

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 61

Victor POV

The call came in from Orien just after he'd finished having lunch, and he could tell from the background noise that the man was in his car. Victor smiled to himself as he leaned back in his office chair. It was clear that Orien was on the move, no longer in the Black Forest Pack.

He'd only been there for a day and a half, nearly laughed, but managed to keep his amusement in. Orien had either ticked those two pricks off royally or he'd ticked off his own Mate and her daughter.

Hell, that man could have ticked all four of them off for all he knew, he was good at ticking Luci off. Which always upset his Mate. He'd never been able to hold his temper around that girl and her behaviour.

Now she'd gone off and had twins to those two pricks, and to boot, run off with an Alpha and Beta's children. Orien would see that as not only completely irresponsible, but outright disrespectful. Bordering on treason in that man's brains. He'd likely taken one look at Luci and the twins and gone off on some rant about it.

When, in actual fact, if she had known she was pregnant when those two came home with their new Mates; in Victor's eyes, it was a very wise decision. To keep her children safe and away from the new Luna to her pack. It was what he would expect one to do.

Even when he obtained her for himself, he wasn't exactly sure of how she was going to react to his children that he had over in that house. He had half a dozen of them, and they were all going to be older than any children he and she would produce. Though he had no intention of giving up his pack to any of them.

They would simply grow up to be war generals that were loyal to him. A child to Luci, would be the best leader for this pack. Though even then, handing all his hard-earned work to a child wasn't likely to happen. Not

when he had a long life to lead himself, he'd get bored shitless, sitting around doing nothing all day long.

"Victor, it's Orien, what is going on?"

"I'm not sure what you mean, Orien." He smiled merrily, let's play with the man a little.

'Lucian,' Orien stated flatly.

"What about your Mate's daughter? Is the lovely Addi with you? he asked right back. Was curious as to if he'd taken his Mate when he left or if she'd been so stubborn that she'd refused to leave.

"Lucian, stated you attacked her!"

"Hmm..." Victor paused "I don't believe I laid a hand on the girl." He chose his words carefully, if Addison was in that car, she would scream at him for lying. There was no screaming, so it was likely that she was not with her Mate.

"Victor, did you attack Addison's daughter or not?"

"Define attack, Orien. You've seen me in battle. Is she dead?" he asked casually. He didn't leave people alive and Orien knew this about him.

Heard the annoyance in Orien's voice when he spoke "Tranquilised and tried to take her for yourself?"

"Mm, I did do that." He nodded, wasn't going to deny that "She's a deadly creature now, tranquillising her was the safest way to ensure that no harm came to her or myself." He admitted "What's the problem Orien?" he asked as though he'd done nothing wrong, and technically he hadn't, not where Orien was concerned anyway.

"You can't just go and take her, Victor." Orien huffed now.

"Really, Hmm, that's rich coming from you. Don't you think...Considering you tried to give her to me, I believe Orien, and if I do recall correctly your exact words that last time were 'Victor, just come and get the

bloody girl, take her for your Luna.” He smirked now, his memory was good.

There was a long silence on the other end of the phone now, and Victor’s smile broadened. He had that man’s permission to claim her for himself, and Orien knew it. “I finally found her, so I went to get what you yourself said, was mine.”

“Well, it’s not right. You should have spoken to me or Addison first.”

Victor laughed now, “Really, why? She is not your pack member anymore, certainly not your daughter, now is she? You, Orien, don’t care for Luci at all. I, on the other hand, care very much.”

“Her children?” Orien muttered.

“Hmm, well, I didn’t know about them any more than you did.” He admitted “I would, of course, accept them. Bleed them right to me. We’ll make one hell of a strong family, don’t you think? My Pack will be unbeatable and I’ll be unstoppable once she’s here. If those two pricks you gave her to.” He grated out angrily “Want the brats, they can have them. I’ll accept Luci without the boys.”

“She is not interested now, anymore than she was back then, from what I saw and heard, Victor. Leave her alone, and let it go.”

“Let my Luna go...” he mused on that for a moment “I think not Orien...we had a deal, if you recall. And I still have the paperwork, tucked away safely.”

Heard the man sigh heavily now, “It’s been a long time since then, Victor, and as you yourself stated, she is not a member of my pack anymore. So those papers no longer stand.”

“I’ll keep them none the less.” He smiled “How’s Addison doing?” he asked. If he put those papers into Addison’s hands, she would sever her bond with Orien so fast his head would spin. Had nearly done that when Luci was 18, he’d heard.

“She wants to sever ties with you, of course.”

“Ah I see. She’s not with you then.” He chuckled “Did you lose your Luna over her daughter finally...I saw that coming long ago. You should have as well, don’t you recall your lashing at the hands of your own Mate.”

Got snarled at by Orien, and his wolf, by the sounds of it. A past memory neither would like to recall. Being lashed by one’s Mate and slung out on a shaming post for near on two weeks, something he’d apparently volunteered to do, had been the only way to keep Addison with him, from what he’d heard, she’d been going to leave him and take their children with her.

It was a pity that it didn’t happen, he’d have welcomed them both with open arms when she had nowhere to go.

“Well, Orien...Stay allied, don’t stay allied. What I want from you is no longer in your pack. I don’t really care either way. But I imagine if you lost your temper, over those two boys.” He laughed, because he was damn certain the man had “You just lost all of your back up if I come for you, and your pack now...So I’d think carefully about that, I’m home and you’re not. I wonder if your pack will survive mine...So, sever away Orien or stay allied and live peacefully.”

There was complete and utter silence on the other end of the line now, that man was not in his pack and Victor could, if he so chose to, get there before Orien did. He was closer, only a two-hour trip for him. If Orien had just left, he was still 7 hours or more away depending on the route he was taking.

He could take his pack to Nightfall and s*****r the lot of them and likely get back to his pack before Orien even got home. Victor sat and waited in his chair, a smile on his face. He was not an enemy you wanted to have. Wondered just what the man was going to do.

It was not just a threat of war, but a full take over. It was not something Orien would want, not something any Alpha would want. So would he sever ties and keep his Luna happy and by his side. Only to lose his entire pack to Victor himself.

Or would he stay allied and save the pack and his pack members from the full s*****r and then s*****y into Victors' pack, but lose his Luna, his Goddess Gifted Mate. The silence stretched on and Victor knew he was likely pondering the very same thing: "Sounds like you're in a bit of a pickle, Orien. I'd think it over very carefully. What is most important to you? Your pack and the 600 lives that live there, women, children included. Or one she-wolf, a half-breed at that. Who has and always will, love her daughter more than you." he murmured, just to twist that knife a little bit more. "1 life verse 600...I'll give you a couple of days, call and see what you will do." He laughed and clicked the line closed.

Being allied to him was wise, but severing ties was deadly. Victor's allies all knew this, had seen what happens when one leaves his side. A full s*****r, severing an alliance, was rarely done by one of his allied packs. Though if he chose to, none argued with him.

Victor knew that man was not in his car alone, his Beta Milton would be there, possibly the man's Gamma as well. All of them were now fearing for their Mates and children back home in Nightfall. They would be rushing home to the pack. Making frantic calls to prep the pack for attack, not that it was going to come so swiftly.

Victor had other things to deal with and sort out. Nightfall was of no real concern to him. Addison wasn't there, and neither was Luci. There was nothing else within Nightfall that interested him, not even Thatcher. That boy was wolfen and nothing else, got nothing of his mothers' lineage. He was all Orien, as far as Victor could tell.

He'd let them go and frantically prep the pack for war, be on high alert and exhaust themselves, pull all their allies to them, just to see how many Orien had, that were willing to help defend that pack against the Bloodless Moon Pack. That was always of interest to Victor.

Even if he didn't win the battle due to allied assistance, that pack would be destroyed and have to be abandoned. He'd make sure of that. Make sure that both Orien and Thatcher were killed, the leadership gone. That would be his main goal if it was not winnable to him. Take out the Alpha and it's Heir, to really hurt who was left, see them be divided up. Maybe go off and hunt a few to bring in to his pack as they fled the battle.

He was leaned back in his chair all comfortable, nothing had really changed for him with that conversation. He wondered just how Addison had left it with Orien. He didn't sound devastated, so there had not been a rejection dealt. Though he was willing to bet from all he'd seen and knew of Addison, she had threatened to leave him.

He was more than a little surprised that she was still bound to that man, after what had been reported to him about their fighting over the past few weeks. That stupid man had cuffed his own Mate with silver, also didn't know that it wouldn't work on her. She was half witch and so he knew there was always a possibility that it wouldn't work. He wasn't exactly sure of the extent of her witch's powers.

Cuffing her hadn't worked from what he'd heard, her wolf was strong, a pure-blooded female on both sides of her bloodline, and she did have the temperament of a pureblood when it suited her. Though for the most part she was just soft and gentle in nature, only truly displayed her alpha side when those she loved came under threat.

She really was a good Luna and if he'd gotten to her when she was 18, she'd have made him a beautiful Mate, he'd have let her have everything she wanted. They'd have had lots of children. A full litter of little half breeds he'd be proud to call his own. He'd have given that girl the world.

Though there would be no Luci if he'd claimed her all those years ago. So perhaps not obtaining her when he had wanted to, was for the actual best. She had a very powerful daughter, a double shifter that was going to bring power to any pack she chose to stay with, align herself with.

He wondered if offering Luci to take down Orien himself, would gain him some gratitude, a little bit of trust and faith with the girl. It might just be another way to get her to come to him, she might just want to help take that man out. Perhaps a deal could be struck.

Victor smiled to himself, he had more than one plan formulating for gaining that girl for himself. He knew that he just needed the right leverage was all.

What was going to work the best? Use the twins, if he could get his hands on them? Use Addison, she had to leave that pack at some point? Could just wait that woman out. Or use Orien and offer her the choice of k*****g that man for her? Or, letting her do it herself? He'd give her that man, hand him right over to her if she wanted, if it would gain some trust between them.

There were currently three options open to him, he just really needed to think about them, calculate it all out. Then wondered if she'd go to Nightfall if her brother was there and in danger. To help him, it was a possibility. Hmm, a fourth option to think about.

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Jack POV

He walked himself to the cottage with Luci and the boys in it. He was happy to be going to see her, couldn't stop smiling and he knew it. Knocked on the door and smiled right at Addison as she opened the door to him. He saw her shake her head just a little, likely understood that he was never going to be able to stay away.

"Are Luci and the boys busy, Addi? Can I borrow them for a little while?" He asked. Luci would know it was him, would be able to feel the pack tether right to him, likely had her mother get the door. Couldn't blame her, so he approached this like he was just visiting, and asked her mother's permission.

Watched as Addi frowned up at him "Why?"

"Rafe and I have found what we believe is more suitable accommodation for Alari, her needs as a Siren. We'd like to show her and the boys after dinner. I would also like for all of us to have dinner together tonight." He smiled right at her, he would really love to have dinner as a family with Luci and the boys.

"Jack," Addi sighed, "I understand you and Rafe want to get to know the boys. But Luci has been here all of a day and a half, she needs a few more days, and after today with Orien." She shook her head.

“I’m aware she’s had a not so nice meeting, but today I saw the real Luci for the first time. It was nice to see her like that. Rafe and I would like to sit down and offer our apologies. We haven’t done that yet.’ He told her, it was something they needed to do. Didn’t know if they should be doing that with the boys in the room, but getting Luci alone was likely not going to happen for a while, as much as he wanted that. He understood it wasn’t going to happen any time soon.

“Where is Luci?” he asked, realising he couldn’t feel her in the house. Took a deep breath in and couldn’t smell her “Addison?” he questioned instantly.

“She’s fine Jack, Kali has gone for a run.” She told him.

He smiled big now, he could go and join her. Flare was itching to be with Kali, turned to leave, only to have Addison’s hand land right on his arm. “No Jack.” She shook her head at his frown “Please just leave them be.”

“The boys?” he asked, but he could smell them and felt them here in this house, that was curious that she would go off without them.

