

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 51

Addison POV

Addison felt Orien connect a mind-link to her, could even feel his anger and annoyance as he told her that Beta Jack was forcing his hand, and making him leave the pack. Told her she needed to go with him. She, however, was not going to go with him. Had no intentions of leaving anytime soon. Reminded him of just that.

She then felt more anger roll off of him and directed at her "I'm your Mate Addison, you are the Luna to Nightfall. Jack is threatening war if I do not leave. You'll be here as a bloody hostage, we're leaving."

"You're leaving. I'm staying, I am welcome here. Love Luci, and want to sever ties with Victor and his Bloodless Moon Pack. It is you who can't seem to see the truth. Or acknowledge he is a savage and a brute. Would force himself on my daughter."

"Addison, Victor and I have been allied for a very long time, before you and I even met. He is a good strong ally to have."

"Yes, and is a complete brute who loves battle. But that is all you care about, isn't it? Don't you care in the slightest about what he did to Luci? To her boys?" she asked with the small hope that he would say yes to her.

"I'll speak to him, Addison. We'll talk and he will explain to me what has happened."

"And that's it! is it? I want to sever our ties with him. Do your Luna's and your Mate's thoughts on the matter not count at all?"

"Of course, they do, Addison. But Luci has also not been a pack member of Nightfall for many years, 7 as Jack reminded me. He did not attack us, Addi, or a pack member either."

"Is that right?" she closed herself off to him. He was never going to agree Victor was in the wrong.

“Yes, they are the actual facts, Addison.” He told her frankly.

“He attacked not just my daughter though. My grandchildren as well. Does that not count at all? Your own Luna’s flesh and blood?”

There was silence for a long moment: “I’ll get answers for you Addison, I promise. Please come home with me.”

“Not now.” She answered “Go if you don’t want war. Think carefully, Orien, about what it is you want. Victor or me your Mate and Luna. They are your only options as far as I am concerned.”

“Addi please!”

She cut the mind-link to him. He didn’t want to choose. Wanted to have both and she knew it. But he couldn’t have her and keep an alliance with a man out to kidnap her daughter. Already knew deep down inside, this was it. They were likely to be over and their Mate bond was going to be severed.

She could feel Fallon’s sadness at the fact that their Goddess Gifted Mate wasn’t going to choose them, over a pack alliance. Even her own wolf knew that man was going to pick Victor over them. What Mate rejected one for an alliance, was power more important to him then his own Goddess Gifted Mate. Did he not love her at all?

It certainly didn’t feel like it right now, she had no choice but to stay here and wait it out. See if he did actually call Victor and get that explanation he promised her, or try and talk her around to Victor’s reasoning for doing what he did.

It wasn’t going to be enough and she knew, just talking to Victor and getting an explanation, she wanted away from him to sever all ties to him. Orien, however, did not and she knew it. She needed to start preparing herself for the pain she knew was coming. At least she could stay here with Luci and the boys.

Addison knew that Rafe and Jack would never ask her to leave. Would tell her she could stay here, initiate her into their pack right away even. She

was not just Luci's mother, was a pure-blooded Alpha, and was good and strong. Knew how to fight, to k**l and could even disconnect herself from the emotion of battle. That was Lucian's venom in her veins, a part of her Siren Mate that would always be with her no matter what.

Though as she looked at her daughter sitting next to her, she knew already she would choose Luci as her Alpha, it is what would have come naturally if Lucian hadn't died, "Luci honey, I'm likely going to be staying here with you. When that happens officially, I am going to want something from you."

"What do you mean mum?" Luci looked at her, and Addison could see the sadness in her daughter. She understood it meant she and Orien were over.

"For you to accept me as your pack member. Alari as my Alpha." She told her and saw Luci's eyes widen considerably.

"Mum, I'm not..."

"Yes, you are, Alari is an Alpha Siren. I feel stronger just being near you and her. If your father Lucian had lived, you would be his heir. Would have taken over and I would have pledged my loyalty to you. I still want that." Addison told her honestly, it was not only the truth, it was what she wanted now.

"Mum, I don't know how that would work. If Rafe and Jack would accept that?"

"They will. I do, however, need you to go somewhere with me though."

"Where?"

"To our pack, your father had a ceremonial blade. It's tied to your bloodline. We will need that to do the initiation."

"You said you didn't know where it was."

"I don't, not really. But I'll find it, then you'll have to let Alari search the lake and hunt for the blade. I can't do that, only Alari can."

“Mum!”

“If the worst happens.” She sighed heavily. Reached out a hand and took Luci’s hand in hers. “We’ll wait on that, a week I guess is long enough, though a day should be all it takes to call and sever ties.” She knew it would only take one phone call, but the real question was, would Orien do that at all? She didn’t know.

“Alright.” Luci nodded “Alari is happy to do this for you, also a little excited to see her father’s lake. Though you need to know, Alari is of the opinion that she is the Alpha Siren of Lake Pend Oreille. It is where she was born, has claimed it for herself.”

Addison smiled now. “That does not surprise me at all.” And it didn’t, she’d not been born here inside this pack, but out there in the lake somewhere. Her daughter’s Siren had no real connection to this pack. Likely some sort of connection to Alpha Rafe and Beta Jack, through the twins, but was not attached to either of them, as were Kali and Luci. Though she would understand both of their feelings towards the two men.

Likely knew that Kali and Luci had mated themselves to the two, but she herself was another matter altogether, could well consider herself mated to them as well. Who knew? Alari would be a law unto herself, had been unchecked by anyone or anything since the day she was born.

Her only real connections were to Kali, Luci, the twins and now Addison herself.

She wondered if Rafe and Jack would be able to bond with Alari at all? Did not think so at this point. Alari may not ever feel the same about those two, but then again, she wouldn’t have been born into this world without the utter heartache of those two either.

Poor Siren was likely very confused. Could well be mated to those two because Luci and Kali were, but not feel anything at all about them at the same time, because she had not been a part of the process. Luci had stated she didn’t want another, which to her meant Alari had never gone

off to mate with anyone. Didn't have the drive Luci had growing up, that Siren need to mate anything and everything to sate their Alpha needs.

If that was the case, then Alari was likely also mated to the two men through Kali and Luci. It was just one giant screwed-up mess, for all three of them. Alari understood her two counterparts' pain, likely also felt their pain as well, but just accepted it because that pain had set her free.

Addison was now curious if Alari wanted to roam and sate her needs, or was she simply happy being a mother and nothing more. She wanted to ask that very question, but did not. Would spend time getting to know her first, watch how Alari was with Rafe and Jack. That would probably tell her something about her siren daughter.

"Do the boys swim?" she asked, changing the subject.

"They do, are good swimmers actually. Why?"

"Just curious is all. Wondering if they will be like Alari, have a siren shift as well."

"I don't know." Got to watch as her daughter's eyes flicked between the three of them talking amongst themselves, Luci's green to Kali's green and then Alari's all black, it was amazing to look at, she'd never seen it before, was unique and pretty to Addison.

"They don't know either," Luci stated.

"Interesting thought though." She smiled "Considering they can use their siren call in wolfen form."

"True hybrids." Luci told her simply.

"Wow, I wonder if those wolves of theirs can swim then?"

Luci shrugged, "Alari and Kali are of the opinion they're special, but don't know that themselves. I get the feeling they would love that though."

"Wait and see huh?"

“Yes, but not today or any time soon.”

“Why not?” Addison asked curiously.

“Because Rafe and Jack will not likely want that, their sons out swimming in the lake. If that is the case, the boys will want to do it all the time, I think. They will worry about the boys.”

Addison chuckled now, “Like either of them could make you or the boys do anything you don’t want to do. Luci, you are a pure-blooded Alpha, are stronger than Rafe.”

“I may be that. But I’m not out to hurt him. I also don’t want to overthrow them. I’m not interested in being the Alpha of a pack mother. It was never something I ever thought I would be either.”

“But you were born for it, Luci.”

“Maybe, if my real father was alive. But never did I think Orien would hand me the Alpha chair. And I’m not really interested. To be honest, I just want to live quietly and peacefully. Make the boys smile and be happy. That is all that matters to me anymore.”

Addison sighed but nodded. Her daughter was born to be an Alpha, but didn’t want that at all. Likely Orien had driven that out of her. Wouldn’t be here because Rafe and Jack had Mates.

Had stated earlier that she wouldn’t be rejecting them, solely because she’d have to do it face to face. Didn’t want them to know what she’d done. Was now just sadly living with it. It must hurt her a lot every single day, but was dealing with it, had chosen to live this way. Addison even knew why. Luci and Kali still loved them, and didn’t want any other for themselves.

Addi wondered just what Rafe and Jack would do if they found out Luci had mated herself to them. Would they regret it? Would they ask her to sever ties with them? Or would they want to try and keep it? They had Mate’s already, but Mates that denied them. Were weakening them, k*****g them in her eyes. If they knew about Luci, and opted to choose

her for themselves, they would become stronger once more. Luci would never deny their true nature, neither would Kali. Both Solar and Flare would be able to Mate her wolf at will.

Claiming Alari would be their biggest obstacle. Not even Addison knew if Alari would allow that, it was a lot to sit and think about. And think about it she would.

She needed to help her daughter, help this pack as well, in all likelihood. Something was going on here with those two and their Mates. Though what exactly it was? Only those two women knew. She was also now curious about those witches that lived here. Why didn't they know? Did they know but didn't do anything about it and if not, why not?

Something was definitely going on inside this pack. She was going to have to look and listen. Wait and watch to see if she can figure it out.

She felt Orien connected with her one more time. 'Addi, I love you. Please come home soon.' He sighed a little on the heavy side, she said nothing at all in return. 'I'm off pack territory, I will call Victor, I promise, the minute I get home.' Then the link was cut.

Thatcher connected to her almost directly after Orien. 'Look after Luci and her boy's mum. Especially when that Luna comes home. s**t is going to hit the fan.'

'I know, and I will be. Thank you for loving your sister, Thatcher. I love you my boy, I'm here if you need me.'

'I love you too.' He cut the link.

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Luci POV.

She walked out of her Alpha and Beta's office to find both her boys with their fathers, just sitting in the foyer, bonding, she thought. As she

realised, they were each holding the other's child, not their own. Both her boys looked at her and smiled "mamma."

She smiled at them and they squirmed to get down. Both of them ran over to her, and were talking excitedly about their time in the play-zone. She knew that it catered for all the packs children's needs, everything from books to board games and gaming consoles for them to play.

They would have enjoyed being there. It wasn't something that they were used to, but being so active all the time, they would have absolutely loved it and she knew it. They ran around a lot back at their house, or swam in the lake. They had often gone walking in the woods in summer time.

"You both had fun. I see." She smiled at them.

"Yes, can we go back?" they asked right up at her.

Luci nodded, this was their home now, so there was no reason at this time they couldn't. "Yes, anytime you like, for the moment." She didn't know if she would let them once the Alpha and Beta's Mates came back. Wouldn't be trusting them around her boys, didn't know them, what type of women they were. How they would react to this news? Didn't think it was going to go down so well.

She watched them run off through the foyer and down in the direction where the play-zone was. She walked after them.

"Orien is gone, Luci," Rafe told her.

"I'm aware, mother informed me." She nodded but didn't stop walking.

"Luci." It was Jack. "May we spend time with you and the boys today?"

"It's your pack. You can go where you like." She commented, and heard him sigh.

She couldn't and wasn't going to stop them from being with the boys. But she didn't have to interact with them herself, or talk to them. Her mother linked arms with her as they walked and she looked down at her. She'd

stated she felt stronger with Alari by her side. That was a full curiosity to her.

She watched both boys run off to play with the other children in the room, saw no hesitation during the interactions either, likely the same children they had played with when down here previously, with Allen and Ian. She knew that was where they had been during her family meeting. Luci strolled over and sank down at a table to just watch them.

“They’re always happy, aren’t they!” her mother commented.

“Yes,” Luci nodded “Till they’re not. They do have tempers occasionally, though not very often, only when in pain mostly.”

“They are a lot like you were at that age.” Her mother smiled at her.

“They make friends very quickly and easily.” She heard Allen’s voice, and turned to look at him. Hadn’t been paying attention to who was following them, the entire Alpha Unit it seemed. “When we brought them in here, they just ran off to play like they knew everyone.”

