bloody facts. Accept it or don’t.” turning his eyes back to Rafe “I’m leaving this room before Flare issues a full challenge to the death to this man. I can see why his Mate is pissed off, is ignorant is what he is.” Then he just stalked from the room, banged right out the door of the cold room and was gone. Everyone in the room could feel the fury rolling off of him and his wolf.

“I don’t mean to offend him, Rafe.”

“Well, as you can see, you did. How would you like it, if we came into your pack and said we didn’t believe you. It’s rude Orien, and he nearly lost his son yesterday, barely even knew he had one, laid eyes on him for the first time in that injured unconscious state. Luci’s Siren healed him. He had a head wound and his own twin, my son, was completely distraught. They are very strongly connected. It is possible that little Jack nearly died yesterday at Victor’s hands and here you are constantly saying, where’s the proof it could be someone else?”

He saw Orien frown “You mentioned the boy used a Siren call”.

Really wanted to punch Orien right now himself, he'd just blipped over everything, didn't care it seemed, about the boy nearly dying or Jack's feelings at all. But he held his anger like all Alpha's should, stay in control of the situation, try to work it out. “I did. It is likely both of them can.”

“Are they both like Luci?” He sounded more than curious now.

“Not that I saw.” Rafe answered, but it was clear to him, he only wanted to find out about the power those boys had.

“So?”

“So, I'm not sure to be honest. That would be best asked of Luci.”

He was not about the boys as true hybrids to this man, who was still allied to Victor, and looked like he was going to stay that way. That did not need mentioning at this point, might never mention it. “I just know that both the twins went to their mothers aid...you yourself saw them yesterday, very protective...of Addison, they were not protecting Luci's Siren.” And he knew they had not been. If those two saw any altercation between their Grammy and this man, who they had seen her argue with, seen Alari shoot forward to protect, he was going to come off the worst for wear. If he survived, that was. They may be just six, but were deadly already and likely, that Siren part of them had more control than the Wolf part.

“We have to take this back to your office, Rafe. Luci will have to come home as well.”

“That is not going to happen.” Rafe stated flatly.

“She is my daughter.”

“But not your pack member anymore. I believe you gave her to Jack and I. Still technically is mine and Jack's concubine, and I don't see Jack or I giving up our boys to you. Who is still allied to Victor! Do you see that?” he knew Orien would know no Alpha would be giving up their Heir.

“She is still my daughter.”

Rafe raised an eyebrow at him now. “Actually, she is Addi’s daughter, not yours.” He corrected the man and then turned and walked out of the hospital and headed back to his office. He couldn’t see Jack anywhere as he stepped outside, felt for his tether, and no real surprise, he was off in the woods. Would likely have wanted to go and see his son and Luci. But wouldn’t stand before either of them when he was this angry.

Left him to it, he’d already voiced his opinion, knew where Jack stood on the matter, Luci and his son were now the man’s number one priority. Nothing was going to stop him from defending them. He felt Solar huff inside his mind a minute later, ‘Flare is out.’

‘I know he needs to go and hunt, get his anger out, calm down a little.’

‘Was happy and calm this morning.’ Solar sounded annoyed.

Rafe couldn’t argue with that, he and Jack had both woken up happy and their wolves had rough housed with each other in human form like they used to all the time, like they still did in wolfen form. Luci was back inside the pack and they had sons. It made not only them but their wolves happy. Jack had even been talking over breakfast about going over and having lunch with Luci and the boys. Trying to talk to her about the situation, wanted to tell her they weren’t at all mad about anything. That they were more than happy. That she and the boys were not only welcome but would be protected from Victor, among others.

That they wanted her to stay here, that they were sorry for the way that things had turned out, for their sheer ignorance and hurting of her. Jack really wanted to get moving on her being once again happy and comfortable here inside the pack. ‘I want to see her smile.’ Had been his exact words when they had been talking this morning. It had always lit up her face when she smiled at them. So very genuine and truly happy she’d been, and they’d screwed that up.

They needed to fix that, it was on them, her new demeanour.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 42

Jack POV

He and Flare were absolutely ropable at Orien and his stupid resistance to the idea that it had been Victor who had hurt both Luci and their boy. How could the man be so bloody blind to the obvious? Victor had always wanted Luci for himself. It seemed nothing had changed.

Luci had not only rejected the offer long before she came here to live with them, had avoided that man at every cost from what he could see. Whenever he was in her home pack, she had used he and Rafe to keep that man away from her, did not ever want anything to do with him, as far as Jack could recall.

Hell, she'd gone out of her way to humiliate him that last time he'd showed up, had come for her. At Orien's order, her own stepfather and Alpha had told Victor he could have her, just to come and get her. To take her as his chosen Mate. Sent for Victor himself without telling anyone. Victor had turned up, to do just that, been happy about it from what Jack had seen.

She had flat out refused to go with him. When she had been called by her stepfather and seen Victor, she had called him not so nice words, names and had angered Victor himself. When he'd tried to grab on to her, she'd run right over to he and Rafe, who'd been watching on curiously the situation unfolding. They'd both been expecting it to get out of control. Not even Addi had been happy that day. She'd been yelling herself at Orien.

But Luci had run right to them, rubbed herself all over Rafe, which only angered Orien and Victor both even more, and the moment Rafe's hands had landed on Luci's hips to pull her right up against him, to show them he was going to help her. Victor had stepped right towards them to take her from him.

Luci, though, had taken it one step further and reached out for Jack himself, pulled him right up behind her, had sandwiched herself between the two of them, allowed the two of them to slide their hands over her

body, right in front of everyone and they both had. Jack had actually pressed himself hard up against her and murmured “Goddess, I want you right now.” Her brilliant green eyes had looked right up at him and he’d seen desire right there in them, she wasn’t actually pleading with them for help. Had been showing clear defiance towards what her stepfather wanted of her.

He’d leaned down and kissed her, right there in front of everyone, hadn’t been able to help himself, she’d been so strong willed, even then. It was a turn on, she’d not stopped him either, kissed the hell out of him in front of all. He even recalled Rafe growling a little at the scent of her arousal.

Victor had near lost it, raged at Orien for the blatant disrespect she was showing, had told that man, he ought to be ashamed of his daughter and, when she came to her bloody senses, to call him, and he would come and collect her. Then had stalked out of the packhouse and left the Nightfall Pack in a fury of screeching tires.

Now it seemed, Victor didn’t care how long it took to get her, as long as he got her in the end, that was all that mattered. It also seemed that Orien was still likely to try and give her to that man. He didn’t appear to be at all concerned that Victor had harmed his own Luna’s grandchild or sedated his stepdaughter and tried to take her by force. It was clear that Orien was not the man or Alpha he should be.

He prayed that Thatcher would be a better Alpha and judge of character, where Victor was concerned. He’d been around the entire time Luci had grown up, both times his own father had tried to Mate Luci off, to that savage. Seen that Orien had never really seemed concerned about wanting her to wait on her Goddess Gifted Mate either. Although he was ticked off that she hadn’t stayed ‘pure, for her Goddess Gifted Mate’ was always on her about that. But he had been happy to Mate her off himself, before she even had a real chance to meet her Mate.

That made Jack wonder if Victor and Orien had some sort of deal where Luci was concerned. It was clear Orien had always known she wasn’t his, perhaps he’d made some sort of deal with Victor over her when she was little, just never told anyone about it. He never tried to mate her off to

anyone else either, as far as Jack knew. Only heard from Luci it had been Victor both times.

Flare was out stalking around in the forest, why Jack was buried in his thoughts. They saw many critters out there to hunt, but neither were in the mood to destroy anything. They just really needed to be alone, or Orien's head was coming off his body. His large white wolf was stalking about, and their roaming patrols stopped and looked at him. He knew Flares ears were back flat against his head and his tail was dropped low.

Saw them all bow to him and step back or away to the side to let Flare pass by. They all knew a pissed off wolf when they saw one. Weren't about to get in his way, not that he was looking to harm any of them, they just needed to stalk about till he calmed down.

They found themselves right in the woods overlooking Luci's cottage. Both the boys were outside in the morning sunshine playing in the backyard. They stayed well back inside the forest but sat and watched as the twins laughed and played, chased each other around the yard. They looked so very happy, sounded happy, and he wondered if they were always this happy?

He and Flare looked at Luci herself, she was sitting on the back steps to the cottage, Addi was with her, they were both just sitting watching the boys play as he had been. Heard Flare huff, for as nice as it was to sit and watch, he wanted to be down there, he couldn't just shift and stroll down there.

He'd be completely naked and once upon a time, before everything had turned inside out, and gone to s**t, it would have been fine. But not anymore, not now. It wouldn't be appropriate for him to do that. Didn't think she would be comfortable with it either.

Turned and walked off back through the woods towards the packhouse, shifted back just outside the mudroom and showered under the hottest water he could stand. Let it just wash over him for the longest time, before pulling on shorts and a tee-shirt to hit the dining room. He was hungry.

Jack found Nadia standing with the omega's chatting about the change of menu for the next month. She always changed things up so there were different foods to eat, and no one got bored with the same old thing every day.

Nadia smiled right at him, and he nodded to her, saw her send them all away and then walk on over to him "Hi Jack, I just thought you might like to know that it's not that the boys have allergies or that Luci denies them any sweets. They just eat so very healthily all the time, that they have an adverse reaction to sugar and high fat foods."

He frowned right at her, "Is that going to be a problem?"

"No, I talked to Luci myself. We're going to introduce foods slowly to the boys, get them used to it, or they'll get sick. She will likely have to be reintroduced as well."

"Sick?" that word got his undivided attention. "Wolves don't get sick." He commented, or not very often.

"It's not serious, like when you boys binge eat, and get roaring drunk, causes stomach pains and frequent runs to the bathroom."

"Oh," he smiled a little, "I've not done that in a while."

"Thankfully," Nadia chuckled, "I've stocked her fridge and pantry with things the boys can eat. It's mostly fruit and vegetables. Though they can eat most meats, they just didn't have the capacity to store it was what I heard. So, lived mostly on fish, from my understanding."

"Why she so thin?" He nodded. "I don't think she eats enough to sustain herself. The boys aren't thin like she is either."

"I'll fatten her up soon enough Jack, she's not unhealthy. Just lean muscle is all."

"I think she fed the children before herself, ate what was left over, likely didn't eat enough to sustain what she is now."

"And what is that, Jack? She looks very different."

“I know, changed a lot. Is a double shifter now.” He told her he wasn’t going to hide that. Nadia needed to know to help with the, as she called it ‘fattening her up.’

“Oh.” She seemed to think about it for a long minute. “I’ll increase the protein where I can, she eats plenty of carbs, but likely misses out on essential fats and sugars. I’ll work on that too. It might take a few weeks to get her sorted out and eating properly.”

“Thank you. I really appreciate it, Nadia.”

“No problem, Jack, and those boys,” she smiled at him. “So cute. Just like you and Rafe at that age.”

“Yes, they are.” He smiled to himself.

“Have you called your parents yet to tell them they are grandparents?”

“No, kind of dreading that to be honest. They were all unhappy with how Rafe and I handled or didn’t handle things with Luci, this will not...” he sighed heavily, “go down so well.”

“You might be surprised, they might just come rushing home all excited to meet their grandbabies.”

“One can only hope, I don’t relish being on that shaming post out there, over it.”

Nadia chuckled “Since when have either of your parents ever put you on that? Luna Addison is very happy, she has the most to be mad about, being Luci’s mother, and from what I can tell, is not at all mad at you or Rafe.”

“Is just happy to have Luci back.” He nodded, was really glad that she hadn’t turned on them, had every right to. He didn’t know if they were just waiting for her to explode and yell and tear strips off of them. Or if her need to deal with Orien was outweighing her anger towards them. They might just be on the back burner for her. Could well be itching to deal with them, but needed to sort her and Orien out first.

