

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 71

Jack POV

He was back in his office, had spent the morning after Alari left the pack stressing that she was out there in the lake, unprotected and vulnerable to an attack from Victor. If that man was watching for her to leave in Siren form, he could well know all the places that left the pack via creeks.

He'd also now read the entire report from their pack doctor, regarding what was in that dart Victor had used to tranquilise Luci, and take down Alari at the same time. That dart had been filled with not only wolfsbane but also a high dose of Midazolam. It stated there was enough Midazolam used not just as a calmativ to reduce anxiety and stress, but enough to induce sleepiness. That the dose detected would have worked fast, about a minute or so, combined with the wolfsbane that took Luci and Kali down, it might have even been less.

Victor knew way more about Sirens than he did, and now she was out there all alone in the lake, had been all morning and into the afternoon. Hadn't returned to the pack until after lunch.

The twins he knew had not moved either, they were still at the Forest Creek House, waiting for their mother to return. He could feel them both through the pack tether now, also through his father-son bond. Knew they were fine, so he could only presume, so was Luci.

He'd lost her the moment she'd left the pack, severed herself from him or the pack at will, or perhaps just because the lake was considered her pack, his link to her was gone. He didn't understand that, but seems she could do that at will. Likely why they had never been able to feel her all these years. She didn't want them to, so they just couldn't. It was something to do with them being a Triune, he guessed.

He had to presume she was fine because the twins were fine, they had known she was in trouble in town and gone to her aid. Though had that been because Alari had used her siren call and they'd heard it? Or was it their mothers' fear or anger they'd felt? He didn't know, but they felt

everything that really affected her. She had been angry at Orient and the twins had shifted and gone right into protection mode.

They'd also already responded to her emotions twice today, at the Forest Creek House and on the way there, though that second time hearing her tell them. 'It would happen often, best to just ignore it.' That bothered him.

Jack didn't exactly know if the boys understood why she suddenly had pain, or was upset. He could only hope not, if they worked it out before he and Rafe could fix things, or find out the truth about just what the hell was going on inside this pack with their Mates. It could ruin their bond with the boys, and if that was gone; stripped away completely. She or Alari would have no reason at all to stay here.

Jack not only wanted Luci here, but he needed it, loved her, just couldn't tell her yet what was going on, without proof she'd likely not believe it. Would have her own feelings on the situation he supposed.

He knew deep down that Luci only stayed close by because of the twins, or maybe because Alari had been born in the lake and claimed it. He knew that Luci wasn't mean or spiteful, she did have a caring heart and deep down, even though she'd not stayed here within the pack. She'd kept the boys close. Likely even had some sort of contingency plan if there was real danger.

Those two boys knew who they were, also knew what a pack was. Where their pack was, he also guessed. If trouble came to her or she didn't return for some reason, collect them from school. He was willing to bet those two would have come right here to the pack. Would have walked right on past the border patrols.

They smelled like pack members, hell were the spitting image of him and Rafe. None of the patrollers would have stopped them, they would have felt the pack connection to both the boys and let them pass, even if they didn't recognise them. Likely mind-linked right to he and Rafe about it but not stopped them. Would also have defended them if they had been seen to be pursued by someone as well, again just because they had the pack's scent on them.

He felt Alari come back into the pack and sagged with relief as his connection to her re-established. He wasn't the only one, it seemed, concerned. He'd heard Rafe sigh and actually murmur, "Thank the Goddess."

Rafe was at his desk working on defence plans with Petra, who was leaning on his desk. They were prepping for war. Allen and Ian were out in the pack, in control of all the pack warrior's training. Extra training was being attended right that minute.

He was attending to human world related pack business, answering emails, and making phone calls to their pack's office in the city. Petra had looked from Rafe to him and then just laughed "You know boys." She chuckled "I don't think I've even seen you respond to your own Mate's coming home like that."

She was not wrong, he thought, or not after that first year anyway. He let it go, he didn't need to explain things to her, if she wanted to ask questions, she would. Petra was also Alpha-blooded, would just ask or state whatever she felt like. Was their top Elite Warrior and Rafe's cousin, she got a lot of respect from everyone.

Petra had also been around before Luci was theirs. After they'd brought her home, she knew how much they had liked the girl. Hadn't slept with a single other she-wolf the entire time she'd been here. There was no need. Luci sated them as much as they did her.

Petra had also liked Luci, enjoyed not only putting Luci through elite training, but also Kali as well. Luci could fight and Kali was fierce as well. Pure Alpha-blooded, she was fast and deadly when needed to be, had protected this pack like everyone else when rogues came in, there was no stopping her. Not even Jack telling her to stay in the packhouse worked, she'd raised an eyebrow and told him 'I'm an alpha warrior Jack, I'll fight like the rest.' It was not what he wanted, had never wanted her out on the pack border, wanted her protected inside the packhouse where his Luna should always be.

He felt Luci actively connecting with not just him but Rafe as well that afternoon, just after 3pm 'Alpha, Beta. The boys like the house, we will

accept it.' she stated simply, formally. Didn't use their names, and was addressing them as though she was a standard pack member, and not their once long-time lover and friend, mother of their children even.

He smiled though, for it was her actively connecting to them both, 'I'm glad.' He mind-linked right back, heard Rafe tell her 'We'll send your things over at once.'

'No, thank you. I'm capable of moving myself and my children, we'll do it this afternoon. Mother will collect her belongings from the packhouse and move in with us as well.' She stated and then just cut the link.

It wasn't much of a conversation, but she'd willingly established a mind-link to both of them. It was a good sign, he thought to himself. Though had a gut feeling, formally was how she would be addressing them from now on, he didn't much like that, but a start it was.

He picked his phone up when it rang an hour later. "Mother?" he asked after seeing her name flash on the screen, could feel Rafe's eyes on him right away.

"Jack, have I been informed correctly, I have a grandchild?" his mother, Florence, asked right away.

"You have, twins." He answered, "How's your trip going?"

"It was going marvellously...why would you not tell me yourself, and before now?"

"I've been very busy is all," he commented, and it was the truth.

"You and Maria must be very excited, have been trying for a long time."

"Maria?" he asked with a confused frown, his eyes moved right to Petra questioningly.

"Oh, my bad. I guess I didn't say they weren't Melissa and Maria's." she snorted amusingly, it seemed she was playing her own game.

"Son?"

He sighed, trust Petra to withhold that bit of news, “Not Maria’s or Melissa’s for that matter.” He told her, it was likely that Rafe’s parents were in the room with his mother, along with his own father. The whole former Unit were all away together. They could all be listening to this conversation for all he knew. Even Rafe’s youngest siblings were on that vacation.

“Then who?” he could hear the concern now.

“Luci’s children.” He stated simply, knew that would clear up both him and Rafe having children not with their Mate’s as would be expected. Also redeem them for the cheating, he thought they might think it would have happened, seeing as the twins were not Melissa or Maria’s.

There was a long silence before she spoke again “I thought Luci was.”

“Is not.” He interrupted her. “She has been found, has twin boys to both Rafe and I.” he informed her, “They are six.”

“Six!” he heard four distinct voices exclaim all at once.

“Yes! When are you due back?” he asked, knowing they were on their way.

“The day after tomorrow. Does Luna Addison know son?” It was his father, Johnathon this time.

“Yes, is currently here within the pack. Staying with Luci.”

“How bad is it?” he could hear more concern now.

“What do you mean father?” he frowned.

“Melissa and Maria, is what I mean.”

“They are not here; they don’t know at this point.”

“Right, so s**t hasn’t hit the fan yet?”

“Not yet.” He acknowledged “Though Luci is not who she used to be, is very different now. Melissa and Maria alike will have to watch themselves. You know Luci is a pure-blooded Alpha female, very strong, much more so than before even.” He told them.

There was silence for a long time. “She is also a mother and won’t be standing for trouble around her boys.” He heard his mother state.

“Do they have names?” it was Luna Dianna, Rafe’s mother. “Or do I need to beat my son, to know what my grandson’s names are?”

“Rafe and Jack.” He smiled. Both their mothers claimed to be the grandmothers to both boys. It’s what they’d always expected, he guessed. Nil hesitation about them claiming both children as their grandsons.

“Goddess, your own boys named after you. The girl is surely crazy.”

“It was her choice, there is more...do you want the news now or when you get home? He asked.

There was a four-way discussion at the other end of the phone. He waited with a slight shake of his head and looked at Rafe, who shrugged. He could hear the discussion as well, seems both their mothers wanted to wait, but both their fathers wanted to know now. There was quite a bit of disagreement going on.

Rafe got up and walked over to lean on Jack’s desk, “Enough you lot.” Rafe stated with a half laugh, those four were going to argue for ages about it. What was more important grandma or grandpa’s questions? “Seeing as there are technically two parts to the news. I’ll split it for you. Pick either Luci or the twins.”

Again, that difference of opinion. Both their mothers wanted to know about Luci, but their fathers wanted to know about the twins. It didn’t really surprise Jack all that much, Luna Dianna would be concerned with the welfare of Luci, but the former Alpha, Richard, would want to know about the next heir to the pack.

Jack looked at Rafe and shook his head as they waited it out, heard Petra murmur 'or what's going on with you two.' Down the mind-link. Jack just smiled at her and shook his head once more. That was not an issue. Technically, there was nothing going on, a single kiss was all. It was no big deal.

Finally, after a solid 10 minutes of bickering back and forth, "Luci." was the answer. He smiled at the threat he heard both his mother and Rafe's mother throw at their mates about not letting them touch them if they didn't get to hear about Luci's state. Shut both their fathers up pretty darn quickly.

Even Rafe nearly laughed. No Mate liked being denied touching or sleeping with their Mate. Well, if it was a real Mate Bond anyway.

"Luci is a double shifter. But, also considered a Triune," Rafe stated, and once again there was that silence.

"What is the other shifter?" both their fathers asked right away.

"Come home and find out." Jack snorted and clicked the line closed.

"You two might get yourself a beating when they get home." Petra snorted, fully amused.

"Not likely." Jack shook his head. "We had no idea."

"Hm, they might not see it that way. They never really understood why you gave up looking for Luci."

"What?" both he and Rafe turned and looked right at her.

"I talk to them more than you do. They're not inside the pack, see things a little differently now, I guess. Especially Luna Dianna."

"I don't understand." Jack murmured. His mother and Dianna had always seemed to like Melissa and Maria when they were here.

“Nothing to do with me. I’ll go and escort Luci and the boys around.” She stated and strolled out of the office, smirked right at them before closing the door “Good luck Alpha, Beta.” She clicked the door closed.

“Rafe?” he asked.

“I have a theory,” he nodded and then proceeded to tell him about the aroma sachets in every room, bar Luci’s, Allen’s or Ian’s, that was curious to him. But apparently Melissa had put them in all the rooms. That there was a large bag of it in his own suite, in his walk-in. That Rafe had gotten mad at himself when standing looking at it, had been thinking not so nice thoughts about Melissa and Maria, had chastised himself even for it.

“You think that’s it? What I was looking for?”

“I do.” Rafe nodded at him “I’m waiting to see them come home. If they bring a new bag with them.”

Jack thought about it for a moment. “I’m pretty sure they do. I’ve even seen them sitting filling those little sachets. Maria told me, “It’s pretty and makes the rooms smell nice”. I was even asked to smell it.

“How’d that go down?”

“Fine.” He shrugged, thought about it “I stated I liked it.”

“Did you?” Rafe asked him now.

“I don’t know, it was a while ago.” He didn’t actually recall if he did or didn’t. “Why not Allen and Ian’s rooms?”

“Allen is easy, has witches for Mates. Could well be considered a threat to him and well...” Rafe shrugged.

Jack understood, one of them or both of them could turn into a bloodied mist “Ian?”

“I don’t know, but those witches do like him, so...” again he shrugged.

That they did, for some weird a*s reason, that only they knew and understood. “Do you think being out of the pack for an extended period of time allows it to leave you?” Jack asked.

“From others, not you and I. We’ve been away for allied assistance, weeks at a time.” Rafe sighed “But maybe for others it does.”

“Maybe that is why our parents left and took your siblings, they felt something was off inside the pack.”

“It’s possible,” Rafe nodded, “though why wouldn’t they say anything? We can ask them when they get back.”

“Who’s to say they didn’t, and we just don’t recall it, or got all defensive on the subject.”

They were both staring at each other now.

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Luci POV

Alari returned to the Forest creek House, to find both boys and her mother waiting for her by the creek bed. Alari lifted herself half up and out of the water, to look right at their mother, where she bowed her head slightly and greeted her “Mother.”

“You are beautiful my daughter.” Her mother smiled right at her and stepped forward to reach out a hand and touch Alari’s face gently “If you ever want to know what your father looks like. Just look at your reflection. You are all your father, you have the same hair, the same cream opalescent colouring, you are as large as he was.”

Alari looked right at their mother. “Thank you.” Luci could feel a swell of pride come from her Siren, just knowing how much she looked like her father made her proud.

“Mamma, can we swim?” both the boys asked, standing next to their grammy looking up at her.

Alari smiled right at them, touched both their little faces, and nodded “Of course you can.” She moved a little away from the edge and watched as they stripped their shirts and shorts off and jumped on into the creek. Saw her mother sit and watch them all as the boys swam around and splashed about.

Alari was always happy to play with the boys in the water, though it was not such an easy thing to do here in the creek itself. She was much too large to make big long sweeping turns, but she played about and splashed them with her hands as well as her tail. Let them sit right on her and swim up the creek a little way, and back again.

It was something she’d always wanted to do, swim like this with the boys. Had not been able to do this in the lake, couldn’t even risk it late at night, as there was too much of a risk of a human spotting them. But here inside the pack, they had the freedom to do so, and there was a part of Alari that liked being inside the pack, just because of the freedom she had to shift and not worry about being caught.

‘Alari, there is an Olympic sized swimming pool inside the packhouse. You could swim there.’ Luci told her.

