

Betrayed by My Beta Mate #Chapter 101 – 110

Read Betrayed by My Beta Mate Chapter 101

Chapter 101

Chapter 101

35 Apples and Cinnamon

Eli POV

“Alpha Eli, Alpha Calliope has arrived with her Beta” the patrol guard links me. “Escort them to the pack house. The Beta Female and Gamma will be waiting for them.” “Yes Alpha” he says. I link Larisa to come to take Faith, but she doesn’t respond immediately. With everything that has been happening with the vampire attacks, a pit forms in my stomach until I hear her voice in my head. “I’ll be there in a few minutes, Eli. I lost track of time talking with Rose.” “Is she still upset?” “She is fine Eli.” “Good, she had me worried. Take her time and come here to get Faith when you’re done talking to Rose. She is asleep right now. I don’t believe that Alpha Calliope will mind if she is in the office while we speak.” “Alright, I’ll get there as soon as I can.” I cut the link and walk over to check on Faith. She is smiling in her sleep. She really is the most beautiful pup. I walk back to take my seat and arrange the documents on my desk. A few minutes later, the scent of apples and cinnamon invades my nose. My heart starts to beat out of my chest. No, this can’t be happening. I won’t accept it. Silas growls at my words. “Eli, you can’t reject” he starts to say and I cut him off. “Clara was my mate and I will not accept another. How can you even suggest it?” Before he can say another word, the door opens. My heart breaks when I hear the woman that I’m sure is Calliope call me mate. “Mate” Silas says, and I can’t believe what he is saying. He really wants me to accept her. “My mate is dead.” I see hurt flash in her eyes and I feel like an a**hole. This isn’t her fault and I have no right to hurt her when this should be the happiest day of her life.

She turns away from me and I take a deep breath, pushing Silas to the back of my mind. When I look back at her, she is wrapped in her Beta’s arms and it takes everything in me not to walk over there and rip her away from him. No, I have no right to feel that way she isn’t mine. Pheobe looks at me with anger and disappointment on her face. She turns leaving us alone without a word, which I’m grateful

for. “I’m sorry for my outburst. Please come in and sit down so we can talk about the pack alliance.” Calliope turns and despite the tears staining her cheeks, her eyes are cold. She wipes her face and walks toward the chairs in front of my desk. “Calliope, we should leave. We don’t need to have an alliance with this pack”, her Beta says. When he calls her by her first name, it pisses me off. She turns looking at the man who is way too comfortable with her. The cold look she just gave me is replaced with warmth and love. What the hell is going on between them? “Oliver, this alliance is what is best for the pack. My vow is to put the pack’s needs above my own. I can put my own hurt aside

to get through this meeting. Come take a seat so we can get the documents signed. Then we can return home.” I can see he wants to protest, but instead he comes and takes a seat beside her. She avoids meeting my eyes and picks up the pen off my desk. “Calliope, I didn’t mean to hurt you. I would like to explain why we can’t be mates. It isn’t anything that you have done.” She cuts me off “Alpha Eli, you have made it perfectly clear you are not interested in being my mate, so your explanation isn’t necessary. I will be fine, so you don’t have to worry that you have hurt me. As we will not be mates, please call me by my title. I would like to get the documents signed and head back to my pack.”

“What the f**k is wrong with you” Silas growls in my mind. “What the hell is wrong with you? Have you forgotten Clara and Cora so easily? It’s only been six months.” “I’m going to forgive you for that comment because I know your hurt and afraid, but don’t you ever say such a thing to me again Eli” Silas says. “Cora and Clara want you and I to be happy and loved. They want our pup to have a mother even if it’s not them. The fact that the goddess has given us a second chance is not a betrayal. You denying it because of guilt and fear, is spitting in the goddess’s face. Besides, Clara and Cora want us to accept this bond with Calliope. They want you to love with all your heart again. You need to speak to Calliope alone and make this right, Eli. I know I can’t force you to accept our mate, but I will truly be disappointed in you if you don’t.” This time he puts a block up and I can’t reach him.

Calliope POV

I can tell that he is speaking to his wolf. Aurora is whimpering and honestly my heart is breaking as I sit here and look at this man that is meant to be mine. I know Aurora said that our mating wouldn’t be easy, but I never expected him to deny being our mate. Oliver and Anthony had told me of him losing his mate in childbirth before we came for this meeting today. I never expected to be his second chance. My heart broke for him when they told me the story and it breaks for us both now. “Calliope, I know your hurt, but we can’t give up on Eli. He is meant to be ours. I know you’re strong and we will get through this”, Aurora says, and my heart breaks a little more. He is still in love with his mate who died and why wouldn’t he be? I can’t imagine losing someone you are bonded to. Before I can tell her that he doesn’t want us, a pup’s cries getting my attention. Eli is up and around the desk without a word. I turn and he is rocking his pup. I can’t help but smile as I watch him with his daughter. “Our daughter” Aurora says. “Aurora, I want him and the pup as much as you do, but he is still broken. He doesn’t want a mate.” He sits back in his chair and I look at the most beautiful little girl. The pup from my vision is looking back at me with big beautiful eyes. She reaches out toward me and Eli stiffens.

She starts to babble and I can’t help but smile at her. “Calliope we should finish the paperwork and get back to the pack. I’m sure Alpha Eli needs to attend to his pup” Oliver says with irritation in his voice. I notice Eli’s eyes darken. “Do you have a problem Beta” Eli says. I don’t trust Oliver not to get himself in trouble in this moment. He is like a protective older brother but disrespecting an Alpha no matter the reason could get him

killed. "Oliver, please go downstairs and wait for me while I finish signing the papers." "I don't feel comfortable leaving you alone with Alpha Eli" he says. "Oliver that wasn't a request. Go downstairs and I will be down when I am finished." He looks at me with pleading eyes before he finally stands. He turns and leaves the office closing the door behind him. I turn back to Eli "I apologize for my Beta." Before he says anything, the little girl starts reaching for me again. "May I hold her for a moment?" I don't know what I expect but I'm glad he doesn't say no. He stands coming around the desk and places her in my arms. "What is her name?" "Faith is her name" he says as he sits across from me. His expression is unreadable. "She is beautiful" I say as she places her hand on my

face. "Are you in a relationship with your Beta?" I can't help the shock on my face as I look up at this man sitting across from me.

The shock quickly fades and turns to anger. He doesn't want to accept me but he is pissed that I might be in a relationship with Oliver. "My personal life is none of your concern." I see his jaw tense at my words. I'm not sure if this is his wolf or him that is angry about Oliver. A knock sounds on the door and a young woman walks in. She is definitely related to Eli. She smiles when she sees me holding Faith. She sits in the chair next to me and grabs Faith's foot. "She likes you" she says and Eli clears his throat. "Larisa, can you take Faith so I can finish my meeting with Alpha Calliope." He puts the emphasis on the word Alpha. "Sure" she says. I kiss Faith's head before I hand her to Larisa. "It was nice to meet you, Larisa." She smiles "likewise, I hope we see each other again." I nod and she leaves the room. Eli and I are alone for the first time since I arrived at the pack. I pick up the pen off the desk and start to sign the papers again. I can feel Eli's eyes on me but I don't look up at him. I sign the last paper and set the pen down. I stand and stick out my hand. "Crescent Moon is now aligned with the Nightfire pack. We are here should you need help with the vampire attacks." He looks at my hand before he stands and finally takes it. The tingles threaten to make my legs give out, but I maintain my composure.

Eli POV

When Calliope reaches out her hand I'm torn. I know touching her is not a good idea but at the same time I want to feel her hand in mine. I take her hand and the familiar tingles dance on my skin. She pulls her hand, but I don't let go. "Calliope, please let me say this." She nods and I take a deep breath. "I lost my mate six months ago. I never expected to be given another chance and the thought of accepting our bond makes me feel like I am betraying Clara. You deserve a mate that accepts you without hesitation and I truly wish that I could be that mate." "I understand Eli and I hope you have the happiness you deserve in this life. I'm sure Clara is watching over you and Faith. She is very special little girl." I finally release her hand. "I meant what I said about the vampire attacks. Take care Alpha Eli"

she says with a smile. Everything in me wants to stop her from walking out of my office but I can't. Once the door closes, I fall back into my seat. "Silas" I say but the block is still between us. "Alpha, there are at least twenty vampires at the eastern border. We

have already linked the Betas.” Fear grips me because the gate to the pack is on the eastern border. Silas comes forward “get to our mate before something bad happens to her.” I don’t respond as I rush through the pack house. I shift as soon as I’m out the door. We run as fast as we can and I pray to the goddess that she protects Calliope.

Larisa POV

I head back to Rose’s cottage with Faith. My aunt smiles when she sees me and comes to say hello to Faith. She kisses her forehead before I head into Rose’s room. Rose jumps up when she sees me. Her eyes turn black and she reaches for Faith. As soon as she has her in her arms, she kisses her little face. “Hello sweet girl. You’ve gotten so big.” “Rose has to tell Eli who her wolf is. He thinks that something is wrong with Rose. That she is angry with him. He needs to know the truth.” She smiles at me and takes my hand. “I know but we need to wait until he accepts Calliope. She is his future.” “What if he doesn’t accept her?” She smiles “I know your brother. It may take a little time and a push, but he will accept her. I have faith in his heart.”

Chapter 102

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36 Accept Her

Calliope POV

Aurora whimpers as we leave Eli’s office. My heart is broken too, but we are strong and we need to get through this together. I make my way down the stairs and Oliver is sitting on the couch with a very pretty older woman. He looks nervous but I’m not sure why. I walk over and he stands up when he sees me. “Calliope, this is Alpha Eli’s mother, Luna Amelia.” I shoot him a glare because he had better not have said a word to her about what happened in the office. I reach out my hand and she takes it. “It’s a pleasure to meet you, Luna.” Her smile is warm and kind. “It’s nice to meet you, Alpha Calliope. We were so happy when Lily told us that you had taken over as the Alpha of the Crescent Moon pack. I’m glad you were able to meet Eli here in the pack today about the alliance between us. Thank you for understanding his need to be close to Faith with the recent vampire attacks.” “Of course, she is a very special little girl. ” “I’m glad you got to meet her.” Thinking about Faith makes a dull ache in my heart. I feel the pull not only to Eli but to Faith. I smile at Amelia despite the pain I feel. She reminds me of my own mother. “Thank you, Amelia. I hope we will see each other again. We should be getting back to the pack.” She pulls me into a hug and I stiffen at first before I hug her back.

As soon as we leave the pack house, we start down the path that leads to the gate. “Calliope”, Oliver says. “I don’t want to talk about it right now Oliver. I just want to get back to the pack.” We walk for a few more minutes and I’m grateful that he doesn’t push me right now. We are almost to the gate when he breaks the silence. “Calliope” he says

my name and I stop turning to tell him to give me time when I notice the look on his face. I look in the same direction and there are at least twenty vampires breaking through the trees. Why the hell would they breach the pack so close to the gate? That's when I realize most of the warriors are patrolling the borders for attacks, leaving the gate area with minimal guards. The two guards from the gate join us and the vampires stop about ten feet from us. A male vampire

steps forward and smells the air. "I smell Alpha blood, but it can't possibly be you, a weak pathetic mutt" he says, looking at me. Aurora growls loudly and I see fear flicker in his eyes. He laughs to hide it, but I have no doubt that I saw it. "You're afraid of me. I see it in your eyes. It seems that you have a big mouth but don't have the b*lls to back it up." His eyes flash red and he bares his fangs at me.