Though there was always the possibility, that because she was so very unhappy with Orien, and he understood why. That maybe she was keeping them onside in case she and Orien couldn't fix their Mate Bond. It was not nice to see wolves fall out after so many years together. It didn't happen often either and he truly didn't want that for Addison and Orien, or their wolves, Fallon and Rali. But it seems that Orien had pushed too hard and hurt his own Mate, not just the human but the wolf as well.

She'd scarred herself for life getting that silver cuff off. Which showed just how pissed off she had to have been to have removed it. He could only imagine Orien's horror at seeing the bloodied mess her hand would have been in afterwards. He was not likely to ever forget it and that scar it left.

If they could come back together, every time he looked at it or held her hand and felt it. It was going to remind him, that he had caused that injury to happen. By denying her access to her own child or the finding of her child.

It was forever going to be between them, even if she could forgive him, if he was able to apologise for the error of his way. It was highly likely that man and his wolf were going to have to get down on their knees and beg Addi and Fallon for forgiveness. Pray to the Goddess Selena herself, that his Mate would forgive him.

He was going to have to spend the rest of his life making it up to her, giving her whatever she wanted when she wanted it. Deny her nothing ever again and even then it was possible the strain and memory of it was always going to be with her, brought into every argument they had in the future.

Jack sat at the table and ate by himself. It was between meals and though the buffet was rarely ever not set up, right this very minute he was actually the only one there in the dining room. It was quiet and peaceful, he liked the quiet, and he was feeling calm right now, he realised.

Sat and thought about that, realised it was hearing Nadia talk about Luci and the boys that had him feeling calmer, knowing they did eat properly,

just purely healthy, made him feel the tiniest bit better about them being thin. That and he'd seen how happy they looked this morning. That helped him feel better too.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 43

Luci POV

Luci opened the front door to find Thatcher standing on the other side. He smiled right at her and then just stepped up and hugged her to him. "Thank the Goddess, Luci. That you're okay."

She had hugged him back, it had been a long time since she'd seen her little brother, he'd grown a lot, was tall, taller than she was even, typically of an Alpha Male she supposed. "I missed you too, little brother."

She got to hear him chuckle, "I'm not so little anymore. But haven't you changed now?"

She just nodded. He was a good two inches taller than she was "I have." She stated, there wasn't much she could say, she knew she looked different. Although her face was still the same, only her height and hair were different. Well, that and her build now. Also knew she smelled different as well.

"May I come in Luci?" He asked.

Luci stepped aside and let him in. She caught movement behind him and saw Rafe walking with Orien and his Beta and Gamma. Jack was stalking ahead of them looked royally ticked off to her. She wondered just what was going on, but closed the door before any of them saw her, and realised she was watching them. It was really none of her business.

"I heard from mum, I'm an uncle now." Thatcher stated, looking right at her and then moved his eyes to the lounge area, where the boys were sitting.

"I guess that you are." She motioned for him to step into the loungeroom.

She saw both her boys look right up at him and heard Thatcher state “No need to guess who’s they are, huh?”

She told the boys he was their uncle Thatcher, her brother. Both of them smiled at him but didn’t get up. He smiled back at them and said hello.

“No.” Luci answered him, there was no need they looked exactly like their fathers, even their Siren-Wolves were a blend of their fathers’ colouring. Everything about them was all their father. Nothing really of her in them bar that Siren part of her.

“Did you know? When you left?” Thatcher asked her as he looked at them.

“I did. It’s why I left.” She answered honestly. Walked to the small dining nook and sat down, he followed and sat opposite her.

“Do they have names or are you going to make me guess?” He shook his head.

“They are named after their fathers.” She shrugged.

“You’re still a bloody glutton for punishment, I see.” He half chuckled.

Luci didn’t really see it that way, neither had Kali, for that matter. Both she and Kali had wanted to name them after their fathers, even before those two had come home with Mates. After leaving, it gave the boys a connection to their fathers, even though she’d raised them away from the pack, and their fathers had not known about them, their names didn’t actually cause her or Kali any pain.

Naming them after their fathers, kind of comforted her and Kali, to have a small part of her Alpha and Beta with her always. To be able to continue to say their names. Something she longed to do but couldn’t, they weren’t hers anymore.

She nor Kali had changed their minds about it even after leaving, even after all the pain of loving them, and then leaving them. Her boys were all she had left of the two men she loved. Nothing would change that ever. She still didn’t know how she was going to handle their Mates

coming home and finding out about her and the twins. Likely it was going to be Alari who would deal with it, if it got out of hand.

“Not really, I always knew that one day, they would come here, and want to meet them. This way there would be no mistaking who they were.”

“There would never be an issue with that, Luci. They would feel it instantly, their connection to the boys. Just like you know, I am your brother. Got that family bond between us.”

She did feel that, even though she was no longer a member of the Nightfall Pack, their brother and sister bond was still intact. “I hear you have a Mate.”

“Yes.” He smiled now, “only been a few weeks. You’d like her, Cathy. Though she’s not at all comfortable with mum and dad’s tension right now.”

Luci sighed herself, she’d seen it. “It’s my fault, I hear. Always is when they fight. I hear Orien doesn’t want me going back to Nightfall.” She knew it, didn’t need to be told. He’d tried to Mate her off more than once, and then given her away as a concubine. He had always, in her eyes, been looking for a way to rid himself of her. She wasn’t his and he didn’t want her around, not after he got Thatcher, his own flesh and blood.

Saw Thatcher stare at her “I’m sorry Luci.” He stated “I didn’t help the situation either. I even thought mother would bring you home, and try and seat you in the Alpha chair. You are the oldest and the eldest child is usually the one who takes over.”

“I’m not at all interested, Thatcher, it’s all yours.” She told him without concern, it was the simple truth she didn’t want it. “I left years ago. I have no intentions of going back either.”

“So, then you’re going to stay here?”

“I don’t know that either.” She answered honestly.

“I don’t think Alpha Rafe or Beta Jack will want you leaving now Luci.” His eyes moved to the twins pointedly.

“It won’t be up to them.” she shrugged, and it wouldn’t, they couldn’t make her stay, Alari would bend them to her will. “Their Mates are also not going to accept the boys and could cause trouble.”

“Hmm, I still think they’ll want you and the boys here. Something will be worked out. And where would you go, Luci, to who’s pack?”

“I don’t know Thatcher.” And she didn’t though her conversation with her mother about where Lucian lived was always an option. Technically, if that was her father’s home, it would be Alari’s to inherit. She knew Alari felt the lake here was hers, but her curiosity about where their real father lived had been piqued.

“It would have to be strong, Luci, to keep you protected from Victor. I don’t exactly know what is going on right at this minute, not been involved or informed about the goings on. But mum said she was waiting to see who dad was going to side with, her or Victor? What is that about? Of course, he’ll choose mum. She’s his Mate.”

Luci sighed now, not even she knew who Orien would side with. Thatcher might think his father would side with their mother, but even she had real doubts about that after hearing what her mother had told her.

“Victor, tried to take me just yesterday. Hurt little Jack too. He still thinks I am his because Orien told him he could have me.”

Thatcher was frowning right at her now. “I’ve not heard Victor once bring your name up, since you came to live here.”

“That doesn’t mean anything, Thatcher, just that he didn’t tell you what he wanted.”

“You’re certain this is...”

“Stop Thatcher. I’m not lying to you, he came to my place of work, sedated me after he told me I was his.” She was more than annoyed at her brother now, for questioning her over this.

“I didn’t say you were Luci. It’s just odd and very out of the blue. Considering how long you have been gone, is all. I’m just trying to figure it out, nothing more.” He tried to placate her.

Luci didn’t like it. If this was how he thought, it was likely what Orien thought as well. He probably still wanted to hand her over to that man in all likelihood.

It seemed he had raised Thatcher to be just like him, and as Luci sat there looking at her brother she wondered if he was a chauvinistic pig just like his father was too. Didn’t ask him that question but wondered, honestly wondered.

He looked like Orien, she realised. They only shared their mother’s genes, was curious if he had been given any of their mother’s witch genes. Or if he was solely just a wolf, though she wasn’t about to go and out her mother’s lineage to him. She had no idea who knew about that and who didn’t. Her mother had not told anyone, didn’t want anyone to know she guessed, so it wasn’t her place to tell him.

Though surely if she had noticed it over the years as a child and teen, her mother’s eyes glowing ever so slightly at times, surely both Thatcher and Orien had as well. She also wasn’t affected by silver, which was interesting to Luci, more witch than wolf in some ways, she guessed.

“How do you feel, Thatcher?” She asked him “about what your father did to our mother?”

“What do you mean?” He asked right back.

“Do you not know?...” She stared at him. Surely he had to know “He bound her with silver. Have you not seen her hand?”

She heard him sigh now “I’ve seen it, Luci. She attacked her own pack members, there were deaths, she was a threat to her own pack.”

“Really, that’s your belief.”

“That’s what happened.” He nodded.

“Did Orien tell you she only did it, because he was denying her the right to come here and search for me...that it would never have happened if he'd let her come here.”

“Still Luci, injuring your own pack, k*****g them.”

“Only because your father ordered those pack members to detain her, at all costs, Thatcher, and for what? For his need to keep you as the Heir, his not wanting me in that pack. It was cruel and completely uncalled for. I was never coming back, you know that, I told you that long ago.”

“I wasn't there Luci.”

“But you think it's acceptable,” She countered.

“I didn't say that.”

“Yes, you did. Said she injured pack members, were deaths, all which could have been avoided by simply letting her come here. It's all on him, Thatcher. He denied his own Mate the right to search for her missing child, because of his selfish need to keep you as his Heir.”

“I don't think we should argue about it, it's for them to sort out Luci. I wasn't there.”

“If you were, would you have stopped him? told him to let her go or sided with him? I'm curious.”

“I don't know, I wasn't there.” He reiterated to her.

Luci stared right at him. “So just no comment basically, that your own father harmed his Mate.”

“Technically, Luci, she harmed herself.”

“He bound her with silver.” She snapped “Would you do that to Cathy?, your Mate over her wanting to search for her child.”

Heard him sigh now “No,” he shook his head “I would have sourced other options available to me.”

“So, it was wrong of him?”

“I wasn’t there Luci. I’m not going to choose sides, likely they were both in the wrong. You only see mother’s side because you don’t like my father.”

“I don’t like him.” She agreed, had lost all respect for him and stopped loving him a long time ago. “He tried to Mate me off against my will, more than once, and then kicked me from the pack for not doing what he wanted, which was being Mated off to Victor.”

“Like you didn’t want to be here with Rafe and Jack.” He shot right at her. “We’re not going to agree on anything where he is concerned.”

“You’re right on that.” She muttered; they had been raised very differently “I hope you’re not just like him.”

“He’s not a monster, Luci.”

“No, just a chauvinistic a-hole. Who I hear clapped you on the back when you got laid for the first time. I got reprimanded.”

Saw him frowning right at her now “I didn’t come here to argue with you Luci.”

“Of course, you didn’t, because you are probably just like him. Think that all girls should wait on their Mates, and men can just go w*****g themselves around at will and be proud of it. But it was still fine for him to try and Mate me off and not let me find my Goddess Gifted Mate.”

“I’m done Luci.” He stood up. “I can see now why the two of you could never get along. You’re picking a fight with me over nothing.”

“Not over nothing, Thatcher. I’m trying to see if you are indeed just like him, is all. I guess you are. I hope for your sake, Cathy’s sake, you only have boys.” She muttered and watched him stalk out of the front door.

It had not escaped her attention that Thatcher had stated he’d have sourced other options, which could only mean he did agree with Orient, would have sided with his father. Would in fact do that to his own Mate,

confine her against her will if there was a dispute between them. No wonder they liked Victor, they were probably more alike than they knew.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 44

Rafe POV

He sat in his chair behind his desk, it had been a long morning, and he was still more than annoyed with Orien. He and his unit had gone back to the man's suite, but had told him before walking up there that he was going to want a meeting in private, and shortly. Rafe had stated "Jack wants you off pack territory and to sever our alliance. I will be taking that into full consideration."