“They are here with me. She wanted to be on their own. You’ll have to give them that Jack. It’s not just Luci and Kali anymore, but Alari as well. She asked the boys to stay here with me. They wanted a minute to themselves. Not only had to deal with Orien, but this is a big adjustment for them.”

“I know.”

“Do you really? She’s been living alone, Jack, doing as she pleases, all three of them, with no interference or instructions from anyone, being here and taking orders or not being able to be alone when they want to be, always having you or Rafe wanting to be there, might not be as welcoming as you think. I understand your needs, but her needs are very different.”

He sighed, he could understand all that. Also knew Alari was a solo creature, had been born out there all alone, was not used to having pack

members around her at all. "Alright," he nodded. "But dinner, I'll set it up in the private dining room for seven. I'd really like all of you to come."

"I will ask her, Jack, but don't get your hopes up."

"Alright Addison. How are you doing? Your day was not really any better than Luci's." He was concerned about her, to see a bond that had been together so long falling apart, was never nice.

"I'm still angry with Orien, just like you are Jack." She sighed "I don't know what he'll do, to be honest."

"If he truly loves you, Addi, he'll choose you over Victor." He stated frankly, "to be honest Addi, he was a fool to have even denied you your right in coming here, to look for Luci." He shook his own head now "I don't understand that at all."

"Neither do I, Jack." He saw her shake her head, could see the actual sadness in the woman, "We've been together 27 years. It's not long, I suppose, in the wolfen world, but I get the feeling we're very much over Jack. That he's not going to come back and if I have to go there, it will only be to state a full rejection."

"I'm sorry Addi," and he was. There was no guarantee that either of them would even survive it. They could lose their wolves to it. The Goddess herself may see fit to render them wolf-less or Mate-less for the rest of their lives. No one wanted that. He didn't want that for her.

"Addi, you are always welcome here within this pack."

"Thank you, Jack. While you're here, do you think you have the time to help me with something?"

"Yes, may I come in then?" he did want to go inside and see his boys, but had not intruded at all. This was their home, not his.

Addi stepped back and waved him inside, he walked through the door and smiled right at both his boys, they looked right up at him and smiled "Hi Daddy." They both said and it warmed his heart so much. He walked over

and ruffled both their hair, noted they were watching TV “Hi.” He returned to them, before going back to Addison.

“I should probably send some games over for them to play with or they’re going to end up addicted to that TV.” He chuckled softly.

Addison chuckled to herself, “Probably, they do like it. Never had one of their own, a new novelty for them.”

He sank himself down in the dining nook with Addison. “What can I help you with?”

“Finding my Siren’s pack.”

“Oh...” he had not expected that “You don’t know where it is?” he asked after a moment’s thought.

“Not exactly where. I was a rogue wolf once upon a time, on the move constantly, female and well...” she sighed a little heavily.

“Beautiful.” Jack smiled right at her.

“No, Jack.” She shook her head “alone out there, I rarely stopped moving, only long enough to get a few hours’ rest at a time. Mostly, Fallon was out. We could move quicker that way.”

“Ah, yes. Faster and more agile at getting away from other rogues.” He understood now what she had meant. A lone Alpha female rogue, something that would attract male rogues to her, wanting to mate her. Might even attract wolves from packs to try and capture her and take her for themselves.

“So, other than the state and a rough idea of the area the lake was in,” she sighed and shook her head. “I don’t really know. When I fled the lake, I was in no real state to look at where I was. I don’t even know how Luci wasn’t born when I felt her father sever from me. Most would go in to labour or miscarry with the pain of losing one’s Mate.”

“You’re strong and so is Luci. Perhaps your witch’s bloodline helped you to protect the most precious thing you had left.”

“It is possible.” She nodded.

“Why do you want to go there? If you don’t mind my asking,”

“I don’t. There is a ceremonial blade in my Lucian’s pack. A Sirens blade. I’d like to retrieve it, for Luci. It’s her birthright. But I don’t know which lake, what humans call it or exactly where. I’d like to use your computer to search for it. I don’t want to do that in your pack library, with others watching me.” She sighed, “I never looked for it while in Nightfall, had to just leave that part of my life in the dark, to protect Luci and what she was, what she could have been. I think now is the time to find my home.”

“You still love him.” Jack smiled at her.

“Yes!” she stated simply “I never stopped. I loved Orien too, there was room for both in my heart, I guess.”

“It’s nice to know one can love two at the same time.” He nodded, knew it was what Luci had done with both of them, never voiced it though, but it had been ruined now.

“It’s common, Jack. Most second chance Mates have this. Room for both in their hearts.”

“A second chance.” He mused, “wouldn’t that be nice?” Then he sighed, he was going to need that with Luci. Had already realised he loved her. Flare loved Kali, but without proof of what his Mate had done to him.

It would just appear he’d left his Goddess Gifted Mate, for a chosen Mate, after he’d abandoned her in the first place for his Goddess Gifted. He would seem fickle and selfish, he didn’t want that to be how he was seen. Not when he didn’t believe that was what it was.

He also didn’t want Luci to see it that way either, he wanted her to know the truth of the entire situation. Sit her down and explain it to her, when he actually understood it all himself. So that she could see they had never meant to hurt her, that he had always loved her and that something had been done to him and to Rafe to stop that.

That it was Maria and Melissa who had done this to them, split them up and caused this horrid mess that was only now just unfolding. Wanted to be able to tell her he loved her still, that he wanted her to be his Mate. That she would feel, as he wanted her to, that she should always have been here with them. That he would never have left her.

He realised his mind had wondered when Addison touched his arm and raised an eyebrow at him, “My apologies, my mind wondered.”

“I noticed.” She nodded “You can’t have her Jack. You have a Mate, I can guarantee you, that Luci is not about to become your mistress, or concubine once more.”

“I understand that.” He nodded and he would never ask her to be either of those. “I also wouldn’t do that to her, Kali or Alari, for that matter. I respect them all too much, Addison.” He told her and meant it.

“You’re dreaming of it though, I can tell.”

“I am not dreaming of Luci being my mistress or concubine Addi. I promise you that, I nor Rafe, for that matter, would ever do that to her.” he assured her. “Now as for the use of my office. I don’t see a problem with it, though I think you should let Luci research with you. I’m sure she would like to see a picture of her father’s lake.” He smiled.

“It’ll not just be a picture Jack, I will need Alari to go and get it, that blade will be within the lake itself.”

“No.” Jack nearly snapped at her, “Are you crazy? Victor could be watching, waiting for her to leave this pack.”

“Calm yourself Jack. I do understand your concerns, but you will have no say in the matter. If she wants to go, to do that. There will be no stopping her, you know this.”

“It’s not safe for her out there, Addison.” He stated flatly as he tried to rein in not just his annoyance but his fear of losing her once more.

“Victor does not know anything about my previous life. No one knows anything about my life before Orien, not even my original home-pack. I

have never, not once ever spoken of anything of my past prior to meeting Orien. Not even Orien himself knows where I originate from. I never mentioned Lucian until the day I told you and Rafe. So it will all be fine.”

Jack frowned, this woman had many secrets and knew how to keep them at that, but if this was the case, then perhaps he shouldn't worry so much. She was also not wrong. There would be no stopping Luci or Alari from going to her father's pack. “Alright, what about warriors to go with you, to keep you safe, if you can find it? Then, Luci, to follow you once you've confirmed it is the right place, Rafe or I could go with her with more warriors, to keep her safe.”

“You worry too much, Jack.”

“Yes, I worry, of course I would she's my...” he snapped his mouth shut and stopped himself before he stated the word 'Mate'. Got a full arched eyebrow from Addison now, as she stared right at him, she'd likely not missed it. She was not a dumb woman and a Luna ranked wolf. Also knew how he'd felt about Luci back then, it likely still showed.

“Perhaps a proper discussion, when you find the lake.” He stated, ignoring that questioning look altogether.

“Fair enough.” She nodded.

“Why do you need the Siren Blade?” he asked curiously, something like that was used for Alpha's to initiate pack members.

“It's her birthright,” Addison stated simply with a nonchalant shrug. Was trying to appear indifferent about it, he thought. But he didn't believe that. She had a reason. “Luci should have something of her fathers. Her real father that is. I also think Alari would love to swim in her father's pack waters. Technically, it's still hers. I never went rogue, just ran when told to. I'm technically still the Luna of the Lake, so Alari would be the Alpha to it. It is her birthright.”

“I don't want to lose her to that lake, Addison.” Jack sighed, knowing they could lose Alari to that lake. Alari was not attached to this pack, to him or Rafe. If she went there and felt a real strong connection to her own kind,

she may never return at all. He didn't want that "Were there any survivors, Addison?"

"I honestly don't know." She looked quite sad to him, as she thought about it. "likely if there were, when Orien claimed me, I would have been severed from them, and they would have thought I died."

"So there could be? If that's the case, then you don't need Alari at all."

"It is possible." She nodded.

"Let's hope some survived." He told her.

Knew it was very selfish of him, but he didn't want to lose Luci, didn't want her leaving this pack, didn't want Alari finding other Sirens she would be attached to. Sirens loved Sirens from all he'd read. They were closely bonded to their families, the social groups they lived in. If there were any survivors, they would know Alari was Lucian's child, they were her family, her Siren family. They would know that Lucian had told Addison to run and flee to save their daughter. Would likely understand that now she was bringing her home to them, understand if there were any left and no new ruler had taken over. Addison would still be their Luna. She was right on that, they would all recognise her as such.

See her as the woman that had fled and protected the Heir to their Pack, could well all be there just waiting for the Luna's return, with their future Heir, when it was deemed safe to do so.

Alari would feel connected to them and they to her. The moment they all met, it would be like a feeling of coming home for the first time. They would likely want her to stay with them, be a part of that pack. Be the Alpha Siren, as was her birthright. He would lose her to them. They were her blood, her kin.

Not only would he lose her, but he would also lose both his boys as well. They were as closely bonded to Alari as any Siren was to another Siren and he knew it. Saw it in the way they always went to Alari, without hesitation regardless of the situation. She called them and they went.

Their Siren genes were as strong as if they were Siren's themselves. Called their beasts Siren Wolves.

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Luci POV

She was out in the woods, going off to find a nice quiet place, somewhere secluded to be by herself, to see about that witch's bloodline she had inside of her. Did she actually have any ability at all to go with it? She was curious now, seeing as she did recall a glow to her shifting when she'd been pregnant. That had to be her witch heritage, some sort of something to protect her children.

Luci wanted to know, before she made her way to Hannah and her sisters' home to ask them if they knew anything. She had spent some time now thinking about her mother and other than her eyes glowing, during times when she was really angry. She'd never seen anything magical at all. Didn't actually think that her mother held much power at all. Had said as much.

Kali was trotting along at her own pace through the Black Forest Packs western woods, while Luci's mind wandered over her own thoughts. Her wolf knew this pack, had spent a year running all over it, training in it and just roaming about in general. She knew they had to be careful of the northern woods and Hannah and her sister's traps, so she was trotting along in the western woods, keeping away from the north.

She came to a stop at one of the many creeks that ran through the woods in this pack, this one was not all that deep, and took a drink from it before shifting her back to Luci. Luci looked around, they were not on any path she could see, Kali had meandered off into the woods for her to be away from the pack, as she had wanted.

She sank herself down on the edge of the creek bed and dangled her feet in the water a foot below, smiled to herself as she felt Alari rouse and feel happy with the connection to the water, but she didn't surface completely. Just liked that connection to the water, and how it felt on their skin.

Luci leaned back on her hands, she was completely naked out here, but it didn't really bother her, she had grown up with nudity, it had never really bothered her. Certainly not while in this pack before. Turned her eyes towards the tree canopy above her, it was thick and lush, and hardly any light made it through to the forest floor.

It was always dark out here in the forest, it was almost like night time all the time out in the woods. The pack was aptly named, she thought absently, for indeed the forest was black as night in places. Even now it was like night, but she knew the sun was still up in the west, getting lower with every minute, but here where she was it was already dark as night.