“They like most children.” Luci nodded, “Have a lot of friends at their school.”

“Luci, may Jack and I speak with you about that...the boys’ schooling?” Rafe asked her.

“No need. I already know they can’t go back.” She stated, looking over to the boys “It’s likely you have already enrolled them in the school here, yes?”

“I have.” Jack told her “It’s much safer for them, Luci.”

“I’m aware of that. I will have to go and close out their human school.”

“No!” both Rafe and Jack stated together, at the same time. They sounded a little on the aggressive side to her. Though hearing them speaking together sent a little shiver down her spine, the twins did that a lot.

She turned and looked at them with a raised eyebrow, and saw Rafe sigh “It’s just too dangerous for you at the moment, Luci. We don’t know if Victor is still out there or if he has men watching and waiting for you in town.”

She frowned “No one else can do it.”

“You could call them.” Jack told her.

“Or I could take Allen with me.” Her eyes moved to the pack’s Gamma. No one who knew this pack would ever attempt to harm him, it was a death sentence “Allen?” she asked him.

“If the Alpha and Beta agree,” he nodded. “Happy to take you.”

Her eyes moved back to them. “I also have a job in town.”

“Would you be willing to quit it?” Jack asked her. “It’s not safe there, that is where he found you.”

Luci nodded, “Likely get fired anyway, for the damage done.”

“Actually.” Rafe sat down at the table with her and her mother, sighing a little on the heavy side. “Your employer didn’t make it. She got hit with Alari’s Siren call, I’m sorry. Hannah and her sisters cleaned up. The town believes there was an earthquake, and that is what set off all the car alarms and shattered windows.”

“She died?” Luci sighed, she’d not meant for that to happen, “She is married, has children.” Felt a pang of guilt rise up.

“We’ll take care of her family, Luci. No one is aware it was you. All the cameras in the area were scrubbed, and any humans who saw the boys lost their memories of what they saw.”

That didn’t really help her with her guilt. She didn’t want to hurt anyone, with the exception of Victor. She had never had cause to use that siren call inside a building before. Never seen the true damage it could do to a building that had glass and mirrors everywhere.

“Did anyone else get hurt?” she asked, “By the boys?”

“No humans that I am aware of, other than your boss, she was the only death reported.”

“Explain.” She stated flatly, didn’t like the sound of that.

“Victors Beta is dead, by either little Jack or little Rafe’s siren call. I’ve not had time to watch any of the footage from the town’s cameras. It was retrieved before being scrubbed. I’ll check it later today.”

She sighed and her eyes moved passed him to the boys. She was glad Gary was dead. She never liked that man, had seen him beat a wolf once, one of his own, to death. He’d let that man heal up a few times before being allowed to die. She didn’t know why, but Victor had not stopped him either.

They were both cruel men. One less of them in the world was better for everyone “Victor?” she enquired.

“I don’t know the extent of his injuries, but he did run from Astral when he presented himself. I’ll check the footage and if you want to see it, I’ll let you, of course.”

“I will want to see it. Alari and Kali as well.”

Luci looked at him and stared right at him, had to ask the question she did not want an answer to, “Do they have siblings?”

“No.” It was Jack “Rafe and I have no other children. Just the twins. Do not worry about a rivalry for the future Heir, Luci.”

“I’m not.” And she really wasn’t. If they had other children, they would choose whoever they saw fit to be the Heir to the pack. It was more about if they did, would they be allowed to interact with them, would those other children’s mothers allow it? Allow all of them to get to know each other.

She had seen just how quickly they attached to their kin, their Grammy and both their fathers, that family bond within them appeared to be very strong. It would likely be with siblings as well.

“They are our only children, nothing will come between them and us, Luci,” Rafe told her.

“We’ll wait on that, I guess.” She stated. His and Jack’s Mates were both going to have issues with the boys, likely herself as well; if they knew what she had been to them once. She had no idea if they had told their Mates about her, or even mentioned in passing they’d once had a concubine.

“Nothing and no one,” Jack told her, sounding very sure of himself.

Her eyes met his, and she thought to herself absently that he shouldn’t make promises he couldn’t keep.

“Mother will likely be staying for the foreseeable future.” she said, ignoring his statement, ignoring both of their statements.

“Addison is more than welcome to stay here,” Rafe stated, “For as long as she likes, regardless of the outcome with Nightfall.”

“What is that going to be?” she asked out of curiosity.

“Jack and I have decided that will actually be up to you, Luci. We do understand that Thatcher is still in Nightfall, that Addison is still the current Luna and Mated to Orien. We would like to sever ties with that pack, to show you we are on your side. That we will not ever tolerate what Victor has done to you, to the boys. But we thought we’d better let you think about that yourself. We didn’t want to just cut you off from your Mother if she goes back, or your brother Thatcher either.” Rafe told her.

That was considerate of them, she thought, and turned to look at her boys once more. She didn’t want to ever have anything to do with Victor, didn’t want that man coming anywhere near her boys ever again either. But it was true Thatcher was down there, he would one day take over

Nightfall. "I'll think about that one, I guess." she stated. It would be nice to have her brother visit and when he took over, perhaps if they weren't affiliated with Victor, she could go for visits, that might get her out of this pack for a few days. Though even she knew being more than an hour away from her Alpha and Beta caused her chest to hurt.

Though she knew the boys had not really taken to Thatcher at all, had looked at him but not seemed at all interested in interacting with him. Wondered if they didn't feel a family bond with him. He was only her half brother, so therefore, he was not a true blood relation to them. There was no part of him that was Siren. So of no concern to them perhaps. Wondered if they would come around to him, if she and Thatcher could get back to their happy family bond, thought about that, and knew it was likely so.

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She sat and just watched the boys play with the other children for a long time, didn't concern herself with the Alpha and Beta, or his Unit for that matter. She just sat there at the table and chatted with her mother, and watched the boys. It wasn't just her watching them interact with the other children here in the room. Both Kali and Alari were interested in watching their boys, and the way the pack children were with them.

They were playing just like Allen had stated, freely with anyone that was around them. She got to watch them laugh and see the other children here in the pack shiver and then giggle at the sensation it caused in their own bodies. Shake it off even, she saw a few of the older ones really look at the boys, their curiosity pricked, it seemed, by the sound of their laugh. Some of the younger ones here were being watched by their teenage siblings. A few here had their wolves and would understand that the boys already had a beast within.

Realised that neither her Alpha and Beta had announced their boys to the pack. "You haven't told the pack about them?" she stated.

"Not officially yet." Rafe answered her. "We are waiting on that."

“For?” she was curious herself,

“The reaction of our Mates?” he shook his head. “they don’t know yet, not being here. If it doesn’t go so well...” he trailed off.

It didn’t sound as though he thought it was going to go down so well. She looked from him to Jack and could see the concern in both of them over this. It was not likely a good idea for her or the boys, to be anywhere near the packhouse then. She didn’t want to be as close to it as she was now. She would have to see them with their Mates. But the concern coming from them over this, gave her even more reason to not want to be in that cottage, in line of sight of the packhouse. She also knew exactly where the Alpha and Beta Suites were in the packhouse. Both of them could step out onto their balcony and see her cottage, which meant that so could their Mates.

Didn’t really need time to think about it anymore, just voiced what she was thinking. “I’d like to look at a different house, something away from the packhouse.”

Watched as Rafe frowned at her now and knew why, he would want his son and Heir inside the packhouse. Where he was safe and could be protected in the event of an attack. Not anywhere away from him and the packhouse, as she had just stated. She, however, did not want to be anywhere near it. She also understood that she no longer belonged inside of it as well. Was nothing to them anymore, just the one that had birthed them children.

Luci certainly didn’t want to be insight of it, nor earshot of it either. If they left a window open, up in their suites during the night, she did not want to hear them with their Mates at all. She had a feeling both their Mates would do that as well, to try and show her who they belonged to. That there was no place for her, she was nothing to Rafe and Jack. Not that she needed to be told that, she already understood it. But she also understood a Mate’s possessiveness.

“Luci!”

“Somewhere on the lake would be good, with all of us.”

“Luci, anything on the lake is too far for us to get to you, an hour at full wolfen run. We’d not get there, to you or the boys, in time if someone came for you.” Rafe shook his head.

“We can defend ourselves.” She stated simply.

“That is a given...but Victor still knew how to take you down, take Alari down, it is not something I am comfortable with.” Rafe was telling her with a deep frown.

She turned her eyes away from him, watched the boys for a long time as she thought about that, then stated simply, “I need somewhere for Alari. That lake is her home.”

“Here is her home.” Rafe told her.

“No it’s not. She was not born here into this pack. Was born out there in the middle of the lake. That is her home.” she stated flatly, a little annoyed with him, “You also can’t stop her from going there.” she half smiled to herself, knew he could not.

“But.”

Luci felt Alari push forward and stare right at him “Do you want to try? I don’t think you’d win.” She was not only asserting herself but challenging him, Alpha to Alpha, Luci thought, there wasn’t much she could do about it. Didn’t really want to either, Alari needed her lake, and they needed to learn Alari was not to be messed with.

“Let’s all just calm down, take a moment.” It was Jack and she heard him sigh “Alari, would you be willing to compromise? Just for now? What about a place along one of the creeks that lead to the lake?”

Alari turned and looked right at him. “I will be in the lake at my own choosing.” she informed him in much the same manner she had just spoken to Rafe.

Saw him just nodding “I’m not saying no to that. We’d just like you, Kali and Luci, as well as the boys closer to us, here inside the pack or the packhouse.”

“Luci and Kali don’t want that.” Alari stated flatly, telling him with full certainty what she already knew of her and Kali’s feelings about being this close to them. She then stood up still in full control as she looked right at him. Was about to make her point very clear to both of them. “Boys.” Alari called to them and both of them came right to her, “Let’s go.”

Alari understood her and Kali very well, but both she and Kali sighed now. Neither of them could really control Alari and she was, it appeared, ready to leave. Had enough of talking to them. Held her hands out to the boys as she looked right from Jack to Rafe, she was actually letting the two of them know that the twins would do whatever she wanted.

She was their mother and more bonded to them than they were, regardless of the fact they were getting along, they had no say in anything to do with the children, that it was her who was in complete control. Was an Alpha and was not going to be pushed around by anyone, not even the two of them.

They left the packhouse with Alari in full control and she walked them all back to the cottage that was theirs for the moment, didn’t even attempt to relinquish control until she was inside that cottage and the door was closed behind her.

Luci nor Kali didn’t really want their Alpha and Beta to know how they truly felt, it could cause them to question her. Make them curious as to why not. Though she guessed she could put it down to just being the twins and their Mates, surely they’d believe that? They had no reason not to at this point.

“Luci, perhaps we should let Alari wander around the pack, she might find something that she likes, for now.” Her mother spoke to her.

“It is likely a good idea.” Luci nodded, though she could already feel Alari’s opinion, she wanted a house right on the lake. “Might not help though, she likes the lake.”

“I understand.” Her mother nodded “But she also has to take into account, you and Kali. You can’t all just live in the lake because she wants

that. I understand Sirens' love their bodies of water, but you're not just a Siren, you are also a wolf."

Luci thought about that. They could very well end up living in the lake all the time if that was what Alari wanted. She and Kali would have no say in it. Though Alari had never minded leaving Luci in control and only shifting at nighttime, neither did Kali, for that matter. She was generally in control of her own body most of the time. "Alari will do what she thinks is best for all of us." Luci told her mother "It is what she does."

"What do you mean by that, Luci? Explain it to me please."

"She is our protector, all of the time."

Watched as her mother frowned now "Explain that further."

"It is just that. No matter what, Alari is the one to protect us, defend us, is the strongest of the three of us."

"She has complete control, you mean, over you and Kali."

"Yes, when she wants it. Though mostly they are inside my mind, and I am in control. Alari will assert herself and take control of the situation if she feels it's necessary. That Kali and I need that, I suppose."

"Is that just what happened, you and Kali weren't coping?"

"No. That was just Alari trying to put them in their place, the polite way."

Saw her mother nod now, smiled slightly even, "I do have a question, Luci. That I'm curious about?"

"Ask." Luci nodded.

"You were pregnant when you left, yes? How far along?"

"A few weeks, why?" Luci nodded.

"Alari shifted to her Siren but it didn't hurt the pups."