"Shift" I give Alpha command and Oliver and the guards shift. All hell breaks loose and the vampires run at us. I'm grateful when I hear paws hitting the ground in the distance. The big-mouthed vampire jumps at me and Aurora is able to move out of the way. We turn and start toward him when one of the others jumps onto our back. We feel claws dig into our skin and that just pisses Aurora off. She begins to buck but the vampire holds tight. Aurora shocks me when she rolls and I can hear bones crack under us. She stands and turns biting the b**ch on the ground in half. We start to look around and we have been joined by at least five more warriors. I'm grateful for the increase in our numbers. Oliver seems to be holding his own, but I notice one of the Nightfire pack wolves is pinned down by two of the vampires. I run in his direction and jump, knocking one of the vampires into the trees. The warrior gets the upper hand again and I start toward the trees to finish off the other vampire. I can scent him and his blood. I'm sure he is hurt and trying to run like a coward. That won't be happening. I stalk slowly into the trees. He is leaning against one of them and his leg is definitely broken. He looks toward me and smiles. "We aren't alone, Calliope", Aurora says, and I know she's right as there is movement in the trees.

Eli POV

Silas makes it to the gate and my warriors are fighting. I look around and my eyes land on a wolf that isn't part of my pack. It has to be the Beta of the Crescent Moon. Where the f**k is Calliope? There is only a handful of vampires left and I start to move through the crowd. The mix of scents is making it hard for me to scent her. We kill two vampires when the scent of apples and cinnamon invades our nose. Silas takes off for the trees and we stop dead when we see a red wolf standing over a dead vampire. Four more bodies are lying about ten feet from them. Despite the color of her fur, I can tell it's wet with blood. Silas walks over and begins to lick her fur. I scent that the blood is definitely hers. She

seems to lean against Silas and I wonder if the blood loss is taking its toll on her. She has a gash on her nose and blood covering the fur on her back. Without warning, she shifts and her body slumps to the ground. Without a second thought, I shift and scoop

her into my arms. "We cannot lose her, Eli", Silas says, but I don't answer. I run toward the pack hospital with her Beta hot on my heels.

"Lily, I need you at the pack hospital now" I say through our link. She appears in the hospital lobby just as we arrive. Her eyes get big and I know just like me she is thinking of the last time we were here. I lay Calliope on the gurney and this time the doctor pushes her back without a word to me. Lily follows her and I have no strength left in my body. I manage to make it to the seat and place my head in my hands. A few minutes later, the door to the hospital burst open and my parents rush inside. They look at Oliver and then at me. My mother walks over and I stand. She wraps me in her arms. "She will be alright. The goddess doesn't send you a second chance just to take it away." I stiffen at her words and pull back to look into her eyes. "How" I ask her. "I knew the moment she came down the stairs today. She looked defeated and hurt. Besides, Oliver told me what had happened when I used my command on him when he was pacing in the pack house. Did you reject her Eli," she asks and my heart squeezes in my chest. Material © of

Oliver growls and I shoot him a glare. "I would be very careful, Beta." "You are not my Alpha. My Alpha was injured defending your pack even after you rejected her. Even after you broke her heart." "You know nothing of what I have been through and you are in my pack land, so I would be careful how you speak to me." "Eli, enough, he has the right to be angry with you. You hurt his friend and Alpha" my mother says. "Friends, it seems like they are more than friends." "Maybe if you actually accepted your mate, you would know that the man you met with a few days ago is my mate, Beta Anthony. Calliope is my best friend and you hurt her. I will defend my friend against anyone, including you, Alpha." My father steps between us. "Eli, did you formally reject Calliope?" I know why he is asking me this and I don't want to answer. "Answer me, Eli" my father says. "No, I did not." His look changes to one of anger. "Eli, you know I love you and I know all that you have been through but what you're doing isn't right. You either want the second chance the goddess has given you or you don't. Either way, you need to make

a decision. She deserves her second chance if you aren't willing to accept her as your mate. She won't get that opportunity until you make the formal rejection." A low growl at the thought of Calliope with anyone else escapes from me. The door opens getting our attention. The doctor and Lily walk toward us and Lily is smiling. "Alpha, Alpha Calliope is stable and should wake up shortly." I feel my body relax at her words. Lily wraps me in a hug. When she releases me, I head through the double doors without asking. I follow her scent.

Once I reach the door, I open it and she looks like she is sleeping peacefully. She is so beautiful. I go inside and take a seat next to her bed. "Calliope, I'm so sorry you got hurt. I'm sorry that I hurt you. I know that part of me is worried about betraying Clara, but a bigger part of me knows I won't survive losing you like I lost Clara. I know that makes me a coward. When you left my office today, it took everything in me not to run after you. My wolf is angry with me and so is your Beta. My parents are disappointed in

me. I'm disappointed in myself. I never expected to have a second chance mate, and I didn't handle it very well." I rest my hand on top of hers and the tingles move through my fingertips. I place my head on her bed. I'm not sure how long I was asleep when I hear my name. I expect to sit up and see Calliope awake but it's not her who said my name. I feel like I can't breathe. "Clara" I say, and she smiles." I have missed that smile. "Eli, I don't have long but I need you to listen. I know you feel guilty about me dying, but I don't want you to. The time I had as your mate I wouldn't trade that time to live a hundred years." She smiles down at Calliope. "She is going to be an amazing mate to you and mother to our daughter. You have to let yourself be happy and not live in fear. Everything happened as it was supposed to. I will be with you and Faith, just not in the way you had hoped. Calliope is your mate and I want you to love her with all of your heart. That is how you honor me. You be the best mate and father. I will always be with you, but our time as mates is over. Promise me that you will be happy and let yourself love again. That you will let Faith know what it is to have a mother that loves her because Calliope already loves her." I can feel the tears running down my cheeks. "I promise Clara." She turns and I feel lighter. She did that for me. The guilt and fear is gone. She turns back "when Rose talks to you know that I asked her to keep my secret. You can't be angry at her." I look at her confused.

She chuckles "you'll understand soon. Goodbye Eli" she says, and she is gone. "Goodbye Clara" I say. I look at Calliope and pray to the goddess that she forgives me for being a coward when she wakes up. "I knew you wouldn't disappoint me", Silas says, and I smile.

Chapter 103

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37 Truth and Acceptance

Calliope POV

My body feels heavy and I'm surrounded in darkness. "Aurora", I call out to her and after a few minutes she answers. "I'm here with you Calliope. I would never leave you." "Where is here?" She chuckles "you are in the hospital. We fought off five vampires and lost a lot of blood." "So, we aren't dead. " This time she laughs out loud. "Do you really think that I would let us die after we just found our mate?" My heart sinks at her words. "Aurora, I want our mate as much as you do but he is broken after all that has happened." "That which is broken can always be fixed even if it has to be done piece by piece. I know that you are hurt by all he said because we are one in the same, but I know that we are strong enough to fix our mate's heart. Are you ready to wake up and be the bad a** I know you are?" I smile to myself. I'm so grateful for my wolf. She is amazing and I'm so glad that the goddess blessed me with her. "As long as you are with me Aurora, I am ready to do anything." She gives a low growl of approval. I hear a faint beeping that seems to be getting stronger. I try to pry my eyes open, but they feel so heavy. I feel a hand on my face but there are no tingles. Who the hell is touching me?

I try again to open my eyes and this time I manage to force them open. This is definitely a hospital with pure white walls. My eyes land on a figure sitting next to my bed staring at the floor. It takes me a few minutes to focus on his face. When I finally do, I smile. "Oliver, have you been sitting here since they brought me to the hospital?" "Cali, you scared the sh*t out of me." "How long have I been here?" "It's only been a few hours. I can't believe you took down five of those vampires by yourself." He leans forward and pulls me into a hug. A growl that could shake the walls makes him step back from me. My eyes land on Eli standing in the doorway. His eyes are black and I watch him take a few deep breaths. What the hell was that about?" "Alpha Eli, my mate is a man, remember. Calliope is my best friend, nothing more." Eli nods and Oliver turns back to me. I'm going to go call Anthony. I nod and he leaves

the room. "How are you feeling" he asks. "Like I fought five vampires." I notice he doesn't laugh and he has a pained look on his face. He walks over to the chair that is next to my bed. "Can we talk Calliope?" "Of course, we can." He takes the seat and I wait for him to speak. "Calliope, I want you to be my mate."

I can't have heard him correctly. Aurora is prancing in my mind, but I don't understand what's happening. "Our mate wants us" Aurora says. "Calliope, I was afraid to accept you." I whip my head in his direction. I know how hard that was for him to say. Our society expects Alphas to be fearless. "Afraid of what Eli?" "Losing Clara nearly killed me. I only survived because of Faith. When I realized that you were my second chance, the only thing I could think about was losing you. Part of me was worried about betraying my first mate, but the bigger part of me was afraid to accept you because I could lose you." My heart squeezes in my chest. Could he really want to be my mate? Before I can ask what has changed, he speaks again. "Even though I said all those things to you in the office, I never formally rejected you because I knew I couldn't. I couldn't say those words to you because they weren't true. My father called me on my sh*t but it took a visit from Clara to really make me understand what I wanted." "You still love her." I don't mean it as an accusation. He threads his fingers in mine and the tingles dance on my skin.

Eli POV

When I walked into the room and Oliver was hugging Calliope, Silas was pissed. He pushed to the surface. I know he is mated to a man, but it is hard to see how close he is to our mate. Once she agrees to talk with us, I promise myself that I will be completely honest with her. When she asks if I still love Clara, there is only one answer that is truthful. "I will always love Clara. She was an amazing mate and she gave me my beautiful daughter." I see understanding in her eyes. I'm grateful she isn't angry or hurt by my words. "Calliope, the love I have for Clara is different now. I'm no longer in love with her as my mate. Our bond was broken by her death and when she came to me while you were unconscious, she helped me let go of my guilt for wanting to take you as my mate. You are my mate

and my future, if you will forgive me.” I see unshed tears in her eyes. “Calliope, please tell me what you are thinking.” “Eli, I would never expect you to forget about Clara. She was your mate and helped to bring Faith into the world. I’m grateful to her and I hate that she isn’t here to watch Faith grow. Aurora showed me Faith in a vision and she is my pup even though she did not come from my body. I want to be your mate but there is something else we need to discuss before I accept our bond.”

Silas growls “what the hell is there to discuss? She is ours.” I push him to the back of my mind. I nod and she continues. “I don’t want to combine the packs and I have no intentions of becoming a Luna.” Silas relaxes and I just smile. “How would you like to handle the pack situation, Alpha.” She smiles and before I know what’s happening, she is trying to stand from the bed. A throat clears and the doctor shoots a glare at Calliope. “I believe your supposed to be in bed, Alpha Calliope.” I chuckle at her getting in trouble and she looks at me rolling her eyes. She sits down and swings her legs back into bed. “Doctor, I’m fine. Aurora has completely healed me.” She pulls up her gown, exposing her creamy white skin. I’m sure my eyes darken and a low growl escapes me as I look at her body. “Alpha, maybe you should step out into the hallway while I examine my patient.” This time she chuckles and I do what the doctor asks. Once I’m in the hallway, I lean against the wall. I feel lighter knowing that she isn’t going to reject me. I link Larisa to bring me Faith to the hospital. I want to spend time with my mate and pup. We will figure out the details about the packs. All that matters right now is that we are together.