One would think that this place was spooky and scary to be in, but it wasn't or not to her. She was actually quite relaxed here in the forest. Though perhaps humans wandering in by mistake, thought that was what it was. Spooky, likely they would get lost easily as well. Though that is not what it was for wolves, whose eyesight was much better, she could see very well in the dark with the use of Kali's wolfen sight.

She felt Kali recede away and then darkness fell all around her as she no longer looked about with the use of her wolfen sight. It was nearly pitch black now, she was seeing the forest as a human would. Couldn't see much at all, even when her eyesight adjusted to the darkness around her. It was like the middle of the night with no moon shining for any natural source of light.

Luci pulled herself from her thoughts of the forest itself, though she was glad there was no light, that would only aid her somewhat. She sat all the way up and focused on herself, thinking about that glow that happened when she shifted while pregnant. Tried to feel for it, find the light that she knew was within her somewhere.

Felt warm as she focused on it, the more she focused upon it the warmer she felt, it was a nice feeling almost like a little wave rolling through her. She felt happier as well, it made her happy to feel this warm. Opened her eyes expecting something, but to her disappointment there was nothing at all, no glow to her body anywhere.

She sighed a little to herself, but really, honestly, what did she think was going to happen, chastised herself. What else could she expect? If she did have any powers, they were likely weak or dormant, only springing forward if she needed them to, probably acted like a natural defence mechanism.

Likely they were dormant just like Alari had been, she might need something to unlock them, just like Alari had to, to come forth. Who knew? Not her, that was for sure.

She shook off her disappointment and stretched her hands out and thought about Hannah and her sisters. She'd seen them during the year that she had been there. Produce light from their hands. It was just a glowing ball that lit their way or moved off in the dark for them to see something they wanted to look at.

It seemed simple enough, she would start with that, it was completely harmless from what she had seen, just a glow, and when they were done with it, it just dissipated into nothing. It was not a weapon, or anything, just a means to light one's way. Knew that it was called witch's light, she'd asked once and been told what it was. Not a secret, she figured all witches could use it.

Luci sat and stared at her hand, focused with all she had on it, thought about the witch's light, what it looked like, what its purpose was, and stared at her hands. Willing anything at all to happen. Got nothing once again and huffed in annoyance. Flopped back down on the ground and stared up into the tree canopy above her.

Wondered if Kali or Alari could use anything witchy, got nothing from either of them. They didn't even seem particularly interested at all in what she was doing. It was her curiosity, not theirs, it seemed. Both her beasts were lying settled inside her mind, resting comfortably without so much as a care right that minute.

Alari, she thought, was actually sleeping. Kali was watching but not participating and didn't have any interest, this was all a Luci thing and they were just letting her go about exploring her own inner thoughts.

Perhaps it was just wishful thinking, or perhaps it was so small a part of her that there was nothing she could do with it. That it only became active to protect her boys when she shifted and that was the full extent of it.

She lay there in the forest for a long time, could feel the moon rising, night had come finally, she felt a little bit weird being back inside the pack, it was a place she had never thought she would be ever again. But at the same time, felt somewhat connected to and comforted by, just by being here.

It was likely her connection to the pack itself, knew it wasn't because of Rafe and Jack themselves. That still hurt her to have to think about them. She dealt with the pain inside her chest, had learned a long time ago to live with it.

Could, or had been out there in the human world, on some days, be able to forget about it and feel nothing at all. But other days the pain of it was terrible. Right that minute it was bearable, better than yesterday at least, she thought to herself.

The longer she was here in the pack though, the more difficult it was going to get and she knew it. Wondered just how she was going to avoid coming into contact with her Alpha and Beta. Was there a way to actually do that, stay away from them, live here but not see them. It was a large pack. One of the largest there was, had well over 2000 wolves when she'd left. It could be even bigger now.

Thought about how to avoid them, sighed heavily as she stared up into the darkness, didn't actually think it was going to be possible, not when she was the mother of their children. They were going to want to have contact with the boys, daily in all likelihood.

She was okay with them spending time with their children. She herself just didn't want to be around them, perhaps she should just let the boys go and be with them for a few hours each day. They were busy most of the time training, running their pack businesses. Attending to allied packs, surely they would go back to doing those things in a day or two. That would get them away from her.

She could ask her mother to escort the boys to and from visits with their fathers. That might work? Sighed, she had no real idea what they were going to expect of her, or of the boys for that matter. Though neither of them would be able to make the boys do anything they didn't want. Alari would sense that and be on them damned fast.

She could ask her mother to escort the boys to and from visits with their fathers. That might work? Sighed, she had no real idea what they were going to expect of her, or of the boys for that matter. Though neither of them would be able to make the boys do anything they didn't want. Alari would sense that and be on them damned fast.

She was out here right this minute because the boys had gone to have dinner with their fathers. Her mother had taken them. She'd come home from letting Kali out to stretch her legs only to hear that they wanted to have dinner with her and the boys. Luci had stared right at her mother, she didn't want to sit around in the private dining room with them and have dinner. Be alone with them. No, she did not want that.

Though she had not stopped the boys from going, told her mother to take them to dinner, which she had with a simple nod of her head. She understood why, knew the truth of her shame now. Would likely find ways to help her not be around them. Had always been on her side in any argument.

So now she was out here in the woods while they were all having dinner. Once more, using that time, she was alone to try and connect with her witch's bloodline. Although she felt that the warmth which spread through her body was part of her witch's bloodline, she couldn't use it. Tried focusing on it again.

That wave she felt spread throughout her body, when she really focused on it, spread from her chest and rolled outwards like a pebble tossed into a lake and rippling the water in circular waves. It kind of felt nice and soothing, relaxing. She once again felt happy. She realised after a moment.

Smiled when she felt happiness roll off Kali and Alari as well. They also like the feeling of warmth that spread through them, it made all of them

a little bit happier. Saw a flash in the darkness to her right and turned her head to see Hannah walking towards her “Evening young Lucian. It is with great pleasure I hear, that you have returned to the pack.”

Luci sat herself up and blinked at the warm, almost loving tone Hannah used when addressing her. “Hannah, it’s nice to see you again.” She nodded.

“May I sit and help you, Lucian?” she asked.

“If you want to. Though I doubt you can.”

Heard Hannah chuckle softly, “You’d be surprised about the things I can do, Lucian.” She said as she sank down next to her.

“Why Lucian? And not Luci?” she questioned the woman.

“Mark of respect, young one. If you wish, I will call you Luci, but without permission, I will simply not.”

Luci stared at her. “Luci is fine, Hannah. And a mark of respect?”

“Mm, you are very unique Luci. I’ve waited a long time to talk with you. I can help you. You have questions. Ask Luci.”

Luci thought about that. “Do you know what I am?”

“Yes, are a Triune.” She nodded.

“A what?” Luci was confused.

“Three in one, separate but always together.” Hannah told her simply, like that was something she could understand.

“I don’t understand.” She shook her head.

“Wolf, Siren, Witch...Lucian, special you are. What is it you are trying to do out here?”

“I don’t know.” Luci flopped back down on the ground. “I thought perhaps I could do something.” She waved her hand about, “Witchy.”

“Witchy?” Hannah nodded, raised her hand and produced that ball of witch’s light “Like this?”

“Yes.” Luci nodded “That’s exactly what I was trying to do. Thought it would be simple.”

“It is.” Hannah smiled down at her “I will teach you...though...” she was silent for a moment, seemed to be contemplating something for a long few minutes. “You need not be distracted, or it could be...” she shrugged it off “Come on, sit up. I will teach you.”

Luci sat up. “You’re really going to help me?”

“Yes, you, my dear, have helped us as well.”

“What?”

“Never mind, our Coven leader will come, you’ll know who she is. When she gets here.”

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 64

Rafe POV

He watched as Addison walked the boys into the private dining room, knew that Luci was not with her, even before she walked into the room. He could feel Luci’s tether moving away from the centre of the pack, out into the western woods.

He’d sighed internally to himself at the knowledge that she had declined to have dinner with them. Even though she had sent the boys, it only made him feel worse about their current situation. She didn’t want to be around them, she was letting them know that. Also letting them know she would be giving them access to their children, but just not her.

He could not only feel Jack’s disappointment, but sadness as well at the knowledge she was declining their invitation. This dinner had been Jack’s

idea, the man wanted to spend time with her. There was nothing either one of them could do about it at this point. They might never be able to. Certainly couldn't while they were marked and mated.

He smiled at both the boys and greeted them warmly, they smiled right up at him and he ruffled both boys' hair and saw them giggle, shivered at the sound of it, "Daddy does that too." They both told him as they sat down, looking at Jack.

Rafe blinked, they both just called Jack daddy, as if they looked at Jack as though he was both their daddies. Heard Addison chuckle, "More attuned than you know." She said simply and sank herself down into a chair. "Alpha, Beta, Luci sends her apologies, but she has declined your invitation. Needs more time, you both understand."

"We understand, Addi." Rafe nodded. He did, didn't like that he couldn't do anything about it, but he did understand, at least, she had only been brought back to the pack yesterday.

"She, however, will not interfere in the two of you bonding with your sons, or spending time with them." Addison smiled at him.

He could only nod, "We truly do appreciate that. Please pass that onto her when you go home later."

"Home?"

"Yes, Addi. This is your home now, I fear. So, Jack and I, willingly and happily extend an official offer for you to reside here as long as you like."

He watched her nod a little sadly but say nothing. He knew she would take up the offer. She already had plans of her own while she was here, plans that he and Jack had discussed and neither of them were doing so well with. But for now, were leaving it alone. It could take a while for her plans to come to light.

Nadia had planned this whole meal around the boys and Luci's dietary requirements. They were even eating baked fish, freshly caught from the

lake itself. With oven roasted vegetables. And she'd produced a dessert that was a strawberry tart, with a small drizzle of chocolate over it.

Watching her place it before the two boys and tell them what it was, made Rafe smile. She had great grandchildren their age, and in fact would be going to school with them next week. And she was all smiles and telling them just what they were having, mentioned that it was real melted chocolate.

He and Jack got to see the boys' eyes light up as they stared up at her, then they had looked at Addi almost as if for permission. She'd chuckled "I think your mum would be okay with this tiny amount of chocolate." They'd grinned all happily and dug right in.

He knew that she had made those tarts from freshly picked strawberries, had used an apple puree to sweeten it naturally as well, had told him "Those boys will be challenging my culinary skill." She'd then smiled and rubbed her hands together, before walking away "I need a new challenge." She called out to him over her shoulder.

He got to sit and listen to the boys all through dinner, just talk happily about playing down at the playground with the other children, and that they'd gone for a walk around the park with their mother and grammy.

He and Jack had wanted to take the boys around the park, to show them their new home. But he understood that Luci didn't particularly want to spend time with them just yet. That was still going to take a while.

He looked at Addison when she brought up that the boys had loved climbing all over the equipment in the playground, and thought the boys might like to see the agility course they had here in action.

Both he and Jack smiled at that. "We can do that." He nodded. "Let these two boys see the warriors race through it and see how it's really done even."

"What is it?" both the boys asked together.

“A really big playground for the adults.” Jack smiled at them, “You’ll love it, when you’re older.”

“How big?” Little Rafe asked.

“Ten times bigger than the playground.” Rafe answered him and got to watch both their eyes go really wide, and saw them filled with excitement a moment later. “Now boys, it’s just for those with wolves, you understand.”

“We have wolves daddy.” Little Jack burst out at him, all excitedly.

‘Got you on that.” Addison laughed.

“Hm, poor choice of words, I see.” Rafe nodded “Now boys, I will rephrase that, not until your old enough. Most don’t use the agility course until they are 16, and you’re what?”

“Six.” They both told him and then he saw them both just frown up at him.

“So not old enough. I’m sorry boys.”

“We have wolves.” Little Rafe told him once more.

“Yes,” he acknowledged, “But the course is designed for adults.”

“But we have wolves.” Little Rafe stated again, more firmly this time, seemed to understand why he’d changed his words.