“It did not. She protected them during the shift.”

“How?”

“I don’t know.” Luci shrugged, “we were able to shift the entire time we were pregnant, to both Alari and Kali.”

She saw her mother really staring at her now, “That is not normal.”

Luci shrugged, “Alari and Kali both knew the pups would be alright, it didn’t seem to concern them, I trusted them both on it.”

Watched as her own mother prowled about the cottage for a long time, she was thinking and trying to sort through her knowledge, Luci supposed, thought on it long and hard, looked at her many times, tilted her head a few times, then went back to pacing around until she stopped right in front of her and stared at her.

“Did anything unusual happen when you shifted while you were pregnant?”

“Um, I don’t think so.” Luci shook her head no.

“What about the first time shifting to Alari? Tell me about that.”

“Nothing to tell really. I went to the lake and was called by her siren song. Dived down into the water, couldn’t breathe, tried to and sucked water in, then it was just a whirling and tumbling sensation, before everything kind of blinded me, so very bright and then there was Alari.”

Saw her mother frowning now “Blinded you? very bright?”

“Mm.” Luci nodded “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing.” She shook her head, “I might need a minute to think on that is all.”

“Alright.” Luci shrugged it off.

Though now that she was focused on that particular thought herself, when she thought about it, every time they shifted while she'd been pregnant there had been a glow about them. "Mother, if it helps, every time while pregnant and shifting, we glowed, I guess you could say."

Her mother was really staring at her now.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 54

Jack POV

He was back in his office, sitting at his desk. "You need to relax a little around Luci, Rafe. Alari is not at all attached to you or I, to this Pack, and from what I have read, if she was born outside this Pack, then she is unlikely to consider this to be her Pack at all. It is not her home as you told her it was. The lake could be considered hers to her, she's the only Siren in it. She is also Alpha-blooded, the lake will be her own Pack, she may well even have a name for that pack."

"Jack, that lake is too far away."

"I understand your concerns, I really do. I don't want them out there on the lake anymore than you do. But until Alari accepts it here, she is going to challenge you at every turn. She is not only an Alpha, Rafe, but clearly in charge of all of them. You saw what happened in the town, it was Alari who took over. Walked all the way back with the boys, the same as it was today. She can take control at will and stay in control. She is likely the strongest of them. I'll get you some reading material." He offered, the man was going to need it, or end up in a fight with a Siren at some point.

Heard Rafe sigh now, maybe he understood "Probably a good idea. How is it you just seem to understand, know what to say and do? Where they're concerned?" He asked him.

Jack laughed softly now "That's easy, I'm not the Alpha. I don't have the need to control everything. Dominate everyone. I want for Luci, whatever she wants. I want her needs to be met, not mine. And right now, that's just to not be around the packhouse when Melissa and Maria return home. Is preparing herself for that, I think."

“And you got that from what?”

“Exactly what she said. Wants to be away from the packhouse. She said it yesterday when out by the mudroom, she can’t stay here, I think she meant in the packhouse. Then Alari stated it plainly, ‘Luci and Kali don’t want that.’ I don’t think this is solely just about you and I. It’s also about seeing us with our Mate’s I believe. She doesn’t want to see that and I don’t blame her either.”

He saw Rafe nod. Neither of them could blame her for that one.

“It is likely she saw us come home, we just didn’t see her.” Jack sighed “The last place she saw us was likely here in the packhouse. With our Mate’s at that.” That was starting to bother him more now too. That they’d not called her. Why hadn’t they?

“You just need to ease off, Rafe, and try not to present yourself as a challenge to Alari, or perhaps any of them. Kali and Luci are also Alpha-blooded. You have to remember that at all times, it can be a little hard. I understand because Luci never really bothered about her rank when she was here, was just happy to be herself. But her Siren is very strong. You’ve seen it. She is all Alpha, just like you.”

“I know what she is, Jack. I also know she made Solar bow down to her, outranks me with ease.”

“Then just stop trying to tell her what to do. Some things will be okay. Others not so much, it’s going to be a matter of figuring out what is acceptable and what is not is all. Like enrolling the boys in the pack school, she knew we would do that, and was okay with it. It was acceptable to not only Luci but also Kali and Alari.”

“Likely knows us very well.” Rafe nodded.

“More than likely,” Jack nodded. “It is also likely she knows it’s safer for them...we do, however, need to give her the chance to go and close out her human life. Let Allen go with her, she will be safe with him. She seemed happy to ask him to go with her. Knows she needs to do it herself, found an option that suited her as well.”

Rafe sighed and nodded “Perhaps one of us should still go with her. She might have some explaining to do. Those two boys ran from their school and have not returned.”

“You want to go, don’t you?” Jack shook his head, a little frustrated with Rafe. “Just let Allen go with her, it is what she requested, it’s best to just let her have what she wants right now.”

“One of us should go with her, Jack.”

“I understand Rafe. Please, for just this once, let it go.”

“Jack.”

“The boys will stay here, with Addison. Will that help your need to not be there and control the situation?”

“Unlikely...it’s not only about the boys, Jack. I worry about Luci. Victor clearly knows more about Sirens than we do. That is of great concern to me.”

“There are men in town, watching for anything out of the ordinary, not just the scent of another pack or rogues. Looking for new people who don’t seem to belong in the town, as well as anyone that doesn’t have a scent at all.”

“It’s coming up for the summer holidays, that is going to be a lot harder to do, come two weeks time, and that town is flooded with human holiday makers.”

“Agreed, but we could have her do it this afternoon, or tomorrow before the weekend comes.”

He was watching Rafe, saw him nod slowly, the man had been in charge of this pack for nearly two decades now, had been in charge of it ten years before they had met Luci, when she’d been 18. They’d been 36 when they had met her, and he’d already been in charge since he was 26. It was hard to relinquish control of any kind over a pack member, even another Alpha-blooded one.

The man was now 45 and finding it hard to relinquish control when he knew she needed protecting and that was his job. He was so used to being in charge, that he just didn't know how to take that step back and breathe. Not when he had children to protect as well as their mother.

And not just from Victor, though that did seem to be his biggest concern right now. But Jack knew that Rafe also wanted to protect her from being hurt while here inside this very pack that she belonged to. She was their pack member and theirs to protect at all costs.

Watched as Rafe got up and walked over to the pack model, which sat against the far wall, as he stood staring at it, appeared to be deep in thought. "What are you looking at?" Jack enquired after several minutes of silence from the man. He got up and walked over there himself.

"Somewhere for them to live. That will make them comfortable, I guess."

Jack looked at the map himself. The single dorms were out of the question, no parent lived in them. She might be single, shook that off, didn't know if she would go about sating those needs of hers with any of their pack members, didn't want to think about it to be honest. Didn't know how he nor Flare would react to that even. Had absolutely no right to react in anyway, but his gut was squirrely just thinking about it. Pushed that thought aside.

He looked at the central part of the pack, where most of the family's lived. They had two large playgrounds down there and the primary school as well. They didn't really have many available homes at this time.

There were only five with blue pins in them, indicating that they were empty. One was on the main road through the pack, not likely to be a good option, seeing as both Melissa and Maria would use it.

There were two that backed right onto the forest, a few streets away from the main road itself, and one right next to the school itself. The other was the cottage she was currently in, and didn't want to be in, when their Mate's came home.

Rafe reached out and touched a house on a creek. That creek Jack saw, ran all the way to the lake, that creek flowed quite well all year round, was not that wide but was at least waist high most of the year. It was not a regular house here in the pack either, it was a good 30 minute walk from where they were. It was one of the homes that their pack families used for private celebrations. It was actually a really nice four-bedroom luxury split-level house.

A lot of mated pairs used it for anniversaries, or private birthday parties for their children. There were several homes along that road, it was on the eastern side of the pack, so closer to the lake itself.

Jack smiled as he realised it was the most luxurious house inside the pack, it would be akin to the Alpha floor. There were 10 homes out there and all here in the pack were allowed to use them, though with their pack being so large, they were booked by the pack's reservations system. They'd had to have one due to everyone wanting to use them once they had been built.

They had learned the hard way, years ago, when they'd been built, that it caused arguments about who was getting to use them. So they had created a new position here for several pack members and a reservation system had been set up for those ten homes. They were like holiday homes.

"I like that one. But I'd be willing to bet it's fully booked for months in advance," Jack commented.

"Let's find out and see what I can do about that. It's a good place for her and the children. Secluded and away from the packhouse, like she wanted. Yet still has the luxury of an Alpha Suite, which she is entitled to."

"I've not seen our two Mates go there either. So that's a good choice."

Rafe nodded, "I'll go and speak with Noel, and see just how many deals I'll be making in short order to free it up if Luci likes it." he smiled.

Jack watched him leave the office and smiled himself. He did like that Rafe wanted Luci and the boys to have the best possible accommodations there were here in the pack.

He sank back down at his desk and clicked into his email, smiled at the return email from Alpha Bradley of the Black Haven Pack. It simply read 'I've talked with both West and Terence, we'll all be coming the day after tomorrow. I'm not affiliated with the Bloodless Moon Pack. Congratulations on your Heirs. See you Saturday lunchtime.'

He mind-linked right to Rafe after a quick reply stating he'd have rooms prepared. Let Rafe know that both their allies would be coming Saturday. He was happy about that, at least neither of them were off attending other alliance meetings and could come quickly.

Mind-linked to his head omega to have rooms prepared for their guests, made sure to have enough rooms to accommodate them and their units. Brad had not stated who he was bringing with him, but it was a given that the Alpha and Beta of the pack would arrive, but they could well bring their entire units from each pack. He would make sure to prepare for that just in case.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 55

Jack POV

He sighed as he watched Rafe shake his head, not even he believed that Melissa would have felt anything. They'd just been mucking around, nothing they hadn't done in the past 6 and half years of being mated to them. Melissa had never felt anything before now.

He'd also seen those two women practically smooch each other on more than one occasion on a dancefloor, they slow danced with each other and their hands wandered over each other. He nor Rafe had ever felt any pains of betrayal come from them.

Their touching was way more intimate than what he and Rafe had just been doing. Were literally just rough housing, as the man had said. Maria had also never once complained about it, feeling like he had betrayed her

and he and Rafe had slept in the same bed when they were away and off Pack territory. Had slept in the same bed just last night. In fact, woken up curled around Rafe had even hugged him and sighed contentedly when he'd woken.

Now, that, she would have felt, but didn't call him about it. Another curiosity to him. He wondered what would happen if he kissed someone else? Would she feel it, looked right at his Alpha and shook it off. Had never done that before, but was right this minute tempted to test it.

Looked at that man as he sat talking to a mated couple about giving Luci and the boys the Forest Creek House to live in for a little while if she liked it or until something that she liked could be sorted out or built for her.

He waited until that couple left the office. He was now itching to test it out, would Maria feel it if he did kiss another? She should, it would be considered a betrayal of their Mate Bond. Thought about it, Flare didn't even object to him thinking about testing it out. Got up and walked over there to his Alpha.

Smiled to himself, who better to test it on, could test both his and Rafe's bond at the same time. Slide his hand up Rafe's arm, soft and slow, smiled right at him when those blue eyes shot to his "Jack?" he knew his touch was seductive in manner, had meant for it to be.

"Trust me, I want to try something."

Saw his own Alpha stare up at him as he slid his hand up the man's neck, slowly along his jaw to brush a thumb over his mouth, as he leaned over the back of the chair "Just stay still." He smirked right at him. As his other hand slid down over Rafe's shoulder and down his chest, he slipped his phone from his top pocket and put it on the desk in front of them.

"Oh."

"Mm, go with it." Jack smiled right at him and then dropped both his arms around Rafe and just hugged him, really hugged the man. "Can I

hump you, Alpha?” he teased in a seductive tone. Allowed his lips to brush the man’s ear as he spoke.

Actually, got growled at a little and chuckled, turned his eyes right to the man. Their faces were just a mere inch apart, allowed his eyes to move to Rafe’s lips as his hands caressed the man’s chest.

Found his own Alpha’s mouth right on his, kissing him all hard and demanding, let him, kissed him back even. Heard the clearing of a voice and his head whipped up, and there in the office doorway was Petra, standing just watching them “Interesting!” she commented “Sorry to interrupt.”