‘What is that?’ Alari asked right back.

‘It’s a large man-made pool of water about 50 metres long and 25 metres wide, from 1 metre to 3 metres deep, you’d be able to swim there comfortably with the boys.’

‘Water?’ she asked.

‘Not fresh water, it is a saltwater pool. We could go and look at it though. Perhaps you’d like it. Could try it out and see.’

‘Did you like it?’ Alari asked.

‘Mm, I was not really a fan of swimming in particular when growing up, but the pool back in nightfall was chlorinated, it dried my skin out. It

might be different here with a saltwater pool. I did like going to the ocean.'

'I might look at it.' was the only comment.

They'd played in the water for nearly an hour before getting out. Their mother did not get in, as it seemed, happy to just sit on the edge of the creek bed with her feet dangled in the water. She got splashed by the boys and Alari and kicked the water to splash them back, but had not been enticed into the water itself.

She found her clothes which Alari had taken off in the creek. Her mother, it seemed, had washed and dried them, laid them out ready for her when she came back. Luci showered and redressed, then strolled around and looked at the top floor of the split-level home. Looked out the window at the forest beyond, she did see what looked like a roaming patrol out there. That was new, hadn't had one of them when she was here. But she did know that some other packs that were larger did have them, in case something got passed the border patrol, there was less chance of it or them getting to the centre of the pack undetected.

She was curious as to when it happened. Why they thought that it was suddenly necessary to have a second patrol within the border? Was it just something they did as an extra layer of protection for their Mate's. Luci knew that Luna's were often targeted by enemy packs. They would come in and take out the Luna to weaken the pack Alpha, before starting a war to try and take over or destroy a pack.

She had heard Victor himself say it on more than one occasion. She knew that he had used that tactic himself, was cruel and vicious. Would likely always take out the Luna, find a way to weaken a pack before going in to claim it for himself. His pack grew due to war, he was always taking over other packs and pulling the remaining members into his.

This pack was now Victor's enemy, somewhere along the course of the past six and a half years, she didn't know why. Though she was curious, perhaps it was after that battle her mother had told her about, when that Gypsy Princess had come to live here. She sighed to herself, why he had to go about slaughtering others just to gain more pack members she

didn't know. It was not a nice thing to do, no one liked war, but Victor seemed to love it.

"Mother, how old is Victor?" she asked while making herself a cup of coffee from the Jura E8 coffee machine sitting on the black granite island bench in the kitchen. It was simple enough to use and had a touch screen. She pressed the cappuccino button and let it do its thing.

"I don't know. He was already allied to Orien when I met him."

"He's never mentioned his age? Not even once?"

"No. Age is not really relevant, Luci, with us. We live for many hundreds of years. Some up to a thousand. Why?"

"I'm just curious, is all." She shrugged "was he an Alpha already or an heir when you met him?"

"An Alpha."

"So, he's likely old then."

"He could be, is older than I am." She nodded. "His pack is also large and reputable to be as vicious as he is. It's why I never let you go there. I only ever went once myself. I got this really weird vibe inside his pack...I kind of felt like there was some sort of family bond to someone there as well. Though I'd never been to his pack before, and after you turned down Victor's offer to be his chosen Mate that first time at 19, I didn't think it was safe for you to go to his pack. Honestly Luci, I didn't think you'd come back, that Orien would tell me you'd been mated off to someone inside the pack. It's why I always stated 'no', much to Orien's annoyance."

"Probably wise." Luci sighed a little heavily. "Do you think Victor knew what I was the whole time?"

"It's unlikely, but he does have a pack full of half breeds, and has, from what I've heard, six or seven children to many different women, all of whom are half breeds themselves. Likes half breeds from what I can gather. Is more than happy to have them in his pack."

Luci stared right at her mother now. “How can he have so many if he’s not Mated to them?”

“I don’t know Luci, he’s got no Luna.” Her mother shrugged “So, who knows, maybe he just has a handful of woman who like him and are willing to produce him heirs.”

“I doubt that.” Luci shuddered.

Heard her mother chuckle now, “Luci, just because we don’t like him, that doesn’t mean he’s not nice to others out there.”

“Still.” She shook her head, she’d slept with Victor just once, had been held down the whole time, he had no concerns for anyone’s needs but his own, she didn’t think there were many she-wolves or women at all that would like that, most liked to be teased and pleased before the actual act of s*x itself, she certainly had. Victor was not, from her recollection, a man that did that.

“Each to their own Luci. He could be very old and, never having found his Mate, made deals with she-wolves in his pack to become surrogates, solely for producing heirs. He could have dozens of concubines for that very reason, if he is considered Mate-less.”

“I suppose.”

“He could also pay them very well. They could hold respectable titles within his pack. There could be many ways to strike a deal with all sorts of creatures. Especially as he’s an Alpha to a large pack. Some of these women might have been like me once. Fleeing a pack and in need of a home and wanting security and safety, they might not have known him or his reputation. I also imagine that if deals were struck, those women and children would be very well looked after.”

“If not?” Luci asked.

“Don’t think about that side of it. I’ve never seen Victor force himself on anyone. Never heard he has either.”

She'd never either, but after him trying to take her by force, she did think he had it in him, otherwise why would he take her like that, instead of just talking to her, trying to get her to agree to go with him.

"You and Victor once even?," her mother stated.

"I know." She shuddered "I did not much enjoy it. I was young and stupid and had an itch real bad and he was Alpha-blooded. Should have known better, but I guess the itch won out in the end." She muttered "But it was only once."

"He didn't for you?"

"No." she shook her head "and only raised an eyebrow at me, saying no to him after that one time. He didn't get angry or ticked off when he asked if I wanted to, and I stared at him and said No."

"How many times did he ask you?"

"Only a couple. I made it clear I did not like it, he held me down the whole time."

She heard her mother sigh, "He is a very controlling man in everything he does."

"It seems that way." It was not particularly a nice memory, but she had started that encounter with Victor, had no one to blame but herself for that one.

"Enough about Victor Luci. We are safe here."

"When did the roaming patrols start?" Luci asked. She'd had enough thinking about Victor for the day herself.

"Um, about six months after you went missing. They had a massive rogue attack that breached the border defences on the western and southern sides of the pack if I recall correctly."

"The pack was breached?" she asked curiously. She'd never seen that happen before.

“Mm,” her mother nodded, “It was a long time ago and nothing really since.”

“Until a few weeks ago.” Luci sighed herself now.

“Correct, you came to their aid?” her mother queried.

“It was war.” Luci nodded “They needed our help, were going to lose and to Victor.”

“I heard you saved the pack?” her mother looked right at her.

“Kali and Alari saved the pack.”

“I thought it was Alari?” her mother frowned now.

“My beasts are special mother...if you tell no-one...” Luci wondered if it was okay to tell anyone about her beasts connection to each other. Though both Victor and likely many in the Black Forest Pack had seen them uniting.

“I will not tell anyone. I can keep a secret, Luci. No one even knows where I originate from, I’m good at keeping secrets.”

Luci looked right at her mother now. “I suppose you are.” She nodded, had kept her own being a half breed a secret had never once uttered that Luci wasn’t Orien’s either. “Kali and Alari can come together as one.”

“What?”

“They can unite and, from what I have seen, in the reflection of the lake, take on the appearance of a half-shifted wolf with the scales of a siren and their eyes are of both...kind of like Astral and Sparks eyes, but black and green, not black and red.”

“Sweet Goddess, Lucian. Did Victor see you like that?”

“Yes.” She nodded.

“It’s no wonder he came back for you. Don’t go telling anyone that.”

“I’m not so stupid as I once was.” She murmured “What do you think of this place?” Luci changed the subject. Didn’t want to think about her own stupidity.

“I think it’s good. We’ll all be away from the packhouse, but close enough for the boys to attend school and visit their fathers. I also like it here, it’s quiet and I can sit and think.”

Luci understood why her mother needed that, “What are you going to do? Thatcher is still in Nightfall.”

“I know.” Her mother stated simply but said nothing more, just stared off across the room absently.

“He might come here?”

“No, he won’t. He will lose everything if he gives up Nightfall. He would be nothing but an elite warrior. He’s too much like Orien for that...Perhaps when he’s taken over, things will change.”

Luci sighed “I don’t know what to do either on that. Rafe and Jack want my opinion on severing from Nightfall.”

“Sever ties with Nightfall Luci, it’s the safest way to protect yourself. Protect your boys, you never know who Victor will situate into Nightfall and send here to mating balls, if there is still an affiliation. Sever ties, when Thatcher takes over, perhaps something can be worked out. Do not risk yourself or your boys to that man, in anyway.”

Luci nodded “And you?”

“I’m not likely to go back, Luci. Fallon and I know this, we’ll have to come face to face with Orien and Rali for a formal rejection at some point, but I doubt it will be soon. I have other plans for the moment. If Orien wants to get it over and done with, he can come to us and reject us here. He knows where I am.”

“Can you be initiated by Rafe, and still keep your bond to Orien?”

“Yes, I can. Why do you ask?”

“He’s your Goddess Gifted mother and though, I know I always came between you. I do know that you love him, and he does love you. I don’t want you to have to give that up.”

“You should.” Her mother muttered.

“Come on mum, every single time you two fought, really fought about me. Did I not always try to bring you back to each other? Help Orien to win you back. He may be an a*****e to me, but he loves you.”

She watched her mother look at her scarred hand. “Maybe once. I nor Fallon feel that anymore, Luci. Don’t fight for us this time. Just let it be, if he loves me, truly loves me, he’ll fight for us. I guess we’ll wait and see, won’t we!”

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Rafe POV

He felt the moment Melissa crossed back into the pack, it was 5pm. He could also feel that Luci and the twins were in the cottage not that far from the packhouse. They were packing up their belongings to move out to the Forest Creek House. He was happy that she was going to be comfortable out there, that he could provide her, Kali and Alari with somewhere they all liked and were okay with.

He’d gotten the feeling that it might be more difficult than he’d thought. The fact that it was on a creek that led to the lake was the clincher. Felt that if Alari wasn’t happy with it, the answer would have been a flat out no.

Although he’d been hoping that she and the twins would be moved out of the cottage before Melissa and Maria came home. That they were out of sight, no such luck, it seemed. He could feel Jack’s eyes on him just moments after he felt their Mates cross back onto pack territory.

“It’ll be fine Jack, they’ll come right to us, they won’t know who she is. They’ve never seen Luci before.”

“We have to tell Luci,” Jack stated, sounding a little on the anxious side, which was unlike him. Rafe knew he was concerned about Luci and the boys.

They both knew that Luci and the boys alike were more than capable of handling either of their Mate’s, but Thatcher was right; they should not have to. It was up to he and Jack to protect them.

“Agreed, I’ll do it.” he nodded. He would rather Luci be mad or annoyed, or however she felt about hearing the news, be directed at him and not Jack. He wasn’t exactly sure how Jack would handle Luci being mad or upset with him. Distant was what she was right this minute, and though that seemed to be okay with Jack, that was likely only because she was currently inside the pack. But he worried anything else might set he or Flare off.

Rafe mind-linked right to Luci ‘Pardon the intrusion, Luci. I just wanted to let you know, our Mate’s have just arrived back on pack territory.’”

He got nothing for several seconds, then just a clipped dismissive tone “Yes, Rafe.” He heard the slight gravel in her voice and that tone he knew it was Alari, and he felt her sever the link quite violently.

He sighed heavily, her Siren didn’t really like him, and he knew it, “Alari is on the surface.” He told Jack.

“That is probably for the best. It could get messy.”

“I don’t think she likes me.” He muttered.

“Has no real connection to either of us. Don’t take it too personally. Try to remember she is also an Alpha, and knows she is more powerful than you. Than likely any Alpha out there, will speak like she is the Alpha in charge.”

“I know, it’s just hard, I guess...We also need to take one thing at a time.” Rafe nodded. They still had time. It was a good 30 minute drive from the gate to the packhouse, Luci would also know this.

“Addison is upstairs. You might want to tell her as well.”

Rafe nodded again, Addison had completely surprised the pair of them walking into the office just half an hour ago and asked to be initiated into the pack. Rafe had looked right at her. “Your pack will feel you sever from them Addison.” He’d told her, knowing full well that they all would. If Orien had not prepared them for it, it was going to distress a lot of them.

“I understand.” She’d sighed a little on the heavy side.

“Nothing from Orien then?” Jack had frowned at her.

“No...I can only presume he’s going to stay allied with Victor. He has had plenty of time to call him. He could have dropped into the Bloodless Moon, on the way back to Nightfall even. Questioned and severed ties right there. It’s been a day, it’s clear he is not going to. So I’ll start the process on this end.”

“Let him feel your decision, to be elsewhere you mean.” Rafe stated
“You’ll still be Mated to him, Addi.”

“I am aware of that.” She nodded “One of us will have to go to the other and issue a formal rejection. But he should know it is coming.” looked and sounded sad to him.

This would be the second time she lost a Mate Bond in her short life. “Are you certain?” Rafe asked her once more, to make sure she was absolutely certain. He didn’t want her doing anything rash.

“I am. I will call Thatcher later, explain my actions. Luci has agreed for you to sever ties to Nightfall as well. We discussed it this afternoon. It is what we both believe is best for now. Though that could change later when Thatcher takes over, perhaps a reconsideration later in life.”

“He is welcome here, Addi, to visit. Showed some real loyalty to Luci,” Jack told her.

“I doubt he’ll leave Nightfall, be an Alpha without a pack, if he did.”

Rafe sighed, no Alpha wanted that, to lose their pack. Picked up his ceremonial blade and walked over to her, cut his palm. “Do you Luna

Addison of the Nightfall Pack, reject your loyalty to Nightfall, and pledge your loyalty and allegiance to the Black Forest Pack, accept myself, Alpha Rafe as your new Alpha?”