He heard Jack laugh “He’s stubborn like you Rafe.” Then he turned to the boys. “How about, you come and look at it. It’s very tall and some of the things you’re still too small to reach up and use, you’ll find.”

Both the boys pouted at Jack nearly instantly and little Jack sighed “Okay daddy.”

“If your mamma will let you. We’ll go and look at it tomorrow.” Jack chuckled.

“She will.” Both of them smiled instantly at Jack.

Rafe smiled right at them, he couldn't help it, how they spoke together at the same time, he really did think it was cute, and how happy they were all the time, they only ever seemed to get down if Luci was down herself.

Sat and thought about that as he watched them talk to Jack about the obstacles they would see on the agility course. He would be able to know what Luci was feeling, what her mood was from just watching the boys, he realised. Or at least know when she was upset or ticked off, he supposed.

That could come in handy for both him and Jack until she was settled and, if he and Jack could manage it, back inside the pack house where she truly belonged.

His eyes moved right to Jack with that thought, as it dawned on him, that was just what Jack had been thinking about when he'd shut him out completely. Finding Luci a place to live, he was willing to bet that man already had it in his mind where. He openly admitted to loving Luci.

They were going to get her back. He'd cut Rafe off earlier and now Rafe knew exactly why as well. He'd not wanted Rafe to know exactly what he'd been thinking about. Luci and living with him, up on the Alpha floor. That man was rearranging somewhere on the top floor of the packhouse, inside his mind, to accommodate all of them in the one suite.

Smiled at him, Jack was never going to give up on Luci, now that she was back, not when he stated he loved her, that Flare was itching to be all over Kali and Alari at that. That in itself was an intriguing thought. His Beta's wolf was attached to Luci and her shifters. This could well be the reason that Flare had never mated Delilah in wolfen form. His wolf was already attached to Luci and Kali.

If that was the case? Had Jack and Flare unwittingly mated themselves to Luci without telling him? If so? When had it happened? And clearly, their bond was not complete. Thinking about that, the fact that they had agreed to claim Luci, Jack had brought it up after her going into heat with them. It wasn't usual for a she-wolf to go into heat unless she was mated.

Jack had really been on it. Before they left to go to the Wolf Valley Pack, he'd actually agreed to claim Luci. When they got home, he recalled Jack near jumping on him with joy. They'd sat and talked, agreed to do it when they got home from the Wolf Valley Pack.

He stopped his thoughts right there, stared right at Jack as he realised he'd not recalled that at all, until right this very minute. His brain was suddenly screaming at him, racing a million miles an hour now. There was no way he would have forgotten that on his own.

Sweet Goddess, he even recalled how excited not just Jack had been, that he too had been, recalled kissing the man right on the mouth. It had shocked the pair of them, but then they'd just laughed it off. Had talked about it on the way to the Wolf Valley Pack, they'd made the decision to surprise Luci with it.

He now realised, had made that decision the very day before they had left to go to the Wolf Valley Pack to assist. They had even decided they would do it, tell her and claim her on the full moon that was approaching.

Take her out to the very place in the woods that they had mated her for the first time when she'd been here at 18. Ask her there. They had been planning it. Hadn't told anyone, they'd wanted to surprise the entire pack. Had been going to call Addison the very day they got home and inform her that they wanted to claim Luci, and make her their Luna.

His eyes moved right to Addison as he felt sadness touch him. His actual heart ached right this minute. They had lost everything, going to that pack. Not just their sons, but the woman they really loved, had lost their one true Luna, in going there. A woman who accepted both of them without question right from the day she'd met them. Denied them nothing ever, loved being with them both.

He saw Addison look right at him. "What's wrong?" she asked him.

He pulled himself together very quickly before Jack realised something was very wrong, shook his head at her "It's nothing." He nodded, but he couldn't smile, "I'm alright." He told her reassuringly, but deep down he didn't think that he was.

Mind-linked right to Luci, he needed to talk to her, apologise right this instant “Luci, I’m so sorry.” He told her sadly, the moment the connection was established, he didn’t want her to cut him off before he got the words out. Needed her to know, to feel that he was so very sorry, had allowed his actual sadness to flow down the mind-link to her.

Then, all of a sudden, he had people connecting to him all over the place, many pack members sounding frantic and concerned. Luci’s link was gone in that moment from him as well. What he was getting was a bunch of mind-links about a massive ball of light shooting up out of the western forest into the air.

He mustn’t have been the only one getting mind-linked to. Jack shot to his feet, as did Addison for that matter, though she couldn’t be mind-linked, but it was the twins that had his attention. They both started laughing, he stood himself, but was watching the twins “Mamma.” They both smiled right up at him.

Addison stared right at him “I’ll go.” She stated, but Jack was already on the move, leaving the dining room. “Luci’s in the western woods.” He stated as he fled the dining room. He saw Addison bite her lower lip.

Rafe sighed “Addi?”

“I honestly don’t know.” She shook her head. “But maybe witch’s light.”

How could she have known this, but he nodded “Sounds like it.” he mind-linked right to Hannah and her sisters “What is going on?”

“Nothing Alpha, a little accident, no need to worry. Everyone is fine.”

“What was it?” he asked.

“A rather large ball of energy, should have just been witch’s light.”

“Luci?” he asked, pulling on her pack tether.

“Perfectly fine.” Hannah told him and cut the link.

He sighed and looked at Addison. “Luci is fine.”

“Mamma’s happy.” Both boys smiled up at him.

Rafe stared at them. “Boy’s, was that your mamma?” he asked them. They seemed to know an awful lot.

He saw Addison turn and look at them as well. “Yes.” They both said in unison and were climbing down from the table “We can go?”

“Yes.” Rafe nodded and saw them both run off out of the dining room, heading for the front of the packhouse. He followed them, as did Addison, all the way back to their cottage. They knew where to go.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 65

Jack POV

Flare ripped right out of him the moment they were outside of the packhouse, and he was gone racing off in the direction of the western forest. Both he and Flare knew exactly where Luci was. Flare did look briefly at the sky, but there was nothing there now. Whatever it was, everyone was reporting was gone.

But the reports flooding in weren’t just from the pack members but border patrollers as well, and with everyone trying to let their Alpha and Beta know what they saw, he knew it was right where Luci herself was.

It wasn’t all that long before he was no longer alone. Allen’s wolf Cosmos was racing alongside him. Just as fast, likely one of his own mates was out there as well. That can’t be good. What if Hannah or one of her sisters had come across Alari and they were in a fight?

Goddess who would win a powerful Witch or a Siren. Jack could feel his stress levels rising.

‘Allen?’

‘Hannah is out there.’ Allen shot down the mind-link as their two wolves raced together now, towards the area. Though after just a brief minute, Cosmos came to a skidding halt, then he was gone bolting away towards

the north woods. It was likely Hannah had teleported herself back to her cabin in the woods.

Flare continued on into the woods, they were latched on to Luci's tether. She'd not moved at all from what he could tell. Found her standing naked amongst a lot of debris, tree branches and wood splinters appeared to have rained down on her and around her. Flare pulled up short and just stood watching her.

She was still a beautiful creature to behold, though all her softness was gone, the sight of her completely naked, he liked. Had to shake it off and focus on what was actually going on, he could see that she was not injured, she herself was just looking around at all the destruction.

She did not react to Flare being there not that far from her, didn't really look at him, she was, however, half smiling at herself. Stood and watched as she looked right at her hands and then turned her face up to the forest canopy. Flare tilted his head up so they too could see what she was seeing.

There was a clear gap directly above where she stood. Flare took a couple of steps to get a better look. A near perfect circle of sky was shining down on her. His eyes moved back to her 'Luci?' he mind-linked right to her.

She turned and looked right at Flare, and he saw a slight glow in her eyes, just like Addison had, just like Hannah and her sisters got. Then it was fading away, and her brilliant green eyes returned to normal.

They watched her bite her lip nervously, it was very cute, he hadn't seen that expression in a very long time. 'Sorry Beta.' She murmured after a moment.

She didn't use his name, he noted 'What happened?' he asked. He wanted Flare to shift him back to his human form, but his wolf would not. Flare knew she would be uncomfortable with Jack standing completely naked before her. His wolf, it seemed, was taking that into account.

'Um, I'm not exactly certain.' She said 'Kind of...got overloaded by...' she stopped talking altogether and frowned, shook her head 'I'm fine.'

'Did you do that to the trees?' he asked, though his gut told him yes, he'd seen that glow.

'Mm.' she nodded and then turned her face up to the night sky once more. The stars were clearly visible above her. The trees around her had been sheered clear of their branches in a 16 foot radius. Flare stepped towards her.

"The boys." She suddenly gasped and then Kali was just ripped out of her and she was racing away from them in wolfen form.

Flare shot right after her. He had wanted to run with her earlier in the day, but had been stopped by Addison. That wasn't going to happen now. He took the opportunity to run through the woods with Kali, the wolf. Flare was interested in himself. He enjoyed keeping up with her.

Saw Kali actually look at Flare.

Flare looked right back at her as he raced alongside her. Then she just put on a boost of speed and ran ahead of them. Flare was really stretching his legs now, she was all Alpha Wolf right this minute and he was barely keeping up. Jack realised that even Solar might have trouble catching her now.

Maybe she had never really run from them with all she had, they'd never had trouble keeping up with Kali before. But right that minute she was starting to pull away from Flare, 'You're much faster.' Jack laughed down the mind-link.

'Your just slow.' Luci shot right back and then Kali was just gone, leaving him behind for real now. Likely she had gained more strength and speed when Alari had come along.

Though to hear her taunt him like that, it was so very good, filled him and Flare with happiness. They were going to be able to work things out,

he just knew it. It might just take some time, a few months, though he was hoping for weeks, but it was going to be alright.

That taunt was shades of the old Luci, this was the side of Luci that they'd always seen, the playful side, they'd always loved that side of her.

Flare gave chase all the way to the cottage she and the boys were using. He could see both the boys were in the back yard along with Addison and Rafe. He watched as Kali leaped right over the backyard fence and skidded to a stop by the back door, shifting to Luci, right before both he and Rafe. "You're slow old man." She shot at him over her shoulder as she walked into the cottage.

He was shifted back himself and laughed 'Old man.' He thought to himself, she'd just played with him. He couldn't stop smiling as he looked at Rafe, saw the man shake his own head and then state "Jack you're naked."

"I know." He nodded, had just shifted back. Of course he was naked and he didn't have clothes here. But so had Luci been for their entire conversation in the woods and she'd just been naked in front of the two of them. Admittedly, he thought she hadn't realised at all out in the woods.

She had been lost to what ever had happened out there. It was likely from the glow of her eyes and the pack mind-linking like crazy about a massive ball of what he could only believe was witch's light, he could only see that it was Luci, and she'd tapped into her third bloodline.

Likely that was Hanna's doing. He knew she'd been out there. Allen had told him so. Hannah had called her a Triune, and was now helping her with that part of her. He only knew that because of Allen's wolf, Cosmos, racing out there and then dashing off.

Something else was going on within his pack, though he didn't yet understand what it was. He knew that things were definitely changing around here and not just for him, for Rafe, for Addison and even likely for Hannah and her sisters. They'd never really taken much interest in Luci.

They just smiled at her and were polite most of the time, when they did come across her and that was odd in itself, he now realised, they only ever smiled for their Mate and at Ian. Didn't actively get involved with pack members either. But those three had warded Luci's bedroom to stop Maria and Melissa from going in there.

Now those three or so far, Hannah herself, the most standoffish of them all, had gone to Luci and actively engaged with her. That was new. They were going to have to talk to those three women and find out just what was going on within the pack.

What if anything, they had seen something? It was likely that they had, and that something was to do with Luci. They'd stated she was a Triune and to leave her alone, he was willing to bet that they knew Luci had never died, that she was out there in the lake. Just wanted the girl left alone.

They were not wrong about what she was. Luci had the power of a witch within her, and she was a double shifter now, three completely separate species, but all united within Luci's body at the same time. Wondered if that witch's lineage made it possible for her to be just that.