Orien had glared right at him. "Your Beta is being ridiculous, is all. Needs to take a moment to calm himself down, so we can talk about Luci logically. Not emotionally. It's why Alpha's are in charge, not Beta's." the man's own Beta had bristled, but said nothing about Orien's comment, and didn't like it himself.

Rafe had stared hard right at that man, Orien knew they ran this pack together and that, as far as Rafe was concerned, that statement was a full insult to Jack, who was more than reasonable on most days. "Watch your words Orien, I am in agreement with Jack on this. We rarely disagree on things. So, it would be wise to hold your tongue, or I will eject you from this pack and sever ties, but be willing to house not just Luci but Addison as well. For as long as she wants to be here. I will hold off on the severing until after this meeting has been held out of pure courtesy. Due to us being allied for so very long a time. After the meeting," he'd shrugged, "It may very well be another matter. You might want to consider apologising to Jack." Rafe had stated, allowing his full annoyance to show to the man. Then he had turned and banged into his office.

Now here he sat an hour later in his office. Both Addison and Orien were also in here with him. He'd sat back and watched as Addison had opted to sit on the lounge. She'd arrived first, had been down with Luci, no real surprise there. Orien had called her for this meeting, and she didn't

particularly look happy about being in here. But then neither did Rafe himself.

Orien had arrived a few minutes after Addison had and had walked over to sit on the lounge next to her. Not only had Addison glared at him, but from what he and Solar could tell, Fallon had snarled right at him. The man had frowned and moved away to sit in a single chair opposite her.

Stated “Addi please, it’s been over a week.”

Addison had simply stared right at him and said nothing, she was really ticked off and likely not going to let it go. Wondered if Orien had even attempted to apologise yet, but only after a moment’s thought, from what he was seeing. He thought the answer was no.

The three of them were waiting on Jack. He’d asked him to come for the meeting, and the man had told him to ‘Just sever ties and kick him already’ and stalked off upstairs. Was currently still upstairs, unwilling, it seemed, to be in the same room as Orien.

He was going to be even more unhappy when he came down for this meeting, and Rafe was not going to start it without Jack here. He was going to make Orien wait for Jack to stroll in, even if it took all day, so be it.

With Orien trying to lay claim to Luci, this meeting was not likely going to be a good one. He had called Luci his daughter. Not something he had done since banishing her and sending her to this very pack, to be their concubine. He also hadn’t once asked after her in the year that she had been here. Not in the years that she had been missing either. Showed no concern at all for the girl.

Only now did he lay claim to her, because he knew what she was, and had himself gotten a full dose of her Alpha Aura. He’d found out the hard way she was more powerful than he was. Now he knew that she was a double shifter, with a Siren to boot. He now wanted that for himself.

Likely, this had been why it had taken an hour to call this meeting, he had to discuss it with his unit. What he was going to do, how to get what

he wanted so to speak, knew it wasn't going to be easy. Not with the hostility she'd shown towards him, his lack of concern for her all this time. What he'd done to her mother, also knew she got on better with his unit than himself, would have taken their opinions into account, on how they thought that he could get her back into his pack.

He was going to have to come in here and choose his words very carefully and he knew it, that's why it had taken so long to call this meeting. He wanted her to go home to Nightfall. This was not going to be a good thing to discuss. Jack also at this time had no idea the man had tried to lay claim to Luci. He hadn't been in the room. He wasn't going to take it so well, Rafe didn't think. Not after their last encounter. He himself didn't like it, but had to try and remain calm and be the Alpha.

He pulled on that tether and could feel Jack was still upstairs prowling around. Addison looked right at him. He'd already informed her he wasn't going to be attending any meeting without Jack present. But he had informed her what this meeting was about, when she had asked him.

"I think Rafe, Luci should be involved in this conversation, don't you?"

"I agree." He nodded "But I don't see her wanting to go back to Nightfall with Orien, do you?" when she'd not answered after a minute, he'd stated, "So there is no need to stress her out with this meeting. She has enough going on right this minute."

Orien looked right at him now. "Rafe, despite what you want, Luci will be coming home. I'm certain Addi also wants this, to have her close by, back within the Nightfall Pack, it is her home. It is what my Luna has always wanted."

Yes, he thought, what your Luna has always wanted, just not what you wanted until now. His eyes moved to Addi, she looked right at him and ignored her own Mate's words altogether. "Rafe please, ask Luci to come, for me." Then he'd seen her eyes glaze over.

There were only a few within the pack that she could link to right now; Thatcher and Cathy. Orien, his Beta Milton, and her Gamma Chad.

It had to be Thatcher. If this was going to be a family meeting or a battle, she obviously wanted Thatcher here to see and know what his father was planning without him. As the Heir, he should be here, in this room, but Orien had seen fit not to include him.

Rafe was certain that was because those two were about to come to logger heads over it; who was going to be instated as the Heir to Nightfall. Looked from Addi to Orien and realised that it was likely Addi wanted Thatcher to see just how fickle his father was. He had never wanted Luci instated, because she wasn't his, had instated Thatcher, moments after she left that pack.

But now that Luci was a double shifter, he wanted her back, and to re-instate her in all likelihood, to bring power to his pack. Effectively dismissing his own son, the way he had Luci once.

This was going to be a battle and likely an unpleasant one. The Luna against the Alpha. He was curious as to which way Thatcher would jump. He'd always been close to Luci, but he would also want to stay on as the Heir.

He'd seen the very cold reception Orien's unit were getting from Addison, was just as cold as the one Orien himself was getting. Now Addison, it seemed, was willing to pit her son against his father, as well. It wasn't just the Alpha, Luna bond that was broken he realised. It was the entire pack that was broken. Nightfall was falling apart right before his very eyes.

Rafe didn't want to add more stress to Luci, she was currently dealing with a lot, she'd only been back here for a day and barely a day at that. But he did open a mind-link to her as was requested so nicely from her mother. It still surprised him how it felt to connect to her mind. It felt full to him, knew now that was because he was not only connected to Luci, but also Kali and Alari as well. All of them could hear him.

'Pardon the intrusion Luci, could you please come to my office. Your family has called a meeting and Addi is asking that you be present for it.'

He got nothing back for several seconds, then just two words 'The boys?'

‘Bring them, I’ll have Allen or Ian sit with them, if that is alright with you? Perhaps they could all go down and play with the other children in the kid’s entertainment zone?’

Again, that pause, for many seconds ‘Alright.’ Was all she said, though he heard the reluctance in her voice. Wondered about that delay to his questions. Was it because there were three of them considering the options open to them? Did they all converse with each other to make a decision? It was possible.

He then mind-linked to Jack. The man was not even concerned about making an appearance, it seemed, he was still upstairs, ‘Jack, Luci is going to get here before you do at this rate.’ He told him and waited for it, knew he’d feel him be on the move, heading this way quickly knowing Luci was going to be in this room.

Jack wanted to spend time with Luci and the boys, heard that man and his wolf huff before severing the mind-link, but he was now on his way, could feel that through the tether. He might not want to be in a room with Orien, but would want to be in a room with Luci. Both he and Flare wanted nothing more than to be in a room with her. Despite having a Mate, she was starting to become all-consuming for Jack and Flare.

He mind-linked to Allen and Ian for them to come and meet Luci at the front of the packhouse, to watch the boys while she was in a meeting with all of them, actually asked Allen to stay close by the boys. As he wondered if Orien’s Beta and Gamma would have orders to try and collect the children. They wouldn’t get past Allen, wouldn’t even try.

Everyone was on the move. Thatcher arrived first to his office, looked at his mother and then his father. The way they were sitting, he likely understood they were still at odds, and them sitting separately confirmed that. Watched him frown and then go and sit next to his father. Rafe watched as Addison looked at her son, and noted that she didn’t smile at him either. It appeared the two of them were not getting along any better than she and Orien were. Yes, that pack was falling apart.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 45

Rafe POV

He saw Luci walk into the room and Jack was right behind her. Rafe knew Jack had likely come downstairs and waited for her out there in the foyer. He watched as she took in the room, as her brilliant green eyes moved about, the way her family were all sitting. Didn't say anything at all, just went and sat right next to her mother. There was a clear-cut divide in their family.

Though Luci, he knew, was only related to Addi and Thatcher, something he and Jack had always suspected, they'd never truly believed Orien was her real father, now they knew it. She'd never looked anything like him, never even had any of the man's traits either, and those brilliant green eyes, neither were Orien or Addi's. Those eyes of hers had been what made them think it in the first place.

He saw Jack follow Luci all the way to the lounge and take up a seat right next to her on the arm of the chair. His choice was already made. His stance was clear, after Orien's claims that there had been no proof, that some of the things that had gone on weren't of Victor's doing. That the man didn't even believe it was Victor that had tried to take Luci, had hurt her son. It did not surprise Rafe in the slightest that Jack sat himself right next to her.

"What is going on?" Luci asked. He knew she was not addressing him but her mother instead. Had yet to really say anything much to him or Jack, she was still quiet around them.

But he was the one to answer it, got up from his desk and walked around it as he did so, to turn the chair on the other side of his desk around, to sit down on and face them all. "Luci, Orien is of the opinion you're to go back to Nightfall with him." he stated clearly, making sure that everyone in this room, understood the nature of this meeting, and who had called it.

He saw Luci frown right at him and his words, it was the first real direct eye contact she'd given him, didn't look happy at his words. Thatcher

frowned deeply as well but said nothing. He saw Jack stand up slowly and a low menacing growl was issued from him. He'd not liked hearing that one little bit.

Luci looked away from him, to Jack and then to Orien himself, narrowed her eyes right on that man. Rafe, however, was the first to speak. "Luci, you are not a member of the Nightfall Pack," he told her. "I'm certainly not going to make you return to it. I and Jack are of the opinion you belong here. You are still a member of the Black Forest Pack; we'd like you to continue to be."

"She is my daughter; I have the right to take her home," Orien stated.

"Your daughter!" It was Luci.

He heard her voice drip with sarcasm and saw the Luci, he'd once known for the first time, since they'd found her. She and Orien had never really gotten along, and sarcasm was something that had always been rolled out of her where he was concerned. It was good to see she was still in there. She had been quiet and withdrawn yesterday.

"Yes, Luci. I raised you. Your mother and I would like for you to come home with us." He could see that Orien was trying to present a united front to her, using his own Mate to cajole her. It seemed he really had thought about how to approach her.

"I never said that." Addi stated, contradicting him right away "Not once, have I asked for her to be returned to Nightfall. I also don't believe you and I have had that discussion, for you to state we or us."

"It is what you want, Addi, I know this." Orien frowned at her, didn't like her standing up to him, contradicting him.

"Do you?" she snorted, didn't sound like she thought he knew anything at all about her.

"Yes, it's why you fought so very hard to come here."

“No, it wasn’t.” She stared right at him “That is what you thought. I only wanted to help search for Luci. I would never willingly bring her into your pack again. After your treatment of her!” Addi shot right at him.

Rafe watched as Jack finally sat back down. This was going to be a family battle. They likely wouldn’t have to step in at all. He seemed comfortable with letting them argue it out for now. Would, Rafe knew, step in if he thought it was warranted.

“I’m also not your daughter, Orien.” Luci told him. “Never was. I now know this is why you treated me so differently to Thatcher.”

“I treated you no differently. Just had high expectations was all.”

“Oh really. High expectations. Did you hold Thatcher to those same expectations you held me to, did he have to stay pure till he found his Goddess Gifted Mate?”

Rafe had to hold in the chuckle of amusement, she was not going to be any different with Orien now than she had been as a teenager. She still liked putting that man squarely in his place, it seemed.

“That’s different Luci, you’re an Alpha female.”