Watched as she looked at the cut, saw her take a deep shaky breath in, and state “I Luna Addison reject my pack, Nightfall...” he saw the pain cross her face as she felt herself severing from her own pack, “I pledge my loyalty to you Alpha Rafe, for as long as you provide a safe, welcoming environment for my daughter. I pledge my allegiance to this packs Alpha, but not to the current Luna.”

Rafe raised an eyebrow at her but said nothing, placed his palm to hers and felt the pack connection. “Welcome, Luna Addison, your title and rank will remain with you always here inside the pack. A Luna twice over you are.” He let go of her hand.

“You may call me Alpha Addison, I am or will not be seen as a Luna anymore. I am a pure-blooded Alpha on all sides, so I will take that as my Rank, if you don’t mind.” She looked right at him, he’d watched her stand up tall as she spoke, had pulled herself together from the pain of severing from her pack and was standing before him now, with squared shoulders and the firm resolve of an Alpha female.

“Welcome to the pack, Alpha Addison.” Both he and Jack stated together.

She bowed her head slightly “I’ll collect my belongings from my suite on the first floor and move in with my daughter and grand babies.” She stated before leaving their office.

Jack had looked right at him. “Did you feel that power?”

“Yes I did.” Rafe nodded, pure-bloods always felt powerful when initiated. “Luci felt much the same.” He voiced as he recalled initiating her in this very room, when they’d brought her home.

It had been late at night and for only the second time had he and Jack seen the sad side of her. Being kicked out of your home-pack wasn’t likely to be a good feeling. They’d tried to talk to her on the long drive

back from Nightfall, she'd been quiet for the whole trip, just stared silently out the window for the most part.

They'd watched her mother help her pack a single large suitcase and nothing more. She'd not really said anything at all during that either. Had just banged things into the suitcase, slammed it shut and then looked right at her mother, Addison.

Who'd looked so very upset herself about the situation, she'd touched Luci's lovely face and said softly "It will be so much better for you, in the Black Forest Pack. I know this, Rafe and Jack will look after you."

Luci had just nodded solemnly, then had said "Thank you." squared her shoulders, he and Jack had been standing in her bedroom doorway, watching. Neither one of them were going to allow Orien near her at that moment, and they had no idea if the man was going to go up there and try to apologise and retract his statement.

Then she had marched herself down the stairs, Jack had taken her suitcase for her. Orien had still been in the foyer and Luci had walked with her head held high as though leaving Nightfall didn't concern her in the slightest. Acted like she didn't care at all. So very stubborn, had refused to show her stepfather, or at the time, father they'd all thought, just how much it had actually been hurting her to have him practically banish her.

And they all knew that's what it was. He may not have stated the word banished but had been doing just that.

Rafe also knew that Orien was likely happy about it, for with Luci gone from Nightfall, Thatcher would be officially instated as the Heir. He was getting what he wanted, his own flesh and blood to take over, not Luci.

Initiating Luci when they'd gotten home, he'd felt her pure-blood genes, the actual power she'd held within. Something that Orien had never likely felt, she'd been born into Nightfall and not bled to him. He didn't understand just how powerful she was, even then without Alari.

It had actually really surprised him and Jack too. At the time, they'd not understood it, what he'd felt that day, but now he did understand it, he'd registered her Siren's power even though he'd nor she'd known about it. Likely also felt that witch in her as well.

She'd slept between them that night in the room they'd allocated her, across the hall from his room. She'd gone off and had a really long shower and come out of her ensuite red-rimmed. Had been a little surprised to see the both of them still sitting on her bed waiting for her to come out of the bathroom.

Jack had been the first to move, just got up and walked over to her, wrapped his arms around her and hugged her into him for a long moment and she'd stood and leaned into him, he'd murmured "We'll stay with you." softly, gently to her.

They had, she'd slept between them that night, not shed a single tear or sobbed. Though they both knew she had cried in the privacy of her ensuite, not that they had heard it, but those brilliant green eyes of hers, all red-rimmed, were evidence of her tears. He supposed they had been silent tears, still trying to be so strong, so stubborn against even her ownself.

That night, they'd brought her home, initiated her and then provided comfort. By holding her all night long, she'd slept before they had, her body curled up against Jacks and his curled up against hers.

Should have bloody marked her then and there he now realised, it wasn't like they hadn't already discussed it a few times before she'd come to live with them. But no, he was so stubborn himself that she wasn't their Mate, that it wasn't right to take that away from her either.

Sighed to himself a little, she'd never displayed all of her power that they'd felt that night, not to he or Jack, to anyone inside the pack. She didn't need to, he supposed, she'd loved them, had no reason to go up against them at all.

He mind-linked to Addi 'Alpha, our Mates just crossed into pack territory.'

'Luci?' her first and only concern.

'I have informed her, before I did you. Right away, Addison.' He told her, he would not be making that mistake twice in his lifetime. Would not be allowing Luci to suffer that again, or for he and Jack to lose her once more over it.

'So you should, thank you for the heads up.' He felt her close out the link, and shook his head, so much like Luci on that front. Usually pack members would wait on their Alpha to shut down a mind-link, not those two women.

"I think both Addi and Luci are going to be a bit of a handful for us." He commented to Jack.

"Why?" Jack asked in return, seemed a little confused.

"Do you recall just how alike they are?" Rafe reminded him.

"Hmm...I do." Jack nodded "It'll be fine and Luci needs her mother's emotional support right now. I would expect Addi to be all Alpha female. With that protective streak we've always seen around Luci, only now, instead of aimed at Orient, it will be directed at us and our Mate's."

"Agreed." Rafe nodded "On that note, I am not going out the front to greet our Mate's."

"It's likely best that we do not." Jack agreed with him. "Best for them to come in here."

Rafe could only agree on this as well. "Though, how are we going to avoid them all the time? Sleep where, without causing suspicion?" he'd not even managed to come up with a plan for that and he had been trying to. Though he now doubted they were actually Goddess Gifted Mate's, they were still technically Mated to each other.

"We could stay in Luci's room, pitch a fit over them leaving like they always do, and we were attacked while they were away. Say we've had enough and until they come around to them both sharing themselves with us, we'll be sleeping elsewhere, together at that."

Rafe snorted with amusement himself, “That will have them pitching a fit.”

“Honestly Rafe, I don’t really care...Do you right this very minute?”

He thought about that for a moment...the answer was ‘no’ and he knew it. Shaking his head “Not really no.” he stated “It might be better for us to sleep in Luci’s room until this mess is sorted out. Who knows what those two will do to us in our sleep?” He sighed. It could well be anything at all.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 74

Jack POV

He mind-linked right to Rafe and connected them to Titan, asked him to come directly to the Alpha’s office, got a ‘Yes Beta.’ And then Jack asked him if he was well?

‘Define well, Beta.’ Titan muttered right back.

Jack frowned instantly, he didn’t sound good. Also, that statement didn’t sound good at all to him. ‘Are you injured?’

‘No.’ Titan replied.

‘Can you talk about what happened out there?’

‘To a certain extent.’

Heard Rafe interrupt ‘Were you Luna Ordered not to tell either of us what happened out there?’

‘I’m not sure what you’re talking about, Alpha.’ Came the reply.

‘We understand, Titan.’ Jack answered and cut the link, then looked over at Rafe “He was Luna Ordered then.”

“Agreed...I don’t want to hurt him. He’s a good warrior, and Alpha Ordering him, to override that Luna’s Order is going to cause him severe pain.” Rafe was frowning now and Jack knew he was trying to think of a way around the Luna’s Order that would not have Titan bow down to the ground and suffer terribly.

“We’ll find a way. Titan might already have a plan himself. He’s intelligent and a good thinker.”

“Mm,” Rafe nodded “It’s why Petra and Sara have asked him to father their children.”

Jack smiled now, “Is that why? I thought it was because both the girls had bedded him, before realising they were gay and got gifted to each other?”

“Not that I know of.” Rafe shrugged. “He’s still considering it, has a girlfriend, for nearly a year now. She has two children herself and they all live together. But I do know the four of them have discussed it. Titan will not do anything without her permission, but is open to it, from my understanding. Young Andy is taking it very seriously from what I heard.”

“Its not something to be taken lightly, that is for certain.” Jack agreed, and it wasn’t though it wasn’t the first time he’d seen it.

Over in the Eclipsed Moon Pack, the Gamma and Delta were mated to each other and they had an unmated she-wolf who had given them a son now, was the Gamma’s, he believed, but she was also going to be giving the Delta a child as well from what he’d heard. So, he knew it was something that was done.

From his understanding, she was the Beta’s little sister and had rejected her Mate on meeting him, due to him being with someone else and not caring at all that she was his Mate. So, she had no Mate but craved to be a mother. It made for a situation that helped all of them.

They sat and waited in their office for Melissa and Maria to arrive. He was mind-linked by Titan as he felt the man pull the car up out the front

of the pack house. 'Beta, is that Luci I see?...with twin boys...yours and the Alpha's?'

'Yes, we found her finally.'

'She looks stunningly beautiful; I love her new hair. Congratulations...curious about something before I come in?'

'Ask.'

'Is she a pack member still?'

'Yes.'

He heard the man laugh right down the mind-link before it was cut off.

"Something amuses Titan." He told Rafe.

"Really?"

"Mm, something to do with Luci. He just saw her and the twins. They must be outside."

"Then so did our Mate's." Rafe sighed.

Jack watched as Melissa and Maria walked into the office, saw them leave their luggage in the foyer and he heard Maria call out to an omega to take their bags up to their rooms. Also heard her state, the new aroma petals were to be taken to the Luna's office for them to start sorting out and refilling the pouches.

So they were going to refill those little bags that they had throughout the packhouse. He sat back in his chair and watched as Melissa glared right at Titan and snapped "Your job is now done. Why are you still here? Get lost." She sounded more than annoyed with him.

He watched as Titan smiled right at her "I've got orders from the Beta to be here in the office, my Luna."

"I can overrule that." She shot at him. "Go away."

“No, you can’t.” Rafe interjected “I need a word with Titan, myself.”

Jack watched as Melissa’s eyes turned right on Rafe and her frown did not go away, only now it was directed at Rafe. Looked unhappy with his statement. Jack looked to Maria, she smiled right at him. Both Melissa and Maria had stopped only a few steps into the office itself. “Jack, I got a new perfume, come smell it. I think you’re going to love it. It’s so sweet and pretty.”

“No, thank you,” he stated calmly. “I actually have a lot to do, am really busy.”

“Jack, I’ve been gone for a long time.” She raised her arms and held them out to him. “Come and hug me, I have missed you.”

He stared at her for a moment, raised an eyebrow, he seriously doubted that. “Then you shouldn’t have left the pack should you,” he stated flatly.

“Jack, you know I need to go home.” She pouted at him “To stay connected to my family. I have always felt that way.”

“I’m aware.” He muttered, he was now well aware of her need to go home. The real reason behind it as well. “We were attacked again while you two decided to go home and live it up. Nearly lost a mother and her two sons to Victor Sampson of the Bloodless Moon, who came back.”

“Like I said he would.” Rafe shot at them. “Told you it wasn’t right for you to go, with the threat of him coming right back.”

Jack watched as both Melissa and Maria frowned and then Melissa walked further into the office, over to Rafe’s desk. “You didn’t call me about that.”

“Would you have come home anyway?” Rafe pushed his chair back away from his desk and walked around her, as Melissa tried to put a hand on him, walked all the way over to Jack’s desk and leaned on it. Jack watched her eyes widen more than a little as Rafe actively avoided her touch.

Watched her track him right to Jack and then glare at Jack himself, then the pair of them as she took in their current closeness, Jack dropped a hand right on Rafe's thigh to show her just how close they had gotten.

"What is the meaning of this?" she demanded instantly, at seeing the two of them so close to each other in her presence, something she was more than against.

"Jack and I have gotten closer while you were away, almost back to how we were before you and Maria came along." he heard Rafe tell her, had chosen his words carefully, Jack thought with a smile.

He watched as anger flared in Melissa and then her eyes moved right to her sister, and they were both glazed over for a moment, mind-linking to each other about what they thought was likely going on. Or perhaps what they now needed to do.

"Is that Luna Addison? I see," Titan asked, interrupting the goings on inside the office.

"It is." Jack nodded "She has been here a few days now. Is on the outs with her Mate, likely to be a rejection coming."

Titan's eyes moved right to Jack. "It is good to see her Beta, I'd love to say hello later on." He was staring at Jack pointedly now. "I've not been to Nightfall in months."

Oh, he got it. He needed to have someone not from this pack to question him 'dammit.' He muttered to Rafe down the mind-link.

'I'll sort that, Addi will understand, I'm sure.'

"Why is there another Luna inside my pack?" Melissa snapped "That Luna in particular." But her eyes were on Titan and he watched as Titan shrugged, but the man was smiling as he leaned all casual in the office doorway. He could see that Melissa and Titan did not get along.

"She is now a member of this pack." Rafe stated "She and Orien are breaking their Mate Bond."

“So! Why is she in this pack? She can go somewhere else, I’m sure.”

“I invited her.” Jack stated “She helped our pack members after Victor tried to take them. Attended to the Luna’s duties, you should have been here to do yourself.” He shot at her. Technically, he was right, she was tending to Luci and the twins’ emotional state, and that was what a Luna did, and Luci and the twins were pack members.

He saw her shoot across the room and snap her hand out to slap him. Rafe’s hand caught her around the wrist. “I wouldn’t, Melissa. I am just as ticked off as Jack is, about your leaving when this pack needed you to be here.” He thrust her hand away. “Strike Jack and I might just let him strike you back right this minute.”

“Are you insane?” She snapped “I’m your Mate and the pack Luna. No one is ever allowed to strike me.”

“If you start a fight, I’ll allow Jack to accept the challenge, and offer you a real duel. If that is how things must be done. You will be showing Jack respect at all times, from now on. No more will you get away with the slightest of infractions regarding my Beta.”

Jack smiled right up at her, caressed Rafe’s thigh just a little and he saw her note it, winked right at her “Perhaps my Luna, you shouldn’t go away and leave us alone together for so long.” He practically drawled “You never know what might happen.”