He understood that now, turned and looked at his boys, they had giggled when the event had happened, they knew it was their mother, felt it, he thought. And wondered now, if they to were also triunes, he was going to have to ask Hannah.

"Jack?" Rafe interrupted his thoughts.

"Hmm."

"Go and put some pants on," he commented.

"Why?" Jack asked.

"Because I said so. Luci still might like seeing you naked."

Jack raised an eyebrow at him and shrugged it off. But he did head off to the packhouse to find pants. He had a lot of thinking to do, and they had yet to show Luci the Forest Creek house.

He returned to the cottage to find Luci dressed and standing by the back door. She was drinking a glass of water and both the boys were shifted and playing in the back yard in their Siren Wolves. Pouncing on each other and rolling around. He smiled as he watched them, they were like two happy puppies, he realised.

His eyes moved to Luci and he realised that it wasn't actually Luci watching them, it was Alari, ever present when they both, he and Rafe were around, and it made him wonder if Luci was uncomfortable or if Alari just wanted to watch over the boys herself.

He took a calming breath to settle himself and Flare. They both enjoyed being this close to her, wanted to make a connection with her Siren, walked himself over to her, they'd not had the best contact with Alari. She was all defensive with both he and Rafe.

"Alari," he addressed her, trying to keep his tone light and casual, "Rafe and I found a house that may suit your needs, on a creek that goes directly to the lake. Would you like to see it?" he tried to engage with the Siren, was trying to establish any kind of connection at all with her. He'd seen it could be done, she'd latched right on to Addison.

He watched those pure black eyes of hers look right at him and wondered how it was she saw him? what did he look like to her, what did any of them look like through those pure black eyes that seemed to always be devoid of life.

Had to watch her facial expression to gauge how she actually felt, though at this moment in time, there was no real expression at all on her face. She was looking right at him though and he knew it, wondered if her vision would be better under the water, than out here on the land.

He felt Rafe move to come and stand next to him and actually felt when Alari's eyes moved from him to Rafe, he didn't see it happen, there was nothing to see for them, but he could actually feel the difference, less tension he thought.

"It's on the eastern side of the pack." Rafe told her "Closer to the lake."

“We thought you might like that.” Jack commented, “It is up to you, Luci and Kali, of course, the twins even.”

“It is only a suggestion,” Rafe finished for him.

Felt those eyes of hers return to him, once again didn't see it, sensed it, perhaps. “We'll look.” She stated.

“Would you like to go now or tomorrow?” he asked, though personally he was hoping for now. He wanted to spend time with them, liked being this close to her, was happy to have any interaction they could. Especially with Alari herself, who currently wasn't being all aggressive towards either of them, she did appear a little cold. But Jack had the feeling that this was her in neutral mode. Considering she was not attached to them in any way.

“Tomorrow will do.” She stated “You,” she pointed at both of them. “Go play with Astral and Spark, they want that.” She told them, kind of like an Alpha dishing out orders. He thought absently “Run with them you will.” She finished and then just turned and walked back inside the house.

He looked at Rafe, who shrugged, there was no way he'd missed the command they'd been given, turned and looked at the boy's wolves. Both of them were standing watching them. He chuckled “And I just put clothes on.” But started pulling his shirt off anyway. He was happy to run with the boys.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 66

Rafe POV

He was reading the invitation that had arrived at the pack this morning, just after sunup, dropped off by a wolf, who'd stated it was from the Wandering Moon Pack. Hadn't needed to sign for it. They just handed it to the guard at the gate and then had moseyed on away once more.

Rafe smiled at seeing that young Conner Greystone was finally taking over from his father. It was an invitation to his ascension ceremony.

Thoughtful of him, considering they weren't allied. They had chatted on and off over the past four years, relayed how the gypsies were doing and just said hello. He'd found his Mate, had to chase her halfway around the world.

He knew why the witches liked him, had seen him grow from the boy he was to the man he now was. They had told Rafe and Jack that once he caught his Mate, he'd change and stand up for the pack, be a good Alpha, would be someone that could be relied upon.

Though that was not what had made them laugh, Allen had told him Conner was in for a real treat and would have something like 20 children before he was 32. That was what had amused his mates to no end. They wanted to see it for themselves. He'd not said how at all, at the time.

Rafe had not believed it, it wasn't possible, he thought. The man had already been 22, but then had heard that Eliza was not Wolfen but Kitsune. They liked to have litters, and this was how it was possible, multiple pups or kits with each birth. Conner was now 26 and still had none, though Rafe knew Conner was about to become a father for the first time. Allen just chuckled when he relayed the news about Eliza, Conner's Mate and Luna having their first pup. Stated "Let the show begin." They were all interested in the sight, it seemed.

He would love to attend that ceremony, but unfortunately had pressing matters here with Luci and the boys. He had West, Terence, Brad and Cooper all coming tomorrow. There was no way he could make it.

Though he definitely did want to sit Conner and Eliza down and sort out that new alliance they'd been talking about for years. They'd come across him a few times at other Allied pack's mating balls. Alpha meetings, and they conversed about the Gypsies all the time, who though were now all split up and members of many other packs.

Conner made sure that twice a year the ones in his pack got to come here to visit their Luna and Princess. Those Gypsies didn't want their Princess leaving the pack to visit them, they had no idea if it was safe for her to travel. So, twice a year, all her gypsies visit the Black Forest Pack to be

with their Luna and Princess. It was nice that they did that. Still felt attached to their original pack, even though it was long destroyed.

He never said no, when Conner called and requested them to visit, he escorted them himself with his unit, had been here many times now, got to see how he and Jack ruled, though had commented just once on the fact that Melissa and Maria didn't seem to like him and Jack being so close.

Melissa had glared right at him "It is none of your business," she'd snapped right at him and stalked off. Conner had apologised, apparently done some research and had expected not only he and Jack to be close but that his Luna and Beta's Mate would also be the same. It was not the case, clearly it had been noticeable to the man.

He put a call in to the Wandering Moon Pack. It was early but he knew that pack would be awake and working on things for the ceremony. Conner would be up already. Smiled when Conner answered the Alpha's phone himself, "Already in your father's seat I see, Conner." He chuckled.

"Yes, he's given it up, Rafe. Told me and I quote. 'Take the damned chair, it's yours.' Hates the Elders constantly hovering over him every minute of the day while he's in this office." Conner chuckled.

"Well, congratulations young man. Now about your ascension..." he sighed "Jack and I would love to come, but we're in the middle of prepping for war. I've got allied packs coming tomorrow."

"War, is it so bad there?"

"Not right this minute, a few weeks ago we were attacked by Victor Sampson."

"You're kidding me, right?" He could hear the frown in Conners' voice now.

"Unfortunately not. He tried to take one of our pack members just two days ago, as well."

"The Princess? Is she safe?"

“Not the Gypsy Princess. A wolf named Luci, she was once my and Jack’s lover, has actually been missing for six and a half years. I thought she was dead. Not so much.”

“Is she alright?”

“Yes, safe here in the pack with her children. Her mother is here now as well.”

“Children?”

“Mm, mine and Jack’s a bit of a shock. With all that is going on, Conner, I can’t leave the pack. I’m sorry.”

“Understandable. Do you need help? I’m happy to come, Rafe.”

“No, your mate is with pup. When is she due, by the way? Got to be soon?”

“Any day now.” He heard the smile back in the man’s voice. “But Victor. He’s a savage...” there was silence for a moment. “You know Rafe, I could swing by his pack, when he’s up there attacking yours, take it out from underneath him. I’m damned certain those Gypsies would be okay with it.”

“I understand. Thank you Conner, but not at this time. He lost his Beta to Luci.” He wasn’t going to go, advertising that his children had killed a fully grown wolf. “But after your ascension, we’ll have you and your Luna come for that alliance meeting, when things settle down here.”

“I’ll start working on the deal then. You can amend it with me when I attend.”

“Sounds good, Conner. You having a boy or a girl?”

“My Mate is so very stubborn her beast as well, neither will let it slip, not to me not to my wolf.” He chuckled, “Apparently it’s a surprise.”

Rafe chuckled to himself. “She’s good for you, Conner.”

“That she is, cheeky but a force to be reckoned with once she wants something, even father can’t handle her. I love that.”

“Good, we’d love to hear how the ascension goes and please do let us know about the birth of your pup.”

“Will do. Let me know if I can help at all, in any way, with The Bloodless Moon Pack.”

He ended the call and made a note to send flowers for the up-coming birth of Conner and Eliza’s Heir. Also, made a note to organise a gift for the Wandering Moon Pack’s new Alpha and Luna. It would be late but he thought that would be acceptable considering the short notice.

Though their pack and Conner’s pack were yet to be allied, they both knew it was coming once he was the actual Heir, which according to the invitation he’d received, would be the day after tomorrow, Sunday.

Pushed it aside, he had a house to show Luci and the twins. He didn’t really like that it was so far from the packhouse, but if that was what she wanted. It was what she would have, he would deny her nothing at all. Things around this pack were going to change, especially when he found out just what the hell had happened to them.

He no longer doubted Jack’s thoughts that their so-called Mates had done something to them. He knew it to be true. Jack was right. They wouldn’t just forget Luci completely, not when they had finally decided to tell her they loved her and wanted her to be their Mate.

He also knew she would have said yes, there was no doubt in his mind at all. Now everything was so wrong and screwed up. Nothing was how it should have been.

He had to find the truth, dig up everything and out those two who dared to call themselves his Mate, Jack’s Mate. Play their stupid game and find out what was really going on. So, he could get to the bottom of it and reject that woman who claimed she was his Goddess Gifted Mate. Thought about Melissa and the first time he’d scented her out. The outfit she’d been wearing, the way she had been standing with her sister.

It was clear to him now, that they had known what was going to happen, had even dressed up and looked nice, worn make-up and were standing together in the middle of the room, with their father not that far away, just off to the side. In fact, they had all been waiting for him and Jack to scent them out.

Rubbed a hand over his face, he didn't understand why they would do something like that, what would it gain them, other than a direct line of money for that pack. He was going to stop that right this minute, no more would he or Jack aid that pack. Sat at his desk and wondered what would happen if he cut her and Maria off from pack funds.

Saw Jack stroll into the office and sighed, "What is it?" Jack asked right away.

"Nothing we don't already know." He answered and got up and walked over to him, just hugged him, leaned in to him and really hugged him. "I'm sorry Jack, that I doubted you where Melissa and Maria were concerned."

"It's alright, it's a hard thing to accept after all these years." He sighed and hugged him right back.

"We will not be aiding the Wolf Valley Pack anymore. No more money goes to that pack." Rafe stated as he finally let go and stepped back.

"Good, I hate how much they take every year. Happy to take our money but not happy to come visit, would feel as though they were imposing." Jack shook his head.

"Is that what Maria told you?"

"Yes." Jack nodded.

"I get much the same from Melissa. What do you think would happen if we cut the two of them off?"

"I don't know, I don't think they actually spend money on useless stuff. They might not even know until they need something."

“Hmm, that could be interesting.” He thought aloud.

“Don’t raise their suspicions, let them think nothing is wrong. Watch them for a few days. As much as I want this s**t over with. It has to be dealt with the right way or we’ll never get Luci. Rejecting our Mates for her might seem like a good idea, but we’ll seem fickle and selfish only doing it to have our heirs. That is not what we want.”

Rafe nodded, he was in agreement with that, they needed to figure out how it was done, as well as why it had been done. Those two were liked by the pack. Perhaps Jack was once again right. If something happened to them, Melissa would inherit the pack, or would have done until they’d found out about little Rafe and little Jack.

That was going to put a spanner in their works. “But perhaps we should call them home, demand it of them.” Jack commented.

“No need, Titan text stated they are packing this morning, likely to be home today or tomorrow, I guess. He didn’t say when. I asked him to text me if he could about signs of them coming home.”

“When’d you do that?”

“Last night.” He nodded.

“Oh, you never said.” Jack frowned at him.