Heard Rafe clear his voice, Jack just smiled and guessed the humping thing could well happen at some point. It had been his Alpha who’d kissed him, slid his thumb along his own mouth and walked away back to his desk, still smiling.

“Yes Petra?” he heard Rafe state all Alpha.

“Just thought you should know, your parents are on their way back. I finally managed to track them down. In Spain, living it up from what I heard. You’ll have a few days.” She looked from Rafe to Jack and back to Rafe. Pointed from one to the other “To sort that out before they get here.”

“Nothing to sort out.” Rafe informed her.

“Hmm, I’m gay you know.” She raised an eyebrow at him, “You two are bi, I’m guessing.” Then she just strolled out of their office and closed the door behind her.

Jack smiled as he watched her leave, “Just bloody great Jack. Look what you did.”

“Yes look what I did.” He chuckled, and leaned back in his chair, put his hands behind his head and reclined himself. He knew exactly what he’d done.

“She’ll tell them, you know.”

“So what? Do you really think it will shock either of our parents to hear that you kissed me?” His eyes moved right to Rafe, fully amused with himself and what had happened.

“I did not. You kissed me.”

Jack laughed now. “Deny it all you like, I was thinking about it, but you acted on it.”

“I knew what you wanted.”

“I know, but still. It was you who kissed me.” He grinned to himself “That was all your doing, Alpha.”

“Shut it. You started it.”

Jack knew he had, also knew that Rafe’s phone was not ringing and neither was his for that matter. Pulled his phone out and waved it right at Rafe “I’m not getting a call, come on she called you just twenty minutes ago and we were just mucking around, wrestling was all. That kiss should have gotten her undivided attention, don’t you think? Maria’s as well. I’m not ringing.”

He saw Rafe look at his phone and frown “Yes, I kissed the hell out of you.”

“Nothing though, isn’t that odd?”

“It is.” Rafe frowned.

“So, why did she call? What was the purpose of it?”

“I don’t know.”

He dialled Maria’s number, thought it was going to ring out, but then she answered “Yes, Jack.”

“How are you?” he asked.

“Busy about to go for a massage, what do you want?”

“Nothing in particular.”

“Then why call?”

He rolled his eyes, “Sorry I bothered you.” he stated flatly and hung up. “She didn’t feel a thing.” He stated “Something is off Rafe, like really off.”

“What do you think is going on, Jack?”

“I don’t know, but whatever it is. My bond to her is practically non-existent. I don’t currently feel like I have a Mate.”

“Jack.”

“No, I’ve really thought about it, I’m not attached to Maria right this minute. Flare has no interest in Delilah, never has. Yet Luci, if I’m honest, truly honest” he thought about it, “I want her, Flare wants Kali and Alari.”

“You’re Mated.” Rafe frowned at him.

“Doesn’t feel like it...” thought about that some more, how he actually felt within himself, with Maria not here and Luci back inside the pack. Looked at Rafe, really looked at him “I feel more connected to you today, then I have in the past few years, as well. Something is different.”

“We are closer, even I feel like our bond is stronger.” Rafe nodded “I feel less hollow myself.”

“It is definitely stronger,” Jack nodded.

They were both quiet for a long time, both thinking about it all. “We haven’t spent the night together here inside the pack in years, it could be that.” Rafe offered up.

“I guess,” Jack nodded, but deep down he didn’t think that was it. Those Mate’s of theirs had done something to them. He didn’t know what but was willing to bet whatever it was, was starting to wear off. Those two

women knew it, he always felt more connected to Maria when she came back from her home pack.

They had met them there, in their home pack and seemed to have forgotten about everyone and anything when they'd met them. Nothing else had seemed to come to his mind. He didn't even remember about Luci. Thought about that in itself, hadn't even remembered Luci when they had gotten home. Hadn't thought to call her, to tell her, so she wasn't just blindsided. He wouldn't do that to her.

That wasn't like him at all, to just forget about Luci, he'd loved Luci, he would have called and told her, he wouldn't just blindside the girl. Had wanted her for his Mate, had before she'd even been their concubine. He still loved her and he knew it. Felt Flare lift his head and he himself stood up, as he realised he Loved Luci, Flare loved Luci.

They both loved Luci.

“Jack?”

“They did something to us.” He stated “I don't know what.” He shook his head.

“They didn't Jack. We scented them out remember, at the same time, on a full moon.”

“I know that.” Jack nodded, from his own recollection that is what happened. He picked his phone up and looked at it, took all of a minute to think through and decide on a course of action. Texted Titan “Kiss my Mate, good and proper. Then text me ‘yes’ after you have done it. Don't think about it, just do it.” the man likely couldn't report what he was seeing, but should be able to do as asked and respond with a simple yes reply.

Sat himself back down to wait for anything to come to him. It took nearly an hour for his phone to chime “yes”.

“Are you safe?” he texted right back.

“Maybe.”

“Be safe, protect yourself at all costs.”

Something was going on alright, he'd felt nothing at all. That man had just kissed his Mate and Jack himself had not felt a single thing, he should have felt pains of betrayal but hadn't.

He sat and stared right at his phone, understood right now that Maria and her family had done something to him and to Rafe as well. He wasn't certain of what exactly it was, but he knew it now.

He was still holding his phone, staring at it, when Rafe's hand fell on his shoulder. “Jack?” he looked up to Rafe.

Held his phone up so Rafe could read the text messages, he'd been in this room the whole time with him, knew that he'd not felt a damn thing at all.

“Perhaps we should bring him home!” Rafe frowned after reading them, registered Titan's, maybe, to the safe question. “You didn't feel anything.”

“Nothing. I don't love her either.” He stated simply and he knew he didn't, likely whatever they had done to he and Rafe, had to be redone all the time. That was why those two always went home. Likely why Flare never attached to her wolf, she was not actually his Goddess-Gifted Mate.

Something else was going on, had been for a very long time. His brain was ticking now, like crazy in fact. The way she blamed him for not getting pregnant, the way she never wanted to touch him, but let him touch her. the way she didn't like Rafe, the way their suite was decorated.

He was not her Mate, he was willing to bet, he'd bet his share of the pack on it right this minute. She was playing at being his Mate, but why? They had done something to him, to them to make them believe they were their Mates.

This was why it had taken those two so long to warm up to he and Rafe, why they wouldn't let them share them. Those two women were not their

Goddess-Gifted Mates. He didn't understand it at all. How could that happen? And if it had to be redone, why didn't they have to be there for it? It had to be something they took with them, brought back with them. Likely kept in their suite.

Stood up and headed for his suite, whatever it was? It was in there, it had to be he was going to find it. something that was always there, never moved, but now was not going to be in the suite. That question now was, had he paid enough attention to Maria's things over the years to recognise what was missing.

He'd stopped paying attention long ago to all the pink crap she put in that suite of theirs, hated all of it, literally made him sick to his stomach, sometimes going in there to that stupid pink and floral suite.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 56

Rafe POV

Noel stared right up at him as he told her what he wanted to do, to have her clear out the Forest Creek house, as it was known to the pack. To allow Luci and the boys to move into it permanently. She was just staring at him, didn't look all that happy right this minute, and he knew why. It was likely to be booked solid for months in advance.

He sat down and said "Show me the damage, Noel."

She'd sighed heavily, understood that it was going to happen regardless of what anyone here in the pack wanted. Or who had booked out that house for the foreseeable future. Noel was their accommodation and holiday reservations manager.

She had two others assisting her at all times. They were a large pack and she didn't just deal with inhouse accommodations. Any pack member could come to Noel or her team and request that she help with booking them on a family holiday or cruise or wherever a pack member wanted to go.

Noel was in charge of this office, it was her department and he left her to run it pretty much as she saw fit. She had a hospitality and management degree behind her, and was good at her job.

“Alpha, it is booked solid for the next six months, all in advance.” She told him “every weekend and some of the days during the weeks as well. It is the most popular house to go to, to celebrate in luxury.”

“I’m aware of that, Noel.” He told her and he was, it was why he was here himself to discuss it.

“Wouldn’t Luci and the twins be better off inside the packhouse? A nice suite up there somewhere on one of the top two floors. I can bring up all the available suites for you and Jack to check out.”

“Luci doesn’t want to be inside the packhouse.” He stated simply.

“Oh!” he saw her frown, then sigh a little on the heavy side a moment later, “I see.” She stated quietly with a nod. Seemed to understand after a moment’s thought as to why.

“I want something that is fitting for her status. She is Alpha-blooded.”

“And the twins are the Heir’s.” Noel nodded, “I haven’t seen them yet but I heard they look just like you and Jack, cute as buttons.” She smiled at him.

“They do and they are.” He smiled at her. “So, the Forest Creek House is suitable for all of them. It is our most luxurious house within the pack. That is not in the packs central town. She’d like to be away from the packhouse and the pack centre, from what I can tell.”

“I can see why she would want that.” Noel commented quietly, with a slight nod, then she took a breath in and pulled her blond curly hair up into a ponytail, rubbed her hands together “Let’s see who all our guests are, some I think will be more than open to relinquishing their time in the house for Luci and the boys, more so than others. Some will be annoyed. You know this, right?” she looked at him.

“I do, but it is my pack and those ten houses. I had them built for the purpose of keeping pack members happy, so that they could have a bit of real luxury inside the pack. So they didn’t have to leave the pack to get away if they didn’t want to. There are nine other homes they can use, are there not!”

“There are.” She nodded as she started looking into it for him.

“I will also be offering compensation to all those who need it. Perhaps a trip or accommodation at a human resort for them and their families.”

“That is a good compromise, they will like that. Though they do like to stay here, that’s why you built those houses in the first place. For those that don’t like leaving the pack unnecessarily.”

“I’m aware.” He nodded.

“Do you want me to print the list out for you, or do you want me to start working on those pack members, making the needed mind-links to start sorting this nightmare out for you?”

“Print me the list, along with the reason why they want the house. If it’s there, I’ll sit down with Jack and we’ll try and figure out a good compromise for each family using the place.”

“When do you want it cleared out by?” she asked, though the look on her face told him she already figured she wasn’t going to like the answer.

“Tomorrow. So you might want to send whoever is using it to my office right away, if they’re unhappy. Just ask them to come and see me. I’ll explain it to them myself. Try to keep the irate yelling away from you, huh! But then it’s up to you to try and see if all others will use one of the other homes. If not, or you get a really unhappy ticked off wolf. Shut them down, direct them to make an appointment with their Alpha and Beta. Tell them you’re sorry, it’s an order from myself as the Alpha to the Pack, any further questions they can take up with Jack or myself.”

“Alright, but you’re going to be very busy, just so you know.”

“To be expected.” Rafe nodded. He watched as she worked, then handed him a printout, saw her highlight a few wolves and knew why they would be the unhappy ones about not being able to use the house. Smiled at her and headed out of her office, stopped at the door. “Noel, is it in use now, like right this minute?” he could see the printout started from tomorrow.

“No, actually, not till Saturday. You got lucky on that Alpha.”

He smiled “Perhaps our Goddess is on my side today.”

He heard Noel snort with amusement “Won’t be from tomorrow.”

He chuckled to himself, she couldn’t be on everyone’s side all of the time. He was happy though as he walked back to the packhouse. A short walk from her office on the ground floor of the eastern singles apartment building.

Jack was sitting in his chair behind his desk. “Up, let’s go look at the house, it’s empty right this very minute.”

“Is Luci coming?” Jack asked him.

“No, I want to look at it first. It’s been awhile since I’ve been down there, and I want to see what needs changing for Luci and the boys, get that done asap. Show her we want her to be comfortable and that we are trying to accommodate all of their needs, not just ours.”

They got in their car and headed out to the Forest Creek House. It was a lovely split-level home that could house four couples, had four king-sized bedrooms on the upper level, each with its own ensuite. Downstairs had everything; a full kitchen, a formal dining room with a beautiful crystal chandelier, a large lounging room, a massive u-shaped lounge that would seat eight easily.

A projector TV that when turned on, made anything you watched feel like you were at the movies. There was an outdoor spa that seated eight and there was a nice, paved area with an inbuilt firepit and an outdoor barbeque area, and there were sandstone stairs that made their way down to the creek for swimming.

The entire creek side of the house, was all glass, giving a beautiful view of the creek and forest beyond. It was an amazing sight at times. In the winter with all the snow, and in the summer, sometimes out here, the fireflies in the woods made it magical to look out on.