He heard Titan snort from the doorway, seemed amused watching what was going on between them.

Maria looked furious. “Jack, perhaps we need to talk. I was overly harsh before I left. I do need to apologise to you for that.”

“It’s nothing you haven’t done before, Maria.” Jack shrugged and it wasn’t.

“Didn’t you miss me at all? I missed you.” she smiled at him.

His eyes moved from her to Titan and then back to her and he saw her glance at the man, before she stepped forward and over to him, reached

out a hand “Don’t bother.” He snapped at her and shoved his chair back quite harshly “If you think a hug is going to fix it, you’d be wrong.” He snapped, taking a page right out of Addison’s book. Used her words, the very ones she’d used on Orien.

“Jack, don’t be like that.” She walked towards him.

“Go and unpack, I have work to do.” He stated and walked over to Rafe’s desk and sat himself down in the Alpha’s chair.

“Get out of that chair.” Melissa roared right at him, all anger and fury it seemed, at seeing him in the Alpha’s seat.

“I’m fine with him there.” Rafe stated calmly and walked over to lean on his own desk next to Jack, “I don’t mind if he uses my desk. Often does when you’re not here.”

“He’s not the Alpha, and never will be.” Melissa shot right at Rafe.

“If I chose to rank him up, he will be, and honestly, I have been considering it this past week. It’s been tough for us here, stressful and Jack has more than pulled his weight. Acted like an Alpha, better than I have at times.” Rafe told her calmly.

“Don’t you dare. I’ll leave you if you do!”

“Hmm...will you, I wonder?” Rafe tilted his head slightly and really looked at her, as his hand reached out and landed on Jack’s shoulder. Jack rolled the chair forward to get closer to Rafe and watched her glare right at him. He could actually see her brain ticking.

“Alpha.” It was Titan. “Did I see young Luci when I drove up?...Your and Jacks Concubine?”

Everyone in the room turned and looked at the man. Jack had already answered that question. Titan smiled “Gosh, I’m so very glad she didn’t die like we all thought.”

“What?” he heard both Melissa and Maria gasp now.

“I knew I felt something.” Melissa suddenly yelled “You cheated on me.”

“I did not. Luci wants nothing to do with Jack or I.” he sighed heavily
“It’s been difficult for her to come back to the pack, to be here.”

“She can leave.” Melissa snarled.

“That is not going to happen, considering it was her and her children that Victor of the Bloodless Moon tried to take and hurt.” Rafe told her.

“I don’t care about that. He can have her.” Melissa stated flatly.

The snarl that ripped out of him and Flare said it all, and he saw both Melissa and Maria back up and away from him as he stood up, all their anger, both his and his beast on the surface for all to see and feel “How dare you.” they snarled at her “As the Luna to this pack you should conduct oneself properly. You are supposed to protect pack members, not want to send them off to be brutalised by a complete savage of a man.” They both yelled together at the woman, who was backing away towards the office door still, a hand on her sister now “You know he is a savage, destroyed that Gypsy pack to get his hands on one underage she-wolf. Now you think it’s okay to just give that man one of our own, plus her small children.” Took a breath in and let her have it all, roared all his and Flares anger at them. “What the hell kind of Luna are you!”

Watched as Maria clutched at her sister’s arm tightly, they’d never actually seen him or Flare unleash their anger before, let alone have it directed right at one of them. It seemed that neither of them liked it.

“Get out of our office.” Rafe grated out, all Alpha Wolf now himself
“Before you get more than rounded on.”

Jack watched as the two of them looked from him to Rafe and then to each other. He saw Maria nod her head and then they just turned and headed out the door. He watched as Maria pulled out her phone to call someone, likely her old pack. She could mind-link to anyone here.

They needed back up or to report what was now happening, though he didn’t hear her make a call, was using his wolfs hearing to track them as

they hurried away, could hear her texting someone, was tapping away furiously on her phone's screen, it seemed. Those two had not come home to what they were expecting, like every other time.

Didn't like it or understand it, needed help or information about what to do about it, he thought. Likely it was because Rafe and Jack wouldn't allow themselves to actually be touched, not even a hug. Which he believed would allow the two of them to be affected by whatever it was those two used to control them, so they were not getting the usual response to them coming home.

It had not escaped his attention that both their Mates had been trying to lay hands on them, Maria more so than Melissa. She'd never really apologised to him like that before either. Though he did note that she still expected him to go to her, she had voiced she'd missed him, wanted a hug, even put her arms out for one, but had not been inclined at all to go to him to give him a hug. Wanted him to go to her as always.

He wondered if that was a part of it, that he had to want to go to her, for it to work, did he have to be willingly surrounded by whatever it was. She'd only walked across the room, because he had not gone to her. She'd had no other choice, he thought. Likely wouldn't have apologised either if he'd not shown he was annoyed with them.

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 75

Luci POV

To hear Rafe tell her, his and Jacks Mates were back in pack territory, her hands stilled. They had not really unpacked all that much of their actual belongings when they'd been brought here to the cottage. Most of it was still boxed up. But she was currently in the cottage boxing up the pantry with Nadia.

Who had heard about the move from either her Alpha or Beta and made her way over here with more boxes to help, stated she wanted to make sure that she and the twins had everything that they needed. Without having to worry about returning to the packhouse to get things on the odd occasion.

She heard Nadia herself sigh a little on the heavy side, moments after she'd been mind-linked by Rafe. Likely had felt the Luna return to the pack herself. "I'll finish up here Luci, you go and be with the boys. We'll all head off in my truck when your mother comes back."

Nadia had arrived in her truck to help move everything with ease, though it was no longer Luci on the surface. It was all Alari, who looked at Nadia, nodded briefly and was gone out the front door to watch over the boys. Who were playing in the front yard, she watched both of them look up at Alari being on the surface.

'Just go about playing boys.' She waved them back to what they were doing. "I'm just watching you." she'd smiled right at them, kept her tone lite, and they went back to running around. They were kicking a ball around.

Alari had still been on the surface when a car had driven passed them, she'd moved her eyes to it. The driver had looked right at her and then just smiled, she'd seen that man's eyes move towards the children as well, damn near laughed, before turning his attention back to the road.

The two women in the back didn't even so much as look at her, they'd never seen her before, didn't care to either, had no idea who she was, and she'd not looked like this the last time she'd been here, and they'd never met Luci at all. Turned her eyes back to the boys after it passed them all.

Though her eyes did make their way over to the packhouse, it seemed Alari was actually curious about the two women, but then she'd not actually focused on the women but the man driving the car itself. He'd already smiled. Now he looked right at her, and they could see with their sight that he had a full smirk on his face. He bowed his head ever so slightly after the two women passed him, then turned and walked away 'Who is that one?' Alari asked her.

'Titan, an elite warrior. If I recall correctly, one of their most loyal.'

'He bowed to you,' Alari stated 'Why?'

'I don't know, we are of Alpha blood, he knows this.'

'Odd.'

'It is.' Luci nodded, he'd never done that with her here inside the pack before.

She watched as her mother walked out of the packhouse a few minutes later, 'Daughter is everything alright?' she mind-linked to her right away.

'Yes, mother.' Alari answered her right back, was still in full control.

'You're on the surface because?' her tone was lite but curious.

'It is needed.' Alari stated simply and then receded finally as their mother walked into the yard. "I like being able to mind-link to you mum." Luci smiled right at her, it was a really nice feeling to have that pack bond with her mother once more.

"Me to." Addi smiled at her "Like old times, are we all packed?"

"Nearly, Nadia could use our help...but."

"I'll stay with the boys, or go and help. Which is best for you honey?"

"I'll go and help Nadia, I have to get used to it at some point right!" she muttered and saw her own mother's apologetic look, before walking back inside to help Nadia finish packing up the pantry.

She did know she was going to have to. The boys would be going to see their fathers and going off to school as of Monday, and she wasn't going to be able to be with them all the time. It was going to be difficult, and agitate them all the time, but she had to start it somewhere. Try and get herself, Kali and Alari used to it. Them, being out in the pack with the Luna and Beta's Mate wandering around as well.

Wondered as they all got in to Nadia's truck 15 minutes later, if they had told their Mate's about the boys yet. Nadia was just pulling away from the cottage when her mother was mind-linked and let out a somewhat

heavy sigh “Nadia, could you let me out at the front of the packhouse please. Alpha Rafe has asked me to come in for a meeting.”

Luci looked right at her. “Trouble starting already, I see.”

“I don’t think it is that, something else is going on, I believe. I’ll make my own way back to the house.” She stated and got out when Nadia pulled up.

Luci watched her mother walk up the stairs and sighed to herself, surely if they wanted her mother it couldn’t be good. Luci recalled the way her mother always went to bat for her, was more than fierce in the defence of her daughter.

“Don’t stress over it Luci, Addison can handle herself, is an Alpha like yourself.”

“It’s not that,” Luci stated.

“Rafe and Jack, they will sort the other issue out. Trust in them.”

‘Like I once did.’ She thought to herself absently, turned her eyes away to the pack and then the forest. She didn’t think that they had told their Mate’s yet. There was no ballistic Luna coming for her, stalking out of the packhouse glaring at her or the boys, for that matter.

She helped Nadia unpack everything even though the woman tried to wave her off. But Luci needed the distraction and it kind of helped. Stood and prepped dinner with her as well, even heard that they had, had a little bit of chocolate with their dessert last night and they’d not had a reaction to it, seeing that it was only small.

Knew they’d liked it as well, was mind-linked by her mother to inform her that she would be severing herself from the pack for a short time. It was only temporary and would be reinitiated again in a little while.

‘Why?’ she asked right away.

‘There is a pressing matter. All is well and it’s actually nothing to do with any of us. Something about needing a non-pack member to question another. It is odd, Luci, but I understand it. I agreed to do it.’

‘Alright, how long?’

‘Not certain. But I will be initiated again once the questioning is over, and brought home...Luci, there will be added patrols around the house, likely Petra and her men.’

‘Alright. I’ll keep dinner for you.’

It was curious, but not her place to ask anymore. Once would have and both Rafe and Jack would have told her, not anymore it seemed. She let it go, if her mother was allowed to tell her she would when she got home.

It was nice to have someone to chat with while making dinner. Both Alari and Kali were settled inside her mind, they both seemed to be comfortable with Nadia in their home. Liked the woman, though she’d always been nice to her when she’d lived here.

Nadia was talking about her grandbabies and how they were six and would be in the same class as the boys. She also made mention that she’d adjusted the school’s menu for the next week to aid in the boys being able to have lunch like all the other pups there.

Luci smiled. “Thank you for all of your help. My boys and I must be taking up a lot of your time.”

“I don’t mind. I have four chefs to boss around inside that packhouse currently.” She chuckled “It’s quite fun actually, and coming up with super healthy desserts that are still a treat for the boys, that has me testing out new ideas. My own grandbabies are tasting everything. I get to see them every day now.”

“That must be nice.”

“It is.” Nadia nodded “But my daughters shake their heads at me and tell me all they do is ask for their grandma and her treats.” She grinned now “I’m loving it, having little ones inside my house once more.”

Luci chuckled softly “Spoiling them.”

“Yes, and I’m going to turn at least one of them into a chef.” She smiled big at the thought.

Nadia headed off after dinner was plated up, she had a Mate, Gil, to feed back home and a packhouse dining room to check on as well.

Luci placed her mother’s meal in the warming draw under the oven to keep it warm, Nadia had showed her how to use it, that was new to her, but would likely come in handy she thought absently to herself.

She was curious as to what was going on up in the packhouse. It was an odd request that was certain. She’d never seen anything like it before. Knew her mother would technically be a rogue right now. No pack status. She was already severed from Nightfall, and now the Black Forest Pack as well. She would scent of a rogue as well until reinstated.

It was almost 7pm by the time her mother returned and smiled at her, reinstated by Alpha Rafe. Luci felt the connection the moment it happened, had been waiting on it. “All is well, Luci.” She smiled and was carrying a dessert box. “I brought a blackberry and apple tart.”

The boys were at her feet in a flash. “Grammy, you bring us pie?” they were smiling up at her now.

“I did, go sit, it’s special too.” She smiled right down at them.

Luci smiled at her mother and waved them to the table, and watched her mother unbox the tart, looked at the boys. “It’s got a white chocolate drizzle.”

Both the boys squealed now, pure joy and happiness could be heard in them both, they were so excited about the tiniest bit of chocolate. Were likely going to be addicted to it when they could just eat it at will. Watched them not only eat one slice but ask for a second. She let them, just hoped it wouldn’t upset their tummies too much.

Asked her mother what happened and saw her smiling right at her “Nothing to worry about. Just trying to get around an order placed on a

pack member. They didn't want to hurt that person was all. It worked a treat."

Luci was curious about that, but if her mother was not going to elaborate. It was likely she had been asked not to. It was probably serious pack-related business and therefore not for her. She was just a pack member herself, not even a warrior at this point. Nothing had been discussed about what they would expect of her now that she was back inside the pack.

Did they expect her to train daily? Like she had once used to, she had actually enjoyed training. Did they expect her to hold down a job within the pack? If so, what would it be? Not even she knew that. Hadn't really held a job title the last time she'd been here. Had trained every day and helped with fighting any rogues that needed deflecting, but that was pretty much it.

She'd attended mating balls that they held, not that she cared to, had not really been interested in finding a Mate, wondered about that now. Wondered if she'd chosen them long before she'd stupidly mated herself to them when she'd gone into heat, that one time.

Lay in bed that night and thought about that. She'd not wanted any other while she was here. But that was normal for her, even before coming to live here, she only ever looked at others in Nightfall, because there was no one that could sate her needs, until Rafe and Jack had visited anyway.

Rolled over and stared outside, it wasn't all that late, only 10pm, but she and the boys were used to going to bed early, by 8 or 9pm most nights. Had to so they could get up early and make breakfast before the long walk into town. Didn't need to do that anymore.