“Sorry, guess I thought you might have done that as well.” Saw the man nod his head, but say nothing “Conner will be the Actual Alpha. The day after tomorrow, I just got off the phone with him, got an invite and had to decline it.”

Jack nodded “Luci is more important. I’m sure he understood.”

“He did. Now how about we go and take Luci and the boys to the Forest Creek House, show her just how much we listened, and want to give her what she wants. Regardless, it’s away from us.”

He saw Jack smile now, that was all he was trying to do, to get his Beta to smile this morning, and he knew just being near Luci or even the mere

mention of her name would do that, and he'd not been wrong either. The smile lit up his face and Rafe sighed softly to himself, he had missed that smile on him.

Got a raised eyebrow from the man and shook it off, only to have Jack chuckle softly, knowingly.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 67

Luci POV

It was a nice long casual walk down a winding road through the forest to the eastern side of the pack. This road had not been there the last time she'd been inside the pack. It was cool and shady under the tree canopy, as they walked to the house they were being shown. Both the twins were running along ahead of them as she and her mother walked along behind her Alpha and Beta.

They were telling her about the homes that she could see were all dotted along this very road. There were 10 of them, which they had built for their pack members who wanted a private place to celebrate with their families for various occasions.

Luci knew that their word choice was carefully chosen. They had deliberately not stated for their wolves to celebrate their Mate Bond Anniversary. Which, she knew, is what these actual homes were for. Wolves like to spoil their mates and celebrate their bonds with each other, or most of them anyway.

With a trip away or a night out, a big fancy dinner, which she had, of course, seen and heard many times, having grown up inside a pack, knew there was also lots of s*x during these occasions as well, it would generally go all night long. Didn't know why they bothered with watching their words, she knew what these homes were for, they would also know she would understand it. so there was no real need to choose their words so carefully.

She noticed that these homes were all separated by several hundred meters of thick dense forest, and they were all down a winding or

straight driveway off the actual road itself. She was also willing to bet they all had top notch sound proofing.

Those homes from what she'd glimpsed, of a few of them, weren't all that old. They had been built when she'd not been here, so somewhere between one and six years old. It seems that her Alpha and Beta had made many changes to the pack. She wondered absently if it was their mate's influence or doing perhaps.

"Why build them? What made you do this?" she asked curiously.

Watched as both of them turned and looked at her, "It's good for the pack." Rafe told her with a smile.

"How did you decide to and whose idea was it?" she questioned further.

"Mine and Jacks." Rafe answered her. "Some of the pack members have family in our affiliated packs and those packs have what are called retreat homes. Our pack members get to use them when visiting. Homes that those packs allow for parties and celebrations to be held in, by their own wolves as well." He told her.

"We took a page out of the Eclipsed Moon Pack's book in this one. Oh, West and Terence will be coming tomorrow along with Bradley and Cooper. Do you recall those Alpha's and their Beta's? West has been in charge for just over three years now."

"Mm, I met West and Terence. West was a grumpy man."

"Not anymore." Jack laughed.

"Why are they coming?" she asked, understanding that 'not anymore' the man had likely found his Mate. It was supposed to change one for the better, make one happy. Also, knew the answer to her question. It was going to be because of Victor.

"Victor is going to come back, Luci, at some point. We need to be prepared."

“I’m sure he is.” She nodded “I don’t wish to discuss it, in front of the boys.” She stated flatly, in case they thought now was the time to do so, seeing as she’d started this conversation with them.

“Fair enough.” Both her Alpha and Beta stated at the same time and she nearly stopped walking.

She saw the boys right there in them, and had kind of forgotten that both Rafe and Jack sometimes also spoke together, not as often as the twins did, but they did do it. They could even finish each others sentences. Their flow in a conversation was once, she’d thought, amazing.

“Defences, you’re pulling in your Allied?” her mother asked.

“Our strongest,” Rafe nodded “We feel it is going to be needed. Victor will not give up so easily, he will come and likely with all he has just to get his hands on Luci. That’s his way.”

“Royal blood.” Luci told her mother “Terence the Beta is a royal blooded prince of the Wolfen kingdom, if I recall correctly.” She’d been here for a solid year and had met many of their allies, they all knew who she was, had met her. Understood she was their concubine, though Rafe and Jack never used that word, when introducing her they’d always smiled, stated this is Luci, our girl.

She watched her mother’s eyes go wide. “What?”

“Actually, he’s an Alpha now. West promoted him, they are a dual reigning pack now. Both Mated, Luna Jo-Anne and Luna Ella.” She heard the smile in Rafe’s voice. It didn’t really surprise her considering he and Jack reigned together. They had something more in common now than before, she guessed.

Sighed to herself and found both their eyes on her.

“What’s wrong, Luci?” Jack asked.

“Nothing.” She stated, and turned her attention back to the forest around them. She knew they had Mate’s, but Jack still held the title of Beta. He should be an Alpha-ranked wolf himself now. If they’d had one Mate it

would have been natural for that man to rank up. She was wondering why Rafe had not promoted him? She had always thought that it would happen, she'd known how close they were, it just kind of felt right to her.

She had seen them wake up more than once all curled into each other when she'd snuck out of their bed to just sit and watch them. Being all naked and in a bed together never bothered either of them, it never concerned them either to find one draped over the other or hugged into one another. She'd always thought it was cute, especially when one was all pressed into the other's neck. She'd seen them get all turned on only to look at each other and realise it wasn't her in between them turning them on.

Though that mostly happened because she herself had been curious about what would happen, if they would mate each other at some point. She had on more than a few occasions, slipped from the bed quietly and waited for them to move into each other, they rolled into each other like Mates did she'd noticed. She'd used to wait for it and then lean over them and actively touch both their mark spots.

A light feather touch to them both, in order to get them riled up in their sleeping state, then she would just step back and watch and wait, curious if they would mate each other. Though it had usually ended in her giggling from the other side of the room, when they were fully awake and realised what was going on. That she was not in bed with them, but standing watching them.

That their hands had been on each other and not on her. That they had been all hot and bothered, grinding against each other as well. her giggling at both their somewhat shocked or stunned looks and their muttered words of What? where's Luci? had drawn their attention right to her watching them, and they'd known she'd actively incited them into humping each other.

She had found it more than amusing, usually fled the room most of the time, to escape the annoyed growl coming from Rafe, though she'd fled laughing each and every time, and had run from both of them, fleeing the packhouse sometimes with a very naked Alpha and Beta chasing her to

punish her. Those two were supposed to be together, but still weren't. It was not what she had thought would happen.

Though she could see they both only held one Mark as well, they had not been claimed by each other's Mates. 'Would have to bite both.' Kali huffed, seemed annoyed to her that Jack was not ranked up as well.

'I'd have let them both Mark us, Marked them both right back.' Luci sighed, it was how it was supposed to be.

'Double Mark.' Kali murmured 'They'd likely have Marked and Mated each other too.'

'Jack would automatically have been ranked up by Rafe's Mark.'

'By ours, Luci, Kali. We are Alpha and much stronger.' Alari stated 'Always were.'

Luci had not really thought about that, but now realised that even if Rafe had never Marked Jack, her Marking of him would have ranked him up. Shook those thoughts off, had to try not to think about it. They were not hers. Belonged to others now, felt pain touch her and took a long breath in to try and let it go, get passed it.

She found both boys right there with her, looking up at her. They had felt her pain in that way they always did, so very connected to them. She didn't exactly know if the boys truly understood it, but they felt it and always came to try and comfort her. It was a Siren thing Alari had told them once, unavoidable. The boys could choose to ignore it if they wanted to, and would likely do so when they were older.

She smiled down at them "Do you like the forest?" she asked them, distracting them and herself at the same time.

"We love it." they both smiled up at her.

"You know this is the very first forest Kali ran in."

"Us too." They were grinning up at her now, excited that they had run in the same forest as Kali for the first time.

“Yes.” She smiled and waved them off. The moment had passed, even Kali felt happy about that little moment. Knowing that both the boys ran in the same forest that she had for the very first time. Made her feel just that little bit more connected to them. It was a nice thought.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 68

Luci POV

They walked on in silence for many more minutes before both Rafe and Jack announced “Here we are.” And stopped walking at the end of a driveway.

Luci couldn’t see the house from here, just a nicely graded dirt driveway with dense forest on either side, it looked to be a very well maintained driveway, and there was a small sign on this road that stated “Forest Creek House.” It was definitely out here in the depths of the forest a good half an hour from the centre of the pack. Well away from the packhouse too, so that was nice. Good for her and Kali, perhaps this could work. She might never have to see them with their Mates, that would suit both her and Kali.

“It’s open.” Jack told the boys “Run on ahead and go explore the house.” He smiled right down at them.

They were gone in a flash, using their wolfen speed and even Luci had to smile, she’d not seen them do that yet. This was the first time and she could see they were fast. Those two really did like it here, and loved being out in the woods. Had run off with both Solar and Flare last night itching to go running in wolfen form, hadn’t come back for two hours, they’d been all tired and tuckered out, barely stayed awake for their bath. They’d had a fun time chasing their fathers’ wolves around, it seemed. Had enjoyed being chased by them, wanted, she had heard, to grow up and be big like Solar and Flare, they’d even used their fathers’ wolves names.

They really did love it here inside the pack, loved having their fathers around. Didn't yet understand, she thought, that they actually belonged inside the packhouse itself. Were the actual Heirs to the pack, and she wasn't about to go and tell them either. There was no need as far as she was concerned. They were happy and that was all that mattered. They were also not used to living with others or in such a large place, so a house with just her and her mother, their Grammy, was completely normal for them.

Had never lived with their fathers, so she didn't think, seem bothered at all, that even here inside the pack, they were not living with them now and were not going to be either. Luci wondered just when they would start asking all those questions? When it would become apparent and obvious to them that they were supposed be? That they were separated from what was their right.

Would they at some point want to be inside the packhouse? as was their right to be. 'No' both Kali and Alari told her in unison.

'with us always.' Alari told her, matter of factly. There would be no arguing about it.

Luci let it go as the house came into view down the driveway she was now walking. It was nothing like what she was expecting. She had been expecting some sort of cabin in the woods. This place was huge, it had a massive curved roof that not only roofed the house but covered the dual parking space as well. A set of grand double doors to enter the house, made of glass with wrought iron leaves in arching branches across them, much like the grand staircases inside the packhouse itself, it was beautiful. There were half a dozen sandstone steps that led down to the front entrance. This place looked like a mansion under an archway, she thought to herself. She even liked the red of the roof, quite artistic she'd thought as she looked at it.

All the windows that she could see were darkly tinted, for privacy, she thought absently, though the overhang of that arch was deep and darkened the front of the house. There were many down lights along the roof to lighten the houses appearance, and there were lovely knee-high

lights all along the stairs and the paved sandstone path that led around the house and disappeared off down the sides.

The twins had pushed open one of the big doors and were already inside. She could hear them running about in there. Luci followed her mother inside the house, as her Alpha and Beta stood outside to let them pass through first. The boys were already off up the stairs to the split-level home. She could hear them talking excitedly and climbing on everything already.

Luci walked in and heard even her own mother gasp at the sheer opulence of the place. As her own eyes moved about this floor, she could see it was a mansion indeed, it had all the luxury of the packhouse, of the Alpha Suite almost. She turned and looked at both of them with a curiously raised eyebrow.

They both just smiled at her, she moved her eyes away from that sight, didn't need to see them looking at her like that. They looked very happy and pleased with themselves, like they used to look at her sometimes. She walked about and looked at the things. "Why?" was the only question she asked. Knew they would understand her.

"Because, Luci, this is what you are entitled to. You should be on the Alpha floor in a fully kitted out luxury Alpha Suite, but...We understand why you don't want to be there." Rafe told her.

She watched the boys come down the five stairs and run all over the place down here, and then they were gone out the back door, to investigate the outside.

"Luci, we would like to apologise to you for the way things happened. It should never have been like that." Jack told her. She could even hear sadness in his voice.

"We are very sorry, Luci." Rafe sighed heavily.

"Does that ease your guilt?" she asked.