Luci had not been here when any of these houses were built. So it would be a nice surprise for her to. The place was kitted out with the latest technology, the best appliances. To keep this as the most luxurious house in the pack.

The entire house had heated flooring and plush deep pile rugs, beautiful artwork on the walls and a gas fireplace in every bedroom. Each bedroom faced the creek and got those amazing views, though the windows were tinted so you couldn't look in from the outside, giving those inside full privacy.

Even the dishes and glassware in this house were of the best bone China and cut crystal. It was like a little mini packhouse, he thought to himself, there was no gaming room. But if Luci and the boys wanted one, he could turn a bedroom upstairs into a small gaming room. If Addison was to stay here full time she'd need a room as well and he knew she'd be wherever Luci was.

He walked around inside one of the bedrooms. They were all designed for adults, not children, were very plush and mature. "I think perhaps the bedrooms need to be more child-friendly."

"Likely so." Jack nodded.

"Might have to sit Luci and the boys down, to do some online shopping and get some furniture that suits them."

"Wise."

"What is it, Jack?" Rafe asked,

"She hasn't seen it yet, Rafe. You're planning before she agrees."

"Yes." He nodded "I know that, but this is the most suitable house."

“Yes, that is what we, you and I think. They might have other ideas. How about we just take one step at a time. Let them look at it.”

“Of course I’m going to.” He frowned at Jack. “You were on board just an hour ago, what changed?”

“Nothing.” He shrugged “I was happy. I am happy you chose this house. It is our best house. You just have to stop planning, they might not like it.”

Rafe glared at him, what was not to like the place was pure luxury.

“Don’t be like that. Your need to be in charge of her is going to be the biggest obstacle. You and Alari are going to b*t heads, I’m just trying to stop that.” Jack put a hand on his shoulder. “Take a tiny step back, show her the house, let them walk through it and keep your mouth firmly closed until they say yes, or no. Is all I’m saying. If it’s a yes, then ask about sitting and shopping.”

“You’re bloody annoying of late, do you know that?”

Jack laughed right at him. “Yes, but you really love it deep down.”

Rafe shook his head, it was Jack’s Alpha tendencies showing, he was more laidback, whereas Rafe himself was dominant and controlling when he wanted something. They actually evened each other out most of the time. He heard Solar chortle at Rafe’s annoyance, mostly because he did actually love it deep down. When Jack was all Alpha Male, they usually only saw it in the bedroom when they shared a girl between them. Hadn’t gotten to see him like that in a very long time.

Looked right at the man and saw him smirking “Now who’s thinking naughty thoughts?”

Rafe laughed himself, the man probably had no idea about the thought that was lingering, he was still thinking about Marking him to raise him to an Alpha status. Couldn’t do it without Melissa’s permission and she was never going to give that and he knew it.

“Come on.” He smiled “before Solar tries to hump you and assert our dominance over you.”

Jack burst out laughing and shook his head. Their wolves had never humped each other before. “I’d like to see him try.”

“Don’t tempt him Jacki boy.” Rafe chuckled at the man’s comment. Then put him right in a headlock. “You never know, you’re wolf might just like it.”

“Might get yourself bit.” Jack jabbed him in the ribs and it was suddenly a fight between them, right there in the living room, both of them trying to out muscle the other as they tried to take each other down. It was a good bit of rolling around and wrestling on the floor, until Rafe finally had him pinned to the ground underneath him.

“I’ll always win.” He teased Jack.

“Huh, perhaps I just let you win.” Jack teased right back, sounded fully amused to Rafe. He got up off of him and leaned back on the lounge. They’d not rough housed like that inside this pack in years, it felt really good. Jack sat up next to him and smiled, “Didn’t hump me, I see.”

Rafe looked right at him. “Want me to?”

Jack shook his head but was still smiling.

“Better not, both our Mates would feel that.”

“Hm.” was Jacks’ only response.

“Not back yet.” Rafe shook his head and wondered just when they would come back.

“Nope,” Jack shook his head once more, “I think that Titan is having an effect on whatever they are doing out there.”

“What do you think it is, that they are up to, Jack?” Rafe asked him.

“I don’t know exactly.” The man shrugged it off.

“But you suspect something?”

“Yes,” Jack told him and got up and looked around “We’d better right this place. It was neat and tidy before we came along.”

Rafe looked around himself, they’d knocked over a table and broken the lamp on it, the rug was all wrinkled and out of place, and part of the lounge was now not in line with the rest of it. He chuckled “We’d better send a new lamp over as well.”

“Noel, is going to pitch a fit.” Jack chuckled.

She didn’t, but when he mind-linked to her to have the lamp replaced, she simply sighed and muttered “you’ve been in that house all of 30 minutes.”

‘Ah, what can I say?’ Rafe had chuckled right back. “Jack and I got to rough housing.’

‘Bloody boys.’ She huffed and cut the mind-link.

He just smiled as they headed back to the packhouse, his bond to Jack was feeling stronger again, their old ways shining through, were making him feel more connected to Jack and he actually felt like he was getting stronger for it.

Looked at his phone and raised an eyebrow at it, then showed it to Jack. It was Melissa. That would be a first ever, her calling him. He was surprised she even had his phone number, didn’t think she’d ever once called him on the phone in the entire time they had been mated to each other.

“You’re in trouble.” Jack snorted at him and gave him a little shove.

He hit the answer button, “Melissa?”

“What the hell are you doing?” she shot right down the phone at him.

“Nothing currently why?”

“You were touching someone.” She snarled right at him.

“I was not. Just rough housing with Jack was all.” He told her truthfully.

“Well stop it. I don’t like it and you know that.”

“How did you even know?” he asked curiously. He didn’t think she’d felt it. She’d never brought it up before, when they rough housed in other packs.

“I felt it.” she practically yelled at him.

“Unlikely.” Rafe commented as he and Jack headed into the packhouse. He didn’t believe her, if she felt that she’d feel it when he really hugged Jack when they were off pack territory, especially after a battle and he really needed to hug him with all he had, all his emotions and their bond intact.

“I did.”

“It was no different to training,” he commented, “the same in fact. Just laughing involved. You didn’t feel anything. So why are you calling me?”

The line closed and he looked at his phone, she’d hung up on him.

“Oh, you’re in so much trouble,” Jack laughed.

“She didn’t feel anything,” he knew it. If she did, so would Maria and she’d also be calling Jack to demand to know what the hell was going on. She didn’t call.

He wondered himself now just what those two were up to out there in their father’s pack.

He called her back “What?” she snapped right at him.

“When are you coming home?” he asked casually.

“When I want to.” She stated coldly and hung up once more.

He sighed, it was alright for her to ask him questions, but not him to her.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 57

Addison POV

She was thinking about what Luci had told her as they walked through the pack, were casually strolling along, allowing Alari the chance to look around and get a feel for the place, not that she was up front and centre.

It was not normal that one could shift while pregnant. That was something that would, to a normal shifter, harm or k**l even the smallest of fetuses. Let alone what Luci had told her, that she had been able to shift the whole time while pregnant, into either Alari or Kali.

That was not a Wolfen or Siren thing to do! It could only be the witch's bloodline that she housed. Jack had used the word Triune and she understood what that meant, or was certain of what it meant in Luci's case, right this very minute.

Those witches were triplets or could be considered themselves as Triune, because they were three beings, separate from each other, but could also come together and use their powers as one when they needed to. Pushing and pulling power between them. Were considered separate, but together at all times, a Triune, so to speak.

She watched as the boys ran off to play inside the playground when they saw it. Yelling excitedly, she watched as Luci smiled at them and waved them off to go and play. She was finally starting to settle in and adjust to the pack.

Watched as several mothers turned and looked at Luci, one of them gasped and a hand shot to her mouth, then she was just hurrying over "Luci?". She stood staring up at her.

"Hi Olive." Luci nodded.

Addi watched as the woman hugged her daughter. "I'm so glad you're okay. I was so worried. Where have you been all this time?"

“In town.” Luci answered her simply.

Addi saw Olive’s expression, one of complete shock, “You’re kidding me, right?”

“No, lived in a place on the Lake, worked in the town.”

“Oh, my goddess. How dumb do we all look now?”

Addi chuckled herself at the woman’s comment “Don’t worry, not even Rafe and Jack found her, and they did look.”

She saw Luci turn and look at her with a raised eyebrow and it dawned on Addison that Luci didn’t think those two had looked for her at all. Nearly sighed out loud as she realised her own daughter probably thought that no one had looked for her.

“We all looked Luci.” She told her.

“I never saw anyone look for me.” Luci shrugged and turned away from her, went back to her conversation with Olive.

No wonder she was so uncomfortable and uncertain, ‘I had my own thoughts, Luci. You never severed from me.’ She mind-linked right to her.

‘It’s fine mother, don’t concern yourself with it.’

Addison let it go for now. Jack and Rafe, she knew, had thought Luci had died, they had searched for her body and come up empty handed.

But no one had spoken of Luci going missing, because Addison had told them not to. She didn’t want Victor knowing, not even back then. That Luci had fled the Black Forest Pack, she was certain that man would have been on the hunt for Luci. He’d always wanted her and with her here in the safety of this pack, he’d had no choice but to let go of her.

It was blatantly clear now that her one decision had been the right choice. He’d tried to take her once realising she was no longer inside the pack. Had turned up in short order at that, likely trying to get to her before she herself could. She had never agreed for Luci to be Mated off to

him. He knew that, and if Addison got to Luci first, she'd never let him have her.

She wondered now, if he had come here to start a war, just to get to Luci herself. He knew she was here or had thought she was here anyway. It was entirely possible. When she thought about it, she knew that this pack had been suffering from random rogue attacks for years, and it only seemed to start after Luci had come here.

She sat and watched the twins play with the other children. Allen was right, they just made friends so easily, they had no problems talking to other children or asking if they could play with them, or inviting the shy kids to come and play with them too.

Couldn't help but smile at them when they called out, "Mamma, look." They wanted Luci to see them climb up to the top of the giant rope pyramid. She watched them scale it with almost seemingly ease.

"They are going to love the agility course when they get older." Addi chuckled softly to Luci.

"Looks like it." Luci nodded herself as she smiled up at the boys "It'll be good for them, run off some of that boundless energy they have."

"They're only little, but perhaps we should stroll over there and let them see it."

Found Luci's eyes turned right to her "I don't know, they'll likely want to be on it right a way. Be begging and pleading in a matter of minutes."

"I know but Rafe and Jack can go with them. It might be a good bonding experience for all of them."

Luci frowned at her now and then just turned away, "I guess."

'I know it's hard Luci.' She mind-linked to her 'But if you want to go and close out their school this afternoon, the twins would be safe with Rafe and Jack and I'll stay here with them as well, keep them in line.'

'I guess so.' Was her only reply, 'if they let me go? Rafe didn't seem open to it at all.'

'No, but can you really blame him, he's worried for you. Though that being said, Luci, he can't really stop you now, can he?' Addison smiled.

'No, he can't.' Luci agreed with her.

They went from the playground to the bakery. There was a small street that housed a few shops now. Hadn't been here when Luci lived here, there was a nice sized bakery, a café, two boutique clothing stores, one for adults and one for children. A toy store and a large steak house that was very popular.

The gypsy's that Rafe and Jack had taken in a few years back, had several stores where they sold repurposed clothing and furniture, had lots of handmade crafts in there and knit and crochet clothing for babies and adults as well. Had a store called The Green House, full of all sorts of things to smoke up a storm. Grew their own natural products out the back. Their most popular product displayed on the window was called Blue Thomas.

Addison knew it was named after their lost Alpha, his Luna Kinsey, was also the one running the store. She and Addison had chatted a few times over the years, but Kinsey never talked to Orien, didn't like the affiliation with that man had with Victor, seeing as he was the one who had killed her mate and destroyed her pack. Though she had no aversion to Addison herself, but then she didn't like Victor either, and had voiced it herself once to the woman.

She watched as Luci looked at the store window and then turned and looked right at her questioningly "When did that happen?"

"Um about four years ago, Gypsy wolves run most of this street. Rafe and Jack took them in, after Victor tried to s*****r their pack, they opened up stores and a few other's followed with their Alpha's permission."

"Oh, that was nice of him, to take them in."