“It’s bullshit is what it is.” She shot right at him. “I heard you clapped Thatcher on his back and congratulated him on f*****g a she-wolf for the first time.” Nope, he was wrong. She was way more direct than she used to be. “How old was he? I’m curious. I waited till I was eighteen, did he?”

“Watch your tone, Lucian,” Orien snapped.

“Why? What are you going to do about it? I’m not yours to boss around anymore. You can’t make us do anything.” She now sounded more than a little amused to his ear. There was a slight smirk on her face, she knew he couldn’t. But then it was gone a moment later. “How old was he?” she grated out once more.

“It’s different for females, Luci, I always told you this.”

“Is it now? So that she-wolf, he” she pointed right at Thatcher, “f****d, did you admonish her, punish her for not waiting on her Goddess Gifted Mate?” she was staring him down now and, after a good fifteen seconds of silence, snapped “Answer the question, or can’t you. because it was just me, who wasn’t allowed to have s*x.”

“He’s Alpha-blooded Luci, has needs, it’s very different.”

Rafe watched Luci look right at her mother with a raised eyebrow. Incredulously, he thought. “I’m Alpha-blooded, am I not?” she asked, though even Rafe had to smile, everyone in this room knew that. Orien was doing what he always did with the girl, contradicting himself.

“Yes, Luci on all sides, mine and your father,” Addi confirmed for her.

Luci looked back to Orien, “So then by your own statement just now. It should have been fine for me to go out and sew my wild oats. Like Thatcher has, I’m sure. Like you did, I’m guessing.”

“You’re female, were the Heir to the pack. You needed to present yourself as respectable. So, I could find you a good Mate.” Orien stated flatly.

“f*****g hypocrite.” She shot right at him. “As for the Heir, no I wasn’t. Maybe only until Thatcher was born, then it was all just pretence on your part. Couldn’t wait to get rid of me and, yes, Mate me off. Not wait on my Goddess Gifted Mate. Mate me off you stated, so under your own rules, I could f**k someone you chose but not someone I chose. A f*****g hypocrite is what you are.”

“You were twenty and had no Mate. It was my job to find you a good Mate.”

“Twenty.” She nodded, rolled her eyes “I believe you tried to Mate me off at nineteen to Victor. A man I detest and refused. Then, at twenty, you tried to give me to him again, knowing I hated him, didn’t want it.”

“He’s a good strong Alpha Luci, he would have been able to handle you, your rudeness, pull you into line.”

“After what he did to me yesterday. You can still call him a good man, you still think that! Have you even cancelled your alliance with him, after he tried to kidnap me yesterday? Hurt my son, struck him so very hard, he was rendered unconscious, his little brain swelling inside his skull. He would have died if Alari had not forcibly been woken by a shot of adrenaline, after he sedated me. And you still call him a good man?”

“I’m certain, Luci, there is a..”

“Oh, f**k you, Orien.” Luci snapped, all anger now. “You clearly are no better than Victor himself.”

Rafe watched her reach out and pick up her mother’s hand, waved it right at him “Hurt your own mate, bound her with silver for your own selfish needs.”

“Luci.” Orien roared at her, his temper flaring.

Rafe watched her stand up, dropped her mother’s hand. “You want to take us all on, my Wolf and my Siren. Let us go outside and see who wins. I hope Thatcher is all trained up to take over, cause Alari is going to explode that pathetic brain of yours, make it swell inside your skull till it POPS.” She roared right back at him.

Rafe sighed and stood up. Jack was also on his feet now, if she got any more ticked off, that man was gonna die right here in their office. In a bloody mess by the sound of it. He had no idea if she could do that but it was by the sound of it very likely. “Everyone just calm down.” He’d been going to stay out of it, as had Jack, but Luci clearly wanted a piece of Orien. She had a right to he thought.

He couldn’t really blame her, the man was rude and arrogant and so disrespectful and unwilling to believe anything about Victor being the one to attack her or her children. He walked over to her and stepped in front of her. “Luci, please sit down.” He asked her gently.

Those eyes of hers turned right on him so full of anger, then she sat a little reluctantly, from what he could tell, sat herself on the coffee table in front of her, “You can stay here, Jack, and I want you here. Addi is also

welcome to stay here as long as she likes. Please calm down just a little. I do understand your anger. Jack and I feel it too.” And they did. It was their children in harm’s way, and she had been missing from them for so very long, he wanted to fix that as well.

They both had many regrets where Luci was concerned, had made mistakes themselves with her and hurt her. But they also knew better than to tick her off. Orien should do, but just couldn’t’ it seems, put his Alpha mentality aside.

“I know for a fact he has not cancelled his alliance with Victor,” Jack stated flatly, “won’t, not even after this. He only wants you, Luci, because of what you are now. Sees your true power and wants it for himself.”

“Oh, and you don’t?” Orien shot at him. “Anyone that knows what she is will want her now. I can find her a good Alpha. Strong with a large pack to be Mated off to.”

“Get yourself a new alliance. Still want to Mate me off, not find my Goddess Gifted.” Luci spat at him. “Does anyone here but mother care what I want?”

“We care.” Both he and Jack stated at the same time.

He saw her look from one to the other and then just say nothing at all about that, and he wondered if she didn’t believe them, that they cared, likely at this point had no real reason to believe they cared about her at all. They had to work on that, were going to, would show her that they not only cared about their sons but her. She was important to them.

“For your children.” Orien spat.

He was trying to get her to not want to be here with them. To see that he was the better of the two options that were in front of her right now.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 46

Thatcher POV

He sat next to his father, because it was where he was supposed to sit, his place as the future Heir to their pack. Just sat there and watched and listened to them all. Looked at his sister who he had argued with himself not so long ago. Who had been missing for six and a half years.

Had run away because she had become pregnant to her Alpha and Beta, men he knew she had loved. She'd been so happy here, he'd never seen her that happy, ever, certainly not in their home pack. But then they had abandoned her without warning.

She looked so very different to him, taller and fairer, she seemed so different to him in that cottage. Was not even here inside the packhouse where she actually belonged, was where all alpha-blooded wolves lived, and wondered why that was? as he sat watching his family fall apart, and he knew it was doing just that.

Did her Alpha and Beta not want her in the packhouse? Surely, they would, especially their children, heirs to the pack now. Thatcher had not seen either one of their Mates, he didn't actually think that they were here in the pack. Which was odd in itself. Those two when they did come back from wherever they were. Were going to be an issue.

They were going to come home and find out about the twins. He wondered now if those two, Rafe and Jack, had not put her in the packhouse on purpose? Or had Luci herself opted not to be anywhere near them?

He sat and watched her fire up, nearly smiled to himself. She was still true to form, there she was antagonising his father. Not hers, he sighed internally. He'd not even known she wasn't his true sibling till today. A half-sister, not that it mattered to him. She'd always gotten along with him, they'd played a lot at not liking each other, but he loved his sister and she loved him.

He looked at everyone in the room, stating what they all thought was best for her. He had never once thought that his father would want her back inside the pack. He had stopped caring about her the minute she'd left to live with Rafe and Jack.

His father had thought that not only was she a disappointment to him, but a disgrace to his pack. He'd heard his father call her a w***e once, not in earshot of his mother, he'd only been young, but he'd known what the word meant. He had stared at his father and actually cried. She'd not long left and he'd missed her.

His father had tried to tell him he'd miss heard him, that, that was not what he'd said, had asked him not to say anything to his mother. He hadn't, had fallen in line and done as he was told, but mostly because his parents had been fighting at the time, and he'd just lost his sister, and didn't want to lose his mother as well. Knew he would.

It's not what she was. Once here she was only ever with Rafe and Jack, loved them, didn't stray, didn't look for anyone else to sate her Alpha needs. Didn't need to, the two of them could do that for her. Her needs were, he realised, higher than most, had always been, and it ticked his father off.

Went completely wide-eyed at her statement about having a siren and a wolf. He'd not known that either, no one had bothered to tell him his sister was a double shifter. Realised instantly why she'd been angry and getting into it with his father. What she was, was the only reason his father wanted her back in the pack.

Also understood very clearly that she was offering to k**l Orien, and seat him, Thatcher, right in the Alpha chair of Nightfall. He wasn't happy about her direct threat to his father, her stepfather, but he kind of understood why she was fired up. The man didn't love her at all. Wanted her, as Luci stated, just to Mate her off for a good alliance for himself, nothing more. Likely she was very right.

He stood up himself as he watched Alpha Rafe try to calm her down. "Enough, everyone just stop it." he practically yelled into the room. He'd heard enough, walked over to her. "Rafe move, I want to talk to my

sister.” He shot at him, uncaring of the fact that he was ordering another Alpha about in his own pack.

Saw Solar look right at him. He didn’t like being ordered about inside his own pack. Thatcher didn’t really care right this minute, he hadn’t liked what either of them had done, been so damned lax in their duty of care of his sister. They could still be for all he knew.

“Move, I don’t think anyone in this room really cares what Luci wants.” Shoved that man right out of the way. “She is my sister, I want to talk to her.”

He sat himself down in the exact position Rafe had been and looked right at her for a moment and then just sighed. He’d not had all the facts when last talking to her “Luci, until today I didn’t even know you weren’t my full-blooded sister. Till mother practically spat it at me this morning.” Shook his head and glared at his own mother. She could have been nice about it.

Looked back to Luci “To answer some of your questions that were ignored by my father. I was just 17 when I lost my v*****y, to my high school girlfriend. Not my Goddess Gifted Mate.”

“Thatcher.” He heard his father’s warning tone.

Ignored it. “He congratulated me, told me he was proud I’d become a man. My girlfriend, he did not admonish, or punish her. So, yes, I can see he’s a hypocrite. Treated you very differently from me, as you well know. Now I know why, you’re not his actual daughter.” Sighed once more, that man had raised her from a baby he’d seen photos’ right from the day she was born. “I don’t think Luci, anyone here but mother has your best interest at heart. They all have ulterior motives. Father, who told me with full certainty, before we came here, he did not want you back inside the pack. I was his heir, not you. Now, look at him, he has done a full one eighty and wants you in the pack.” Shook his head, his father was not to be trusted at all where she was concerned, and he knew it.

“You’re part Siren? Wow, I did not know that either, till you stated it.” smiled right at her “No wonder you’re so head strong, I’d like to meet her

one day, if she want's that of course. Father is all about power, you yourself would know this. I also think, and you heard him state, he will Mate you off, to some Alpha who has a large pack, lots of money and make a deal for himself for Nightfall. He won't care about you in that deal."

He heard his father growl right at him, was clearly angry that Thatcher had decided to be honest with her. "Oh shut it father, she's not wrong about you. You treated her completely different to all other she-wolves, you don't care if they go about f*****g anyone or anything ever. You are a hypocrite." He muttered, he didn't like to think about his father like that, but it was plainly clear. "I will not be like that when I reign." Looked right at Luci. "I unfortunately don't think that Rafe and Jack have your best interest in mind either. They also have an ulterior motive. The twins are theirs, the heirs to their pack. So, of course, they want you here, for their children Luci. Did they care about you really? Any more than father did? I doubt it, Luci, they came home Marked and Mated without so much as calling you, to let you know." He glared from Rafe to Jack, knew that neither of them could even deny it. Hell, if they tried, Luci could refute it herself. She knew what had happened, was the one to suffer the pain of losing them, bearing them children, and raising them alone out there somewhere. He still didn't know where that had been.

"In all this yelling and arguing, I have yet to hear what it is you want; no one has asked you what you want. Not father, not Rafe and not Jack. I honestly think mother is the only one on your side. Me, I'm just bloody confused to be honest, thought I was getting my sister back, only to find out she's a mother of two. I'm an uncle, and learned today from you and this meeting, that I am more like my father than I care to be, right now."