Knew her mother was still up. She was prowling around downstairs, had been going to call Thatcher before going to bed, was likely down there doing that now. She closed her eyes and was dosing off just as Rafe's voice came to her a full pack wide mind-link, she could feel the weirdness of it. 'There is a fire within the pack. It is being contained, do not panic, a single dwelling, unoccupied.' The link was cut, it was just an informative statement so any that smelled it or saw it didn't panic, she supposed.

A moment later, both her boys were running into her room. She'd settled them into a separate bedroom to see if they would sleep in their, highly doubted it, but they seemed excited about a room to themselves. Both their eyes were wide "Mamma?" she heard the fear.

"Climb up and in, we're all good." She sighed and settled them into her bed, then mind-linked to Rafe himself 'Please Alpha, do remember the twins are six, and actively open to your pack wide mind-links. Please refrain from including them.'

's**t, sorry Luci. I honestly didn't think about that.'

'Obviously.' She sighed right back and cut the link.

He re-established it a second later 'Luci, I do apologise.'

'I'm tired, Alpha.' She stated and cut the link once more. He didn't reopen it, got the point she guessed.

Settled the boys into her bed and watched them go back to sleep. This bed was much bigger than the one they normally shared, Alari was singing softly to them to settle their nerves, and she found her mother standing in the doorway. Waved her in as well, might as well have a sleep pile. She thought to herself.

"It's like my own little Siren pack" her mother chuckled softly "All piled up in one bed."

"Is that how you slept with father?"

"No. but sometimes we would sleep by the water's edge and his pack would all settle around us, to hear him sing. Just like Alari does."

"Do all Sirens sing?" she asked curiously.

"If they are happy or trying to settle the young ones." Her mother nodded.

Luci smiled herself. It was nice to know that Alari was just like her father, "Is it the same song?" she questioned curiously.

“No. Every song is unique to each Siren, but that pack would be able to know who was singing and for what reason. It resonates in their sound.”

‘That’s nice.’ Luci thought to herself. She always did like Alari’s singing, though there were never actually any words, just sounds and tones, she felt connected to it and understood if it was happy or sad. Guess that was because they were one.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 76

Addison POV

Feeling herself being severed from her entire pack, Nightfall, hurt a lot. More this time than the first time she’d ever severed herself from her home pack. Was more connected to Nightfall, loved them and they loved her, unlike her original home-pack who had hated her, all bar her mother anyway.

It had not been a nice feeling when she’d left her home-pack at 18, but it was for the best back then. She had done it to save herself. But this time? She honestly didn’t know if it was for the best.

Knew that she was not going to pledge her loyalty to the current Luna, she couldn’t do that. Not when she saw how much Rafe and Jack had lost weight, and knew that their connection to each other wasn’t being met. She’d also noticed in just a few short days of Luci and the twins here, that they looked better, kind of more alive, she thought absently. Kind of sensed that with her witch powers more than anything else.

Rafe didn’t even argue it, that in itself spoke volumes to her. No Alpha would agree to that condition unless he was unhappy with his Mate Bond himself. She’d also seen the way Jack was itching to be around Luci. She’d seen that before in the man. Though a long time ago, it wasn’t just guilt, she didn’t think, not with the way his eyes lingered on her daughter.

Returned to her suite on the first floor after leaving the Alpha’s office and packed her things. Not that she had many things. A single suitcase was all. One she’d not really unpacked either.

Looked at her phone when it rang, 'Orien.' Flashed on the screen, he'd felt her sever from the pack. He couldn't miss that. But she was not severed from him. Her Mark was still intact, he knew she'd left the pack, as any Alpha would if any of his pack members had been disconnected from the pack tether to him.

But it had been a day and a half now and he'd not called, had promised her that he would, but he hadn't. She sat down and stared at his name. She didn't know if she could talk to him right this minute, she might just burst into tears knowing they were well on their way to being over.

It finally stopped ringing, he didn't leave a voice message for her, but she got a text message a minute later 'I'm sorry Addi, it's very complicated. I don't want to lose you. Please just wait, I can fix this. Please, remember I love you. Please wait for me.'

'Fix it?' She thought, it's not that hard a decision, her or Victor. An allied pack or his own Mate and Luna. She felt tears burn down her face, knew that he was choosing Victor, had from what she'd just read, already chosen him.

Her phone was ringing a few minutes later, Tracey flashed on the screen at her. Their Beta's Mate and her closest friend, she sighed and brushed her tears away, took a breath in and answered "Hi Trace."

"Is it really over, Addi? I know you've fought before, over Luci."

"He doesn't believe it was Victor who tried to kidnap Luci and hurt her son."

"Her son?"

"Yes, Luci has two sons," she told Tracey, "One to Rafe and one to Jack, twins. Victor nearly killed little Jack, and Orien doesn't believe it. Though he wants to bring Luci home, and in his words, Trace, Mate her off. I can't do this with him anymore. I have given him everything. You yourself know this, saw me forgive him, time and time again, where Luci was concerned."

“I know. You’ve nearly left him before, over Luci. I understand I do...But Addi, to sever yourself from the pack.”

“I know.” She sighed “But what else can I do, Trace? He does not care for Luci, even now, only wants her back to make a deal for himself. Not even Thatcher believes Orien has good intentions for my daughter.” She sighed again “So it’s with regret, that I sever myself, to show him I mean it. It is me or Victor. He has to choose. Has chosen Victor. It’s been a day and a half, and he’s not called once.”

“Addi...it’s not that, things here are not good...are you alone?” she asked, sounding a little nervous to Addi, that was not like the woman.

“I am, are you?” she asked right back.

“Yes, in my suite...War is coming Addison, Orien and his unit are prepping for an invasion.”

“From who?” Addi frowned.

“Victor, I believe.”

“What?” now she was very confused.

“I don’t think anything is as simple as you or I think...Milton called me yesterday and told me to get the children out of the pack. Send them to my mother’s pack over in Nightshade, not to argue...Half the pack is gone, Addi. They sent all the children to family packs. It was an order to be done within an hour of the phone call. Happened well before they got home.”

“Did Orien sever ties with Victor?” she asked with a deep frown.

“Not as far as I know, but...” the line clicked closed, and Addison knew that Tracy was no longer alone in her suite, Milton had likely stepped into the room.

She stared at her phone, what the hell was going on back at Nightfall? Looked at Orien’s text message once more. He’d said many times, it was

complicated. Perhaps now she thought that it was, and she just didn't understand it completely. She was going to need answers.

She was informed that Melissa and Maria were back within the pack and thought 'just great.' Though at least this time Rafe had informed Luci, she was over in that cottage, could have to see the two of them, the main road went right past it. She didn't know how that was going to go.

Texted Thatcher "What is happening in Nightfall?" needed those answers. Luci could actually defend herself if push came to shove. Alari would take no insults or threats to herself or her boys.

"Nothing." She got right back, "You severed yourself from Nightfall, everyone is wondering about their Alpha and Luna, as would be expected."

She knew that Tracey wouldn't lie to her. Thatcher had just told her nothing was going on, that there was nothing wrong. Two contradicting stories. She thought about that for a full minute. They didn't want her to know what was going on, it seemed, and that decision had been made long before she'd severed herself from the pack. Yesterday, before Orien had even gotten home.

He had cleared the pack of all the children, which meant that the women were all gone as well. She frowned and texted Thatcher "The Luna and her sister are back, just arrived. I can't come."

"Don't come. Stay there, be with Luci and the twins. It's probably for the best. I love you." he sent right back.

"I love you too, Thatcher." She sent right back.

Looking right at those words, her son was not really one to state that, sighed heavily. The pack was scattering and they would all have felt her sever from them. If they were not inside the pack, they would likely think that she had just died. Only her own family bond would still be intact at this point.

She stared right at her phone, was going to have to call Orien and find out what the hell was going on down there. It was going to have to wait until Luci was away from the packhouse. Grabbed her things and headed for the cottage. Luci had to come first. Thatcher was right, protect her and the twins.

But now she also had to worry about her pack, which she had just cut herself off from, wondered why Orien hadn't called or text her and told her that war was coming? It was odd... the pack would need her as the Luna.

Headed down to be with Luci and the boys, only to get called into Rafe's office before she, Luci and the boys could even move into their new home. Sent Luci on ahead of her, and made her way to Rafe and Jack's office. To see Melissa and Maria getting into the elevator to go upstairs. Neither looked at her, were busy texting furiously on their phones.

She was waved into the office by a rather large man: "Luna Addison, it's a real pleasure to see you again." He smiled right at her and then closed the door behind her, stepping into the office himself. "How is young Luci? She looks well."

"Is well." Addison nodded as she tried to place the man. "You saw her?"

"I did, as did the Luna and Beta's Mates for a brief second or two, but they did not know who she was until now."

"You are?"

"My apologies, Titan, it has been a while."

"Ah, yes I recall the name." she nodded, an elite warrior "trouble?" she asked.

"Not yet," Rafe acknowledged. "Addi, Titan is one of our most loyal Elite Warriors. Jack had him go with Melissa and Maria to their home-pack."

"Under the guise of protection due to Victor's attack," Jack stated.

"Guise?" she looked at Jack.

“Mm, I want to know what goes on over there.” He nodded simply.

“Then why do you simply not just accompany them?” She asked right back.

“They always decline that, have never wanted us to go there.”

“Ever?” she raised an eyebrow questioningly.

“Not ever.” Rafe answered. “Jack sent Titan, to see what they actually get up to in their home pack.”

Her eyes moved to Titan. “And?”

“Sit please, Addi.” It was Jack. “He’s been Luna Ordered not to tell anyone inside this pack what he saw up there.”

She looked at each of them in turn and sighed “Oh, I see. I wasn’t a pack member. Titan just saw a Luna from another pack.”

“I did.” Titan nodded “You are now though.”

“I am.” She nodded.

“Addison, will you help us and sever yourself from the pack, question Titan or chat freely with him for us?”

“Hmm, I understand...” and she did. “But he might not be able to talk if anyone is in the room, that is a pack member.” She thought about it a little and looked at Titan, knew that man was not going to be able to state even the order put on him “Depending on the wording of the Luna’s Order of course. To keep her secrets.” She looked at Rafe and Jack. “If it was me...my order wouldn’t be just not to tell you, but not to speak of it in front of any pack member...if I was wanting to hide something from you, that was. Though a Mate should never do that. Certainly not a Luna to her Alpha.”

Rafe simply nodded, as did Jack when she looked right at him and she just knew, things were not as they appeared to be here in the Black

Forest Pack. This, whatever it was, was likely why the two of them were becoming weaker, dying slowly.

Addison felt a hand on her arm. “Luna Addison,” she looked to Titan. “You are so very beautiful and just as intelligent.”

She smiled at him, “Hmm, Not so dumb yourself.” She nodded he’d found away around his Luna’s Order, had likely been looking for one the moment it was put on him. “Sit young man.” She turned to face Rafe “I’ll sever my ties to the pack.” She kept the words about being reinstated off the table, might still invoke that Luna’s order otherwise.

“Thank you Addi.” Rafe smiled at her.

“We truly do appreciate this,” Jack smiled at her as well. He tapped his desk and she saw his phone there open and already recording.

‘Take it with you, could still be considered listening’ she mind-linked right to him.

‘We need it.’

‘No, you won’t.’ she shook her head, then stated out loud “I Alpha Addison reject the Black Forest Pack, and it’s Alpha, Alpha Rafe. I am rogue now.” Gritted her teeth against the pain and looked right at them “You can leave now. Take that with you Jack.” She looked at him pointedly.

Saw him sigh and nod, but, just smiled at him, had a plan of her own formulating, waited until they both left and closed the door. “Please sit Titan,” she smiled at the warrior before her, “You don’t mind if I make a quick call to my son Thatcher in Nightfall now do you. I just severed from them and he’ll be worried.”

“I don’t mind Addison, you seem like a nice rogue, got that distinct smell about you too now.”

“Mm, it wouldn’t be the first time. You’re not going to attack me now are you, for rejecting your Alpha and his pack?”

“No, I like rogues. Most of them are quite chatty, got some friends here that were once rogues. I love listening to their tales. Please go ahead and ease your sons’ mind. I’ll go over there and pour myself a drink while you call him.”

She smiled right at him as he walked away to the bar cart over by the far wall to pour himself a drink, likely bloody needed it she thought. Was curious herself now as to what he saw.

Dialled Jack’s number, seeing as Titan couldn’t see who she was calling, it had been her intention all along. Before the man could say a word, she spoke the moment the line connected “Hi Thatcher, sorry I didn’t call earlier. I just wanted to let you know I am fine, you don’t need to say anything.” She placed the phone down on the chair next to her. Knew both Rafe and Jack would be listening, hearing every word that was about to be said inside this office.

Titan walked back over and pulled up a chair to her right, so not even he could see where her phone was from there. He was also working to get around his Luna’s order. He was loyal to his Alpha and Beta, not the Luna and her sister.

She made polite small talk with him for a solid 5 minutes which would allow Rafe and Jack to find somewhere private to listen to the conversation that was about to be held.

She didn’t exactly know where to start or what questions she should be asking. She looked right at Titan. He was smiling at her, sipping on his glass of what she could smell was vodka. His eyes were on her directly she smiled and shook her head just a little, he couldn’t start the conversation or help her out either.

“You’re a happy fellow, I see. Did you have a good trip? I hear you were away for over a week.”

“I was, and I wouldn’t say it was a good trip,” he stated.

“Oh, that’s sad to hear. Would you like to tell me about how it went? Get it off your chest.”

“You know, Addison, I really would like to do that.” He nodded and sipped his vodka.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 77

Jack POV

Jack looked at his phone when it rang, smiled at seeing Addison blink on the screen. He didn’t get the chance to speak. Addison clearly had her own thoughts on how this should go. Maybe she had seen it done before, or been part of something like this. He didn’t know. But both he and Rafe took the time, she was just chatting casually with Titan to head upstairs to Luci’s room.