“Luna Kinsey runs The Green House,” Addison chuckled, “Blue Thomas is named after her lost Alpha.” She sighed heavily “Victor killed him in order to get just one little wolf, that hadn’t even shifted yet. It was cruel and sad.”

“Did he get her?” Luci frowned at her.

“How’d you know it was a her?” Addison asked right back. “And no.”

“It’s Victor. Come on, that man is a savage and when he destroys something, only cares about bringing the women and children back to his pack. If he killed the Alpha and left the Luna alive he was looking for something he wanted. That man is only interested in things for himself. So she-wolf was my go-to on instinct.”

“That is true.” Addison nodded, she’d never not once let Luci go to the Bloodless Moon Pack. Not that Luci had ever even wanted to go there. But she’d vetoed it herself, after going there for just one visit with Orient.

Though that man’s pack was well maintained, she’d seen the brothel, it was massive, and she had the feeling most of the she-wolves in there, had been put there at his order, or that those women he took, from his claiming of other packs ended up there to service his unmated warriors.

Not that she had heard that, his pack members had been respectful at all times. But she’d gotten the distinct impression it was a front, put on for visiting packs, something was off inside that pack and the way his unmated wolves had eyed herself off, she’d not liked that at all.

Though she herself had never come to any harm, her gut feeling that one time she’d been in that pack of Victor’s, had been more than enough for her to never want to go there ever again.

Though she had felt something really weird, a connection of some sort to the place, she had never really understood that at all. It was like there was something there in his pack, that was related to her, almost like a family bond, kind of but not really. It had confused her quite a bit.

She'd not seen anyone from her home pack and had been glad of it. The only person in that place that had treated her with kindness had been her mother. But in the Bloodless Moon Pack, something had itched at her the whole time she'd been there. She'd been drawn to a locked door.

Victor had seen her look at it, more than once had told her it was his cells down there in the packhouse basement. But she had nothing to fear, it was securely locked up and nothing ever got out. She had nodded and moved on but those words 'nothing ever got out' implied he did not only have wolves down there.

She'd never gone back to his pack after that and Orien had not cared that she didn't, though he had tried to get Luci to go to mating balls in Victor's pack. Luci herself had said 'No' told Orien 'Victor is not my Mate.' And he wasn't, so she'd had no need to go there even when Victor put her name specifically on every invitation.

Addison had refused for her own reasons; she didn't think Luci would be safe in that pack. If she went there, she didn't think Luci would come back. Would likely have been told she was mated off to someone in that man's pack, even if she hadn't been. That pack was off, just like the savage that ran it.

Thankfully, Luci had come across Victor in their own pack on a full moon and not scented him out. Addison didn't think that man would treat even his own Mate right. Likely to betray her with another. But who really knew? He might be the faithful type once he met his Goddess Gifted Mate. No one knew but Victor himself what he would do.

She shrugged off her thoughts and focused back on Luci and the boys, sat with them to have a bite to eat and a cup of coffee, got to see many of the pack members smile and say hello to Luci, none of them even seemed to bat an eye lid at the fact that Luci had born their Alpha and Beta sons. Were it seemed just happy to see Luci herself and that she was alive and well. This pack had always been a good place to be, the wolves here were raised right it seemed.

Leaving Luci here to be the Alpha and Beta's concubine had been a good idea. Luci had been more than happy here inside this pack, had fitted into this pack with ease. Was treated well by all.

It seemed that the pack was still happy to see her here, she was different and they all saw it, but they were smiling at her and greeting her warmly and pleasantly. She had seen Luci be hugged by 3 different she-wolves now in the space of just an hour. Everything was going to be fine and she knew it.

It was only the Luna and her sister that were going to be unhappy about Luci being here and those two weren't going to be able to do anything about it either. Would come face to face with Alari and if threatened, the boys as well. Smiled to herself, yes lets just see those two come at my precious daughter.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 58

Luci POV

It was really nice to see that the pack members were happy to see her. Even Kali was less stressed about being inside the pack, as Luci herself was feeling too. It didn't seem to bother anyone at all that she had birthed heirs to their pack.

'Probably just expected it at some point.' Kali told her.

It was true, she thought there had barely been a day gone by when she wasn't in her Alpha or Beta's bed, only when they weren't there, were off pack territory mostly. Or if she was actually tired and needed sleep because of their needs being so high, higher than hers at times. Though that was usually only after they had been away for a week or so.

'Probably.' Luci agreed with her.

Though to see a street with stores in it now, that was completely new and one of them a pot store, nearly actually made her laugh. The last time she had done that was with Alex back in the Nightfall Pack. They'd laughed a lot that night. But it didn't really surprise her all that much to

hear it was gypsy wolves running it, though it annoyed her more than a little, to hear why they were there in the pack.

Victor, yet again that man showed how much of a savage he truly was, out there trying to take something that didn't belong to him. How he got away with it? How he rallied people to do his bidding or dirty work? She didn't know.

But it wasn't just Alari and Kali that were itching to have a real piece of the man, for what he had done to little Jack. Luci herself would relish beating that man herself, was hoping deep down that she was going to get to do just that. Perhaps come face to face with him. Let Alari and Kali loose on him, but be the one, herself, to stand over him and watch him die. Perhaps deal that final blow to him.

She was more than angry that he'd tranquillised her, tried to take her for himself. He'd never survive it in the end. Even if he put silver on her, it would only make her lose Kali, not Alari. If he used those earpieces to stop her Siren Call from affecting him, he still had to deal with the full strength of their Alpha Aura rolling out of them.

Then the strength of an Alpha on Alpha fight that would happen directly afterwards. She didn't think, that now they understood that he could take them all down at once. He'd get a second chance to do it again. It was unlikely they would Siren Call him first, roll their Aura at him and make him bow down, then remove those earpieces and explode that brain of his, right inside his head, might even let him live long enough to know he was dying and couldn't do anything about it.

She was certain he understood what happened when hit with a full Siren's Call, that's why he had those earpieces in already, had seen the devastation to his men during the pack attack. It would be nice to see him stare up at her and know it was too late, he was going to die, take many minutes to do so, perhaps longer. But for him to know it, and be unable to do anything about it at all. That would be a good punishment for all his crimes and not just against them, but against all those he hurt.

There were two very different shifter beasts within her, and after talking to her mother earlier in the day, she herself understood that glow now,

when they shifted. It was her mother's witch side, she had magic in her veins, as much as she had Wolf and Siren.

Wondered now if she had any other powers to that side of her, had not known about that side of her, so had never tried to do anything magical ever. She might have to discuss that with her mother, see what actual powers she had or could do herself, that might give her some inkling into what she herself might be able to do.

Or perhaps Hannah and her sisters would know more about her than she, or her own mother, did. They always just looked at her, had never really bothered her much. Got the occasional smile from one of them, but mostly they just looked at her in passing, not once had they ever touched her.

Her mother had stopped them when she was 18, had moved Luci's own arm away from Hannah when she had tried to touch her, as she'd walked passed them that day. She'd never really tried after that, seemed to understand it wasn't welcome, though Luci herself didn't understand it.

It had been her mother who'd not wanted them to touch her. But when she had lived here, for that year they'd left her alone, not attempted to touch her, and still to this day, they left her alone. She'd been in the pack for two days. The boys had come close to their cottage but they'd not come out to see them or look at her. She didn't concern them and she knew it; was of no threat to anyone inside this pack.

They strolled back to the cottage after eating lunch and the boys were playing together in the living room while the TV was on. That was a new novelty for them. They only got to watch that in school usually, they seemed to like it a lot.

She saw Allen stroll in through her front door after two brief knocks "Hi Luci." He smiled.

"Allen?" she queried him, strolling into her cottage like he owned the place.

"If you're ready to go into town? I'm free to take you."

She looked right at him and wondered where Rafe or Jack were. Rafe had not been happy about her wanting to go without them. “You’re taking me?”

“Yes,” he nodded, “along with Petra and Sara.”

She nearly sighed aloud, was getting a full escort, it seemed. Looked at both her boys. She wouldn’t risk them now that others knew about them. Hadn’t considered it a risk; leaving them alone before. That was different now.

Mind-linked to Allen ‘Has there been any signs of Victor in town?’

‘Not that I know of, it is being monitored. Nothing. I don’t think he’s coming back today, Luci. Lost his Beta and he will have to plan it all out before trying to get into this pack.’

She thought about it for a minute herself, the trip back to his pack, the loss of his Beta. He would also know that she would now be inside this pack, as were the twins. Allen was likely right, that man was not in town, he would be in his pack plotting and planning. She nodded and got up. “Boy’s, you’ll be going to school here inside the pack from now on.” She told them.

Watched as both of them smiled right up at her, seemed happy with this, “We’ll live here now mamma?” they both asked, and she could hear the excitement at the idea of that.

She nodded her head. “Yes, I have to go to your school and sort out some things.” Saw them both stand up. “No, you’ll both stay here with Grammy.”

“Mamma?” they both asked, and she could hear the worry in their voices.

“I’ll be fine.”

“Mamma.” They were by her side now looking up at her.

Luci knelt down and looked from one to the other. “Everything is going to be okay, see Allen there.” She pointed to him, knew they knew him and

liked him from what she could tell. “He’s going to go with me and there are two others going as well. I’ll be perfectly safe.”

“You weren’t.” they both clutched at her.

“I was, Kali and Alari, we were all surprised by that man. It will not happen again.” She reassured them “Stay here with Grammy, I need you to be here where it is extra safe. I’ll be fine, I promise.”

She saw her mother come over and take their hands. “Come on boys, has Alari or Kali not always protected all of you?”

They looked up to her mother, but still didn’t look happy at all, but they nodded slowly.

“Rafe, Jack. Allen there,” Luci drew their attention once more “is the third strongest wolf in this pack. I’ll be safe, I promise, and I’ll only be gone a little while, an hour. It’s only a short drive from here.”

“Long walk mamma.”

“We’ll not be walking, taking my car boys.” Allen told them, “Do you two want to come and meet Petra and Sara? They were the ones in town who backed you two up, when that man tried to take your mamma from you.”

Smart Luci thought to herself, as she watched both the boys stare up at him, then go with him when he encouraged them to go outside and introduced them to both Petra and Sara, showed them the four-wheel drive as well.

They seemed to settle a little, stood with her mother as she got in the car to leave with Allen, Petra and Sara. “Thank you, Allen.”

“It’s alright Luci. I could see they were worried about you.”

“I’ve never seen that before.” She sighed “Not once in all the years we were out there on our own.” And it was true, they had never once had to worry about her. But now they did worry, and it wasn’t right. They were just little boys and she the parent, the adult. It was her job to protect them, worry about them, not the other way around.

“They’ve never had to before.” It was Petra. “I imagine your beasts are both fierce!”

“They are, especially where the boys are concerned.”

“Victor knew what you were. We’ll need to sit for a discussion, Luci, so I can find a way to protect you and the boys properly.”

“I don’t need it normally, neither do they.” But she knew Victor, knew that man was already doing research, to come back. If not for her, then for the boys. He was power hungry and the three of them were powerful. She knew he was going to want that.

“Inside the pack, likely won’t be a problem for now. But when you’re outside of it...Who knows when Victor will come back, or where he’ll put men to try and snag you. You’re still vulnerable to wolfsbane. That dart was loaded with it along with a high dose of Midazolam. The pack doctor said the Midaz is what likely rendered Alari unconscious. He is still trying to work out the actual dosage from the residual in the dart.”

“So he was out to sedate me rather than subdue me.” Luci nodded.

“Yes, he was likely trying to avoid having to fight your Siren.” Allen commented “The wolfsbane is likely only to make Kali and yourself retreat, but that would still have left Alari awake and in full control. Deadly still.”

“Yes, deadly to him even with his ear protection.” She agreed with him.

“You knew about that?”

“He showed me, before I passed out, said something about me being silly, thinking he’d not come prepared.” Shook her head, “He thought it was funny I think.”

She heard all of them huff, and nearly chuckled at them all “Yes, he’s a particular kind of savage.” Luci stated.

“Just a brute.” Allen stated as he pulled the car up out the front of the boys’ school.

“Before I go in here, what was the cover story the town got again?”

“Earthquake.” He reminded her. Because the twins blew out windows and set car alarms off, it fit with the damage an earthquake could do.” Allen told her.