Selma POV

My phone rings in my pocket and I take it out, looking at the screen. I smile to myself when I see the name that I’ve given my uncle flashing on the screen. Captain a**hat flashes on the screen. I put the phone to my ear, “hello uncle.” “Selma, come to my office now” Octavius says. “I will be there in a moment uncle. I’m getting dressed.” “Now, Selma, we have guests.” I roll my eyes as the line disconnects. Goddess, I can’t wait to watch that man suffer for all he has done. That reminds me that I need to see if there is anything in his memories about Evelyn and Grant’s mating. I pull on my jeans and a fitted blue t-shirt. I put on my sandals and put my long brown hair into a French braid. As I

approach the office, I can hear multiple male voices. I knock “come in, Selma.” I push the door open and step inside. Two men I’ve never seen before smile at me. One looks like an older version of the other. It makes my skin crawl the way they are looking at me. They are powerful, but not as powerful as I am. They can’t sense how strong I am because I have masked my powers. I don’t want anyone, especially Octavius, to realize my power. “Selma, I would like to introduce you to Bryer and his father Crandall Fane of the Wicked Wind Coven. Gentlemen, this is my niece, Selma.” Bryer stands walking toward me and sticks out his hand. I have no desire to touch this man, but manners win out. I place my hand in his and without warning, he takes it to his lips, placing a kiss without my permission. I pull my hand back and he chuckles. “It’s alright sweetheart, I don’t bite. Unless you want me to” he says with a wink.

I step back "excuse me." "Selma, don't be rude. Bryer is going to be your chosen beloved." "Like hell he is." The smug smirk Bryer has on his face turns into a scowl. "Could you gentlemen give me a moment with my niece?" Bryer walks back over to his seat and they both nod. My uncle grabs my arm, pulling me out of his office into a room across the hall. "What the f**k are you thinking?" I try to keep myself under control. I can't kill him right now. I need to stick to the plan. "I have no intentions of taking a chosen beloved. I want my fated beloved." He laughs "grow up Selma. You will do as you are told. I have raised you and I am the leader of this coven. Now you will go back into that room and apologize because in two weeks you will belong to him." I ball my fists at my side. I focus on his mind and I latch on to his memories. I find what I'm looking for and it's all I can do not lose it. Not to make him explode where he stands. I know that until I have the proof that I need of what he has done I can't kill him. "Selma, answer me" he says, gripping my arm. "Fine", I say, but I have no intention of mating with that piece of sh*t. He pulls me into a hug and it takes everything in me not to pull out of his arms. My skin crawls where he touches me. I follow him back into his office.

Bryer has that smug smile back on his face. "I'm sorry Bryer." He stands walking back over to me. "What are you sorry for sweetheart?" "I'm sorry for being disrespectful." He reaches up pushing a piece of my hair that fell out of the braid behind my ear. "Don't worry sweetheart, you won't make that mistake

again." I'm grateful that he returns to his seat. I'm not good at pretending and I need to get the hell out of this office. I turn to leave and reach for the handle. "Selma, where are you going?" "I'm sure you have coven business to discuss. I'm going to go find something more exciting to do." "Bryer and Crandall will be joining us for dinner and I expect you to be there." I nod before I make my way out of the office. I head back up to my room. Tonight is the night I am supposed to meet with Lydia. Once she is dead, I need to speak to Evelyn about everything I just saw.

Dinner was a nightmare. That a**hole kept putting his hand on my leg and licking his lips at me. I'm back in my room and I grab my stuff. I head to the bar to meet Lydia. Once I'm inside, I scan the room and I can hear her thoughts. All the evil things she wants to do to Cayden. It pisses me off, but I need to keep my cool, so she doesn't realize this is a set up. Cayden came up with a brilliant plan and I won't let my emotions screw it up. I take a seat at her table. "Lydia", I say and she smiles. "Selma, were you able to locate that ba**ard Cayden?" "I was and I can take you to him now." She smiles like she just won the lottery. I stand and she follows me outside. We walk up a path behind the bar. When we reach the top of the hill she stops. Cayden is lying on the ground bound in magical rope. "Hello boy" she says, and Cayden looks up at her with fear in his eyes. He is a pretty good actor. Before she can even get close, I wave my hand releasing him. I also block her teleporting ability. She looks at me first in shock but then with absolute hatred. "You double crossing b**ch." I laugh "you should do better research about who you ask for help. That is my nephew and the only person dying today is you for what you did to him and his sister as children." Her eyes get big and I take great pleasure seeing the fear in them. I turn to Cayden and nod. This will be over quickly and then on to the hard part of the night. My eyes meet Evelyn's and she smiles.

"Thank you" she mouths to me. I hate that I'm going to have to cause her more pain, but she deserves the truth.

Chapter 104

Chapter 104

38 No More Secrets

Calliope POV

The door to my room opens and Eli walks in holding Faith. My heart squeezes in my chest. Aurora is prancing in my mind knowing our pup is so close. He sits down in the chair next to my bed and Faith reaches for me. I take her and she lays her head on my chest. "It seems Faith has already claimed you too." I can feel the tear run down my cheek. I run my fingers through her hair and I can feel her breathing even out. Aurora is purring, having our pup asleep on my chest. I still can't believe the change in Eli and I can't help but say a prayer of thanks to the goddess and Clara. Faith will always know about the amazing woman who brought her into my life. I feel the tingles on my cheek as Eli uses his thumb to wipe the tear away. He leans up and kisses my forehead. "Thank you for forgiving me and accepting me even after the way I acted." He presses a soft kiss to my lips and when he pulls back, I'm sure that I'm blushing. I touch my finger to my lips. I know it was just a peck, but it's still my first kiss. He looks worried and I smile. "It was my first kiss." His eyes darken and a low growl escapes him. He takes my hand in his but before he can say anymore, there is a knock on the door. It opens and Oliver steps inside, followed by Larisa and another young girl. The two girls sit on the couch while Oliver addresses me.

"Cali, how are you feeling?" A low growl comes from my mate. "Eli, he is my friend and Beta. He is allowed to call me that unless we are in a formal meeting. I am yours." He looks at Oliver and nods. "I'm fine Oliver, just a little sore. Aurora did a good job of healing me." "Your pup is beautiful" he says, looking between us. "Thank you, Oliver", Eli says. "Oliver, I would like you to return to the pack. Let my mother, Anthony, and Benson know I will return tomorrow after I discuss the future of the pack with my mate." He nods and leaves the room. "Cali, you link me if you need me. I know he is your mate, but I am still your best friend. If he hurts you again, I will kick his a** Alpha or not", Oliver says through our

link and I smile. "I'll be fine and I will see you soon." I look at the girl that is sitting next to Larisa. She looks nervous and I can't help but wonder why.

Rose POV

Larisa insisted I needed to come and talk to Eli and Calliope. I have no idea how he is going to react to the news that Clara is my wolf. She explained to me that she doesn't have memories of her time with Eli, just like Silas, but she knows that Faith is her pup.

She knows that Eli was important to her, but there is no pull to him. He is not her mate. She might not have those memories, but he does. Larisa told me he had found his second chance, but what if this changes everything for him? Oliver leaves and the pit in my stomach seems to be getting bigger. Larisa puts her hand on mine. "Everything is going to be fine Rose." "Rose, come talk to me", Eli says. I take a deep breath. I walk until I'm standing in front of them. "Calliope, this is Rose. She is Lily and Neal's daughter. She is like a sister to me." "It's very nice to meet you, Rose." "It's nice to meet you, Calliope. I'm happy that Eli found you. He deserves to be happy again." He turns back to me and smiles. "Tell me what's wrong little one." I roll my eyes at his nickname. He chuckles and it relaxes me a little. "The night that I shifted and met my wolf was amazing, but it was also scary. I can't thank you enough for helping me through my first shift, Eli." He smiles "of course, what are big brother's for?"

"I'm sorry I ran away without talking to you, but I was scared you would be upset with me." "Rose, you did nothing wrong. What could I possibly be upset with you for?" I fidget and I can't find the words. Larisa takes my hand, encouraging me to tell him. "I didn't do anything wrong, but my wolf is Clara." He stiffens and I close my eyes tight. Before I know what's happening, I'm lifted into strong arms. I open my eyes and hug Eli back. A few seconds later, he sets me on my feet and returns to his seat. He takes Calliope's hand in his. "Rose, Clara told me that she asked you to keep a secret from me. I'm not angry with you for doing what she asked." Now I'm confused. He explains everything that happened about Clara's visit to him. How is that possible? "Rose, that was a gift to Eli and Silas from the goddess after everything that happened. Eli no longer feels the love he once had for me which is the way it is meant

to be. He is free to love his true mate and someday we will find our mate too." I rush over and wrap my arms around Eli's neck. I let the tears flow. I was so worried that me having Clara as a wolf would ruin everything for Eli. I love my wolf and I'm so happy that Clara will have a chance to watch Faith grow up.

Cayden POV

When Selma told me to head to the clearing behind the bar, I knew that I would get my chance to end Lydia today. I change into grey sweat pants and a blue t-shirt before I head downstairs. I'll be glad when all this is over and we can return to the pack. I miss the pack and Faith. She is all I have left of Clara. I reach the bottom of the stairs and my mother is sitting on the couch with Hudson. I'm a big guy, but Hudson is huge and he doesn't look comfortable on the small couch. "Cayden, what's up" my mother asks me. "Selma contacted me, it's time to finish what we came here for." I head outside to wait for them. Once they join me outside, we all shift. Tyson is huge and I'm so glad he is on our side. We reach the clearing and I send a message to Selma that I'm here. "Make sure she only sees you at first and that you look like I've captured you." "Go wait in the trees" I say to my mother and Hudson. I can see that my mother doesn't like the idea, but I'm grateful when she does as I ask. I create a rope and wrap myself up. A few minutes later, I catch the scent of Selma and that b**ch in the wind.

As soon as the ropes are gone, I stand before that evil b**ch that took great pleasure in torturing my sister. Her eyes are big and she is screaming at Selma. I wave my hand closing her mouth. She grabs at her face and panic flashes through her eyes. "Do you remember all the times that Clara pleaded with you and that ba**ard to stop hurting her? I was a boy and I couldn't protect her from you two monsters. I'm not a boy anymore and you are about to pay for every sin you committed against my sister just like that ba**ard Franklin did." Lydia raises her hand and Selma goes to block her, but I stop her. "This is between me and her" I say pointing between me and Lydia. Selma nods and steps back. She pitches the first energy ball, which I easily deflect. "Pain" I say and she drops to her knees. I wave my hand allowing her mouth to work again. Her screams fill the air and it brings me great pleasure to watch her

suffer. "Stop" I say and she tries to catch her breath. I lift her in the air and her eyes are full of pleading. "Don't bother even asking for mercy because you will find none here."

I conjure a blue flame in my hand. Her eyes get big as she eyes the flame. "I pray that the punishment the goddess gives you is a hundred times worse than what you are about to experience." I throw the flame and it starts to engulf her body. It moves from her feet up her legs. She is screaming and trying to free herself from my magic hold. Once she is completely surrounded in the blue flame, her body freezes. I release my hold on her body and she drops to the ground breaking into a thousand pieces. A sense of relief washes over me that she is dead. Arms wrap around me and I breathe in my mother's scent. "That was amazing, Cayden" Selma said. "Theo would be very proud." I smile thinking about my father. My mother pulls back and Hudson shakes my hand. "Remind me not to piss you off Cayden", Hudson says, and we all burst out laughing. I'm glad it's finally over. I hug Selma "thank you for helping me." "You are my family, Cayden. I will always be here for you." I pull back and when I look into her eyes, I see sadness. "Selma, what's wrong?" "I need to speak with Evelyn" she says, looking at my mother.