A place that was their own private sanctuary, it seemed, from what their own Mate’s had done to them and were likely still trying to do to them. A place those two she-wolves could not go, had no control over them in there. Somewhere they could write all they heard down as well.

They both sat to listen to Addison. She was indeed a smart woman, didn’t actively ask any questions, instead offered to listen to him talk about his time outside of the pack. This was good, for it gave Titan the opportunity to talk freely about anything he wanted, anything and everything he did and saw as well.

He could weave his tale any way he liked. Jack was only mildly concerned about Addison actually hearing what was going on with them and their Mate’s, up there in the Wolf Valley Pack. She’d already become a pack member, and had not pledged loyalty to Melissa, the current Luna. That in itself was an odd statement to make. Kind of made him think she was expecting them to rid themselves of their Mates, and take a new one at some point. Perhaps Addison wasn’t so dumb after all.

He nor Rafe had objected to her stating no loyalty to the current Luna. She knew something was wrong. Had told them they were dying, because their Mates were denying them their true nature. He seriously doubted that anything Titan said would be something they wouldn’t want her to hear. Not that they had much choice anyway.

Also, with Addison hearing what was going on, it might just help them. She might be able to see that they had never meant to intentionally hurt Luci. That could only go in their favour, be good for them. Addison might even want to help them with Luci, if it was at all possible, if things were as they truly suspected. She might want to bring them and Luci back together. He was hoping this was the case.

Though a part of him was still bothered by her wanting to take Luci from this pack and to her Lake, where there could be other sirens for Alari to mix with, realise she was their true leader and want to stay there. He was still hoping and praying to the Goddess herself that this was not the case. Though he didn't want all of that Siren pack to have died either, it was a bit of a catch twenty-two situation for him.

"My trip was long." He heard Titan state, "and it was uncomfortable for me, to say the least. Though many she-wolves present themselves to me, for the bedding, I have a girlfriend here in the Black Forest Pack." Heard that man sigh heavily, he did have a little bit of guilt for asking him to kiss Maria, but once everything came out, his girlfriend would understand Jack would speak to her himself if necessary.

"I was presented many times a day by those she-wolves, from what I recall. Though it is a bit hazy to me, it was supposed to be a distraction, I believe. To keep my eyes away from my Luna and her sister. I declined all offers...as far as I know."

There was silence for a moment. "My girlfriend here is sweet and I wouldn't want to do that to her, hurt her like that. My Luna would know of my relationship, for it has been almost a year now and it is likely we will choose each other. Both lost our Mates long ago. We not only get along well, her small children like me and I adore them, will bleed them to me." Heard the smile in Titan's voice, he did not yet have any of his own. Sounded like he wanted them.

But then there was a deeply heavy sigh from the man. "Yet my own Luna encouraged me at every turn, as did her twin sister, even on that first day...I think it was the first day, can't be certain. The Luna's father introduced me to a she-wolf, a pretty young thing, and told me she was mine for the whole night, to with as I pleased. A little course about it, his

words ‘bend her over and f**k her anyway you like, whatever you want she won’t complain, will take it all. The whole night.’ They are the words I recall.”

Jack looked at Rafe and the man shook his head. There was no brothel here inside their pack, never needed one, wolves could sleep with anyone they liked as long as they weren’t Mated. Most did just that, sate their needs with a willing partner, some requested permission for them to become Chosen Mates and if, after a year, they were still together and neither strayed to another lover. It was usually granted if they were in love with each other.

Though here in this pack they had a rule that those who had not found their Goddess Gifted and were looking to take a Chosen Mate had to ask the Goddess to renounce their Goddess Gifted Mate wherever they were. Ask that she gift them to another so that they too could find love and happiness, and that if they did come face to face with each other, they would never know. Protecting not only their Chosen Mate from a rejection, but protecting their Goddess Gifted from the pain of seeing their Fated Mate with another.

It did not always work that way, but so far only two in their lifetime had they seen come across a Goddess Gifted. It was interesting, to find they had a Mate that was with another and Mated to them. One had opted to share, and that woman now had two Mates of her own. Her chosen Mate had also accepted her Goddess Gifted and they lived happily here in the pack, she had children, several in fact, to both of them.

The other had simply stared at each other, seemed more than confused and not known what to do. A formal rejection of the Goddess Gifted had been done in the end, due to the man having a pregnant Chosen Mate that he loved and adored. He’d apologised and been nice about it, explained it to her even. She’d not been happy but had accepted it and left to go back to her pack.

“I declined the offer.” Titan went on “My Luna and her sister got a little mad when I told her father the Beta had me on duty, to make sure that she and Maria were kept safe the entire time. I recall her telling me it was utterly ridiculous and she actually shoved that girl at me. Poor

creature,” he murmured, “clearly did not have a choice. I stated no, I am loyal to Andy. She didn’t like that at all. Told me Andy was not my Goddess Gifted, so what did it matter?”

He heard a glass being put down on a table. “I refused, I believe over two dozen she-wolves, I think anyway, during my stay...I am not exactly sure of this though. It is very fuzzy though. I know it was my duty to keep track of the Luna and her sister. Both my wolf and I kept track. When I was asleep, my wolf was awake and vice versa. I have memories of them lazing about quite a bit and drinking and laughing.

“There appeared to be no concern for our pack at all, not once did I hear them mention it even in passing to their father. Who also didn’t understand my being there, also tried to push she-wolves at me as well.”

“I think for three days I tracked and trailed them, everywhere they went I went. Saw them both late at night trying to sneak out. When I asked where they were going, I got yelled at for trailing them everywhere. They stalked back to the packhouse. I thought long and hard about where they were going, what was out where they were headed to. The only thing I could come up with was the pack hospital.”

He could hear the man tapping his fingers on the arm of the chair as he paused to think “Something I must have investigated myself. I recall a small building with half a dozen beds only, but it is locked up tight, like a packhouse in lockdown at all times. It was after this that things started to get really weird. I believe I lost a whole day. I just have no memory of it at all. Kind of just woke up in the woods and did not recall how I got there...the last vivid memory I have is tracking the Luna and the Beta’s Mates out of the packhouse. Then, just the woods, I’m uncertain of what happened to me.” He huffed. “It was about 4am and then next thing I know its evening.” He sighed heavily.

“Titan you keep saying, you think, or its fuzzy.” Alpha Addison commented as though wanting an explanation herself.

“It is all kind of a fuzzy mess inside my mind after that. I try to recall everything, but I can’t recall it completely, just bits and pieces, missing time and fractured memories. I can try and explain it to you.”

There was a long silence after that, but Jack was not liking what he was hearing at all. If he had missing time and was unable to recall anything completely, it was likely something had been done to the man while he was out there.

It was a good solid few minutes before he spoke again and he could hear the frown in Titan's voice. "They seemed to go back to drinking and lazing about, and I kind of left them alone after that, got the distinct impression, as did my wolf, that it was unsafe to be around them. Neither my wolf nor I could understand it. You should never feel unsafe or in danger from your own Luna...It was also hard to track them after that. I kind of felt like I shouldn't be tracking them, that it was wrong of me to do so. Even though I knew it was my duty, I was conflicted by it, I suppose..."

"I tried to call the Beta, to report how I felt, that things were suspicious and found that I could not, couldn't even dial his number, pain seared through not just me but my wolf at just the thought of calling him and telling him what I thought. How I felt about being there. Tried to call Alpha Rafe, Allen and Ian, even my own Andy. I could not call anyone without pain coursing through my body if I was thinking of telling anyone in my pack what I saw." He sighed "That made me think long and hard about this. The only conclusion I could come to was, while I had that missing time, I was ordered not to speak to anyone in this pack about what I saw. What I felt was going on."

"So, I tested the theory, called Andy just to tell her I missed her and speak with her about nothing in particular, chat with her children even. I could place that call. There was no pain at all." Titan sighed again.

"I recall wandering around by myself, just looking at the pack, there is nothing much to it. I was curious about that. I know pack funds are funnelled into it, for upgrades and what not. But I saw no upgrades to the pack itself. I also never saw anyone come or go from the pack hospital..."

"Though I do recall seeing the Luna and her sister there several times, or at least I think so...Getting into that place, and I'm certain I tried, think I got in, have memories but weird fuzzy ones of being inside it, kind of feel like its more of a dream then real. Though I felt it was a no-go zone, an

old woman lives there, from what I can gather, runs it. She could be the pack doctor, I suppose. Though I think it's a front for something entirely different; I didn't see it getting used as a hospital and no one comes and goes. Though piecing this together hurts a lot, memories of the hospital itself nearly k**l me to think about."

The Alpha & Beta's Regret Chapter 78

Addison POV

Listening to Titan weave his tail, the way he paused and frowned, had to try and think about what he was saying, he was still trying to piece it together and she knew it. He kept stating it was fuzzy and felt fractured to him. The man's mind had been tampered with. That missing day could be why.

The fact that he doesn't recall his Luna actually standing before him and placing that order on him said it all. He was not supposed to remember it either. Luna Melissa didn't want that man knowing she had an order on him. It was that simple. It's why he was struggling to pull things together inside his mind.

She could well have ordered him to forget everything he had seen and heard, could have told him he was drunk, and everything was fuzzy and that was why he was having trouble recalling everything.

There was definitely something going on back in Rafe and Jack's Mate's home pack, and it was nothing good from what she was hearing. Though for there to be no upgrades, when Rafe and Jack channelled money into that pack, she knew it was unlikely to be small amounts either. There would be some sort of alliance between the two packs and, being it was where their own Mate's came from, likely they would never say no to sending money.

She knew that this pack was very wealthy as well, they had no problems with money, unlike Nightfall, who had many issues. Although they had lots of smaller human businesses, it was nothing like the massive conglomerates that Jack and Rafe ran.

So if funds were going into that pack, what was it for? It was also very unusual for a Luna to push she-wolves at their warriors. That just wasn't done. Couldn't understand that, she had to agree with Titan that this was all one hell of a distraction technique. They did not want Rafe and Jack going home with them. Titan had been sent and was not welcomed either. Whatever it was those two were up to, they did not want their Mate's finding out about it. That was a given.

"Take a moment Titan, gather your thoughts and try to recall. There is no rush on my part. I have no pack and no where to be at this moment." She reassured him when he frowned deeply and started rubbing at his own temples. He was likely pushing at the boundary of something he couldn't recall. Some part of the order placed on him that hindered him from accessing his own memories. She thought to herself. "How about I get you some water and you take a moment to relax."

"Thank you Alpha Addison. I did hear you correctly before? You're no longer a Luna."

"Technically I am." Addi nodded as she got up to go to the bar cart and get that man some water and with ice. "I am severed from my pack but still bound to Orien,"

"What happened, may I ask?" he enquired, and Addison knew he was trying to distract his own brain, calm it and stop the pain of that order he was pushing the boundaries on so he could continue to tell her what he thought had happened out there.

"We got in a fight, over Luci."

"Again?" Came the man's word and she looked right at him. Seems the man knew her quite well, sighed internally, her conflict with Orien was interfering with her own thoughts and recall process, it seemed. Was likely consumed with it was all. It would settle and go back to normal at some point.

"Mm." she nodded and walked over and handed him the water, "We did always fight over Luci, but this one was worse than normal." Raised her hand to him, "a lot worse, I'm afraid, it may not be salvageable."

“I’m sorry to hear that.” He nodded as she sank back down.

“On the bright side, I have my daughter back and two precious grandbabies. That is my silver lining to all of this.”

“I’m glad she has returned to us here in the Black Forest Pack. She was a delight for this pack, kept our Alpha and Beta happy and may I say occupied a lot.” He snorted with amusement.

“I’m certain she did.” Addison nodded “How’s your headache doing?” she needed to get off the topic of Luci. Her daughter’s plight at the moment weighed heavily upon her, was attached to those two and Addison didn’t know if she could get Luci to dissolve that. It would be better for her to do so.

“A little better.” He smiled.

“What happened on the rest of your trip? Hear anything interesting at all?” she enquired “I’ve never been to the Wolf Valley Pack, I’m quite curious.”

He smiled right at her, knew what she was doing, “I did actually. I also don’t think I would recommend going there. Not for anyone, certainly not my Alpha and Beta, though the Gamma, this pack could benefit from him paying a visit. From what I recall of a conversation, something about ‘It’s a struggle, something is blocking the Beta,’ then something about ‘more time is needed.’ He frowned deeply and shook his head ‘the words, I’m not having his baby, I won’t’ he sighed ‘I think it was Maria, though the actual context of the conversation or flow, I do not know, but I get the feeling she was very angry when she said it.

“I also recall words along the lines of ‘you’ll make sure I don’t...it’s what we pay you for. But it is all jumbled up inside my mind. I can’t tell if it’s in that order or not.” Heard his sigh and looked right at her “I also don’t recall having a room for myself, had to, I think, stay out in the woods. There was no border patrol near the pack hospital. In fact, it’s kind of like Hannah and her sisters, separate and out just inside the tree line, a very odd place for it.

“Once I wandered off and left them to it, things got a bit better, in my mind, at least I think so, I saw them go to the pack hospital many times, once maybe twice daily. Though it did surprise me that Beta Jack asked me to kiss his Mate, I didn’t really know about that but I did it in the end, not sure what it was meant to do, that in itself is still weird to me.”

That was weird even for her to hear. Why would one want someone else to kiss their Mate? It would cause them pains of betrayal. Even so much as a caress of one’s hand, down another would do that, if it was meant to be in that manner. None willingly subjected themselves to that.

“What happened?” she asked, curious now herself as to the answer.