She looked at Sara as she chuckled, “So powerful already your little bundles of joy.”

“Yes it seems that way.” She nodded as she got out of the car. The place did get the occasional earthquake too, so it was plausible, she guessed.

Allen strolled along with her and stood next to her as she told the lady behind the counter she was moving the boys to another school, got asked why and which school, needed it for the transfer paperwork.

“She’s moving into the gated community, the twins will go to school there now.” Allen informed her.

“Oh, I see.” Was all she said. “I’ll forward the details to the gated community then.”

It didn’t take all that long to organise it and she was surprised that the woman didn’t ask her about her boys running from the school, but left it well enough alone. If they didn’t ask she wasn’t going to bring it up. Luci didn’t exactly know how to explain that one, so opted to plead ignorance on the subject herself.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 59

Rafe POV

Rafe stood watching Jack search through his own suite, for something that was only going to be obvious to him. Rafe didn’t think he was going to find anything. He couldn’t understand the man right this very minute. Here in the Beta Suite he couldn’t seem to feel anything of what Jack was feeling.

Also didn't understand the man. He clearly recalled going to the Wolf Valley Pack, to assist with rogue attacks. It was the first time they'd been called by Alpha Colby, who had pleaded for assistance. They were not affiliated but their pack was small, only 200.

He also recalled being there over a two-week period, which crossed over the full moon, which had allowed him and Jack to scent out their Mates. Even recalled that both girls had been in the same place. That he and Jack actually scented them out at the exact same time.

It was a clear memory even to this day. He could recall in vivid detail the pure excitement of finally finding their Goddess Gifted Mates. It had taken them a very long time, 19 years in fact. They had been 39 when it happened.

Even though the two of them had expected to have one Mate between them, the girls had been twins, not identical, but even that had excited the two of them, the thought of getting to share the two women between them. They'd both liked that idea, twice as much fun, they had joked with each other.

He remembered what Melissa had been wearing that day, a pair of white slacks and a soft blue, off the shoulder top, her hair had been all swept up in a loose bun with a few curling tendrils framing her face. She'd had long dangly gold earrings in, that had a tiny white pearl at the bottom. Had been wearing a matching necklace and bracelet. She'd even been wearing make-up, it was almost as if she'd been waiting for him.

He'd spied a belly button piercing with a bright blue stone in it. He'd really liked that. Though she didn't have it anymore. Thought about that, as he stood staring at Jack making a hell of a mess in his suite. Melissa didn't have that belly button piercing anymore.

He recalled the day he realised it was no longer there. She'd stopped wearing it about a month after they'd gotten back to the pack, and he'd asked her about it. She'd shrugged and said 'I don't want it anymore.'

He'd murmured 'I really liked it, a bit of a turn on.' All seductively at her, hoping she'd put it back in.

Frowned now as he stood there, remembering her reaction, she'd raised an eyebrow at him and stated, 'I know,' and then had just walked away from him. He really frowned now. That had been the first time she'd walked away from him. He thought about it, she had known he liked it and had removed it, and now he was curious as to if she had done that on purpose? As he pulled on the memory, really recalled it.

It kind of sounded to him that she had taken it out on purpose, and just because he liked it, shook it off. Chastised himself, what was he thinking, Melissa wouldn't do something like that. "Jack stop, I don't understand why you're doing this." He reached out and tried to grab on to Jack.

Jack shoved his hand away, "You will." Was all he said.

"Jack, I remember meeting them, then scenting them out on the full moon a few days later, Marking and Mating them."

"So do I." Jack stated, "but I'm certain that there is no way, Rafe, we, both of us would have just completely forgotten about Luci and how it would affect her. How she would feel with us bringing home Mates. Not telling her, warning her, she loved us, you know that. Both you and I knew that."

Jack had him on that one, he had known that. "There is no way, Rafe." Jack went on as he moved to another room to start searching for what Rafe didn't know "that we just forgot to tell her. Both of us, at the same time."

Rafe frowned at him as he thought about it, saw Jack turn and look at him pointedly "Do you recall Luci at all over those two weeks we were there in the Wolf Valley Pack? I don't. I don't even recall thinking about her when we got home, not when we crossed into the pack, not when we walked into the packhouse. Nothing until our border patrolman stated her name in a panicked tone, and then and only then do I recall thinking about her, that we'd forgotten to tell her."

Rafe sighed, "Jack, it was the Mate Bond. We were excited and happy, and..."

“No,” Jack cut him off, “it’s all wrong Rafe. Even with a new Mate Bond, we wouldn’t do that to her. How is it possible that we could just forget Luci? She was everything to us. Goddess Rafe, how many times did we talk about claiming her.” Jack was glaring at him now. “I know I was in love with Luci, so there is no way I would just completely forget about her. A Mate Bond does not obliterate love for another, hinders and halts, confuses one, but it doesn’t make you forget them completely. And I’m not that much of an a*****e.”

“Jack?”

“No.” Jack yelled right at him “They did something to us. Still are doing it, I bet.”

Rafe was really staring at Jack now, he could feel so much anger coming from not just Jack but Flare as well. He realised, they both truly believed something had been done to them.

“They won’t let us share them.” Jack snapped, “A true Goddess Gifted Mate, would be made for us, would crave us both. Not deny us our needs.”

Rafe sighed heavily. He couldn’t argue with that statement, even he believed that was true. It had been six and a half years and they still denied them. He didn’t understand Melissa or Maria on that account. “But why would they?” he asked, instead trying to find any kind of logic to Jack’s thinking.

“I don’t know. But look at us, Rafe. We are weaker, and were at odds with each other. They are not even here and we’re practically fighting, its...” the man was quiet all of a sudden, thinking and Rafe knew it. Then he looked right at Rafe “It’s almost as if that’s what they want, us separated and apart.”

“Jack?”

“No, think about it, Melissa hates it when we are out in the woods together, even when Solar and Flare spend time together. She verbally threatened to s***p Maria’s bond from me, thinking you would toss my

a*s out of the pack, I bet. Got in that fight with you about it, and you told her Maria would be the one to go, not me. If I recall what you told me correctly.”

Rafe nodded, that was the truth. “What would that achieve, Jack?” Rafe sighed, he couldn’t see a reason for it at all.

“Addison said we were dying. What if separating us does that...Who would get the pack if we died?”

“The twins.” Rafe answered simply.

“Before we knew about the twins?” Jack asked him.

“Melissa would.”

“Yes.” Jack nodded “She would.”

“Jack, stop it, I seriously doubt that they are trying to k**l us. Hell they could have done that years ago in our sleep. Anytime they liked, don’t you think?”

Jack was glaring at him now, snapped his mouth shut and Rafe knew why, he had been about to state the Luna was trying to k**l the Alpha in a long drawn-out manner. It was treasonous, is what it was. To think of the Luna in such a manner. He felt his own anger well up and boil to the surface.

Turned and banged right out of the Beta Suite, he didn’t want to hear anymore and get into a full-on fight with Jack, and he could feel it coming to that. They’d never, not once lashed out at each other, never come to blows and right this minute Rafe wanted to beat him one for thinking that about his Mate, about the Luna to the pack.

Stalked down through the packhouse, Melissa had never once tried to hurt him or harm him, Jack was up there completely losing it and all because Luci was now back inside the pack. The man was Mated and yet, it seemed, completely infatuated with Luci.

Rafe understood that Jack had guilt, that he'd always blamed himself for Luci's disappearance. But he wasn't the only one to feel that. Rafe had that same guilt. Which was now even worse, seeing her and knowing that she had borne them children.

Jack was clearly confused and his attachment to their sons was filtering to Luci and making him feel things that he shouldn't feel. Stalked himself all the way to his office and banged that door shut as well. Looked up at the ceiling, he might not be in the same room as Jack, but he could still feel the man's anger towards him.

He sank down in his chair and rubbed a hand over his face. He and Jack were never at odds, sighed a little on the sad side, they were always on the same page. Until today, it seemed. They had been on the same page this morning, they'd both been happy today. That thought made him frown, he'd been as mad as hell up there in the Beta Suite.

Now here he was in his office and he wasn't mad at all, recalled Jack's words and knew he should be, but he wasn't. He thought about that, he was actually worried about Jack as he sat there in his office. There was no anger anymore. Frowned, that was odd.

Mind-linked to Jack only to be shut out by him completely, it shocked Rafe. Jack never shut him out, they didn't ever fight over anything, were always on the same page. He'd kissed the hell out of Jack here in this office just over an hour ago. Hadn't even known where that had come from himself.

Rafe stood up and walked out of his office, looked up at the fifth floor. He wasn't angry at Jack now, but he had been and now right this minute he wasn't. Turned and looked at his office. Walked back in there, looked around. It was as it always was. He'd never let Melissa change it, not one thing. She had an office of her own. This was his and Jack's office and he'd told her no.

She'd wanted to though, to put her personal touch on it, as had Maria for that matter. He'd told them both no, stated "I like my office as is, redecorate your own all you like." Recalled she'd actually not been happy about it at all.

His and Jack's office was off limits to her, in the decorating department, as was Luci's room. Yet he and Jack did get annoyed with each other outside in the corridors and up on the fifth floor hallway as well. Frowned as his brain started ticking.

What if Jack was right? Jack was currently upstairs in his suite, a place Rafe rarely went in to, Maria didn't like it, much the same way Melissa didn't like Jack in the Alpha suite. He was up there searching for something that Maria had in their Suite to harm him, not physically, but maybe mentally. Rafe didn't know.

He headed back upstairs and pushed into the Beta Suite, found Jack pulling things out of his draws. He turned those green eyes on him, they were still filled with anger, felt his own anger rise near instantly, and doubt suddenly crept into him. Maybe the man was in fact right.

Grabbed Jack by the arm and hauled him out of the Beta's Suite, Jack was yelling at him to bloody let go the whole way. Pulled that man all the way down the corridor to Luci's suite and shoved him in there. Followed him inside, this place had always had a calming effect on the pair of them. He closed the door and felt a wave of calm wash over him.

Watched as Jack stopped fighting, after he'd taken all of three steps into the room, watched him very closely. It took all of a minute for Jack to scrub a hand over his face and then just look at him, seemed to be confused. He was also no longer closed off to Rafe. He could feel the man's utter confusion about what had just happened.

Jack was going to be right, something was wrong. "Alright," Rafe nodded. "I agree, something is off. We never fight, and I was ready, itching to beat the hell out of you in there. Took myself to my office to stop myself, and once there, I was just worried about you, not angry with you. I walked back into your Suite and was angry with you again, but in here, even you calmed down." Rafe sighed, his thoughts were starting to line up.

"What is it?" Jack asked.

“Where are the two places inside this pack, our Mate’s are not allowed to either go or redecorate?”

“Here in Luci’s room and our office,” Jack answered without hesitation.

Rafe nodded. “I was calm but confused downstairs, you’re calm and confused now, here in Luci’s room.”

“So, you’re thinking?”

“Your room is toxic to us. Mine not so much. We stayed in there together, didn’t get upset or fight at all.”

“So it’s my mate not yours?” Jack muttered.

“I’m not saying that.” Rafe shook his head, and he wasn’t “Come with me.” He walked out of the room and headed for his own suite. Those girls were twins and real damned close, if it was one trying to harm them or separate them as Jack stated. Then it was both of them doing this, whatever it was. They were in on it together.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 60

Jack POV

He felt the calmness of Luci’s room wash over him within just a minute, all his annoyance and anger with Rafe was gone, along with the feeling of wanting to beat him one, for not listening to him. For not understanding and being so blind that he couldn’t see that something was very wrong.

He felt his anger just leave him, and now he was just standing inside Luci’s old room feeling confused as to why he’d been so very angry with Rafe. He didn’t really need to yell at the man. Had never actually yelled at him like that before. Jack felt as though a switch had just been flipped inside of him.

He looked at Rafe and wondered how he had become so fumingly mad. Even Rafe felt it, the difference, the change around them, hearing him

state that something was off. Was glad that it wasn't just him feeling it anymore. And as he stood listening to Rafe he understood now why he'd brought him to Luci's room.

Being in here had always calmed the two of them, even after she was gone, they could come in here and feel relaxed, sleep like the dead. It was like their own personal little sanctuary within their packhouse. A place both of them went to when ticked off, with their Mates, neither one of them had access to this room.