He leaned forward and took both her hands in his. "You were right, I didn't question father's actions towards mother. Just accepted that what he did was right because he is the Alpha, as well as the fact that I too am selfish. I didn't want you coming home and taking my position as the Heir to the pack, away from me." Sighed, for he too had an ulterior motive. "Mother, on the other hand, just wanted to find you. Likely just wanted to hold you in her arms and tell you she loves you. Was happy you were okay. She is the one on your side. No one else in this room is

truly without motive...So Luci, what is it you want? Kali wants? Your Siren?"

"Alari." She told him softly, and then he saw a flash of pure black in her eyes, smiled right at her.

"Alari?" he chuckled softly "You all rhyme, you know that, right?" he half teased her and actually saw her smile and nod her head.

"I like it," she told him.

"I'm gonna tease you all about it, all the time." He smiled right back at her, it was there thing or had been once. "Well, big sister what is it you, Kali and Alari want? That is all that should matter to anyone in this room. Ignore what everyone else wants and take your time to really think about what it is you want."

He watched her sigh and knew she didn't know what she wanted at this point. He nodded his head in understanding "Luci, are you concerned about your Alpha and Beta's Mates?"

"Yes." She said simply, the fight in her was now gone, it seemed, she'd listened to him, and he'd managed to calm her down.

Of course she was, what she-wolf wouldn't be worried about her children. Heirs to the pack when she was not the Luna, and there was a Luna who knew nothing about those children, that would take over one day and not be hers. No Luna would like this coming at her out of the blue.

His eyes moved from his sister to Rafe and Jack. He could actually see she wasn't the only one concerned about this. "What have you put in place to protect my sister and her sons from your own Mates?" He asked directly of them.

"They are not here." Rafe told him, "To be honest, I think Luci is more than capable of dealing with either of our Mates."

"That is not the point." He frowned and stood up. "She should not have to. You, as the Alpha, should be protecting your own children, the mother

to your children. They are pack members. Your responsibility. You should organise a protective detail, round the clock. I've met your Luna. I don't think she will be happy about this." He stared right at Rafe then stated "If you're not going to do anything, then Luci and both the boys need to be moved to an allied pack. Where they will be safe and protected at all times, from any threat your Luna may pose, regardless of if Luci is capable of protecting them. It is your job to assure all of their safety, all of the time."

Thatcher knew he was young, but he was currently attending Alpha college and he had learned a lot there, rules and regulations, read quite a few books, knew this actually happened a lot in their world, Alpha's got around to sate their needs, and she-wolves didn't need to be in heat to get pregnant all the time, so protecting what was theirs, from their Mate's when it wasn't their Mates child was a must.

Right this very minute, Thatcher was not only being her brother but trying to display his ability to think past his own needs. Think about the best thing for Luci and the twins. Staying here might not actually be the best option for her.

He knew Nightfall certainly wasn't. Jack had not been wrong. His father had not called Victor and severed ties with him, should have, but hadn't. And he wouldn't put it past his own father to try once more to Mate her off the instant she was there.

"You think Nightfall is a good place for her?" Rafe frowned at him.

"No, I would not send her home with father. We're currently still allied to Victor, I believe. But surely you have others she could go to, others you would trust to watch over her?"

Thatcher saw both of them just stare at him "I'm only thinking of Luci and the boys. Not you two, not father, not myself or even mother for that matter. Luci's safety must come first. When are your Mates due back?"

"Yesterday, but they have still not returned," Rafe admitted to him.

"Odd." He commented "Why not?"

“I don’t know.” Rafe answered him “They will come back only when they please, to be honest with you.”

Thatcher frowned right at him “That is not very Luna-like behaviour. Leaving the pack after an attack like you had.” He shook his head, didn’t understand it at all. His own mother never left the pack for weeks to months after an attack. The lost pack members Mates needed counselling, monitoring, consoling. She used her Luna Calm along with the Gamma to aid the pack until things were settled and everyone was doing well. The orphaned pups were always a concern, could be placed with other families, but didn’t always attach to them, needed their Luna to be with them. She could and did bring comfort to them. He’d seen his own mother take in orphans till they were ready to be with another family.

Neither of them said anything at all. “Luci and the boys are also Alpha-blooded and should not be out in the pack, but inside the packhouse, for safety. That is a given. Why am I having to tell you this, is beyond me.” He shook his head, more than annoyed to be having to tell them this.

He turned at the feel of Luci’s hand touching his. “I don’t want to be in the packhouse.” She told him a little quietly.

“You should be, lived on the top floor while you were here. You have every right to be up there. Are likely more powerful than everyone in this very room Luci.” He turned and looked right at her, “You could overthrow them and reign, I imagine. I’ve read up on Sirens. They are not to be messed with at all.”

She just stared up at him. “I don’t belong in the packhouse Thatcher, was...just their concubine.” She murmured softly “Nothing more.”, Saw her eyes fall away from him.

She could be so very strong against his father. But where those two were concerned she doubted herself, it seemed. He knew why, she’d loved them, and they’d abandoned her without a single thought at all. Was hurting her even now, he realised. Likely still bloody loved them, even though they had wronged her and would never be anything to her again, just the father of her children.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 47

Addison POV

Addison sat and watched as Thatcher actually displayed his ability to lead as an Alpha. Her son had sat next to her Mate, his father. She'd honestly thought that he was going to take Orien's side in all of this. Now she realised, he had, it seemed, been sitting back and listening to everyone and everything that was being said. Assessing the situation for what it was. He himself had a lot to absorb today.

Addison couldn't be more proud of her boy than she was right this minute. He had stood up to not only Orien, but Rafe as well. He was only young but had read the situation right. Knew that everyone in this room had an ulterior motive for wanting Luci, even admitted he did as well.

Though hearing Orien today call Luci his daughter, even she thought that was a complete joke. Hearing him growl at Thatcher for answering all of Luci's questions truthfully, so she could see just how right she was about his own father. Showed her that Thatcher hadn't taken his father's side, was she thought, only thinking of Luci.

He was right. It was not a good idea to ask Luci to go back to Nightfall. Not even she knew if Orien would call Victor and sever their ties with him. She didn't trust her own Mate anymore. Not where Luci was concerned and it seemed neither did Thatcher, for that matter, and it showed.

Her son, it seemed, wasn't like his father in all respects, had even stated his father was wrong about the way he had treated herself. Now she feared he'd be punished over this display of defiance against his own father, when those two got back to the pack. There was nothing she could do about it. It was solely between them, and they would have to deal with it. If Orien couldn't see that his own son was being a good Alpha, that was poor judgement on Orien's part.

Where Thatcher had learned to be so selfless and think of another only, she didn't know, certainly wasn't Orien, had to be what he was learning in Alpha college. She'd never gotten to go to that place, had every right

to, but had gone rogue herself to get away from a forced Mating. Not that she thought for a single second she'd have ever been allowed to go.

Hearing Luci voice concerns about the Luna and Beta's Mate's did not really surprise her all that much, but those two women would be stupid to try anything. They would find themselves in a faceoff with Alari or the boys themselves. Though Thatcher was also right, it was Rafe and Jacks' duty to protect Luci and the boys from their own Mates. She also knew, as did Rafe, that Luci and the boys were more than capable of defending themselves, though they should not have to.

As for what her daughter was actually worried about, where they were concerned was undiscernible, she'd gone back to being quiet when she'd answered that question. Likely just didn't want to talk about them.

As for what Luci really wanted, she had never left this pack, never taken the boys too far away. Likely she wanted to be here deep down, in some capacity, but it also likely hurt her every minute she was here as well. Addison needed to talk to her about being a Siren and the way Mates were gifted to them. It wasn't exactly traditional.

Addison was also very certain that Luci was never going to go very far from either her Alpha or Beta. It was likely that she considered herself theirs, why she'd never actually left. Couldn't be far away from them. But also couldn't be inside the pack itself. To see them with their Mates. She was likely caught between a rock and a hard place.

Then there were the twins. She didn't think that Luci had it in her to take them completely away from their fathers. Though she had not only tried but had succeeded in keeping them hidden all this time. Right in plain sight at that, just across the lake, with the boys going to the school in the human town.

It was likely because of how she had changed she'd been able to do this. Addison had driven right past that school herself. The previous day, there had been a bunch of parents out there waiting to pick up their children. Luci had likely been one of them. Not even Addison had seen her. But she was willing to bet Luci had not missed Nightfall pack cars driving by.

This made her wonder if Rafe and Jack had ever felt the boys. They were technically always pack members, born with their pack attachment still, even she could smell the unique pack scent on them, right from the first time seeing them. It was curious to her now. Surely their wolves would have felt the boys, felt something was wrong and were agitated about something unknown to them.

Though she already knew it was Luci that did not want to be inside the packhouse, both Rafe and Jack have likely also heard her state that, they may have been inside the mudroom, but their hearing would have picked up her words yesterday.

She didn't feel like she belonged in the packhouse anymore, wanted to live on her own, away from them and their Mates. Likely, even that cottage she was in for the moment, was going to be too close to the packhouse for comfort, when their Mates got back.

Addison knew why Luci had left, had been heartbroken, couldn't be around to see them all happy and loved up. Still wasn't going to want to see that now, any more than she had back then. Though those two happy and loved up, not even Addison had ever seen that. Not really anyway, something had always been off between them and their Mates. Their weight loss told her something was more than off now too.

Her eyes moved right to Rafe and Jack as Luci stated she was worried about their Mates. She was curious as to exactly what Luci was worried about. Addison knew nothing would get past Luci now. Alari would defend instantly, and she was certain, after seeing both boys come to her side yesterday, knew they too were likely to defend themselves and would be as aggressive as Alari herself in their manner of defence.

Perhaps her daughter was worried about what would happen to one of Rafe or Jack's Mates, if they attacked her, and Alari or the boys retaliated in kind, and killed one or both of them. How would the pack feel towards her? How would Rafe and Jack feel about it? What would they do about it if Alari or one of the boys killed the Luna or the Beta's Mate? Or both of them?

No Alpha would like the loss of his Mate, even if their Mate had started the fight. If he couldn't intervene, Addison knew with full certainty Alari would do what all Sirens did, k**l without hesitation or remorse, any and all threats to her children.

Sirens were not like other creatures, they did not just go around having baby's willy nilly, there had to be a real genuine connection for a Siren to have a child. This usually didn't happen unless the Siren was mated off and happily so. It's why they lived in small groups, not large ones like all otherworldly creatures.

Though Luci had not had Alari at the time of conception, she had Siren genes, and Siren tendencies. Something else she needed to discuss with Luci, though doing so they would need to have somewhere private, no prying eyes or ears for that matter.

This office would do nicely for that conversation, actually. It was completely soundproof, as were all Alpha's offices, kept their meetings and discussions for those only in the room and only for who needed to know.

If Rafe would let her use it, of course, though she didn't really see a problem with it, they were getting along. He and Jack were more than accommodating towards her and Fallon. Had not once told her no, he wanted her here with Luci. She also knew that Jack had let her know about Luci the moment he had known himself. Had wanted to tell her about seeing Luci, knew she worried about her daughter.

She didn't think that it had just been excitement at seeing her for the first time in years either. No, he'd been worried himself about her out there all alone taking on rogue wolves by herself. It likely didn't sit well with him. She also knew that he felt responsible for Luci's disappearance.

He had thought the worst and why wouldn't he when she'd gone into that lake distressed and upset and had never come out, never been seen again. Likely everyone here had thought that Luci had killed herself that day. They were responsible for that. It was possible the pack blamed them for the death of a pack member. It was on their hands, even they admitted it.

She cleared her throat and gained everyone's attention. "I'd like to talk to Luci privately." Looked at Rafe and then Jack "May I use this office to do that please?"

"Yes." Rafe nodded "Now or later, Addi?"

Her eyes moved to Luci. "Now I think is a good time." She stated, "I'll be staying a while here." Looked at Orien. "You and Thatcher can go home, back to Nightfall. There is no need for either of you to be here anymore."