Selma POV

We head back to the cottage and once we are inside, we take a seat in the living room. "Evelyn, there is no easy way for me to say this, so I'm just going to say it. Grant was not your second chance mate." Her brow furrows and she looks confused. "How is that possible? I felt the mate pull, the tingles, and the bond." "Octavius orchestrated everything that happened. He met with your father and Grant. Your father wanted you mated to a strong Alpha. Grant wanted you, but not your pups. Octavius wanted Theo's pups dead. You were given an elixir that made you feel all those things." Her eyes dart back and forth like she is remembering something. Hudson wraps his arms around her tighter. I'm sure he is feeling her emotions through there bond. "My father, that ba**ard. The day that Grant came to the pack he asked me to come to his office. He had not spoken to me after I got pregnant. He apologized for being so harsh with me and we had breakfast together. He must have given me the elixir. I met Grant

that afternoon.” “I’m so sorry, Evelyn, for what Octavius has taken from you. I promise you he will suffer for all he has done.” “If my father wasn’t dead, I would kill myself. I spent all those years with that man that wasn’t my mate and he took my pups from me.” Cayden gets up and picks Evelyn up, wrapping her in his arms. “I’m here mom. He didn’t win and he never will.”

She sobs into Cayden’s chest and Hudson looks murderous to see his mate in such pain. “You are her true second chance Hudson.” He seems to relax and Cayden places Evelyn back down on the couch. Hudson pulls her onto his lap. My heart breaks for this woman. I lost Theo but she has been betrayed by men that she should have been able to trust. I stand and hug Cayden. “I need to get back. I want to find out exactly what his plans are before I leave that place for good. He brought a black magic warlock to meet me and he thinks he is going to force me into a mating him.” A growl that shakes the room startles me and I expect it to be Cayden, but it’s not. Evelyn’s eyes are black and she stands pulling me into her arms. “That will never happen. You can’t go back there.” I smile knowing that she is trying to protect me like family should. She really is amazing and I’m so happy that I found her and Cayden. “Evelyn, I promise you that I won’t be gone long. I have to stay with the plan so we can finally make him pay for all he has done. I will come to the pack when I can. I want to meet my great niece. You don’t have to worry I will never accept anyone that isn’t my fated mate.” She smiles and pulls me into another hug. I teleport back into my room and plop down on my bed. “Where the hell were you?”

Chapter 105

Chapter 105

39 Talk To Your Mate

Calliope POV

After Larisa and Rose left, Eli was quiet. I’m sure he is in shock about Rose’s news. Faith starts to squirm and fuss. I rub her back. “What’s the matter, sweet girl?” He smiles at her and picks her up in his arms. He rocks her for a minute but she doesn’t quiet down. “I’m going to go grab her bottle and the diaper bag. I won’t be gone long.” I wonder how he is feeling about all we just learned. Maybe he is leaving because he needs time alone to think and process everything. I’m not upset that Clara is Rose’s wolf. The goddess is amazing and, honestly, I’m glad that Clara will still have an opportunity to watch Faith grow up. She deserves that. I just hope that this doesn’t change things between me and Eli. He is my mate and I want nothing more than to mark him. I need to make him mine in every way. Belongs to ©

This has to be a lot for him to absorb in a very short time between Clara’s visit and now knowing she is Rose’s wolf. A light knock on the door sounds and the doctor steps inside. “Alpha Calliope, how are you feeling?” “I’m perfect, Aurora has completely healed me.” She looks me over and checks my vital signs. My wounds are completely

healed. "I'm comfortable with discharging you but you will need to follow up with your pack doctor tomorrow. Can I trust you to do that, Alpha?" I smile "I promise I will get checked out." I look around the room, realizing for the first time I don't have any clothes. They must have cut them off of me when they brought me to the hospital. "I will have the nurse bring you some scrubs to wear if you want to go into the bathroom to get cleaned up." "Thank you" I say. I manage to get myself into the bathroom. I'm a little sore, but nothing I can't tolerate.

Once I'm in the shower, the spray of the water feels amazing on my skin. All the dirt, blood, and grime run down the drain. Aurora has been quiet and I wonder what she is thinking. "Aurora, tell me what you're thinking. I know you heard the conversation." "Our mate is amazing. Did you see him with our

pup?" I smile "yes, I did. He is a wonderful father." "He won't change his mind, Calliope. I can already feel the bond starting to form with him and Silas." I love my wolf and I pray she is right. I step out of the shower and dry off. I pull my long red hair into a ponytail. I wrap the towel around myself and head back into the room. Eli is sitting back in the chair next to the bed and his eyes darken when they land on me. I feel my core clench just from his gaze, but I push those thoughts away. Now is not the time for those thoughts. "Where's faith" I ask, and his eyes return to their normal color. "She is with my mother while we talk." My heart squeezes in my chest. I look around the room and there are clothes sitting on the bed. "I brought you these so you wouldn't have to wear the hospital scrubs. Larisa picked them out, so I hope they fit." "Thank you" I say as I pick them up and head back into the bathroom. Once I'm dressed, I head back out and Eli smiles. "You look beautiful." I chuckle "it's just jeans and a t-shirt, but thank you. The doctor said I'm discharged so I guess we can leave." He nods and puts his hand out to me. I place my hand in his and the tingles feel amazing on my skin.

He leads me down a path and the pack members we pass stare at our joined hands. I hear chatter of them asking each other if I'm the new Luna. I hear one girl mention a girl named Suzanne being pissed when she finds out Eli is taken again. I make a mental note to ask Eli about her later after our talk. We reach the pack house and he leads me upstairs. I expect us to head to his office, but we don't. He opens a door that leads to what I assume is the Alpha floor. I smile as I look around and see evidence of Faith everywhere. Her toys are on the floor, her highchair sitting at the table, and her little shoes by the door. He leads me over to the couch and we both take a seat. "What did you want to talk about Eli?" I see fear and sadness in his eyes. My heart breaks for him and I pray that he hasn't changed his mind.

Eli POV

As I walk toward the pack house to get Faith's bottle, I can't help the fear that I feel. I still can't believe that Clara is Rose's wolf. I know how strange it sounds, but I'm glad that Clara will be there for Faith. My connection with Clara is gone and every part of me wants to be with Calliope. She is my future. She

is my mate. It truly won't be weird because I can't talk to Rose's wolf, only she can. I can't thank Clara and the goddess enough for giving me this gift, but how will Calliope feel about it? I head toward my floor and my mother is walking toward me. "Eli, I expected you to still be at the hospital. How is Calliope," she asks. "She is good. The doctor will probably discharge her this afternoon. I came to get Faith a bottle." "What's wrong Eli? Why do you look so worried? I thought everything was good with you and Calliope now. Please tell me you didn't hurt that girl again." She takes Faith from my arms. "I have accepted her completely, mom, but something happened and I'm not sure she will still want to be my mate." She looks at me like that is the dumbest thing she has ever heard. "I saw how defeated that woman was when you rejected her." "I never spoke the formal rejection. I was afraid, but I never rejected her." "That is just a formality. You made her think you didn't want the bond. I understand why you did that, Eli, but it still hurt her. I'm just glad you realized that Calliope is a gift that you deserve. Now what on earth would make you think she doesn't want to be your mate." I tell my mother about everything that Rose told us. She gasps before a smile breaks out on her face. "That is wonderful. You're worried that Calliope won't want to be with you because Clara is Rose's wolf and that will be too hard for her to deal with?" I nod because I can't bring myself to say it out loud. "Eli, I love you but sometimes you don't use the brains the goddess gave you."

"Did you talk to your mate about how she is feeling or how you are feeling?" When I don't answer she growls at me. "So, you are borrowing trouble that might not even exist. Go talk to your mate, I will take care of Faith." She takes Faith from me and I kiss her head. She leans up and kisses my cheek before she heads to their wing. I stop at Larisa's room to grab clothes for Calliope because I'm sure she destroyed them when she shifted. After she is dressed, I lead her to the pack house. Once we reach our floor, I lead her over to the couch. "Calliope, how are you feeling about everything that just happened? I know learning that my former mate will still be part of our lives may be difficult for you." "Eli, do you think I'm upset that Clara is Rose's wolf? Eli, I love that Clara is going to get a chance to see her pup grow up. It changes nothing about our bond for me. Did you think that I wouldn't want to be your mate because of that?" "It would be a lie if I said I wasn't worried." Before I know what's

happening, Calliope straddles me and looks into my eyes. My goddess, she fits perfectly on my lap. Her scent is intoxicating and I can't wait to make her mine. Silas growls his agreement. He has been quiet since I made the decision to accept Calliope. I know it was hurting him when I refused to accept her. "I'm just glad that you realized that Calliope was meant to be ours before it was too late", Silas says. "Me too, Silas." "Now if your done talking to Silas I want to talk about the Crescent Moon pack." I chuckle and she smiles.

Calliope POV

"I'm glad that you accept that I am an Alpha. I can't say that I wasn't worried that you would want to have a Luna stand by your side." He smiles "I would never want you to change who you are to please me, Calliope." I smile and his words spread warmth

through my chest. I tell him about everything that happened leading up to me leaving the pack and returning to end Mateo. He rubs circles on my back as he listens to my story. "Mateo made certain I felt like the pack would never belong to me. I never really felt like the Alpha of the Crescent Moon after the way Mateo treated me. After I killed Mateo, I took the title because the pack needed an Alpha, but honestly I would like to appoint a new Alpha." "You're sure you don't want to combine the packs. The members from both would have equal rights under our rule. It is your birthright despite what that a**hole thought. He was a piss poor excuse for an Alpha," "I appreciate that, but the pack members have been through enough. Their lives are just getting to a place where everyone feels valued and I don't want to disrupt that. I would like the Crescent Moon to be our sister pack if you agree." He places his hand on my face and I can't even explain the love I feel in this moment. "I think you are amazing and I would love to have the packs be bound to each other. Do you know who you would like to appoint as Alpha?" "I do, but I will need to discuss it with my Betas." He growls low and I wrap my arms around his neck. "He is a friend, nothing more. I am yours and yours only. You are the only man that will ever touch me." He slams his lips down on mine and this kiss is nothing like the one we shared earlier. It is sending heat to my core and I'm sure he is going to scent my arousal. This kiss is possessive and I love every minute of it.

He stiffens and when he pulls back, I can see he is getting a link. His eyes are dark and he looks pissed. "There is a rogue at the border that is requesting to speak with the Alpha." "Let's not keep our visitor waiting" I say and he smiles. He leads me through the pack house and outside. As soon as we are outside, he starts to undress and I can't help but check him out. He looks at me confused when he notices I'm not undressing. I smirk and shift. He shifts and Silas is amazing. I can't wait to spend time with him too. Silas takes off and Aurora follows behind him. "Did you see our wolf mate, he is scrumptious", Aurora says as we run. I can't help but laugh at her words. We reach the border and there are warriors already waiting. Eli shifts and turns toward me. I shift and I see surprise flash in his eyes before he looks toward the rogue. "I am Alpha Eli Thomas and this is my mate, Alpha Calliope. What do you want, rogue?" His stares at me which earns him a growl from Eli. "Keep looking at my mate like that and you won't live to speak." The rogue looks back at Eli. "My master has a message for the Nightfire pack." "Who is your master?" "You will know soon enough." I growl this time "what is your message?" He turns to Eli. "You and everyone you love will pay for your father's sins" he says. "Take him to the cells now" Eli gives command and the rogue is taken into custody. Strong arms wrap around me and he places his head in my neck, breathing in my scent. "No one will take our mate and pup from us." Aurora growls her agreement. He pulls back "we need to talk to my father and mother. I want to know who the f**k is threatening my family. They are going to be very sorry." I nod and we shift heading back toward the pack house.