“Luci!” her mother exclaimed, shocked it seemed by her response to their apology.

She turned and looked right at her “What?” she asked simply.

This place to her felt like they were guilty and were trying to give her something of monetary value. It was actually what Orien did when she was a teenager, by her things to apologise for hurting her. And right this minute this house, it actually felt like they were doing the same to her as Orien once had.

Why her mother was shocked by her response, surprised her, she was not known for her tactfulness. If she was going to be here, in this pack. She was going to at least try and be who she had once been, had realised herself she was quiet and more than reserved around them. Kind of become submissive and that was not her, she’d never been like that, she needed to pull herself together and get back to being normal.

It was going to take some time, she knew, to be able to be herself, direct and upfront around them, but that was because it still hurt to be around them. She was still trying to deal with just having to look at them, or see them smiling at her, was uncomfortable with that still, might never be, with how it created pain in her chest. Those smiles made her recall how they had once been with her, something she could never have again. Even just holding a conversation with them was hard for her. Or being near them, her mother knew why.

“It’s rude.”

“Tough.” She shrugged, looked right at Rafe and then Jack and stated, “I knew it would happen one day.” Kept her tone flat and devoid of all emotion, then just walked away from them. She ignored the well of pain inside her that was now rippling through her entire body. They had never truly been hers, she’d just been young and completely stupid had gotten caught up in a single moment and now suffered the consequences of her own actions.

She saw the boys looking at her, waved them off, “It will happen a lot.” She told them simply as she stepped out the back door “Best for you two to just ignore it.” It’s what she was trying to do.

It was just much harder to do with both her Alpha and Beta standing right there so very close to her. Outside was a covered area with a large spa and an inbuilt firepit. She walked down the sandstone stairs out the back of the house, all the way down to the creek that was behind the house and looked at it.

It was about 2 and a half meters wide and she felt Alari push forward and stare right at it. Huffed it was not to her liking. She knelt down and touched it, felt for the current for that connection to her lake, it was there, it seemed, and that made her a little happier. though not by much.

Alari turned and looked at the boys. “Stay here with Grammy.” She told them and they nodded, then she just stepped into the creek as she peeled off their clothing.

“Luci wait.” She heard both Rafe and Jack call out to her. Little did they know, Alari would not heed their objections. Shifted to her Siren form and was gone under the water, she was in no rush as she swam along the creek bed, just checking it out.

Looking to see how long it took to get from the lake to that house. Trying to decide if it was suitable, Luci supposed, felt her dive deep down inside the lake when they reached it, just swam along the bottom. Alari was happy here, the lake being her home. She didn’t care that it was mid-morning and she could sense there were humans up on the lake surface, she was swimming down in the very depths. No one would see her.

She was just doing what she always did, enjoying the feeling of being in the water. Only this time there was no concern for their boys at all. For the first time ever since the twins were born, she was free to swim in a carefree manner. They all knew the twins were safe inside the pack, with their Grammy and their fathers. All three of them would be a force to be reckoned with, not to mention the boys were two perfect and deadly weapons as well.

Alari knew every inch of this lake, there was no fear in swimming here, she was the apex predator of this lake. Enjoyed being the Alpha out here, though out here there was also no one to order around. She was a lone Alpha Siren with no pack. Felt a wave of sadness roll off of Alari because there was none of kind to mingle with. Something that she did want for herself. Perhaps one day they might come across another Siren or a few others.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 69

Addison POV

Addison stood watching Alari rip right out of Luci, she was a very large creamy opalescent Siren, just like her father was. Was at least 4 meters long, she realised as she saw her swimming away down the creek. It wasn't very deep, but she was easily able to stay along the bottom and just swim away.

She couldn't help but smile at the sight of Alari's true form. She was magnificent, though she knew that this was not a proper introduction to her Siren daughter. Not at all. Knew that Alari was just off, checking the creek itself, likely making certain that it did indeed connect to her lake.

She could hear both Alpha Rafe and Beta Jack's concerns. They didn't want her leaving the pack, were worried Victor would have scouts looking for her Siren. What they didn't understand was that Alari would not care at all for their thoughts on the matter. Kali and Luci might.

Though that tone that had come from Luci directed at both her Alpha and Beta a few minutes earlier, and her statement. Addison knew her daughter simply didn't want to talk to them about that day. And yes, Addison did know, that both of them had guilt about the way things had happened with Luci.

Luci herself had also known them very well once herself, she might well be able to sense things about them, seeing as she was attached to them, formed a bond she could not relinquish, was going to be attached to them for the rest of her life. The poor girl had unwittingly made life so very hard for herself.

She was suffering more than her Alpha and Beta knew, suffering and didn't want them to know about it either. Was just trying to cope right at this minute. Life for her daughter was not going to get any easier. It would be better if Luci could get away from here altogether, had found a quiet place of her own away from the world and kept herself hidden from all.

Stood and looked at the creek even with Alari out of sight, and wondered if she could convince her to go back to Lucian's Lake. If she could find it that was? Have Luci, Kali and Alari stay there. It would likely hurt Luci being away from Rafe and Jack, but being here was also hurting her.

She sighed heavily, she knew that Luci had displayed her witch's powers last night as well. Luci had told her while the boys were out running with their fathers. Told her that Hannah had even helped her to do so. Offered to help her.

Though Hannah had looked at the destruction Luci had caused and murmured right to Luci "I was never here." And had just vanished, teleported herself away, leaving Luci to try and explain what had happened to Beta Jack, not that she had been able to. Sighed might be more difficult to remove her from this pack if she had someone willing to teach her about her third bloodline.

Might want to stay just because of that, might be able to deal with her bond to her Alpha and Beta if she was off with those witches all the time, training and learning, had something else to preoccupy her time, and allow her to stay away from them all of the time.

Addison turned to look at the two men, "Just leave her, she is just making sure it goes to the lake as you said it does..." turned to the boys. "Come on boys." She called the twins to her. They ran right over to her and smiled up at her.

"Isn't mamma pretty?" They told her.

"Yes she is, big and beautiful, like her pappy. Just like him." she smiled right back at them, took their hands in hers and led them back into the

house. They would wait here for Alari to come back, it was what she'd implied: Stay here with Grammy.

"Addison?"

"She'll be fine, and she'll come right back here to this house."

"How do you know that?" Jack asked her.

Addison turned and looked at the man, could actually see real worry and maybe a bit of fear in him. Raised an eyebrow at him, looked pointedly at the twins "She will never leave them, and anyone trying to separate her from them. Will meet an ill-fated end, regardless of who they are." She told them directly, implying not just their Mates, but them as well. Walked away from the frown she got from Rafe and settled the boys onto the couch, "How does this work?" she asked, picking up the remote.

Jack turned the TV on and she heard the twins squeal with excitement, at the sheer size of it, they really did like having a TV all the time, but this was new again, like a home theatre. She put a movie on for them and turned back to Jack and Rafe. "Are there snacks here? Alari could be gone a while."

"Not sure. I'll check." Jack stated and was gone off to the kitchen.

Rafe was just standing there staring at her, she knew something was off with him, had seen something last night at dinner, couldn't put her finger on it, but something was going on with him. "She'll be fine." She told him.

He nodded, "I think I need to talk to you, Addison. Alone though."

She nodded herself, "I'll come find you later then shall I. If you two want to go back, have things to do. You can go do that. It is probably best that you do so. Go back to your normal lives. Luci will not want to be a part of it, just so you know."

She saw him frown deeply "Addison, it's not going to be that simple."

“It could be, if you let it be. She’ll never deny you access to the boys. I know that much, but I wouldn’t be expecting Luci to just wander around the pack, like she used to, has lived alone for a long time. Is comfortable alone now.”

“It’s not healthy, Addi.”

“For a wolf, perhaps. Her Siren would likely want the bond of a family, but she has the twins, Kali and Luci, as well as myself now. That witch in her, they, as you are aware yourself, are solitary creatures. Live alone most of the time...though I believe Hannah and her sisters are likely to pop in for visits now. She will not be alone.”

“What? Why?”

Addison laughed “you have a lot to learn, I see. I didn’t teach Luci anything, but she did use her witchcraft for the first time last night. There are only three others in this pack, who could teach her. I’m guessing now, that it seems they will be.”

“Leave the triune alone,” Jack stated as he walked back into the room. “That’s what they told us.”

“Mm, got their own agenda, where Luci is concerned I’d say.”

Watched as the two of them frowned right at her now “We don’t want her being used like that.” They both stated.

“Not your choice. Hannah and her sisters will do as they please. Much the same way Luci will. It’s likely those three witches always knew what she was, have just been sitting back, waiting for whatever reason.”

“You think they knew Luci was in the lake this whole time?” Rafe asked.

Addison nodded. “Yes, I think it is highly possible. Perhaps they know more than they let on. About all the goings on around here. Just have their own reasons to stay out of it.”

She could see that Rafe did not like hearing the thought she’d posed at all. That those witches of his might have known where Luci was all this

time. Had said nothing, might well have known about the twins the whole time too. Yet they still did not voice it to them, that was not loyalty.

It was a curiosity even to Addison, but if those three knew and said nothing, from where Addison stood, there had to be a reason behind it. They themselves were considered to be Triune, perhaps they just felt kindred to Luci being that she herself was also one.

She wanted to go out and question those witches herself, but couldn't. She was only a half-breed and had minimal powers at best. They out ranked her by far. She'd seen the markings on their backs, the phases of the moons and the star constellations. They were considered to be Celestial Witch's. They likely held more power than they let on to anyone.

She'd never really seen them prepare anything spell wise, they just seemed to be able to do things at will, which made them for pure-bloods, and likely from an ancient bloodline. Might well be tied to the royal witches, long ago dead, but their blood would live on. Those three were likely Alpha's in their own right.

She wondered as she saw Rafe and Jack out, if she could get those witches to talk to her, sighed after closing the door, she had no idea. Had once stopped Hannah from touching her daughter at 18, could be seen as disrespectful to them.

Jack had not only found snacks in the house, had made popcorn for the boys, she sat with them on the giant couch while they ate the snack and watched the movie. They were not at all concerned about being here with Alari out there swimming in the lake. Likely they were used to being left on their own at times, she realised.

She was also willing to bet that even with Alari so far away, they were still connected to her, would know if something happened to their mothers. She knew Alari would sense it if something was wrong with her boys. Though she obviously had no concerns at all about the boys right this minute, not only could the boys shift and defend themselves. Addi was with them, was an Alpha wolf. Also had the security of being inside the pack now.

These two little boys had never been so protected in all their lives. She smiled to herself, Alari was not coming back anytime soon. Was likely out there doing what all sirens did, swim about and sleep on the bottom of their lake, be gone for many hours, could well be gone all day long.

The humans on the lake would not bother her, she could use one of her Siren's abilities to send them away, as easily as she could draw them in to her if she so chose to. Kind of like her siren call, but in reverse, she supposed.

This house she thought was going to be a good fit for Luci. She had no idea if it was offered solely because Rafe and Jack had guilt about all that had happened or if it was just that they thought it was fitting for her status as an Alpha as well as the mother of their children. The Heirs to the pack.

Little did they know, that the hut she and the boys had lived in was actually fine with all of them. Their small amount of possessions didn't concern them either. Sirens were not creatures that needed or wanted a million things around them. That hut was small but home to them.

If the boys had been born as actual sirens, they'd likely have nothing at all, not even clothes, just go about swimming in that lake and concern themselves with hunting when hungry and nothing much else.

If they had been born Sirens, Alpha Rafe and Beta Jack would likely rarely ever see them, even if they did know about them. For they would live under the water a good ninety percent of the time. That other ten percent would be spent with their fathers if they knew about them, that was, if not, they'd never see them.

Addison did wonder if little Rafe and little Jack would one day swim in the lake like Alari did. It was entirely possible they could get a siren shift at some point, she didn't know. It might happen when they were 16, when they would normally get their shift.