"Addison, I think."

"What you think, Orien, is not my greatest concern. What you think should happen, that you even have a say after you sent her away, after trying to force her to go with Victor previously, on two occasions. Means you have no say anymore. Your opinion is null and void as far as I can see. Nightfall is still allied to Victor and until you sever that, I will not be returning."

"Addison." He stated, somewhat shocked to hear her tell him she was going to be staying here. "It's not that simple."

"It is. If Victor did this to Thatcher, hurt him or tried to kidnap him, you would sever ties with him instantly, would you not? He'd be considered an enemy to the pack."

She saw him frown, knew she was right, everyone in this room knew she was right. "Well, Orien, Victor attacked your Luna's daughter, your Luna's grandchildren. As far as I am concerned, he is my enemy. Until you also reach this conclusion, I will remain here in the Black Forest Pack. If you insist on keeping your alliance with Victor...you'll find yourself without a Luna to your pack."

He was just staring at her now, shocked it appeared by her words, but he had heard her thoughts, everyone here had. She would also follow through. It was not a threat, their bond had been broken for weeks now. They both knew it. She did not want to reject her Mate and suffer the loss, to feel the pain. But she would do it if he couldn't show her that he was loyal to her. That he wanted to protect his Mate, and her children,

even if one was not biologically his. That should be important to him. But it was becoming clearer with every day that passed, he wanted Victor as an ally, regardless that Victor had attacked his Mates daughter, his stepdaughter and step-grandchildren as well.

She did not like this side of him at all, didn't even know where it came from really. Yes, they fought over the years, and it always seemed over Luci. This was no different, she realised. He was still against Luci, likely always was going to be, because she'd never bled Luci to him. Their bond was not family, it should be though. He had raised her, been there the day she was born and even held her, claimed that day to have a beautiful daughter.

There were many photos, fun-loving family moments of him and Luci, with all three of them, even now, as she looked at him, her mate gifted to her by the Goddess Selena herself. She had real doubts about him. For the first time she wondered, had it all been an act? All those years together, his relationship with Luci? Did he fake it, the entire time? She had only been willing to accept him as her Mate if he had accepted her child.

Up until now she'd believed he had truly loved her as his Goddess Gifted Mate, but the last few weeks were more than difficult, were hard to understand and she felt more than disappointed in him. She felt betrayed by him and his actions towards her.

His actions and words right here in this office, his claim to Luci, only because he knew what she was, already stated he'd find her someone to be Mated off to. He didn't want her, just wanted what she was, to get him a good strong alliance with a bigger, stronger pack. Thatcher was right, they couldn't trust Orien not to just mate her off to any old Alpha.

He had no idea about Sirens and their Mates, didn't even care about letting Luci find her Goddess Gifted Mate, just wanted to mate her off, like he always had, get that good deal for himself.

She stared hard at him as she really thought about that, he'd never really cared about that, letting her find her true happiness. Had tried to Mate her off at nineteen and then again at twenty. Two years was not a long enough time to find one's Mate. Some didn't find them for ten years or

twenty or more. Yet he'd been desperate to get her out of Nightfall and off of his hands, it seemed.

He was older than Luci when he had met her himself. She'd met him at 18, right before turning 19, and he'd been 26, so he knew one didn't always find your Goddess Gifted Mate quickly or within a year or two, it took him eight years to meet her. He'd just not cared at all for Luci's feelings or her happiness. Still didn't now it seemed, this disappointed her to no end, and not just her, but Fallon as well.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 48

Luci POV

Luci watched everyone file out of her Alpha and Beta's office, saw Jack was the last to leave, that he stopped and looked right at her. He'd been waiting for her outside the office when she arrived, had smiled at her even though she had noted he'd not looked happy. She'd know what ever was about to happen inside this very office he'd not been happy about. The way he had been out there waiting for her. She got the impression he was trying to let her know he was on her side of what ever was about to go down.

Now he stood and looked at her as they all left. He wasn't at all happy with Orien's trying to claim her as his daughter once more. Wanted to take her back to Nightfall, something she was never going to do.

She'd heard both her mother and brother state that she should not. Both of them had acknowledged that Orien was still allied to Victor and then she herself had heard him state "It's not that simple." Even she knew that, yes, it was that simple. She had grown up and been trained to take over.

Learned how things worked even though she had known it was all pretence on Orien's part, that he was just trying to keep her mother happy. She had been to allied meetings, seen other Alpha's disassociate themselves with packs for lesser reasons, lesser crimes and what Victor had done, was a crime.

What he had done to little Jack was a crime, and Orien knew it. She looked right at Jack for a moment, knew that he was worried, had real reasons to be. She'd also seen that look on his face before, she knew him well. 'I won't go back to Nightfall.' She mind-linked right to him trying to ease his worry 'Not ever.'

Saw him nod and relax a little before turning and leaving the office, pulling the door closed behind him so she and her mother could talk privately.

"I'm sorry Luci."

She turned her eyes to her mother. "Honestly, I didn't even think he'd want me back at Nightfall. So I'm not offended, mother."

"You should be, he would sever ties if it had been Thatcher who Victor had tried to kidnap, for whatever reason."

"Yes, I know." And she did know he would. Thatcher was his actual flesh and blood.

"Luci, I need to talk to you about Siren's."

"Alright. I am curious about them. I never learned anything about them in school."

"Not many do, Luci, usually only those that would have one within a pack...I didn't teach you anything and I'm sorry about that. I didn't want anyone guessing at your lineage. If I talked to you about them, you'd have asked a lot of questions. Orien would have wanted to know why I was teaching you about them as well. Likely figure out what your father was."

"You never told him?"

"No, I never told anyone." Her mother sighed heavily now, waved her hand around the room "for this very reason, Luci. He's now trying to claim you as his, solely because of the power you or Alari hold. All Alpha's want power, Luci. When it gets out, all Alpha's will want you."

“I don’t want any of them.” Luci shrugged, and she didn’t, was already attached to two men she couldn’t have, was not about to let some other come along and try and claim her solely for her Siren gene’s “They’ll likely only want the power of Siren-blooded Heirs.”

“That is very unlikely to happen, Luci. Sirens are not like other creatures.” Felt her mother’s hand slip over hers. “Sirens are not born with a Goddess Gifted Mate out there, waiting on them.”

Luci stared at her now, “Father was not gifted to you?”

“No, he chose me.” She smiled a little “I think from the first day he saw me. When I chose him back, loved him on my own terms, of my own free will. He told me he loved me, asked me to be his Mate. I said yes. That is how Sirens find their Mates, are always chosen.”

Luci sighed as she looked at her mother. She already knew that both she and Kali had chosen Rafe and Jack, they’d never wanted anyone else once here with them. Becoming their concubine had seen all of her s****l needs sated. She’d not needed anyone else in her bed. Now she understood why she was attached to them, how that had happened.

“You chose them, didn’t you, Luci? You and Kali chose Rafe and Jack. That’s why your still a part of their pack.”

She nodded, “I didn’t want anyone else.” Luci murmured sadly, still didn’t and she knew it. Had no desire to be with anyone at all anymore. Never even got that itch to scratch like she used to before them. They could never have another and she knew it, Kali knew it. Hell, even Alari knew it.

“Luci, I thought that they would choose you...it’s why I let you come here to be with them, didn’t fight it. They could never keep their hands off of you, even when warned multiple times not to.”

“It was always fun.” Luci nodded. “Not so much anymore.”

“Luci, Sirens. They don’t have babies with just anyone, only with their Mate, only after they have chosen each other and ...”

“And?”

“Once both parties choose each other, something happens Luci...The Goddess herself will grant them to each other. Then they become Goddess Gifted to each other. This is how it works for Sirens. I was your father’s Chosen Mate and when I chose him back, we were Gifted to each other. He knew, I did not. Was more than a shock to feel those Mate Bond sparks on my skin before he Mark and Mated me. Very cheeky he was.” Saw her mother smiling. “You’re just like him.”

Her mother reached up and brushed a hand through her hair. “Look more like him now too, he was tall and blonde...You, Luci, were created from a Goddess Gifted bonded pair. I loved your father, our time together may have been very brief, but I still recall how he loved me, how much I loved him.”

“It must be nice to have that,” Luci muttered. She was never going to have that herself. The men she loved, loved others. Were Marked and Mated and had found their Goddess Gifted Mates. She was not theirs, never would be. Had a hell of a long life of loneliness ahead of her.

“There is still time, Luci. I know things are hard for you right now, but perhaps one day things will be different.”

“I doubt it.” Luci sighed as she turned her eyes away from her mother to stare across the room.

There was silence for several minutes before her mother asked her quietly “Luci, honey, did you Mate yourself to them?”

Her eyes moved back to her mother and she frowned at her. She’d told no one that, not even Rafe and Jack, after it had happened.

“Did you go into heat and Mate them?” her mother questioned her further.

“Yes.” Luci sighed “But how could you know that?”

“Only a Mated Siren will have children. No Siren will have a baby with just anyone. There has to be a true connection, Love.”

“I’m screwed, aren’t I?”

Saw her mother’s very apologetic look. “If only I’d told you what you were, perhaps trusted Rafe and Jack with your lineage,” she sighed “Things might have been very different, but I didn’t want you being used by anyone, just because of your Siren gene’s.”

“Not your fault, mother. You did what you thought was best. To protect me. I was the stupid one, to think that they would choose me. Wouldn’t find their Goddess Gifted Mates, I felt like I belonged here with them. Let myself be deluded into thinking I’d never lose them. I was very stupid. Should have known better. I got lost in my own happiness and reality smashed me good and proper.”

“You’re not stupid Luci.”

“Yes, I was, I’m still Mated to them.” she felt hot tears prick at her eyes “I can’t undo that, I’m stuck with it forever.” Felt those tears spill over and dashed them away, found her mother’s arms around her.

“It’s why you can’t leave.”

“Can never leave, I was as far away as I could get, couldn’t go any further than the other side of the lake, without it hurting terribly.”

“I’m sorry Luci,” her mother whispered, also sounded sad now. “I’ll see to it that you get a place further away. Now that I understand better.”

“What does it matter? I’m still going to have to see them together at some point. At least, I don’t feel it when they are with their Mates. The bond was not completed properly and, not being my Goddess Gifted, I suppose you could say the Goddess spared me that much. Should be thankful for it right.”

“A small blessing I guess.” Her mother sighed heavily.

“I guess you could call it that.”

“You didn’t sever yourself from them?” her mother pulled back and looked at her.

“I have not. I would need to reject them in person, I imagine. I don’t want them to know just how stupid I was. To think that I could keep them.”

“It’s not stupid Luci. You loved them.”

She said nothing to that at all, there was no point, I was her problem to deal with, and there was nothing she could do about it. Had been this way for many years now. She had learned to deal with it. It was just now that bit harder to do right this minute. Due to being inside the actual pack itself. Having to smell them, see them, talk to them or hear one of them inside her head.

Knowing that at some point and likely soon, she was going to have to see not just them, but them with their Mates, knew what Mated pairs were like, how affectionate and loving towards each other they were. Really didn’t want to have to see that at all.

But it was inevitable, though perhaps a house well away from the packhouse was a really good idea. Out near the lake would be nice. “Do you think I and the boys could get a house near the lake?” she asked after some time.

“I don’t see why not? You’re more than capable of looking after yourself and the boys.”

“That we are.” Luci agreed.

“Ask them, I’m sure it will be okay.”

She didn’ know if she wanted to ask them, she’d barely said a word to either of them, didn’t really know what to say. Didn’t even know if she should be apologising for keeping the boys from them. Though that was never really a decision she argued about with either Kali or Alari.

They were their boys, always were just hers, theirs. A little piece of the men she loved and could never have, and she wasn’t about to go giving them up now. It hadn’t really even been a decision she realised now. She’d left and those precious boys were theirs and no one else’s. Had not

even thought about going back to birth them inside the pack. Never even spoke to the boys about their fathers.