“Maria kind of stared up at me for a moment, a little more than shocked, then she just smiled and was all over me, practically climbed me, telling me how hot I was, that she really needed a good f**k.” Heard him sigh and watched him shake his head “She was all wanton and needy, before Melissa interrupted and screamed at her sister or both of us.” He shrugged “It was all her my hands were not on her, I have no interest in the woman. Screamed ‘What the hell do you think you’re doing? I was slapped by Maria a moment later and she to screamed at him about trying to molest her, then she just ran away. Which left me face to face with Melissa. She was not happy and ordered me to say nothing about it. But if questioned by Rafe or Jack, I was to say I tried to force myself on Maria. It’s not what happened and I swear Maria would have tried to have s*x with me if not interrupted.”

Titan sighed and scrubbed a hand over his face, looked up at the ceiling. “I don’t know what to say to my Beta, I’ll not be allowed the truth of the matter.” He murmured.

“I’m certain, Titan, that nothing will come of it. If it was, you’d already be in the cells.” Addison told him calmly. She knew Jack was the more level headed of the two of them, and if he’d asked this man to kiss his Mate there was a solid reason behind it. “If he asked you, Titan, to do something like that, there was a very valid reason behind it. He’ll tell you I’m certain, even if it’s just to ease your mind.” She stated more for Jack to know this man needed a reason for it. Wanted to know.

“Don’t know if I want to know, to be honest.” He huffed, sounded a bit annoyed to her “I also kind of had a few run-ins with wolves right after that, warriors of their pack that tried to pick fights with me.”

“How’d that go?”

“I took one down, before I could even walk away from the area, while Melissa was still walking away, she didn’t bat an eyelid, didn’t turn and look, nothing, it was almost as if they were trying to get rid of me. Little did they know, I come from a pure elite warrior line...I got in many scrapes until I killed one, took that body and dumped it right at my Luna’s feet, stated ‘I’ll k**l them all, till there is nothing left, if you don’t stop this.’ Stepped right up to my own Luna, my wolf and I are agitated were she is concerned, we’ve never felt that before. Stated ‘Try and k**l me again. I’ll see to it, somehow Alpha Rafe knows what is going on, find a way.’ Not that I understood much myself, it was just pure instinct that something was off.

Saw him looking right at her now, “I don’t remember much after that threat. I don’t know how much of what I saw is right or true after I threatened her, but I also know she didn’t report it to my Alpha either. Now that is odd, my threat would be considered treason. My memories after that are just fuzzy, I kind of just have memories of lazing about all happy drinking like they did.

“Both the Luna and her sister were smiling and laughing with me giggling a lot, we were all having a good time. The weirdest part, I have like over a week of those memories. I don’t think that they realise I actually do remember some parts of what actually happened there inside that pack. Bits and pieces of it anyway.

“I honestly think they did something to me, to try and make me forget.”

“How’d you recall everything then?” she was curious about that.

Heard him laugh “Tried to call home and report myself as one would be expected, couldn’t. I’m guessing the Luna’s Orders interfered with whatever was done to me. I’m guessing they don’t speak of what you see here conflicts with the you’ll tell them you tried to molest Maria. Because

how would I even know about that or be able to speak of it.” he shook his head. “Then what ever they did to me, to give me those happy memories, over the top after my threat to her, conflicted as well.” He shrugged “I only have some but not all of my memories, seems to me, I was directly ordered not to speak of it to anyone in this pack about it, but the things they tried to erase are gone it’s weird, I tell you. My mind, my memories are scattered all over the place. And trying to figure out the timeline of everything is difficult. What I’ve told you may not have happened in the order I think it did. I don’t truly know.

I only started piecing it together after we left that place. The further away I got the more flashes I get, it might pay to find someone outside of this pack to help unfracture my thoughts over those days. Though I know I was gone just over a week, it kind of feels like two weeks or more inside my mind. Perhaps Hannah and her sisters may know someone. If they did something to me, perhaps there is a way to undo it.”

Addison nodded. “It is likely a good strong witch could, or a seer from the kingdom, perhaps Alpha Rafe could request the use of one, under verifying treasonous reasons. The new King, Christian, I hear, is amenable to helping his fellow packs here in the human world.”

Saw that man looking right at her now and smiled, “Ah, I believe you just gave me the answer Addison, thank you. I would like to have my mind back to it’s normal capacity.”

She smiled, had no idea what he was talking about, but obviously she’d helped him to find someone that could help with his own issue.

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 79

Rafe POV

Rafe sighed and put his hand on Jack’s shoulder as he heard Titan state ‘I don’t want his baby.’ That he believed it was Maria who’d said it. Now they both knew that there was nothing wrong with Jack or Flare.

Jack looked right at him, and sighed, mind-linked right to him, ‘I sent Titan because I thought Maria was hiding being on birth control, and

that's why there was never a pup. This also explains why she would never let our pack doctor check her over." Saw him stare across the room. It was now confirmed that what he'd suspected all along, was true. It was exactly why Maria would never let their doctor so much as run blood tests on her. Wolfen birth control would be detected. And her constant nagging about not getting pregnant would no longer work. Likely also to start one hell of a fight about it, Rafe thought.

'Guess I was right. It's likely Rafe,' Jack looked right at him 'Melissa is doing the very same thing to you.'

He could only agree on that part. 'It still doesn't make any sense, why though? They could just tell us they don't want pups yet, birth control would be fine with both of us, we live very long lives.'

Jack nodded 'Because Rafe...' he sighed down the mind-link 'There is still more going on here. Titan has only touched the surface, I'm guessing.'

He sat there and listened along with Jack to the rest of Titan's tale, missing memories, implanted memories and he felt like his own mind was fractured and he couldn't keep things right inside it. This was not good.

Though Melissa ordering him not to say anything about what happened between him and Maria, the way she'd been all over Titan, it would have been the easiest way to deal with the man. Call him a traitor. But he was guessing that without them actually feeling those pains of betrayal.

How could she claim that? Not even Maria could state it happened. Jack didn't feel it and if something like that did happen to their actual Mate, they would feel it. Once Addison sent Titan on home to Andy, he reached out and turned Jack's head, moved his collar and looked at the man's Mark.

"What?" Jack asked.

"Just looking at it. Do you think it's real or faked?"

“What? I don’t know.” Saw Jack reach up and touch it, “What are you thinking?”

“I don’t know, it occurred to me if you didn’t feel Maria all over Titan, which we know you didn’t. Even a chosen mate would feel the pain of betrayal. A Mark is a Mark.” He was frowning now.

“It’s always been there, Rafe. Never gone away.”

“Neither has mine.” He nodded “I might need more time on that one. Just food for thought, I guess. Lets go down and talk to Addi.”

They found Addi still in their office. He didn’t really expect her to leave it. Not when she was scenting of Rogue, it could well set off the other warriors throughout the pack, send them into protection mode.

He closed the door behind Jack and looked right at her. “Sorry Addi.” He knew it hurt her to be severed from one’s pack and she’d had that happen twice today.”

“Why? It sounds as though you need my help right now...your Mates? I was right about them, they are denying you on purpose.”

“Why though?” Rafe huffed. He didn’t understand the logic of what they were doing.

“It could be for many reasons. Though getting to the truth.” She shook her head, “You might need your witches, or a seer.”

“I dare say so, if we are to help Titan come back to normal.” Jack nodded as he sat across from her. “Thank you Addi.”

She just nodded as Rafe walked to get the ceremonial blade and reinitiate her back into the pack. Was more than surprised to hear Addi state she’d volunteer to do it again, be severed once more if needed, for further questioning of Titan or any others they thought were under the same constraints.

But then she herself sighed “I also may need your help, or...Nightfall might.”

His eyes moved to Jack, could feel that man's anger rise up a notch instantly, "Jack settle, hear Addi out first, she just helped us more than anyone could."

"I'm not helping Orien, he's still affiliated with Victor."

"He is." Addi nodded "But I got a concerned call from Tracey, Milton's Mate. Something is wrong, seriously wrong. Orien has not called, Thatcher stated nothing is wrong, then told me he loved me. To look after Luci and the boys. Yet Tracey told me that yesterday Orien ordered all the children gone from the pack, they are prepping for a war with Victor himself."

"Why? if their alliance is not severed. And why wouldn't they tell you that?"

"That is the very question I have been asking myself. There is only one reason I can come up with...the answer being, I'd go home to help defend the pack, am not only the Luna. Or was until today. But I am also a pure-blooded Alpha, deadly in combat. I don't stay in the packhouse, leave Tracey and my girls in charge of that, go out and fight."

The room was silent for a moment. "Orien texted me. I ignored his call after I severed, but read the message. Asked me to please wait, he'd fix it, to just wait for him. stated once again it's complicated."

"It's not." Jack interrupted her.

"What if it actually is?" Addison sighed heavily "We're allied to Victor, always have been, before I was even there. He is a savage, we've all seen it. For the most part, Nightfall stays out of everything he's gone off and done, attacking others for whatever reason suits him...But what if Nightfall severs ties with him and we become the enemy. He's completely vicious, could just go and s*****r Nightfall. I wouldn't put it past him. Orien would certainly know more about Victor and his tactics. He could well know that severing ties with him, will bring the Bloodless Moon down on Nightfall. I'm not there, Orien, Milton, Chad and Thatcher were all here as well."

“The pack was defenceless and Victor would know it, could go and s*****r it easily.” Rafe sighed heavily now. As he understood what she was stating.

“It’s only two hours from Nightfall to the Bloodless Moon, he could go and s*****r everyone, before Orien even had a chance to get back there.” She nodded.

“Complicated.” Rafe huffed.

“Then why didn’t he just state that?” Jack muttered.

“He might not be allowed to. I was not there for their alliance agreement and signing. What it actually stipulates he is or is not allowed to divulge. You both know Orien, he takes those alliance agreements very seriously. He never speaks of allied packs to other packs he knows are not affiliated themselves.

Rafe did know that, as did Jack. The man knew how to say nothing and state ‘I’m sorry you’re not allied to them.’ It was actually the only time he ever heard the man apologise for anything at all.

“So, you’re thinking?” he asked, knew this was leading to something.

“Victor is a savage brute, I don’t know what he’ll do.” She shook her head.

“It’s an ultimatum, Addi,” Jack stated.

Rafe watched him prowl around the room. He was thinking it through “Perhaps Orien has spoken to Victor, as he said he would, and Victor threatened war if Orien severed ties.”

“It is my thought...But what would he gain from it?” Addi frowned. “Luci is not there, she is what he wants.”

“Unknown...” Rafe agreed with her, but he was now also thinking about this. Orien had only voiced it was complicated, likely it was for him. “Maybe he told Orien, Luci or the Pack, you said he’s prepping for war, if Orien can’t hand him over Luci.”

“No.” she shook her head “I would k**l him myself, Orien is not that stupid, that is not it. He’d never dare kidnap my daughter and slave her off to Victor. He might have wanted to Mate her off to that man, but he would never dare to e*****e her to him. Orien would know I would k**l him. Nothing would save him from my wrath.”

“Luci would also k**l him herself.” Jack stated plainly.

Addison nodded “Yes. She would.”

Rafe didn’t disagree. She had threatened to pop that man’s brain inside his own head, wondered if she could do that for real. Then thought about those dead and dying on the battlefield that day. Yes, she could. He realised anyone and everyone that got in her way, didn’t even have to be near them or touch them. Hell, you wouldn’t even know it was happening until it was too late, he realised.

“Then what?” Rafe asked, pushing that very uncomfortable thought aside. He was not a savage himself, didn’t play dirty, so he found it a bit hard to get inside Victor’s head.

“Perhaps.” Jack stopped pacing. “It’s you Addi, Orien and Thatcher have not told you anything’s wrong, right?”

“Correct.” She nodded “Not even when I severed from Nightfall. Thatcher told me to stay here.”

“Perhaps Victor, knows you’re still here, you’d have to go right passed his pack to get to Nightfall, yes?”

“Yes.”

“Oh, I see it.” Rafe nodded now “They don’t want Victor snatching you on your way back to Nightfall.”

“What would that achieve?” Addison frowned.

“Luci, is what it would achieve,” Rafe stated.

“Yes,” Jack agreed with him “She would come for you, without a second thought Addi, walk herself right into Victor’s pack, of her own free will.”

“She’d k**l him.”

“He understands sirens Addi. He might have a way to bring Alari down, under control even. Use you to keep her under control maybe.”

She frowned even deeper now. “He is a particular kind of intelligent, never does do anything without preparation...” Saw her smile now. “He didn’t know, the Siren in the lake was Luci. He took her after we were at the lake.” She nodded “He saw us all there, hazarded a guess and got it right.”

“Also didn’t know about the boys.”

“He did not. He got too excited about the Siren he wanted, also being Luci, something he has wanted for years, wanted so much that he got sloppy and rushed things. Didn’t stop and surveil her.” she snorted “He was worried we’d get to her first.”

“It’s not.” Jock interrupted her.

“Botched it, in other words.”

“Alright!” Jack nodded “Addi, no matter what happens you can not go back to Nightfall. Victor, sure as hell is waiting on that to happen.”

“Nightfall is in danger.”

“Only if Orien severs ties.” Rafe stated, “I don’t like that he’s still allied to Victor, but I can now see the bigger picture.”

“Call Orien Addi. Talk to him, let him know what you think is going on.” Jack sighed “Have Orien confirm it. If it’s true,...I suggest you let him tell Victor that he chose him and the Bloodless Moon, to save his entire pack.”

“Victor won’t buy it, unless we actually reject each other. And if Orien is doing this to protect not just the pack, but also keep myself and Luci out

of Victor's hands. How can I reject my Mate? He does it because he loves me, is actually showing loyalty to my daughter in some weird, dumbass of a way."

Rafe sighed and looked right at her, she actually looked like she was going to cry with relief. They'd never really seen Orien show any loyalty to Luci. This would be a first and if this was the case, he could actually see just how much it meant to Addi, right this very minute.

"It is a tough call, Addison. One that only you and Orien can make for yourselves. For Nightfall. For Luci even. We can't tell you what to do."

"If he attacks, it'll be a full slaughter."

Rafe sighed, for yes it would be "How much of the pack is gone?"

"At least half, all the children, so their mothers as well."

"You are also severed from the pack now."