If they did; she looked right at them now, wondered what their sirens would look like. Smiled to herself, then right at them when they both looked at her. Just knew if they got a siren, they would be just like their wolves all black and white. "You two, are just too adorable." She

chuckled softly and shivered with pure delight as they both laughed right back at her. Being around them hearing that laugh, made her feel so much more connected to Lucian himself. His laugh had always made her shiver.

“Do you like this house?” she asked.

“Yes.” They both nodded.

She just smiled. “Then I think, this will be our new home from now on.”

Addison knew that Luci, Kali and Alari would never deny them. Got up and went upstairs to look at the bedrooms. There were four of them. She shook her head slightly. Just knew that Rafe and Jack were accounting for her in the living situation as well.

Sighed sadly to herself, Orien had not called, left yesterday and not called at all.

His choice was Victor, and she knew it.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 70

Rafe POV

He was in Luci's room staring at the wall, debating with himself as to whether or not he should put up last night's revelation, about he and Jack and Luci. Had been debating with himself over it for a whole day now. He didn't think that Jack had recalled that part of their life yet.

Knew that it was going to devastate Jack completely, he already knew that he and his wolf Flare had loved Luci, still did. He looked at those words written in Jack's own hand, and sighed heavily to himself. Now knew that he himself had also once loved Luci. Had in fact wanted her for himself. To be not only his Mate and Luna, but Jack's Mate. He'd wanted her to be theirs, not just his.

He could feel Solar laying inside his mine, all quiet right this minute, and when he thought about it his own wolf had been quiet since dinner

yesterday and his recalled memory. Realised that his wolf had watched Luci today as well as him, they had a Mate. Solar did mate his Wolfen Mate, though only after a pack run where the entire pack could see them together.

Stood and thought about that, 'Solar, why only on a pack run and never any other time?' he asked.

'To show the pack strength and leadership.' Came the reply.

It was an odd expression, he didn't state he loved his Wolfen Mate, which most would 'Luci, Kali?' Rafe asked the very question he'd been actively avoiding all night long, couldn't ignore it much longer, even he wanted answers.

'Confused!' Solar huffed at him.

'Flare is not.' Rafe pushed a little.

Got nothing from Solar at all, his big black head was just resting on his paws inside Rafe's mind, looking at the words on the wall before them himself.

'Solar, you would have let me Claim, Mark and Mate Luci?'

'Yes.' Came his wolfs reply 'You loved her, she was fun. Not our Mate.'

'I know.' Rafe sighed, 'would have been chosen, but you would have been okay with that.'

'Yes.' Was all he got in return.

He focused back on the wall before him, wanted to write 'I loved Luci' up there under his name, but chose not to. Jack, if he came in here tonight at 9pm and saw those three words, would be all over him about rejecting Melissa and Maria and claiming Luci.

It was not going to be that simple, Melissa did her Luna duties, the pack did like her, respected their Luna and got along with her. She also got

along with them, was a comfort to them at times, when she was here. Like all Luna's were supposed to be.

Rafe wondered about that, stood there and thought a lot about that in fact. Melissa had never endeared herself to his unit, was standoffish to not just Jack, but also Allen and Ian. But she was good with the rest of the pack, had endeared herself to everyone else. It was he thought now, odd behaviour of a Luna. She didn't have anything to do with Allen's Mate's. Well, he could put that down to them not really interacting with the pack for the most part. They were happy out there in the woods, they never offered to hang out with the Luna or the Beta's Mate, as would be the standard custom within a pack.

Though to hear Addi, tell him that it had been Hannah who was the one out in the woods with Luci, had likely been out there teaching her how to use her witch bloodline. That was completely new behaviour for Hannah.

Jack had also not been wrong 'leave the triune alone.' It was pretty clear to Rafe that his witches wanted Luci left to her own devices. They had never gone into Luci's room, looked at it but had never come in here. He also knew that Hannah and her sisters had put some sort of restriction on Luci's room itself.

A magical spell or charm perhaps, that actively stopped both Melissa and Maria going into Luci's room, and not just via the door either. The balcony door as well. He also knew they could not get past. This barrier also stopped anything of Melissa or Maria's being placed inside the room, no one could take anything into it for either of those women.

He walked away from the wall and into the bedroom, over to the balcony doors, pushed out onto the balcony itself. The doors weren't even locked. Looked at it, the next balcony over was only a short one meter away, an easy step for a wolf hell a human could make that with little effort.

Stood out there and recalled the day Melissa and Maria had tried to gain access to Luci's room from the balcony. They hadn't even been able to open the doors from the outside. She'd then barged into his office and yelled at him about not being allowed in that room, stated she couldn't even access it from the balcony.

He remembered asking her “Why do you need to?”

“It’s my packhouse, I can go into every room I want to. Or should be allowed to. Are you hiding that she-wolf in there and that’s why I’m not allowed in there?” she’d accused him.

Melissa knew that he was not, knew that Luci had gone into the lake and not come out. She’d even seen Addison collect all of Luci’s things and take them away, she knew that room was empty. Her jealousy was irrational.

To which he had told her as much, though he recalled that only made her even more angry with him. She’d not like him speaking back to her. Although he only ever spoke about Luci, he now realised if Melissa brought her up, she was kind of just non-existent to him unless his own Mate raised her name. Wondered if that was part of whatever they had done to them. Erased her, so to speak.

Rafe headed back inside and went off to find Gloria. He wanted to know what it was those two wanted in this room. Gloria was the omega in charge of keeping the rooms on the Alpha floor neat and tidy, head of her own team. Each floor had its own cleaning team, so the workload was never too much.

She was working down the hall cleaning an Elders’ room, not that they were here at present. They were off living in the city working from there. His father’s uncle, an Alpha-blooded male that was now an Elder keeping track of their shares in the stock market, was considered the CEO of their brokerage firm in the human world.

Gloria smiled up at him when he addressed her, “What can I do for you, Alpha?”

“Luci’s room?”

“I haven’t got to it yet, only clean the empty rooms twice a week. It’s on the list for tomorrow. This is my last room today. Did you want me to prepare it for Luci and the boys?”

“No.” he shook his head “Actually, don’t go in there. Jack and I are using it for a private matter, issues that need our undivided and distraction-free attention.”

“Alright.” She nodded.

“Gloria, I’d like to know what it was that Melissa used to try and have you take into Luci’s room all those years ago, do you recall at all?” he asked her. He didn’t recall, probably wasn’t likely to if she didn’t want him too.

“Oh, um. It was years ago, Alpha. If I recall correctly, she stopped trying after about a year or so, let me think about it a moment.” She frowned in thought.

Rafe stood and watched her think back it was a long time ago and it was a long shot that she would recall, but it couldn’t hurt to ask. She was quiet for several minutes. “Oh, I got it.” she suddenly smiled at him. “It was just a small aroma sachet is all. They’re in all the rooms bar Allen and Ian’s. I don’t think they liked it or refused perhaps.”

“All the rooms have them?” That was a curiosity, likely not in Allen’s room due to his Mate’s being witches. As for Ian’s room, that was a question worth exploring. But again, those witches did like him for some weird reason. Could be just that, he supposed.

“Yes,” Gloria nodded up at him, “This one has one, hangs in the walk-in I believe that’s where they all go, so used to seeing them I just forgot they were there. It’s a small silk bag filled with aromatic flower petals. It’s quite pretty.”

“Does my room have one?” he asked, he didn’t recall seeing one in there.

“Yes, several actually. In all the walk-in’s including the empty rooms for your heirs.” She nodded.

“Jacks?” he queried.

She nodded again. “Do you want to see it?”

“Please.” Rafe asked, and watched her go and then come back, she was holding a simple white pouch, with a white ribbon that tied it shut and allowed it to be hung. It was only about two inches square, with no discerning features at all. Very non-descript and forgettable.

She held it out to him but he shook his head ‘no’, had no idea if that was what Jack had been looking for in his suite or not, “That is all the Luna wanted to put in Luci’s room?”

“Yes. But I couldn’t.” he watched Gloria look down at it “It was really weird, I recall even the Luna was annoyed about it.”

“Odd.”

“Yes, it kind of just jumped out of my hand every time. It tried to walk in with it several times. I put it in my cleaning basket, and it just appeared to jump out of that as well, it never made it past the door.”

“The balcony, I recall Melissa trying to access Luci’s room from the balcony as well.”

“No it wouldn’t pass through that either. She did have me catch it from balcony to balcony.” Saw Gloria chuckle “She was really insistent that one went into every room, especially Luci’s room. Something about putting her personal touch in every room even though you wouldn’t let her in there.”

“It’s Luci’s room. Always was, till Jack and I found her or what happened to her, we wanted it to stay as Luci’s room. That was all, Melissa didn’t understand. Didn’t like it.”

“Hmm, well it’s like Luci’s room has a barrier of some kind that sachet just bounced right off it, kind of like the room was rejecting it.”

“Hannah put a barrier around Luci’s room for Jack and I when Melissa threatened to gut it.”

Gloria stared up at him for a moment. “Well, that would explain it.” she nodded. “I did suspect as much.”

“Did you say that to the Luna?” he questioned.

“Yes, not to happy about it, if I recalled stalked off in a bit of a temper.”

“Never was happy about not being able to go in Luci’s room.” Rafe nodded. “Thank you for your help, Gloria, could you please let the others know Luci’s room is currently off limits.”

“Yes, Alpha.” She nodded “What do you want me to do with this?”

Rafe looked at the small pouch, “Nothing right this minute.” He stated and headed for his own room. Strolled on in there and checked his walk-in. There were not one but two in there, and they were larger, triple the size of the one he’d just seen. Checked all the other rooms and yes, they were in there as well. He didn’t touch any of them, didn’t think it was wise at this point.

Left his suite and walked into Jack’s, not only were their two in his walk-in and all the bedrooms. There was a large sack on the floor that was neatly folded over and had about two thirds of it used, but he thought it was filled with the same, was made of the same material. It was likely what they used to fill those pouches with on a regular basis.

That one bag could well be the very reason this room was so toxic to the pair of them. Either that or it could be that Jacks and Flare’s feelings for Luci outweighed what those two had done to them. Likely they were still hurting both he and Jack with it. A snarl ripped out of him at his own thought, and he chastised himself internally for thinking that Maria had done something to them.

Stepped away from the walk-in and left the suite, returned to Luci’s room and sighed. Whatever was in that bag he was sure was affecting him. Being that close to such a large amount of it, had affected him more than it did in the other rooms. He’d just rounded on himself for thinking not so nice thoughts about Melissa and her sister.

He picked up the marker from the coffee table and wrote on the wall. Aroma sachets in all the rooms, not in Luci’s room, Melissa can’t get one

in here. Hannah's barrier to keep her and Maria out also stops anything of Melissa or Maria's coming into the room.

Then wrote, Large bag in the Beta Suite - affected my thoughts and made me mad at myself for thinking Melissa and Maria wanted to do something to Jack and I, then after a moments thought, wrote for thinking Jack and Flare love Luci???

Another piece of the puzzle was put in place, wondered what would happen if he had Gloria them all from the packhouse. Search them all out on all floors and remove them. He wondered just how many of them were in the packhouse itself. Did it include his parent's suite, the old Alpha unit's suite, all the elders' rooms? If so, what would that achieve?

Gloria and her team only worked up here on the Alpha floor, were they only up here? Or throughout the entire packhouse itself.

He was going to have to wait and see, he wondered if all those pouches got refilled when Melissa and Maria came home? Wrote that on the wall. He wanted to know himself now if they did that personally or had someone else do it. He wrote that on the wall as well, just in case he bloody forgot everything the minute she walked into the packhouse.

Melissa always came home and hugged him, kissed him wanted to go right to their suite. Sighed heavily to himself, he'd always wanted to as well. Practically craved her the moment she was kissing him, he'd just presumed it was because she'd been away from him for a week, had missed her...but now? He didn't think that was it.

Was likely her way of surrounding him in whatever it was she used to keep that hold over him.

Stood back and stared at the wall, stared at Jack and Flare loved Luci???

That was more than bothering him. He recalled now how Jack had been all over him the moment he'd finally agreed to choose Luci...