Chapter 106

Chapter 106

40 Mended Heart

Eli POV

We reach the pack house and I link my parents to come to my office. I take a seat behind my desk and pull Calliope onto my lap needing her close. I breathe in her delicious scent and it calms both me and Silas. The door opens and my mother walks in with Faith, followed by my father. She smiles at me with a look that says I told you so. If I wasn't so angry about the audacity that some pr*ck sent a rogue here threatening my family I would laugh. "Eli, what's wrong" my father asks as they sit across from us. I take a few deep breaths before I finally speak. "A rogue requested to speak with the Alpha of the pack. Calliope and I headed to the border and he told us he had a message from his master." My father stiffens at my words. "Does the wolf have a tattoo on his wrist?" "I have no idea but why is that important dad?" "Familials usually call the vampire they want to sire them master out of respect." "What the hell is a familial?" "They are other supernaturals or humans who wish to become vampires and swear their loyalty to the one that will turn them. They are branded with the mark of their master, like cattle. They don't even understand that they are being used until it's too late."

"What else did the rogue say, Eli?" Silas is pushing to the surface thinking about some ba**ard threatening our family. I look at Faith sleeping peacefully in my mother's arms. My mother stands coming around the desk and sets Faith in Calliope's arms. I breathe in my daughter's scent, calming me even further. "He said that my family and I would pay for my father's sins." I tighten my grip on Calliope. My father roars and I can see that Talon is at the surface. My mother jumps up placing herself in his lap. "Calm down Lincoln. No one will hurt our pups or our pack." Once my father is back in control, he looks into my eyes with sympathy. "A year before I met your mother, we began to having pack members disappear. We increased patrol when we noticed an increased scent of vampires at the southern border. Michael and I were summoned to the border a few nights later because we were

under attack. We lost warriors that night, but we were able to kill all the vampires, including the coven leader. I still don't know why they attacked our pack, but I found out later they were from the Black Heart coven."

"It still doesn't make sense that all these years later they would want revenge." My father looks defeated and I'm not sure why. He was completely justified in protecting the pack. "Supernaturals talk Eli and word reached the pack that the coven leader had a son that was only a year old. His beloved died as a result of his death, leaving the child without either of his parents. I know we did what had to be done to protect our pack, but that never lessened the guilt for me. We have relationships with many covens and our pack had never had dealings with the Black Heart Coven before that night." Calliope stands already knowing that I need to go to my father. I stand coming around my desk and pull my father into a hug. "You did nothing wrong. I feel for the vampire's son, but the only one to blame for his loss is his father. Whatever motive he had for attacking our pack caused his own demise and in turn, left his son without his parents. You have no blame in what happened, dad." He pulls back "thank you, Eli." "I will be increasing the patrol. Part of me still thinks that Grant is involved in some way." My father growls

again. "I will kill that ba**ard if he has brought these vampires to our door" my father says, and I couldn't agree more. "I will interrogate the rogue tomorrow to see if we can get more information about the coven." My father nods and sits back down with my mother.

Calliope POV

My heart breaks to hear Lincoln's guilt over something that he had to do to protect his people. He really is a great alpha and father. I wish my own father had been more like him and I wouldn't be so willing to step away from the pack that should be my birthright. I'm hoping Eli will go with me tomorrow to talk to the ranked members of the Crescent Moon and the pack but with the threat of a vampire attack, I may have to do it alone. Amelia walks over to me and wraps me in a hug, taking care not to squish Faith. "Welcome to our family Cali." I smile at her use of my nickname. "Thank you, I'm so happy to be here." "I'm going to take Faith for the night so you and Eli can have some time together" she says to me with a

wink. I nod and Aurora is prancing in my head. Eli kisses Faith and I do the same before Amelia and Lincoln leave the office. Eli wraps his arms around me and buries his head in my neck. Despite the fact that we aren't bonded yet, I can feel his worry and fear, which is strange. "Eli, I am here with you. We will keep the pack safe." He pulls back and I realize that it's not the pack he is worried about. He expects to have to protect the pack from enemies. He is worried about me, his family, and Faith. I place my hand on his face. "Eli, I know you're worried about me, your family, and Faith, but we are stronger together. We will protect the pack and our family together." "I can't lose you, Calliope or anyone I love. I won't survive it."

"I can't lose you or our pup Eli. We will deal with the vampires and whoever Grant is. We will deal with anyone who is a threat to our pack and family. We will keep each other safe. Focus on defeating the enemy and we will be fine when we fight together." He slams his lips down on mine and this kiss makes my knees weak. I feel so many emotions and it floods my body with heat, love, and need." Before I know what's happening, I'm tossed over Eli's shoulder. I growl not in anger, but with lust for my mate man handling me. I didn't expect to like it, but I do. As soon as we reach our floor, he carries me into what I assume is the room we will share. It's beautiful but I have no time to admire the decor. I'm tossed onto the bed and I look up into my mate's beautiful eyes. He starts to pull his shirt over his head and I suck in a breath. He is gorgeous and I want nothing more than to touch him. His look makes me believe he wants me to watch him as he pulls his pants off. I can feel my core clench as he stands before me in boxer briefs. His bulge is very prominent and I can't help but stare as he pulls them down, releasing his c**k. I've seen many men in the pack and collective, as werewolves don't mind nudity, but he is the biggest man I've ever seen. When I look back at his face, he has a knowing smile.

"You are wearing far too many clothes, mate," Eli says. A shiver runs down my spine at his words. I can feel my panties dampen and I clench my thighs together. He scents the

air and his eyes darken with lust. "I can smell your arousal, Calliope. You smell so sweet and I can't wait to taste you." I swallow, I've never done anything and he just said he wants to taste me. He must see my worry. He stalks forward and leans over me, so we are nose to nose. "I promise that I will make you feel good. I will not hurt you."

I will only love and worship your body, Calliope." His words make warmth spread throughout my chest. "I'm not worried Eli. I know you would never hurt me. I just want this to be good for you. I have no experience in pleasing a man." He growls low "I'm glad that I am the only one that will get to touch and taste you. I will be the only one to make your sweet p**sy cum." I can't believe how his words make my body respond. He hasn't even touched me yet and my panties are destroyed. He reaches down and pulls the t-shirt over my head. I had no bra, so I'm bare to him. His eyes darken again as he dips his head taking my left n**ple into his mouth. I arch my back and I can't help the moan that escapes me. His mouth is amazing and I love the attention on my breasts. He moves to my other n**ple as he presses me flat on the mattress.

He leans back, grabbing the waistband of my pants pulling them down my legs. He looks at my naked body and I can see his wolf is at the surface. His eyes return to their beautiful blue color before he climbs up my body. He kisses me and I can feel the tingles where our skin touches. I feel like I could c*m just from this kiss. When he pulls away and moves down my body, I watch as he kisses my mound. I bite my lower lip realizing what he is about to do. I can't look away as he licks from my opening to my clit. I throw my head back and grip the sheets as he sucks my cl*t into his mouth. I feel his finger at my opening and he continues to lap at my juices. "Eli, I'm going to c*m" I say with a breathy voice I don't even recognize. I feel him insert another finger stretching me and I can feel the build as he pumps in and out. When he bites down lightly on my cl*t it pushes me over the edge and I scream out his name. Before I have time to recover, he climbs up my body. "You taste amazing and I plan to do that every day of our lives." I smile and he kisses my lips, letting me taste myself on his lips.

Eli POV

Her body is so responsive and hearing her moan my name is making me hard as steel. I'm so grateful to the goddess for sending Calliope to me and Silas. I was an i***t to push her away. I pull back from the kiss and stare into her chocolate brown eyes. "Are you ready love?" "Yes, please Eli. I want you inside me. I want you to mark me and make me yours." I growl low, loving her declaration. I place my

c**k at her entrance. "This will hurt in the beginning and I'll make you feel really good I promise." "I'm ready Eli." I push forward kissing her as I do. When I reach her barrier, I push forward until I'm seated to the root. I don't move giving her time to adjust. Everything in me wants to move and show her how crazy she is making me. "Eli please, f**k me now." I smile and start to move. She is so tight and her moans are making it too hard to maintain my control. I need her to c*m again before I let myself fall over the edge. I start to move faster and I can tell she is getting close. I'm shocked when I feel her canines pierce my skin. I swear I see stars and I can't hold back my own pleasure. I

pump a few more times before I start to empty my seed into her body. I bend down biting down into her marking spot, sealing our bond and making her mine. She screams out my name before we both stop moving trying to catch our breath. Belonging ©

I place my head against hers just enjoying being inside her. "That was amazing" I say and she smiles. "Yes, it was. You are amazing, Eli, and I'm so grateful that the goddess chose you for me. I love you, Eli." I can see the regret on her face as soon as she says the last part. I lean down kissing her lips. I never want her to feel like she can't say that to me. I run my fingers down her cheek. "I love you, Calliope, and I will show you every day for the rest of our lives." I roll off and pull her back to my front. I breathe in her scent and I know she is close to falling asleep. "Eli, I understand if you want to stay here with Faith while I go talk to the pack tomorrow." I stiffen and pull her tighter in my arms. "I will be joining you for the trip tomorrow and we can bring Faith with us. My father and Micah and Mason can handle the pack for a few hours." She turns in my arms to face me and presses her lips to mine. "Thank you for coming with me to the pack. I love you Eli and I love Faith like my own pup. I will always protect you both." I press a kiss on her forehead and say a prayer of thanks to the goddess for this second chance for a broken Alpha. I can already feel the pieces of my heart mending back together.

Chapter 107

Chapter 107

41 Whose Your Alpha

Penny POV

"Penny, you know that you're welcome to stay with us. You don't need to return to the wolf pack. We love having you here with us", my grandmother says. I love my grandparents and I will surely come back to visit, but I miss my parents. I miss Jennifer. I feel like I've been gone forever and my training is now complete. It's time for me to return home. "Grandma, I appreciate the offer, but this isn't my home. I will always visit you and Papa, but I can't stay here." "You can't blame an old woman for trying." She pulls me into a hug. "Richard would be so proud of the woman you have become my sweet girl." Even though I never got to meet my father hearing my grandparents talk about him makes me feel like I did. He was an amazing man who loved my mother. I know he is happy that my mom found John. John has been such a good father to me. She pulls back and places her hand on my face. "I had hoped you would find your beloved while you were here so you would stay, but I understand. Promise me that you won't forget to come and visit us. I would love for you to bring your mother, Jennifer, and John next time." "Of course, grandma. You are my family and I will always make a point to visit." She kisses my forehead and leads me out to a huge dining room. Everyone has gathered for lunch so I can say my goodbyes.

I look around the table and everyone is smiling until my face lands on Troy. I want to roll my eyes, but I control myself. Everyone begins to eat and the conversation is light. "I

don't understand why we are celebrating Penny returning to that wolf pack", Troy says. He is a ranked Fae and has not hidden his feelings about my werewolf heritage. Calista growls "he is not our mate. What we do is none of his business", she says. "I agree, just be calm Calista. He isn't worth ruining our last meal with our family." She recedes to the back of my mind. "We are celebrating because she is returning to her home" my grandmother says. She squeezes my hand under the table and I couldn't be more grateful for her

support. "Troy, she is not only a fae but also a wolf. She deserves to have ties to both her wolf and fae heritages. Besides, she will need to find her beloved and he is obviously not here", my papa says. He squeezes my other hand and I smile at him. Troy remains quiet for the rest of lunch and I'm grateful. We finish eating and I return to my room to gather my things. Once I'm ready, I head out to say goodbye to my grandparents. I hug them both "I will be back soon for a visit." "Good, we love you Penny", my grandmother says, and my papa kisses my head. I'm sad to leave them, but I'm excited to see my parents, sister, and the pack. I haven't seen Eli since a few days after he lost Clara. Faith and our family are the only things that are keeping him going, but I know he is strong.