"Yes." She sighed "I did that for the wrong reason now, I guess."

"No." He watched Jack walk over to her. "It's not, it's a good thing Addi. Victor has pack members of his own in Nightfall, Yes. Mated off to your wolves?"

"Yes, quite a few she-wolves, even a couple of male wolves came to our pack for their Mate's."

"They're likely still loyal to Victor, he's probably got them in your pack to spy for him." Jack nodded. "So the minute you severed yourself from Nightfall, it would have been reported back to Victor. He already knows by now you're not only not there, you and Orien are done. Or he now thinks you are. That's a good thing, tell Orien to stay allied with Victor. It'll save Nightfall or should do. You and Orien...Well, that part'll have to be dealt with later, I guess."

"He's not going to give up."

“No, he’s not Addi.” Rafe nodded “But his focus will be on us here now. Not on Nightfall, we’ve got allied coming tomorrow for discussions on allied assistance. It’ll take a while for Victor to plan another attack. Find that way to beat us and get around Alari. The boys even.” He scrubbed a hand over his own face now at both their horrified expressions. “It’s unavoidable,” he sighed “The twins will shift and attack if Alari does. They are pure Siren Hybrids. Follow Alari without question. She’s their mother and their Alpha.”

“Sweet Goddess.” He heard Jack curse “Six and deadly...Your right, they’ll fight. It’ll be pure Siren instinct to defend what is theirs. We’ve already seen it. I don’t want that.” Watched Jack shake his head, could hear and see the concern.

“No one does.” Addi huffed herself now “Sirens, even the children, they fight to protect their own, they don’t run and hide, are deadly even as children and are born with that knowledge, the moment they can use their call. They’re old enough to fight.”

“Alright.” Rafe nodded “Just one more problem we have to solve, firstly though, Victor.”

“He’ll be researching Siren half breeds, won’t know her true nature yet. Then he’ll be looking for a way to see into your pack.” Addison nodded, “find someone to bribe or blackmail into giving him the layout of the defences. Find out where in the pack Luci and the boys are. He’ll want to target that area specifically. Or draw you away from where she is to sneak in and grab her.”

“No need for that last part, our layout. He’s already got that, or most of it. Has been we believe, attacking this pack for the past six years, on and off. Breached us once, even got into the packhouse, searched the entire place. Looking for Luci, we now believe,” Rafe told her.

He heard Jack snort “She was already gone by then, but he didn’t know that, of course, so at least we know he’s not got anyone inside this pack to relay him information.”

“Okay.” Addi nodded “Then he’ll be looking for a way to outwit or out muscle Luci and the twins. That will take him a while. I’ll call Orien after Luci turns in for the night. I don’t want her hearing any of this. She might want to take matters into her own hands. Alari will just go after him, already wants to, for the injury to her boy.”

“Alright.” Both he and Jack stated together “Let us know Addi, what is going on, keep us in the loop please.”

“Daily updates after breakfast do you?” she stated, just like an Alpha, already had a plan he supposed.

“Yes.” Rafe nodded “Jack, take Addi home please.”

The Alpha & Beta’s Regret Chapter 80

Jack POV

He was not going to sleep inside the Beta’s suite, he just couldn’t be anywhere near Maria. Didn’t want to be mated to her at all right this minute and he knew it. Didn’t even care that it would be completely suspicious behaviour. Not even Rafe had tried to convince him to go to the Beta suite. Wasn’t likely to with all they had just heard.

What they understood of their so-call Mates.

He’d eaten his dinner in the Alpha’s Office at his desk, had outright declined Maria’s invitation to have dinner with her, in their suite, as she’d put it, something nice and intimate, her voice held a sexy seductive tone and she was implying that s*x was on the table. Not that he had any interest in that with her.

He had told her simply that he was too busy. Prepping for the allied Alpha’s arriving tomorrow; not something she knew about. She hadn’t even asked him why they were coming. He’d told her to go and eat with Melissa, seeing as she preferred to spend her time with her twin.

Had been pushing her buttons just a little to see what reaction he got, she’d ignored his comment altogether and practically pleaded with him to

come up to their suite. Said she'd really missed him, told him he could do anything to her when he got there. He'd still declined her invitation, told her he wasn't in the mood to do things to her. If she, however, wanted to come down here and do things to him, she could, that he would sit back and let her.

Had no actual intention of letting her but wanted to hear her response. She'd gotten all pouty on him and said someone might see. That it would be much better for him to come to their suite and have his way with her. Then stated she was wearing nothing at all. He'd declined that as well and felt full annoyance roll right off of her before he'd cut the link to her.

Ignored it completely. As far as he was concerned, she was nothing to him. She could be up there in that suite annoyed all she liked. After what he'd found out tonight, what she'd not only said but had done, the way he now believed they had been mated to each other; tricked into it. He cared nothing for her at all.

Retired himself to Luci's room only to find Rafe already in there, lazing back on the lounge staring at the wall they'd written all over. The man had been off with Allen on some pack business of his own. He'd not told Jack what it was about. He had his own thoughts on what they'd heard. It was no real surprise.

Looked right at Rafe, a little surprised to see him in there. "How'd it go down?" he asked. He knew that Melissa tracked Rafe's every move, and likely at this minute was also tracking him to see if they were together.

"Who knows?" Rafe shrugged "I don't want to forget Jack, or have some memory shoved into my brain like Titan did." He stated flatly as he stared at that wall, of all the things they had forgotten. Then just sighed, sounded a little sad to Jack. Much more so than he normally would have.

Jack sank down next to him and looked at the wall himself, realised that Rafe had added more to it. He read it. It was from Titan's conversation with Addi.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

“Do you recall scenting them?”

“Yes.” Jack nodded “Why?”

“Think about it, how they actually looked that day. The way the two of them stood in the middle of that room together. I think they knew and were dressed up for the occasion, presented to us. We’re standing together, their father off to the side watching on.”

“Planned out.” Jack sighed.

“Yes, they didn’t take to us, like we did them, because whatever they did, only works one way, on us. Not them.”

“It has to be witchcraft of some sort then.”

“Agreed, I questioned Hannah and her sisters tonight on that very subject.”

“How’d that go?” Jack looked right at him. No one really questioned those three, they didn’t like it.

“In circles.”

“Huh?”

“I quote ‘Witches do not interfere with witches’.”

“Did you explain?”

“Of course I did. And I quote once more, ‘Fate has to play out. Sometimes from bad and evil, sprouts good.’” He shook his head. “I don’t understand.”

“Do you think they knew all this time?”

“I do.” Rafe nodded.

“I think they also knew that Luci was not dead.” Jack commented, “that she was in the lake the whole time. Also think they knew about the twins as well.”

“So do I...Not so loyal after all.” Rafe huffed.

“Maybe it’s not that. Maybe that is exactly what she said, that good can come from bad. Perhaps Luci had to be broken to become who she truly is...so the bad thing that had to happen was us being tricked into mating those two she-wolves. Forgetting about her was part of those she-wolves doing, not ours. The good, was that Alari was born, realised or released.” He shook his head, it was still a bit confusing to him. Had she had Alari the whole time but just didn’t know it? Or did she know it but not know how to release her?

“She was heartbroken, Jack.”

“I know.” He sighed. “But perhaps it’s not over. Perhaps having this one terrible thing happen also allowed for us to now see the truth and fight back against our own mates. Perhaps having Luci here inside the pack once more. Is what Titan overheard. That old woman telling Melissa and Maria something is blocking the Beta. That’s me, perhaps having Luci right here allows for the love I have inside of both Flare and I to override whatever they did to us?”

“Why they were gone so long this time? They had to find a way around it”. Rafe sighed “It’s going to be even harder now, I don’t think they realise that.”

“Why?”

“Why?” Rafe looked right at him. “Last night at dinner Jack...I remembered something, I don’t think even you, have yet to recall.”

“Alright, tell me then.” He nodded. He was happy to hear anything about Luci, no matter how small it was. Wanted to remember all the little things.

“You’re not going to like it. I suggest you take a deep breath, Jack, and remember to contain yourself.”

He was looking right at the man now. It clearly wasn’t something small, but did as he was told.

“We finally agreed to choose Luci as our Mate and Luna. The day before we went to that pack, we had a whole plan of how we would ask her, tell Addi beforehand even.”

Jack was just staring at the man. “And you didn’t want to tell me this because?”

“I didn’t want you freaking out completely. Just rejecting Maria and then running right to Luci. I know you well Jack, it is what you want, deep down inside of you, you want to reject Maria and claim Luci.”

He couldn’t even argue with that, it was what he wanted. Sighing heavily, he didn’t have that memory goddess help him when he did, he was likely going to be overwhelmed by it, “You finally agreed?”

Rafe nodded “I loved her just like you did.” He half whispered “We lost her to those two, Jack.”

He watched as his Alpha and his friend, the closest person in the world to him, looked to the ceiling and took in a shaky breath, saw his eyes glass over and watched Rafe try to pull himself together, though a single tear did escape the man, as hard as he was trying to keep himself strong.

“We’ll get her back, Rafe.” Jack sighed heavily, and reached out to pull him into a hug “Took you long enough.” He tried to lighten the mood after a few minutes.

“You kissed me Jack, so damned happy I finally agreed, snogged the hell out of me in our office.”

Jack snorted “Hmm, well now I guess you can claim it was me who kissed you first, huh.”

Rafe shoved him away “A*s.”

“You love it.” Jack laughed for a moment and saw Rafe smile a little as he shook his head. “We have to do this right though. Luci needs all the information or she’ll not accept us back.”

“Agreed.” Rafe nodded “She’s been in this pack just three days, and look at what it’s done to us. We are so much closer now.”

“That is because she was always meant to be ours.” Jack told him. “I really do believe that.”

“Not our Mate though.” Rafe huffed. “How can the goddess not gift her to us, when she makes us closer to each other, happier and more connected to everything, makes us stronger as well?”

“Made us more devious and sneaky right from the moment we met her.”

“I don’t understand why she is not ours, gifted by the goddess.”

“I don’t know either.” Jack sighed and he didn’t, she fit perfectly into their lives, right from day one.

“She could still have a Mate out there, Jack.”

“Maybe,” he nodded, “I’ll fight for her Rafe, will you?” he asked in all seriousness.

“Yes.” Was the simple reply. He watched Rafe get up a moment later and go write it on the wall. All of it, that they’d agreed to choose Luci as their Mate and Luna, watched him right out the entire plan of how they were going to do that.

On the full moon, after they got back. Where they had gotten to have her for the very first time out in the woods. That they were going to call Addison with the news when they got back. We’re going to surprise the entire pack with the news of it.

He sighed as he read it all, no wonder no one here knew about it, or questioned them after Luci left as to why they had Mated anyone else. They were keeping it a secret, wanted other than Addison to know, Luci to be the first one to know, didn’t want to risk their plan being blown

wide open by pack members excited about their new Luna to-be. Looking at her with that, I know a secret look, he supposed.

“She’d have said yes,” Jack sighed, and he knew she would have.

“Would have already told us she was pregnant as well. Do you think she knew when she left?” Rafe asked him.

“I don’t know.” Jack answered “It is possible.” He didn’t really want to think about it to be honest, but then something occurred to him “Hey, how did the twins survive Alari’s birth?” he asked suddenly, knowing she had definitely been with pup when she left.

“I don’t know, perhaps because of what she is. A Triune.”

“I guess so. I wonder if she understands that?”

“We could ask her.” Rafe nodded “Our biggest problem now, Jack, as I see it. Is going to be keeping control of ourselves around her now that we know the truth.”

Jack thought about that. “It might be harder than we realise though.”

“Agreed...”

Jack’s head whipped around as alerts started coming down the mind-link of a house suddenly ablaze within the pack, just near the packhouse. He and Rafe were on the move a second later. Banged out of Luci’s room and into the Alpha hallway, raced at full wolfen speed down the staircase and outside.

They didn’t have a fire truck here inside the pack. His eyes moved right to the cottage that was on fire, it was where Luci had been living with the twins till this evening. If she’d not moved out and into the Forest Creek House, she, Addi and the twins would likely all be in there.

His heart was hammering inside his chest.

Looked around for anyone who would have started it. There was no-one nearby, but he did spy the burn mark that led away across the grass. He

was off at full wolfen speed. He could hear Rafe telling everyone not to panic through a pack wide mind-link. Doing his job as the Alpha, while he went off to investigate. It's why they worked so well together. There was hardly ever a need to discuss it. They just knew what the other would do.

She and the boys had been safe this whole time, the pack had been all smiles and friendly, without either one of them having to ask for it. They'd all liked Luci back when she'd been here. Still did from what he could tell. The only thing different now was that Melissa and Maria were back.

He tracked that burn mark all the way to the side of the pack house, where he not only found the gasoline can, but he could also smell Melissa's scent. The pack's own Luna had set fire to part of the pack. Specifically, to their concubine's house, or what she likely thought was their house. He sent up a prayer to thank the goddess she'd moved house.

Made his way back to where Rafe was standing to find Hannah and her sisters containing the blaze, stopping it from spreading, but they could not stop the fire itself. "Have to let it burn." Was all they stated, but had from what Jack could tell put up some sort of magically barrier to contain the flames and stop it from jumping to the next house.

"It was Melissa," Jack stated angrily.

Rafe looked right at him and then up to where he knew his suite was on the front of the building. Jack's eyes followed and both Melissa and Maria could be seen up there watching on from their respective balconies.

"Don't go up there, Rafe. Into your suite. It's what they want." He told him.

Heard Rafe snarl "Hannah, you have this right?"

"Yes, Alpha." She replied simply.

"Allen." He roared all his fury rolling out of him "Bring my Mate to my office."

“Yes Alpha.” He heard the pack Beta answer and watched not only Rafe stalk off but Allen go with him.

His eyes moved right to Hannah. “Leave the Triune alone?”

“Yes, leave the Triune alone, still.” She stated right back without so much as looking at him “Her time will come, Beta.”