He followed Rafe out of Luci's room now that he was calm, down to the man's own suite. Jack could only agree that his own attitude had been out of control and escalating at that, while in the Beta Suite. Rafe had just called it toxic, and it now certainly felt that way to Jack.

Rafe hadn't been in his suite in years. Maria didn't like it, neither did Melissa for that matter, so they pretty much stayed out of each other's rooms. Just mind-linked to each other if one was in their suite instead of strolling in to chat. Like they had once used to do all the time.

'What are we doing?' Jack asked as he followed him.

'Investigating the difference between your room and mine.' Rafe told him.

Jack looked around, it was much the same as it had always been, not much had changed at all. Rafe had never let Melissa turn it all girly like Maria had to the Beta's suite.

'It's still mostly you.' Jack commented.

'Yes, it is.' Rafe nodded. 'Your room, however, Maria has turned into a pink doll house.'

The tone of Rafe's words, had annoyance rolling through Jack, it sounded as though he was insulting Maria and her taste and he didn't much like it. 'It's what she wanted. I at least let my mate change it to her liking.' He snapped at Rafe, and then shook his head, could feel himself starting to get angry, saw Rafe look right at him and raise an eyebrow.

‘Angry Jack?’

‘Annoyed at your comment.’ Jack stated because it was the honest truth, that one almost harmless comment set him on edge, and there was a need to defend his Mate.

Rafe latched on to his arm and walked him out of the suite and back into the hallway, let him go, but looked right at him ‘Maria’s taste is hideous, why would you let her do that to the Beta Suite?’

Jack stared at him ‘It’s what Mate’s do.’ He frowned, that was an even bigger insult, but he didn’t feel the need to snap at Rafe for it.

Saw Rafe’s blue eyes narrow on him and then he was pulled into Luci’s old room and the door closed. ‘I hate Maria’s taste in décor, it’s utterly hideous.’ Rafe told him.

‘Me too.’ Jack sighed ‘I hate it.’ he murmured, and then blinked at his own words.

Saw Rafe half smile and nod ‘Shall we try this again in your suite Jack?’ he asked him.

Jack sighed ‘It’s probably not wise, considering what we’re testing, I might just try and beat you one.’ He stated, now understanding just what they were doing. He was testing him, and his anger over insults to Maria. In Rafe’s room he’d felt his anger rise, in the hallway only mild annoyance. Here in Luci’s room, however, he felt nothing at all, actually agreed with the man.

‘I want to test it,’ Jack stated after only a minute of thought ‘I hate pink, really bloody hate how that room looks. You might want to duck and cover though.’ Even he had the feeling his reaction was going to be aggressive in nature.

He heard Rafe actually chuckle ‘I can handle you. Let’s go do it.’

They walked back into the Beta Suite and as much as he really hated the décor in this suite, and he did, had voiced as much just a moment ago, he

turned angry the moment Rafe insulted Maria's decorating of the suite, Jack yelled right at the man.

Rafe then went on to state point blankly that Maria's taste sucked and suddenly Jack felt enraged, and he took a full swing at Rafe, launched himself after the man, chased him right out of the suite and into the hallway with the intent of beating the hell out of him.

Chased him all the way into Luci's room and near sagged with relief as a calmness washed over him. 'I'm sorry.' He murmured and sank down on the couch. 'I was right though.' He muttered.

'It does seem that way. Though in here and in our office, we are fine.' Rafe sat next to him.

'More than fine.' Jack closed his eyes 'So what now?'

There was silence for several minutes before Rafe spoke 'So, now we wait. Until they come home, see what happens. How we feel, I suppose.'

Jack sighed 'Rafe, I always feel more connected to Maria when she gets back, doesn't really last that long but, the first few days or weeks,' he shook his head. 'What if we forget about all of this, when they get home?' it bothered him more now 'What if they'd made us forget before, more than once now, if they have. They could do it again if they needed to, want to.'

'A potential problem.' Rafe nodded 'I don't recall anything like this before.'

'Neither do I, but who's to say...' he trailed off, didn't really want to think about his Mate having done something to him and Flare, something that always made them forget if they suspected anything.

'Why is my room worse than yours?' he asked sometime later.

'You stated, you loved Luci.' Rafe sighed heavily.

'I know I did...' Jack closed his eyes 'I still do, Rafe.' He half whispered 'Flare...love's Kali, I feel it now.' And he did know it to be the truth.

Those two Mate's of theirs had done something to them, still were he was willing to bet. Whatever it was, it had ruined something so perfect in his life and now he didn't know how to fix it.

He felt Rafe's hand touch his leg 'If they did something to us, and you love Luci, Flare loves Kali.' Rafe sighed 'I suppose keeping that from you would take more effort, would it not. Perhaps you need a higher dose than I do.'

'I guess.' Jack sighed and stared up at the ceiling.

'Stay here.' Rafe told him and left the room.

Jack wasn't going anywhere, he could well forget everything he'd learned over the past couple of days if he left that room. Didn't want to forget Luci and how much he loved her.

Rafe came back in less than five minutes with a couple of permanent markers. He handed one to Jack but didn't sit down.

Walked over to the far wall and wrote the date and time on it, then under it 'Why did we forget Luci?' 'The Beta Suite makes Jack and I fight.' 'Luci's room calms us.' 'we don't fight in our office.'

Jack understood, he got up and wrote his name on the wall and right under it 'I love Luci.' 'Flare loves Kali.' 'Maria did something to me.' 'There is something in the Beta Suite to keep me attracted to Maria.' 'Is Maria my actual Mate? I don't feel like I'm mated to her at all right this minute' and then put the date and time right next to it.

He saw Rafe write 'Titan is with Melissa and Maria in Wolf Valley Pack. Question him about what goes on in their home pack' He looked at Rafe and sighed.

Then wrote 'Are Maria and Melissa our actual Goddess Gifted Mates?' then he stepped back and looked at it all, "Okay, so if they do something to us, how will we know to come in here and see this if they do it again and we forget yet again."

The pair of them stood staring at the wall, for several quiet minutes, then Rafe wrote on the wall 'Set alarm on phone to go off, titled Luci's room'

Jack nodded. "No, explanation with it will make us curious and come here."

"Yes." Rafe nodded.

"A good idea, but why write that, why not just set it now and have it go off every day?"

"Melissa or Maria might see it and dismiss it, delete the alarm even. So, we wouldn't remember to come here. This will remind us if we come in here randomly to get away from either of them after a fight."

Jack nodded, saw the logic in it, pulled out his phone and set an alarm for 9pm every day. Those two had a TV program they watched at 2030 so they wouldn't even notice. He and Rafe were usually in the Alpha's office or in the Alpha Bar with Allen and Ian having a drink at the end of the day, if there was nothing pressing in the pack that needed their attention. Neither he nor Rafe went to bed early and neither of their Mates ever asked them to.

He then wrote on the wall, 'alarm set to go off daily.' And dated it "So if we forget, this will tell us we did that and it was tampered with."

Stood back once more and stared at the wall, then wrote one more thing 'I had Titan kiss Maria, I felt nothing, no pains of betrayal.' And dated it, looked at the message from Titan and wrote down the time it had happened.

He heard Rafe chuckle "I can top that." He smirked at Jack and then wrote 'I kissed the hell out of Jack, Melissa felt nothing,' wrote the date next to it.

Jack smiled at him. "Petra sure did get an eyeful." Then sank back down on the couch.

Rafe sat next to him. "Jack, if this all turns out to be true."

Jack sighed heavily because his gut was telling him it was going to be true, "I know." He nodded, they'd lost Luci and the boys to those two women and for what?

"We'll need proof Jack."

"I'll just reject her." he muttered, and he would.

"Still need proof, or you could be rejecting your Goddess Gifted Mate."

"Who hates everything about me."

"Surely not everything?"

"Everything." Jack sighed and he knew he was right. "Do you realise Rafe, that with no pains of betrayal. They could be over there in the Wolf Valley Pack, f*****g anyone they want, for as long as they like and we'd never know about it."

He heard Rafe sigh "I guess they could be."

"I'm betting on it." Jack muttered "Now that I know this, the way she is with me, never initiates s*x, tells me she wants to have s*x but never actively touches me first." He scrubbed a hand over his face "They're probably back in their father's pack laughing at us. Doing as they please. Likely why they go home."

"They might not know Jack, might not risk it either."

"Who the hell knows?" he muttered, the way Maria was with him, he was willing to bet that she was not faithful, had someone back in that pack she actually wanted. All he knew was that she didn't want him at all.

Sat there and recalled how he met her, how standoffish Maria had been even after scenting him out, she'd not been all loved up and smitten, she stood there with her sister all dressed up in a nicely fitted dress, had make-up on, had actually been holding her sisters hand as she stared right at him. She hadn't even smiled at him, it had taken them a few days to get to know them and then Mark and Mate them. They had been in that pack for two weeks.

“Rafe, do you recall how many rogue attacks we defended the Wolf Valley Pack from, after they called for assistance?” he asked, now realising it was only one. Then the moon had set and there had been nothing after that, that seemed odd to him.

“Um, one, maybe two. Why?”

“Nothing after the full moon though, right?”

“No.” Rafe frowned at him “What are you thinking?”

“That if they did have some sort of plan, they needed us in their pack over the full moon to pull it off, then we were distracted, so to speak, by them. To notice that suddenly there were no more attacks on that pack. No need for us to be there and protect them, it all just ended.”

“It is odd. Seeing as Colby stated, he needed assistance with constant rogue attacks to his pack...I don’t recall that there were even that many rogues attacking them. Now I’m thinking about it. A handful only, nothing Colby and his men couldn’t have handled.”

“What if everything is a lie?” Jack sighed heavily “Luci, she got hurt for nothing, and we lost her, lost the boys all for nothing.”

He heard Rafe sigh now as well. “Alari, wouldn’t be with her if this didn’t happen. Brought out by her heartbreak.”

“This is a nightmare, Rafe.”

“It is, but we need to be smart about this. Find the truth. Figure it all out.”

“I don’t want to lose Luci again.” He closed his eyes “What if I forget what I know?”

They were both quiet. “I don’t think you will, Jack.” Rafe told him, “you only really started pushing back against Maria when you saw Alari in the lake, thought it was Luci. Became consumed by your need to find her. Perhaps having her here in the pack is what is loosening whatever hold on you Maria has.”

Jack nodded. That could actually make perfect sense “Then, I need to be around Luci more.”

“We still need to work on that, Jack. She’s not comfortable yet.”

“I want to be with her.” Jack stated flatly.

“Honestly, Jack. I wouldn’t even trust you with her right now.”

Jack turned and stared at the man. “Why?”

“You’ll rip her clothes off, is why, try and have your way with her or more.”

Jack smiled now, “Hmm, maybe.” He’d never been able to keep his hands off the girl, and even now, Flare wanted to be with Kali, Alari even. It might very well get out of hand on his end.

“Maybe! You were always worse than I was, even before she was here, you itched to go down to Nightfall, for no reason other than to get her alone.”

Jack laughed now “What can I say, she enjoyed me as much as I did her.”

“Enjoyed sneaking out, without her father knowing you mean, to slip into our room, or to taunt us, into hunting her in her father’s pack.”

Jack burst out laughing, “Oh my Goddess she really was a handful for that man.”

“She was, until she was here.” Rafe nodded “No rules here to confine her and as much of either of us as she liked, wanted, seemed to solve the issue. Luci was never a handful for either of us.”

“Well, not in that sense.” Jack chuckled.

Rafe shoved him a little. “Get your head out of the gutter.”

“Nope.” Jack smiled at him, and he really didn’t want to. He liked thinking back on their time with Luci. Loved all their moments together,

loved that she'd been their concubine, not that, that was how he or Rafe actually thought of her. But she did like to use that word when talking to her mother over the phone.

He could only put it down to Orien, had likely been in the room or walked into the room her mother had been in while they were talking. He'd heard her state on more than one occasion "Oh my Goddess, mother. I love being a concubine, having s*x every day."

He'd heard her state once as she'd looked right at Jack as he'd stood with a raised eyebrow at hearing her comment "Gotta go mum, duty calls for Beta Jack." and she'd chuckled right before hanging up.

"So cheeky she was, I want that again, Rafe." Jack sighed. "To see that cheeky side, that naughty little smile of hers."