I reach a large tree outside the Fae territory. I press my hand to the tree and a door appears which I happily step through. I may not have the powers of my aunts or father, but I love my fae magic. I step out of a tree that is all too familiar. I've come here since I was a child when I needed to connect with the earth. I sit leaning against the tree just reconnecting with the forest that surrounds the pack. I didn't tell my parents I would be back today because I wanted it to be a surprise. I hear a low growl and my eyes snap open. Three dirty brown rogues are twenty feet from me. They are growling and snapping their jaws in my direction. I stand brushing myself off. "Let's show them just how extraordinary we are" Calista says, and I nod my head in agreement. The wolf standing in front shifts and smiles at me like I'm his next meal. "What do we have here, a helpless little wolf?" I have my Fae scent masked like I was taught to do. I won't let just anyone know exactly what I am. They see me as a wolf, but they won't live to tell anyone any different. He starts to stalk toward me and I smile. His step falters seeing the look on my face before he resumes walking.

I wave my hand and the vines come from the trees wrapping around both the wolves and the man. They struggle against the restraints, but it doesn't last long. The vines snake around each of their necks. Part of my powers are knowing the heart of a person and the three of them have black hearts. I feel no remorse for ending them. I wave my hands and they are dropped from the vines and taken in by the earth like they were never there. "Did I ever tell you that I love being your wolf" Calista says and I laugh. "I love having you for my wolf, so it works out." We shift and head for the border. As soon as we

reach it, the patrol guard approaches me. My scent is still of the pack and he steps aside, allowing me to enter the pack lands. I run as fast as I can to my family's home. I throw open the door and Jennifer screams when she sees me. I wrap her in a hug. "I

missed you, Penny.” “I missed you too, little one.” She rolls her eyes, but let’s my nickname for her go this time. Loud footsteps are coming from the stairs and I’m lifted into strong arms when my father sees me. He squeezes me tight. “Dad, I missed you too.” “Put my pup down John. I want to hug her”, my mother says, and my dad begrudgingly lets me go. My mother wraps me tightly in her embrace and I finally feel like I’m home having my family with me. Mom tells me that my grandmother Judith is on a trip with her new boyfriend. I laugh thinking about the hell she must give that poor man. My next thought is of Eli. “How is Eli and Faith”, I say to no one in particular, and my mother smiles like she has a secret.

Calliope POV

I managed to free myself from Eli’s hold. He is deep in sleep and I stand there just staring at him. “I told you he would be worth it”, Aurora says, and I smile. I turn heading into the bathroom. I shower and wrap the towel around myself. When I return from the bathroom, Eli is still snoring softly. I go to grab the clothes from yesterday that I placed on the chair and I realize they are different clothes. I smile as I pick up the jeans and t-shirt. “You’re lucky we need to get to the Crescent Moon or I would be snatching you back to bed” Eli says. I turn when I hear his voice and smile. His hair is messy and he looks less stressed this morning. I’m glad I could make him feel that way. “I figure we can grab anything you need from the pack today and then we can go shopping when everything with the vampires gets settled.” I nod and smirk at him before I drop my towel on the floor. He growls low “now we are definitely going to be late.” “I can’t think of a better reason to be late” I say as I’m lifted and carried back to bed.

An hour later, we head downstairs to the pack dining room. Amelia, Lincoln, and Larisa are sitting at a table. Faith is sitting in her highchair next to Amelia. Amelia’s face lights up when she sees us. She rushes over, wrapping me in a hug. She pulls back and gives me a knowing look when she notices the

fresh mark on my neck. She looks between the two of us and I can see unshed tears in her eyes. “Congratulations” she says as she wraps Eli in a hug. “Thank you” I say as we join the others at the table. Lincoln and Larisa congratulate us and we all eat, discussing me moving to the pack. I notice a girl across the dining room giving me a death stare. I assume this must be the Suzanne that was mentioned in the whispers yesterday. I turn to Eli and press my lips to his, making sure she knows he is mine. When I pull back, he smiles. He takes my hand, leading me to the front of the dining room. “I would like everyone’s attention. I have an announcement to make that will affect the pack”, Eli says, and you can hear a pin drop. “The goddess has blessed me with a second chance mate. Alpha Calliope Robison is my mate and the packs future Alpha.” I hear chatter about me being Alpha and not Luna the instant he says those words. Belongs to ©

The girl from earlier stands and bears her neck to Eli, which isn’t lost on me. Aurora growls low and I push her to the back of my mind. I will not let this girl disrespect me, but I also don’t want the pack to think I’m unreasonable on my first day here. This is a big change for everyone. “What do you need, Suzanne”, Eli says with irritation in his

voice. Her eyes land on my mark and I can see nothing but hate in them. The thought of this woman touching my mate makes me want to shift and rip her head off, but what happened before me is none of my business. "I would like to speak to you in private, Alpha Eli." Now I have had enough. Before he can respond, I do. "You will not be spending any time with the Alpha alone. Anything you would like to speak about with my mate, I will present to hear." I see her eyes flashing black indicating she is talking to her wolf. "I, Suzanne Morris, challenge Calliope Robison to be the mate of Alpha Eli Thomas and assume the Luna position of the Nightfire Pack." Eli roars and I immediately walk over wrapping my arms around him. He buries his nose in the crook of my neck, breathing in my scent. A growl gets our attention and I turn to face this crazy she-wolf who thinks she can actually challenge me. "He was meant to be mine from the beginning. First that rogue b**ch Clara took him from me, but then everything was perfect when she died. Now you think you're going to and I won't stand for it." Eli is on the verge of shifting. I used my speed to reach her and grab her by the throat.

"I accept your challenge. I would tell you never to speak of Clara like that again, but you won't be saying anything when I finish with you. This challenge will be to the death as you are trying to take my goddess-given mate." I drop her to the ground and head back toward my new family. Eli pulls me into his arms and presses a kiss on my lips. He pulls back and places his forehead against mine. After a few seconds, he looks into my eyes. "Don't take too long, love, we need to leave for the Crescent Moon." I love that he has no doubt that I will be the victor. He walks over and picks Faith up and we all head outside. I wish women like this one would learn they can't have what doesn't belong to them. Does she actually believe if she had a snowballs chance in hell of beating me that Eli would welcome her with open arms? I can't help but roll my eyes as we face each other. Amelia walks between us and turns to Suzanne. "As Alpha Calliope stated, this challenge will only end when one of the competitors is dead." "Don't worry Luna Amelia, I will honor your position, unlike some people," she says, shooting me a glare. "You really can't be this stupid Suzanne" Amelia says. She looks like Amelia just slapped her. "Luna" she starts to say and Amelia cuts her off. "You have brought this upon yourself. My son's mate is Alpha Calliope, not you." She steps back and we begin to circle each other.

She shifts into an average-sized brown wolf. I shift and Aurora towers over her wolf. I hear gasps all around us. Aurora growls and jumps on her, so we are pinning the wolf to the ground. Without a second thought, Aurora bends down and bites into the wolf's neck. She shakes her twice before she drops her limp body to the ground. I shift and the gasps have now turned into whispers as my clothes are still intact. Eli comes over and wraps his arm around me. "Are you ready to go, love?" I press a quick kiss to his lips and take Faith in my arms. "Absolutely" I am. We head to the SUV and get Faith situated in her car seat. It takes us about an hour to make it back to the Crescent Moon. Once the car is parked, I lead Eli to the office. I link Oliver, Anthony, and Benson to join us. A few minutes later, they all walk in. I'm lifted off the ground and I expect to hear a growl, but it never comes. Oliver sets me on my feet, regaining his composure. He turns to Eli and bears his neck. "It's good to see you again Oliver" Eli says. "Thank you,

Alpha.” “You may call Eli when we are not in a formal setting.” Oliver nods and everyone takes a seat.

I begin to explain my feelings about appointing a new Alpha and keeping the packs separate. “You deserve to have your current ranks and the two packs will be considered sister packs from this day forward.” I see concern on their faces. “I mean no disrespect, Calliope, but this pack is your birthright. Besides that, you have done so much to change how things are done. You have improved the pack life of every one of our members. Another Alpha may return to treating the women of this pack like second-class citizens”, Benson says. I growl “I assure you that the person I have in mind will never allow that.” A knock sounds on the door and my mother walks inside. She rushes over and wraps me in a hug. “I was wondering when you would be back?” “Mom, this is Eli Thomas, the Alpha of the Nightfire pack and my mate.” Her eyes get big. I had asked Oliver not to tell her. “Oh, my goddess, you found your mate.” She walks over and takes a sleeping Faith from Eli. “Eli, this is my mother, Jasmine.” “Is this my granddaughter” my mother asks. Eli smiles “yes, it is. It’s a pleasure to meet you, Jasmine.” “Mom, I asked you to come to the office because I will be stepping down as Alpha of the Crescent Moon. I will be taking my place by Eli’s side as Alpha of the Nightfire pack.” She smiles “of course, will Anthony be taking your place as Alpha?” I smile “no mom, you will.”

Chapter 108

Chapter 108

42 New Alpha

Jasmine POV

I can’t have heard Calliope correctly. “Cali, I can’t be the Alpha. I’m too old to take over the pack now.” “Mother, you are by no means old. You could still have pups if you find your second chance mate” she says, winking at me. I roll my eyes. “You’re only thirty-seven years old, mom. Alpha’s only retire to pass the pack to their children, but you are more than capable of running this pack. Your father and mine took away the role you were always meant to have.” I fight back tears and I hate them both for all they took from me. Calliope is the only good thing that came out of my mating. Could I really become the Alpha after all these years? I turn to Anthony, Oliver, and Benson. “What do the three of you think about this? You are the ranked members of this pack and I respect your opinion.” Anthony and Benson smile at me and nod. I can see concern on Oliver’s face. “Oliver, please speak freely.” “I’m in no way saying this because you’re a woman. Cali is an amazing Alpha. Part of being the Alpha, from what Anthony has told me, is being able to fight and defend the pack. Luna’s are the packs mother, not a warrior.”

Cali growls low and I look at her, assuring her that he is not being disrespectful. When I turn back to Oliver, I notice his eyes are big and I’m sure that Anthony spoke to him

before I could. "Based on your expression, I'm sure Anthony has already informed you that I have trained secretly every day since I became Luna of this pack. Bradford, Anthony, Cali, and Benson have all trained me. My wolf is pure Alpha as both my parents were of Alpha blood." "She has put us both on our a**es more than once when we trained with her", Anthony says. "I'm sorry, Alpha", Oliver says to me. "You have nothing to be sorry for. I don't need ranked wolves that will follow me blindly. I need you to have opinions and help me do what's best for the pack." "Does that mean that you will accept your rightful place as Alpha, mom?" I look at Benson, Oliver, and Anthony and they all bear their necks to me. Coralee is howling in

my mind. "We are the Alpha. Our pup is right, Jasmine." I smile, she is finally feeling the respect we both have deserved but never received because of Mateo.

"I accept Cali on one condition." She smiles "what is the condition?" "I assume that my beautiful granddaughter is the next Alpha of the Nightfire pack." Eli and Cali nod. "The condition is the next pup you have will become Alpha of the Crescent Moon when they come of age." Cali turns to Eli who is smiling from ear to ear. I can already tell that he is going to be an amazing mate and father. "We will agree with that condition only if you don't have any more pups." I chuckle "I think that your pup's title is safe. Now I would like to spend a little time with my new son-in-law and granddaughter." "I would like you guys to gather the pack in the yard in two hours for the transfer of power. We can have a bigger ceremony when we have dealt with the vampires." Growls are heard from all three men. "We will get everything situated before I return with Eli to the Nightfire pack", Cali says. They leave and I take a seat holding Faith. I have never felt as whole as I do in this moment. My pup has a pup and a mate. My wolf is sitting in my mind puffing her chest out at the thought of finally being the Alpha, she always wanted us to be.