It had been her, Kali and Alari, and their boys, and that's just how it was. It had hurt sometimes, felt the pain of not being with them and Alari taking over to get them through it, but they'd never thought of going back. Had a feeling until yesterday, Alari wouldn't have allowed it. Only did now because Victor had managed to take her down and injure little Jack as well. They were vulnerable and Alari had thought they were not up until that moment.

"Mum?"

"Yes, Luci."

"If I wasn't, you know...Mated to them. Would I just be alone forever, with no Mate out there?" she asked, curious about that now.

"It is likely." She heard the sadness in her mother's voice.

"Will the boys be the same?" Looked right at her mother now, she didn't want them to always be alone, like she was going to be.

"I don't know to be honest. They are hybrids Luci. They could well already have Mates out there. Or they could be able to chose like your father did and be gifted a true bond."

"How did you know you went from chosen to gifted?"

Saw her mother smiling now. "That was easy. Not only did I feel those sparks of a true Mate Bond, but I could scent him, just moments after I accepted him. He smelled like rain on the lake. He was also a bit naughty. He knew what would happen, us getting gifted to each other. I loved him truly like he did me. He sat and waited for me to realise it, smiled right at me when I did, then claimed me properly."

"Were you mad at him?"

"No," her mother chuckled softly, "I was actually really happy, whacked him good and proper. Then he explained it to me. How it was for Sirens.

He was more than naughty and cheeky sometimes. It's where you get it all from. Why I just smiled at you all the time, never worried or chastised you. You reminded me of Lucian all the time. I loved that. You, Luci, are my piece of him, like I guess the boys are for you and Kali, a piece of the men you love. But can no longer have."

"I wish I had gotten to meet him."

"So do I Luci, so do I."

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 49

Jack POV

He stepped out of his office and looked right at Orien the moment he clicked the door shut behind him. How that man could say 'It's not that easy.' Was beyond him. Addison was completely right, and he also knew it. Jack knew that Orien was not going to sever ties with Victor over this. It was pretty clear to all. Not even his own son thought that he would do it.

Any loving Mate, regardless the relationship was nonexistence, between him and his stepchild, should want to sever ties with anyone hurting his Mate's offspring. This man had no regard for Luci, even though he had just tried to lay claim on her. If she accepted him, Jack just knew that man still wouldn't sever ties with Victor.

He mind-linked right to Rafe 'I want Orien gone from this pack. Now.'

'Agreed.' Was the simple reply.

The man was prowling only a few feet away from them, waiting for Addison and Luci to come out of the office. He was probably out here hoping that Addison was in there trying to sway Luci into returning to Nightfall. The man had no idea he was s**t out of luck, still thought that because Addison had yet to sever ties with him and break their bond, he was going to get what he wanted.

Jack hoped that both those women stayed in that office all day, it would keep them both away from the selfish a*****e that Orien had turned into. He'd always known he was a chauvinistic pig, but now he was seeing the a*****e he truly was. He did not want Luci anywhere near this man at all.

“Orien.” He snapped, allowing his anger at the man to be heard by everyone. Saw the man stop walking and look right at him. “Go and pack, I want you gone from my pack within the hour.”

Saw the man's eyes widen momentarily. “Be reasonable Beta. My Mate is here, Luci...”

“Luci is not your concern. She hasn't been since she was 20. Seven years now, I believe.”

“I'm not leaving.”

“Oh, yes you are.” Jack rapped out “Or I'll be ejecting you myself. Addison stated she was not going to go back with you. Wants you to leave herself. So leave. I don't want you here in the pack anymore. Your allegiance to Victor will not be tolerated by me, by this pack.”

“I've yet to talk with Victor.”

“I don't care. Pack and go.” Jack snarled right at him, felt Flare push his Beta Aura at the man and found Rafe's hand on his arm.

“Calm down a little.”

“I will not. It is clear he's not going to sever ties with Victor and the Bloodless Moon Pack. Is likely in league with him, would willingly hand Luci over to him just like he tried to do before.”

“I would not hand her over to Victor,” Orien protested.

“Flare and I think you lie.” He shot right at the man. “I will give you one hour, starting from now. If you're not gone, it will be war.”

Now he saw Orien's eyes go really wide, and then move to Rafe. Knew that he was going to try and have Rafe over rule his decision. What Orien didn't seem to understand was that Rafe wouldn't do that. He didn't want Luci leaving this pack anymore than Jack did right this minute.

She would not only be safer here in their pack, neither of them trusted Orien anymore, and they seldom argued about alliances or the ending of one. If one of them wanted out of an alliance, was unhappy with it for whatever reason, then the other simply agreed. It usually meant that they were both unhappy about it, but one had voiced it earlier than the other was all.

He didn't even look at Rafe, didn't need to. Moved his eyes right to Thatcher, he'd actually been a good brother in there. "You can see your sister and mother anytime you wish. Your father, however, is no longer welcome here in the Black Forest Pack. Unless he proves his allegiance to this pack, by severing all ties with Victor of the Bloodless Moon Pack. For not only that attack on this pack, the attack on the future Heirs to this pack, for the attempted k*****g of their mother, an Alpha female that resides within this pack of her choosing."

His eyes moved back to Orien "59 minutes and counting. You might want to move your a*s."

He saw that man's wolf surface and snarl right at him. Flare snarled right back, as did Solar, for that matter. Orien wouldn't win this one. He heard Thatcher sigh and then the boy stepped between them: "Father, go. We don't want a war with Rafe and Jack. It would only take Allen to lay hands on you, you'd die instantly."

"Your mother is here." Orien grated out.

"Yes, and going to stay here from what I can tell. You have not helped the situation. Just move."

Watched as Orien glared right at his own son and then just turned and stalked away up to the first floor. "You'd better bloody pack." Jack snarled after him.

“Calm down Jack. He’ll go.” Rafe stated calmly “He can’t win against us.”

“Yes he will go.” Jack muttered “Or I’ll have our witches teleport his a*s into the middle of the lake and sic Alari on him.” He turned and looked at Rafe. “How can he still want to stay allied to that savage?”

“I don’t know, Jack.” He sighed, “They were allied long before we were. We’ll cut our alliance as you wish. But remember your words. Thatcher is Luci’s brother. Perhaps we should ask Luci how she feels about severing ties to Nightfall.”

“I doubt she’ll care. Doesn’t like Orien.”

“But she loves her brother, and he’ll take over one day,” Rafe reminded him.

Jack frowned. “Well, perhaps we can reinstate it when Thatcher takes over, but not before. If Thatcher is not allied to Victor, that is.”

Rafe nodded. “A good idea, but let’s actually ask Luci, what it is she wants when she comes out of our office, hey.”

His eyes moved to their offices closed door, “What do you suppose they are talking about in there?”

“I don’t know. It is private, hence the use of our office, something from mother to daughter. But it could be almost anything at all.” Rafe looked right at him, then stepped over and hugged him “Everything will be alright, it’s just a hard right now. Time is needed.”

“I don’t know.” Jack sighed and he didn’t. He felt so very different right this minute, all he could think about was Luci. It was almost like he was all consumed by her, and it wasn’t just him, it was Flare as well. Flare wanted her from the moment they had laid eyes on her. Something in them had changed and he knew it. Flare knew it.

Neither of them even liked being away from her right this minute. Just having that closed door between them was bothering him. Neither he nor Flare wanted even that between them. It was weird, to say the least.

Heard Rafe sigh “Breathe Jack, your starting to get all worked up.”

“I know, something is different. Even Flare is agitated and can’t calm down. Orien’s blatant disrespect and disregard for Luci is ticking him off. Then he dares to try and claim her. It’s not just me that’s pissed off. Flare is furious with that man.”

“I can feel it. Come on, let’s get you a drink. Calm you down.”

“No.” he shook his head “I need to see Luci.”

“Jack, you and Flare have a Mate. It’s not Luci, yet you’re acting as though she is your Mate, getting all worked up like she is. You need to take a breath and try to settle yourself.”

Jack nearly glared at Rafe, Flare damned near snarled at Rafe, that she was his Mate or would be. Jack had to check himself and take a minute to actually try and calm down, sighed at his own wolfs thoughts. Rafe was not wrong, he was becoming possessive of her, but he couldn’t seem to help it. It wasn’t just him though, it was also Flare that missed her and wanted her. They both wanted to lay eyes on her right this minute.

He didn’t feel connected to his Mate at all, she was not here in the pack and she didn’t even like him. He didn’t believe their bond was ever going to be what it should be. It was broken and practically non-existent at this point. Both he and Flare’s interest had been raised the moment they’d seen Luci in the lake, and they’d not even been a hundred percent certain it was her.

Once it had been confirmed, nothing else mattered to him or his wolf. He hadn’t touched Maria since laying eyes on Luci and Kali, and he had confirmed it himself, she had no interest in touching him before she’d left. They were done and he knew it.

Regardless of what Rafe wanted, he and Flare knew deep down that Luci was it for them, she always had been, he’d always wanted her and only held back because Rafe had never agreed to claiming her. They’d always wanted a mate to share, he knew he should have just claimed her for himself.

That way Rafe wouldn't have had a say in the matter. If Jack had claimed her for himself it was likely Rafe would have too, and then none of this would be happening. She would have been theirs, and both their boys would have been born here inside of the pack as well. Raised the right way, by all three of them.

He felt Rafe walk him to a chair and practically pushed him into it. "Just sit, Luci and the boys, we'll protect them Jack. I don't think she'll willingly leave here to go back to Nightfall."

"She won't, already told me, before I left the room," He commented. She'd looked right at him and known what was wrong with him, could still read him. That was a nice feeling.

"What?" Rafe blinked.

"She mind-linked to me."

"That is good Jack. It's the first time she's actively connected to either of us."

"She knew I was worried. Was trying to reassure me. Why she would do that? After what we did to her, I don't know. It really should be the other way around. Don't you think?" He sighed.

"Yes, it should." Rafe agreed as he sat next to him. "We'll talk to her, you and I, you know this. We're still just trying to give her a bit of time to settle back into the pack once more. She needs that, we both saw it, know this."

Jack did know that, but he hated it at the same time, having to stay away from her when all he wanted to do was hug her, comfort her. Right from the day he'd met her he'd wanted her. Not been able to stay away from her, hadn't wanted to. Didn't want to now either.

The minute Orien was out of this pack, he was going to be looking at better accommodation for her and the boys. There was something itching at him and Flare, another thought about where she should be. But he

knew he couldn't act on that without Rafe knowing. Perhaps plan it on his own. Both he and Flare knew it was a given, just a matter of time.

He saw Rafe frown right at him and realised that the man could feel something of what he and Flare were thinking. Closed himself off to that train of thought for now, Rafe was too close to him for him to think about things like that without him picking up on it. Watched as Rafe's eyes went wide "Jack?"

"It's nothing, don't concern yourself with it." he murmured. But it wasn't like him to cut Rafe off from his thoughts, or Solar from Flare for that matter. But the things inside his and Flare's mind were going to make changes within their pack and he knew it. Also knew it would be he who started those changes, not Rafe. Wondered how that was going to affect his and Rafe's bond to each other.

He looked at his watch and mind-linked to Allen and Ian about Orien being evicted from the pack, that the man only had 50 minutes to leave or it was all out war. Neither of them sounded particularly surprised by his remark, and they appeared in the packhouse foyer a few minutes later with both the boys.

He felt a calm wash over him at just the sight of them, they were both laughing and smiling. He smiled at them both, their boys so perfect, it filled his heart with love and joy and not just at the sight of little Jack but at little Rafe as well. They were walking between Allen and Ian, clearly had no concerns about either of the men. Allen held little Rafe's hand and Ian had little Jack's hand as the boys walked between them.