Calliope POV

I was so glad that my mom didn't fight me about becoming Alpha. I knew Oliver wasn't being disrespectful, but I couldn't help the growl when he questioned my mother's strength. I love my mother, but if I didn't believe that she was able to fight and defend the pack I wouldn't have asked her to take the title. My mother and Coralee are far stronger than Mateo ever was. We spend time with my her. She is as in love with Faith as I am. Eli tells her about Clara without her even asking. He even tells her about our first meeting. I see sadness and anger in my mother's eyes. "Eli, no one can blame you for the pain your heart was in after losing your first mate. I'm not happy that Cali's first moments of meeting her fated mate caused her pain, but I can tell that you will spend the rest of your lives showing her how much she means to you." Eli nods and pulls me closer to him. "You have my word, Jasmine. I will love Calliope with all I have in me." We spend the rest of the time making plans for the two packs. "I will be

increasing the patrols and our warriors will be available if you need help with any of the attacks", my mother says. I smile "I think it's time to give the pack its rightful Alpha." Eli takes Faith despite my mother's protests. "You two better bring my grandpups to see

me a lot." "I promise we will." I take the chalice and dagger from the desk before we head downstairs. Belongs to ©

We walk outside and the entire pack has gathered. I see looks of concern and curiosity on many of their faces. Bradford and Julie smile at me. I wonder if Anthony has already told them what is about to happen. I have something I want to tell him too. "I know you are all wondering why I have asked you to gather today. First let me introduce you to my mate. This is Alpha Eli Thomas of the Nightfire pack. We both have accepted the bond. I will not be joining the packs together as you have all been through enough under the previous Alpha." I see looks of relief on their faces. "I have decided to appoint a new Alpha and they have accepted." The look of concern returns and I hope they will be happy with this change. I care for the pack members even if I don't feel like their Alpha. "The Alpha of the Pack from today forward will be Jasmine Alyssa Robison." There is silence for a moment before the pack breaks out into howls. They bear their necks at my mother and her eyes turn black. A sign her wolf is acknowledging her pack. "The ranked members will remain in their current roles and Bradford Conlon will be the advisor to the Alpha." Bradford smiles and nods his head at me. I take the dagger, running it down my hand, allowing the blood to run into the chalice. I hand my mother the chalice.

"Jasmine Robison, make your vow to the Crescent Moon." "I, Jasmine Alyssa Robison, vow to put the packs needs above my own. I will protect the pack and rule all of its members fairly. All pack members will be treated equally." She drinks from the chalice and I feel the power move from me to her. "Crescent Moon, welcome your new Alpha, Alpha Jasmine Robison." The pack again breaks into howls and some members shift to show their loyalty to their new Alpha. "The Crescent Moon and the Nightfire pack will now be sister packs. This means that members will be welcome to visit the sister pack in search of their mates after both packs have lists of current members" my mother says, and I smile. I'm glad she thought of mentioning that to the pack. I look around and everyone is smiling. Aurora and I knew in our hearts this was the right decision.

Cayden POV

As we approach the pack border, the patrol guard slows and approaches us. He shifts and I can tell he is leery of Hudson. We are all in human form, but as a wolf we can scent other shifters. "Cayden, the Alpha is away from the pack, so I will have to contact the Betas regarding your guest." My mother growls and the guard's eyes snap to her. "He is not a guest" she says. Hudson wraps his arm around my mother and she seems to calm down. "That's fine call the Betas, but Hudson will be joining the pack. He is not a guest." The guard looks a little shocked but he does as I ask. When he is done linking, he looks back at us. "I apologize, welcome to the Nightfire pack" he says directly to Hudson. "I appreciate that" Hudson says. We all head into the territory and I'm so glad to be home. I wonder where Eli has gone. As we approach the pack house, Lily rushes over, wrapping me in hug. She pulls back "I assume the witch has been dealt with." I can't help the smile "yes, she most certainly is." She wraps my mother in a hug next before she smiles at Hudson. "Lily, this is my mate Hudson", my mother says. He sticks

out his hand but I know Lily and she will have none of that. She tries to wrap his big frame in a hug. He looks like he doesn't know what to do and my mother and I can't help but laugh.

A few seconds later, Larisa, Amelia, and Rose come out of the pack house. We make introductions and everyone is very welcoming to Hudson. Rose keeps looking at me but she stays quiet. "I will show you to your new cabin" Amelia says to my mother and Hudson. "Thank the goddess, I'm tired of having to block the sound out so I don't hear those two." Everyone bursts out laughing and I head inside. My mother slaps my arm before she hugs me. They follow Amelia and I turn back to Lily. "Where is Eli and Faith? The guard said he is away from the pack." I see something flash in her eyes but it's gone as quick as it came. "He will be back soon. He and Faith went to the Crescent Moon." That is strange. Why would he take Faith to meet with a pack? "I'm going to head to my room and get a shower. I'll see you guys at dinner." They hug me and I head upstairs. Eli told me when we returned, I would have a room in the pack house, since my mom has a mate now.

Once I'm showered, I head back out into my room. The exhaustion of the trip back to the pack hits me. I have a few hours before dinner, so I slide into bed and let sleep take me under. Sometime later, I get a link from Amelia "Cayden, it's time for dinner. Eli and Faith are back and he would like you to join us in the private dining room." That's strange, we usually eat with the pack. I start down the stairs and Riggs is pacing in my mind. "What the hell is up with you?" "I don't know. I feel anxious like something big is about to happen." I'm just about to tease him when I feel like someone is trying to link me. I stand still trying to focus on allowing the voice to come through. "Cayden, I'm sorry. He knows about Faith." She doesn't even have to tell me who she is talking about, that ba**ard will not hurt my niece. "Selma, what's going on?" "I should have listened to your mother. He was waiting for me and I can't get out of this now. You need to protect yourself and Faith. He is a monster." "Selma, I'm coming for you." "Don't you dare. I want you to be safe. You need to live and so does Faith." Riggs growls and I feel the same. "I will not lose you. You are my family." The connection is broken and all the peace I felt a few hours ago is gone. I rush toward the dining room and when I reach for the handle, Riggs growls "mate."

Chapter 109

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43 NEW MATE

Cayden POV

The door flies open before my hand even reaches the handle. I'm staring into the most beautiful green eyes I've ever seen. Her long red hair frames her beautiful face. She smiles and my heart squeezes in my chest. Riggs is growling and pacing. "Mate" she says and her smile is enough to make me weak in the knees. "Mate" I say and pull her

to me. Riggs wants me to take her right now and make her ours, but we need to focus on Selma. She was helping us and now she is in danger because of it. "I would love nothing more than to take you upstairs and make you mine, but I can't right now." She pulls back and I see hurt flash in her eyes. Riggs whimpers and I place my hand on her face. "My aunt is in danger and I need to help her. As soon as she is back safely, I will show you how much I want you, mate." She smiles and we step inside the room. I'm shocked to see Calliope standing across the room. I haven't seen her since I left the collective to find Clara. Her eyes land on me and she smiles. "Calliope, I didn't expect to see you here." Before she can answer, the door to the dining room opens and my mother walks in with Hudson. I hand linked her on my way to the dining room that I needed her to meet me here. "What's wrong, Cayden" my mother says. "That ba**ard has Selma and he knows about Faith." I hear two growls behind me and turn to see Eli and Calliope's eyes are black. "No one will hurt my pup" Eli says and I nod. I'm shocked when he pulls Calliope into his arms and buries his nose in her neck. I turn back to my mother and her expression is unreadable as she stares at Calliope and Eli.

"I need to get to Selma. I have no idea what he has done to her or what he plans to do", I say to no one in particular. I start toward the door and a hand grabs my forearm, causing tingles to erupt at the contact. "You are not going anywhere without me. I just found you. I have no intentions of losing you, Cayden." I don't even know her name yet, but mine sounds like heaven on her lips. "Mate, I am a

hybrid which I'm sure you can scent. He is a powerful warlock. I love that you want to help me, but I will not lose you." She looks around the room before her eyes close. I feel a gust of wind rush past me causing goosebumps to form on my skin. The scent of my mate intensifies. My eyes darken at how intense and different her scent is now. "I'm more than a wolf mate. I am a wolf-fae hybrid." I hear a gasp but I don't take my eyes off of this amazing woman. "Now, let's go get your aunt. I'm sure my father, Lily, and Pheobe will help us." I pull her to me again and bury my face in her neck. "What is your name mate?" "My name is Penny Lillian Bloom." "I, Cayden Michael Merritt, accept you Penny Lillian Bloom as my mate." I feel her hold on me tighten. "I, Penny Lillian Bloom, accept you, Cayden Michael Merritt, as my mate." I feel the bond start to form and Riggs growls low. I pull back and my mother rushes over, wrapping my mate in a hug. Hudson slaps me on the back and I nearly fall forward from the force. He laughs and I give him the side eye. "Congratulations Cayden" he says. "Thank you", I say.

"I linked Lily and Pheobe to join us" Eli says. I turn and notice that Eli is holding Faith but she is reaching for Calliope. I watch as she takes Faith in her arms and she snuggles into Calliope. My heart squeezes in my chest. I'm not angry that Eli has found his second chance or that Calliope has found her first. Just in the little time I spent with Calliope, I know she is strong and kind. I'm sad that Clara won't get the chance to hold Faith or watch her grow. Calliope walks toward me and she places Faith in my arms. She squeezes my arm and looks into my eyes. "She will always know who her mother is. My wolf and I have accepted her as our own pup, but that doesn't mean I will replace the woman that gave her life. I promise you that." I feel my mother walking around me and coming to stand in front of Calliope. She pulls Calliope into a hug and I can feel a

tear running down my cheek. Her wolf accepted my niece and I'm sure that Clara would want Faith to have a strong woman like Calliope in her life. The door to the room opens and Lily, Pheobe, and Rose all walk inside. I can tell Rose is uncomfortable as she keeps her eyes cast down but I have no idea why. "Cayden, tell me what we are dealing with", Lily says, and I smile.

Selma POV

That ba**ard thinks he has won but I will die before I allow him to force a mark upon me. The minute I appeared back in my room, he used a spell to knock me out. I wasn't expecting him and now I'm in this enchanted cell. I know he didn't do this alone. He could never take me out by himself. That's why he hasn't tried. The coven members may be loyal to him, but that doesn't mean they would help him hurt me. That a**hole that wants to take me as a chosen beloved helped him. The door opens and I see Octavius first before I see that a**hat Bryer. "I'm glad to see your awake kitten." He did not just call me that. "Don't call me that d*ckhead." I see a flash of anger before it turns into a smirk. "I will call you whatever I want to kitten. You belong to me now. Once the injection we gave you has taken hold and suppressed your powers, you will be mine whether you want to or not. You won't be human, but you will be much weaker than me." I look down at my arms and that's when I notice it. A puncture wound in the bend of my arm. I touch it with my finger and bile rises in my throat. I look back at them and Bryer is smiling like he has won and right now I'm not sure if he is wrong. "So that mutt your brother produced may be dead but she had a pup", Octavius says as a statement not a question. I keep my face even not responding to his statement. "I don't need you to tell me, Selma, because I have already confirmed it. You would be surprised how many wolves will talk when promises of power are made." "You stay away from my family. I should have killed you and let the coven do what they wanted with me. At least my family would be safe from your evil a**."

His face contorts to one of anger. "I am your family. They are mistakes that should have never been born. I plan to make sure they are wiped from our world. They will not muddy our pure bloodline." He turns and Bryer follows him back out of the room. I lean against the wall and slide down until I'm sitting on the floor. I pull my knees to my chest and say a silent prayer to the Moon Goddess. "Please protect Cayden, Evelyn, Hudson, and Faith." My eyes feel heavy and I know whatever they forced into my body is taking affect. I feel weak and tired. I can't keep my eyes open and I allow the darkness to take me under. "Selma, wake up. We don't have time for you to sleep." I try to force my eyes open but I can't. The voice sounds familiar but I can't place it. It's definitely not my uncle or that f**ker Bryer. "Selma, this is not the strong woman I know you are." I'm finally able to open my eyes and when I look

around, I'm even more confused. Where the hell am I? Did those idiots give me too much and kill me? I hear someone laugh and I turn to see my brother standing there. "They are idiots but they didn't kill you, little one." The tears begin to flow when Theo calls me little one as he did so many times when he was alive.

He opens his arms and I rush over, wrapping my arms around him. I let the tears flow as I bury my head in his chest. He holds me for a few minutes before he finally pulls back. "I would love nothing more than to hold you and keep you here with me, but this is just a short visit. We don't have much time, Selma. They will be back soon and you need to hold on until Cayden arrives." "No, I don't want him anywhere near this place." Theo smiles and brushes the hair from my face. "Cayden is stubborn, just like my sister. You are his family and he will not stop until you are safe. I wouldn't either. I am so proud of you both." He kisses my forehead. "You need to stay strong and know that no matter what happens he will know who you are." I look at him confused. "Who will know who I am?" "I can't tell you that just remember what I said little one." He kisses me once more and I'm engulfed in darkness again. Part of me is excited that I might get the hell out of this place, while the other part of me is terrified about Cayden. I feel something warm on my skin but I'm having trouble forcing my eyes open. I try for a few seconds until I'm finally able to open them. As soon as my eyes land on the sight in front of me, I feel bile rise in my throat.

That's when I feel it. The heat from his hand that is touching my marking spot causes panic in my body. This ba**ard is marking me. I shove him hard, knocking him on his a**. "You f**king ba**ard, you marked me without my consent." He smirks and gets to his feet. I try to gather an energy ball in my hand but I can't. He has taken my magic from me and now my destined mate. I wish I could have just stayed with Theo. "Don't worry kitten, soon your body will crave me and I will f**k you into submission." "I would rather die than let you touch me." His smirk seems to grow. "We will see when you're begging for my c**k?" He turns walking out of the cell and leaving the room. The door opens again and I expect

it to be that ba**ard or Octavius. When my eyes land on who it actually is, my heart rate speeds up and the world begins to spin. He looks the same but his aura feels so different.

Chapter 110

Chapter 110

44 SAVE HER

Selma POV

His eyes are kind unlike the ba**ard that just marked me. I see a flash of sadness and then something I can't identify as he looks into my eyes. "Who are you and what do you want?" "My name is Bryson. I am my brother's second in command. He sent me here to watch over you. I'm sorry for what he and my father have done." "If you're sorry then help me get the f**k out of here." I could see the regret and pain in his eyes. "Can I get you anything to eat or drink?" I turn away from him. I will not give these ba**ards the satisfaction of seeing me break. I hear the door close and I'm grateful to be alone. I sit up and try to make a connection with Cayden again. I know my magic is weak, so I'll I

can do is hope that our familial connection will make it possible. I may not be able to talk him out of coming, but I can at least help him get in without getting caught. I concentrate on my nephew and I'm grateful when I hear his voice. "Cayden, I really wish you would stay away, but if you insist on a rescue mission, I will tell you exactly how to get in undetected." "Good, because we are on our way. I'm not leaving you in that place with that evil pr*ck" Cayden says. "You will only be able to cross the shield with two people. Any more than that will alert the ba**ard of your arrival, Cayden." "Alright, just two of us will come. Please just tell me how to get to you." I smile at his conviction. Theo is right. He is stubborn, just like me. I tell him everything he will need to know. I break the connection when I hear the lock disengage.

Despite looking exactly like that a**hat Bryer, I can sense the difference between them. He smiles at me and I drop my gaze from him. He has a tray with food despite my lack of a response earlier. "Selma, you need to keep up your strength if you plan on making it out of this." My eyes land on his and his smile makes my belly flip. What the hell is wrong with me? I shake those thoughts away. He is Bryer's brother and I'm sure this is part of their plan. Goddess only knows what is in the food." "You can tell your brother to stick that food up his a**." He laughs but I don't find this situation funny. "You are

gorgeous and feisty." "Open the cell door and I'll show you just how feisty I can be." "All in good time" he says. If looks could kill this a**hole would be dead. He passes the tray into the cell before he leaves again. My stomach growls as I look at the steak and potatoes on the tray. I turn and lay down on the cot hoping for sleep to take me under. It doesn't take long. The potion they injected me with continues to make my powers weak.

Bryson POV

I return to the office where my father, brother, and Octavius are still speaking about the Nightfire pack. Bryer is the first to acknowledge me. "Did you bring her the food?" "I did but she is not stupid. She doesn't trust any of us." "You were supposed to pretend to help her dear brother so she will trust you. We need her to eat the food in order for the spell to take effect." "Maybe you shouldn't have injected and imprisoned her if you wanted her to trust you." He stands lunging at me. He has me pinned against the wall. Even though I could easily make him pay for this, I don't. My father would defend his golden child against me. "You would do well to remember who is in charge, brother." "You never let me forget Bryer. I am well aware who father appointed to lead the coven despite the fact it is my birthright." "Bryson, we are not going to rehash this again. Bryer is better suited to make decisions that you do not agree with for the betterment of the coven." "You mean decisions that hurt others." I look into the eyes that look exactly like mine and he smirks before he releases me. "Gentlemen, we need to finish our discussion" Octavius says. Bryer takes his seat next to my father and I take a seat behind them.

"I have followed through on my part of the deal by giving you my niece to take as a beloved. She is a strong witch and she will provide you with a strong heir. Now I expect you to hold up your end of the deal, Bryer." "The men will be here within the hour. They

will be at your disposal until you have dealt with the Nighthfire pack. I'm still confused as to why you need so many of our kind to deal with a pathetic wolf pack." "That is none of your concern. Arrangements have been made for the arrival of your men. I assume you will be leaving with my niece tomorrow", Octavius says. My skin crawls at how nonchalant he is about using his own niece to barter a deal with my evil brother. I stand to leave the room because

I cannot sit here and listen to these men any longer. "Bryson, where are you going?" "To my guest room. I assume you don't need me to stay for the rest of this meeting." He smiles "you're right I don't need you here, but I want you to go back and sit with Selma. Do what I brought you here to do. I expect her to have eaten the spelled food by the time we are ready to leave. I need her compliant before we make the trip home." That won't be happening since I got rid of the spelled food and gave her what I made. I turn without another word, heading back toward the room. Part of me excited to see the feisty blonde again. Something about her makes me smile and I hope that she makes it out of this despite what my brother wants.

Cayden POV

I won't say that I wasn't afraid when Penny insisted she be the one to come with me to save my aunt. I know she is strong, being a hybrid, but I have no idea of her powers. "Please stay close to me, Penny." She presses her lips to mine and Riggs growls. He is still pissed at me for not taking her right upstairs and claiming her. I follow Selma's instructions to the letter. We appear in a hallway that has doors on both sides. I take Penny's hand in mine. I take a deep breath trying to catch Selma's scent. We move through the hall and I finally catch her scent but it's faint. I teleport us to the other side of the door and I feel sick seeing Selma lying on a cot surrounded by what appears to be a magical cell. I have to keep myself from growling. "Selma, wake up" I say. Before I know what's happening, Penny is ripped away from me. I turn to see a man holding my mate with a fireball in his free hand. "Bryson don't hurt her", Selma pleads with him. I'm not sure what I see in his eyes before the flame in his hand is gone. He waves his hand and the cell that's holding Selma disappears. Penny rushes back to my side. "You don't have long. When the three of you pass through the barrier they will know." "Thank you" I say and he nods.

Without warning, Selma rushes over, wrapping him in a hug. That's when I hear him whisper. "Beloved" he says, and Selma steps back wide-eyed. She places her hand on her neck and the look on the man's face is murderous. "We don't have time to hash out what is happening right now if we want to make it

out of here alive." My words seem to bring them out of their trance. Selma turns to me "he is coming with us." She turns back toward him "if he wants to." A smile breaks out on his face and he nods. We all move to the hallway and Selma leads the way this time. "I can't teleport Cayden", Selma says, and my heart sinks. What the hell did they do to her?" Bryson takes Selma's hand, "I can." A door opening down the hallway gets our attention. A man that looks exactly like Bryson steps into the hallway. A man that looks

like an older version of both men comes to stand next to him. "What the f**k is this?" "You marked her without her consent you ba**ard" Bryson yells with all the venom he can muster. The smile on the man's face is pure evil." I grab his arm. "We need to leave now." He wraps his arm around Selma. Penny whispers "teleport to the woods outside the coven and I will take care of it from there." I pull Penny to my side and say a prayer that the four of us make it out of this place in one piece. I close my eyes and picture the woods outside the coven. When I open my eyes, I begin to look around and panic rises in my body. Where the f**k are they?

Rose POV

I wanted to tell Cayden and Evelyn about my wolf but I knew hearing Cayden speak about his aunt now was not the time. Larisa and I are sitting on chairs in the corner of the room as everyone is talking about the warlock and vampires. "Maybe you should talk to Evelyn now. I know this weighing on you but I believe they will both be happy to hear that Clara will be here in any way", Larisa says. My eyes meet Evelyn's and she smiles. "Will you come with me?" Larisa takes my hand and we walk over to where Evelyn is seated with her mate. "Evelyn, I was wondering if we could talk in the garden." I see her mate wrap his arm around her tighter. "Your mate is welcome to join us if you would like." She nods and they follow us outside. They take a seat on the bench and I stand across from them. "While you were gone Evelyn, I got my wolf." "Congratulations Rose" she says. I smile and nod. I take a deep breath before I finally just blurt it out. "Clara is my wolf." Evelyn's face is unreadable for a long time and I'm not sure what else to say. "My pup Clara" she finally asks. "Yes, the goddess has gifted her the ability to watch Faith grow while being my wolf. She remembers that Faith was her pup. She also

knows that you and Cayden are important to her. She doesn't have the memories of being Eli's mate." Evelyn stands without a word and walks toward me. She wraps her arms around me and hug her back.

After a few minutes, she pulls back. "May I meet your wolf, Rose." "Are you ready Clara?" "I am Rose." I nod and take a few steps back. I strip out of my clothes and shift into Clara. Evelyn walks toward us and places her forehead against Clara's. I notice that we are now alone in the garden. Clara lays down and Evelyn takes a seat. She is running her fingers through Clara's fur. "Faith is amazing and I'm so glad you're going to get to see her become the woman she is meant to be." She bends down and places a kiss on Clara's forehead before we just sit in comfortable silence. "Clara, even though I was afraid when I realized you were my wolf, I couldn't be more grateful that you are my other half." "You and I being one is how it was always meant to be." I smile and let her enjoy this time with Evelyn.

Larisa POV

Hudson headed back toward the pack house. We needed to let Rose and Evelyn have time alone. I think he was worried when I said I was going on a run, but with the

increased patrols, I know the pack is secure. I shift into Ara and we take off running through the trees. We think about all the things that have happened. Seeing Penny find Cayden made me so happy. He is going to be an amazing mate. I can't help but think of my vision. Could my mate really be an evil vampire that wants to hurt my pack and family? As we reach the lake, Ara drinks before we finally sit on the shore. Staring out into the water, I say a prayer to the goddess that the vision I had remains just that, a vision. I hope that my mate loves and wants me the way a mate is supposed to. I feel Ara's eyes close and give into the sleep.