Little Jack smiled right at him and Jack, on pure instinct, held his arms out for his boy. Both he and Flare wanting nothing more than to hold their pup right now. Saw his own son run right over to him and picked him up and settled him on his lap, started talking right away about all the things he'd seen and done down in the entertainment zone.

Such a natural father-son moment to have, little Jack had no hesitation at all in being with him here. He understood not only who he was, but that his father loved him as well. Was happy to know him and be around him.

Jack encouraged him to tell him about all the things he'd seen, what he'd done and who he'd played with down in the kids' zone of the packhouse. Offered to take him and little Rafe on a full tour of the pack later today or tomorrow.

That not only made his boy smile up at him, but little Rafe as well, felt his hand on his arm. "Is it big?" little Rafe asked.

"It is." Jack smiled down at him, little Jack was sitting on one knee, he pat the other and felt even happier to have little Rafe climb up onto his lap as well. Felt even Flare be happy with having the two of them on their lap. Smiled from one to the other and then just hugged them both to him before settling back on the couch and into a conversation with them both about all the things that they would get to see.

Both he and Flare were more than settled by having the two boys on his lap. It made both of them happy and Jack realised as he sat talking to them and listening to them talk to him and each other that he didn't just consider little Jack his, but little Rafe as well.

Both of the boys were his as far as he and Flare were concerned. They had not one son but two.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 50

Rafe POV

He could understand where Jack was coming from, wanting Orien out of their pack. He was in complete agreement with him and Jack knew it. Orien was going to be gone and quickly, right from the moment that he had stated he was going to take Luci back to Nightfall just to mate her off.

What the hell kind of stepfather was he? He didn't want her in his pack, but wanted her back, just to mate her off to make himself an alliance with some unknown Alpha. Even Rafe knew that the man did not care

whether it was something Luci wanted, hadn't even asked her, just stated it like what he wanted was all that mattered.

Not even he would put it past Orien, he realised, to have him go home and call Victor and tell him to just come and get her once more. He hadn't once even looked at all concerned, only continued to state there was no proof it was Victor, until they had produced Gary's body itself.

Even then, the man had only frowned, yet still hadn't pulled out his phone and called that man. He could have taken that hour before this meeting was had, to call Victor and ask him what was going on. Why he'd tried to take Luci, get an explanation, but he had not.

Rafe sighed, Luci could never ever go back to Nightfall, not even to visit her brother. It wouldn't be safe not ever. Orien, it seemed, was not to be trusted at all. Not even Addi seemed to trust him anymore. Even Thatcher didn't think so right that minute, he'd shown some real Alpha qualities today in that room.

He'd not liked being shoved aside by Thatcher or being told to move out of the way, but today Thatcher had read the room right and made the right decision, to try and intervene, even against his own father and Alpha's wishes. Showed good growing leadership qualities.

He might just make for a good Alpha himself one day. If Orien ever gave control over him, that was. That man could well reject his own son for the disrespect he had shown in that meeting. He'd certainly rejected Luci for less. Rejected her not for her lack of Alpha training or leadership skills. She'd had those, did her training. Though as he thought about it he didn't recall Luci having been sent off to Alpha College, like Thatcher had been.

Though he believed that was more to do with Luci never being, in Orien's eyes, the actual future Heir to the pack. So he'd simply not bothered to send her, didn't waste a single cent on the girl if he didn't have to. Likely, Rafe thought now, that man had always had the intent to just mate her off out of his pack.

Luci was right, Orien had not even given her the chance to find her Goddess-Gifted Mate. Two years was nothing. Not enough time to find a Mate. Not when he never let her out of the pack to go to mating balls, which Rafe did know he'd not done only ever allowed to attend those in their home pack. It was weird.

When he really thought about it now, Orien himself hadn't met Addison till he was 26, that was an 8 year wait for a Mate and he and Jack had not met their Mates for 21 years. They had been 39 when they found their Mates. It took time and years of patience to find one's Mate if you weren't one of the lucky ones to find one right away.

He sat with Jack, waiting for Orien to pack and come downstairs to leave. He did not like Jack suddenly cutting himself off from him, neither did Solar, who snarled his annoyance right inside Rafe's mind. Not once in all their lives had Jack ever cut himself off from them. Whatever he'd been thinking about, he didn't want Rafe or Solar to know about it, that was not who they were.

They had always been connected, strongly bonded together, not even their Mates had been able to stop the connection between them. Though he was certain that Melissa hated how close he was to Jack and wanted them not to be like that. Knew Melissa wanted nothing to do with Jack.

He knew she would be happy if Jack up and left the pack, even. She'd once threaten Jack, to sever his tie to her twin. This only made Rafe wonder what she thought would happen if she did that? She probably thought or expected him to get rid of Jack. Little did she know that would never happen. Her twin would be the one expected to leave.

Though it had been Jack's reaction that solved that issue, he'd simply laughed right at her, knew Rafe would never ask him to leave. Told Melissa he'd banish her twin the instant she did. He'd seen Melissa's mouth snap shut that day, and she'd stalked away, ticked off her threat had meant nothing.

Realised he thought that she would end up worse off than Jack was. She had snapped at Rafe later on that night. "How can you let him speak to me that way?"

Rafe had looked right at her “How can you think to threaten my Beta’s bond?” he’d asked right back.

“She’s my twin.” She’d shot at him.

“Jack was born here, on the same day as me. Belongs to me.” He’d told her.

“He’s just a man. I’m your Mate. You should want what I want.” She’d yelled right at him.

He’d smiled right at her, “Really, as your Mate. I should want what you want?”

“Yes, of course you should.” She’d yelled.

“So, by that reasoning, Melissa. You should also want what I want.” He’d told her and she knew exactly what he’d meant. Jack in their bed.

Had seen her glare right at him, she had not misunderstood his meaning, had turned and stalked away from him, he’d called out after her “So, that’s only a one-way thing, is it?”

“You should want me to be happy.”

“And so should you where I am concerned. Jack in our bed would make me happy.”

She’d stalked back to him and screamed right in his face “You’re not getting that, Jack will never touch me, I hate him.”

He’d stared right at her “Right.” He’d snapped himself and left the suite, had gone right to Luci’s room that night and slept there, had slept damned well in there too.

She’d been so pissed off when she’d seen him coming out of Luci’s room that she’d gone home that day, back to her father’s pack, had taken Maria with her and not come back for a week. Had never apologised to him or to Jack for that matter, just ignored what she’d said, to the both of them, blipped over it like nothing had ever happened.

He watched as Jack sat with their boys on his lap, one on each knee, smiling at them, talking to them. Watched him just hug them both and knew instantly Jack was bonded to both of them. Both he and Solar were happy to see this. The two boys calmed Jack and his wolf right down and he was once again open to them.

His eyes, though, moved to little Jack and he understood why, suddenly, though she had twins, one to each of them, or it appeared that way, both were considered his and Jacks. He realised they both had two sons each, not one.

Felt happy about that almost right away, reached out a hand to touch little Jack's arm and the boy looked at him and smiled up at him, held out both his arms to him. He'd not held little Jack yet, and wondered if the boy would come to him. He watched with happiness as little Jack smiled right at him and then moved over to sit on his knee. Let Rafe hug him, ruffle his blonde hair. Liked that he could feel connected to both the boys in the same manner. They were both his as they were both Jacks.

He hadn't realised it until this very minute, not until he saw Jack with the two of them, how connected he was to little Rafe as well as little Jack. It was likely that the boys would call them both dad, when they were comfortable here inside the pack. He was more than a little excited for that to happen.

Though the boys did appear to already be happy here, he got the impression this was their normal state. Likely they were always happy and smiling. Despite how they were raised, with almost nothing. They knew what love was, that their mothers loved them, it was easily seen by all how much Luci, Kali and Alari loved them.

He found both Allen and Ian sitting down to watch them with the boys. "You two look really happy." Ian smiled at him.

"The happiest I've seen the two of you in years." Allen agreed with him.

Rafe reached out a hand and put it on Jack's shoulder. "I am happy," he stated, and he was.

It was the happiest he had felt in a very long time. Even felt his bond to Jack was stronger than it had been since they'd spent the night together here in the pack. Jack just nodded and went back to talking to the children.

Though he did see him check his watch several times, and nearly chuckled as he realised Orien was on an actual count down and that Jack was going to hold him to that sixty minutes, to get off pack territory.

It wouldn't take that long to pack, likely ten minutes if that. But it had been nearly 30 now, wondered just what he was doing up there, was he trying to call Victor and get answers to save his alliance with them. Or was he just trying to see if Jack was bluffing? Rafe knew Jack wasn't.

"Allen, could you please go up and let Orien know he's down to thirty minutes, and remind that man just how long it takes to get from here to the front gate as well." It was a good 20 minute drive, so that gave him just ten minutes to get his a*s in his car and leave.

He saw Allen nod and get up to go and do just that, knew Orien would understand him sending Allen, it was a veiled threat, to leave or Allen might just lay hands on him. No one wanted that, certainly not Orien. He would just become a bloodied red mist, make one hell of a mess in the packhouse.

Then Allen's Mate's would all turn up to see what the hell had happened to their Mate, and could well take it out on the rest of that man's unit. Making for even more mess up there on the first floor.

He watched as Orien, Chad and Milton came down the stairs. Orien looked more than ticked off, Thatcher and Cathy strolled along behind them, he was chatting to Allen, picked up on that he was wanting the man to look out for Luci and any signs of unhappiness, to please call him, he wanted to know.

"You're being completely unreasonable Jack." Orien snapped right at him. Didn't even care that their children were here with them.

“Am I?” Jack stood, shifted little Rafe to his hip but didn’t put him down. “I don’t think so, Victor is now our enemy. He should also be yours, as your own Luna stated, yet you don’t consider him that.” Jack was speaking quite calmly.

Orien looked right at him now. “You’re just going to let your Beta tell me, an Alpha, what to do? Sever our alliance, your Beta?”

“I am.” Rafe nodded without getting up. “Because Jack is not just the Beta, we run this pack together. You are fully aware of that. I am also in complete agreement with Jack, with Addison, with Thatcher himself. Victor would be your enemy if it was Thatcher or even Cathy there, if Victor tried to take either of them. Yet you don’t show the same courtesy to your own Luna’s daughter. That you helped raise her from the day she was born, no one outside of your pack, not even Thatcher here, knew she wasn’t yours. Till today. I understand that Luci is not your flesh and blood. That you kicked her out at twenty and for what? Not wanting to be mated off to Victor at your insistence.”

“Your cruelty to your own stepdaughter is unbelievable. Thankfully,” Jack stated, “she now knows you’re not her father, and has no tie to you.” Rafe even heard the smile in Jack’s voice. “She’ll never go back to Nightfall, has told me so already.”

“Wait and see Beta, Luci won’t stay here with you once your Mates come home. Where else would she go, but to her mother?” Orien stated, sounding a little smug.

“Who is here, for the foreseeable future?” Rafe commented, a smile now on his lips. “We’re happy to have her as well. Please leave Orien.”

“Our alliance?” he grated out.

“It is going to be all up to Luci,” Jack told him. “What she wants, we’ll give to her.”

Saw anger flare in Orien before he stalked from the packhouse. He understood Luci would likely sever ties with him, and that would leave Addison here for the foreseeable future, as Rafe had stated.

“Thatcher, you’re still welcome here.” Rafe told him. “As is your Mate.”

“Thank you.” he nodded before leaving as well.

Allen and Ian saw them out. He looked up at Jack, both he and Jack had remained amicable, didn’t want to get all angry in front of their boys. Didn’t know how they would react to that, both of them had come to Addison’s aid yesterday.

It was not nice to sever an alliance, but it was likely going to happen, they would actually let Luci decide. Addison could well go back to Nightfall after some time. Her son was there after all. Severing ties might not be something Luci wanted, she might just decide never to go back there and have nothing to do with Orien. But she might want the affiliation because of her brother and mother.

He didn’t know, only time would tell.