

Betrayed by My Beta Mate #Chapter 21 - Read Betrayed by My Beta Mate Chapter 21

Chapter 21

21 Tell Me

Lincoln POV

We finish up breakfast and I am done waiting to make her mine. “Finally”, Talon says in my mind, and I stand putting my hand out to Amelia. The blush creeps up her cheeks, I assume that she knows what I’m asking without words. She places her hand in mine and the once dull tingles that we share are now strong and unmistakable. “Mate”, I say. She stands to her feet smiling “mate”, she says back to me. I press my lips against hers and start to deepen the kiss. I feel someone is trying to link me and I am about to lose my sh*t that we’re being interrupted again at this moment. I pull back breaking the kiss and she smiles. “One second I’m so sorry.” “Someone better be dead or you’re going to be Michael” I say when I open the link. “You might want to come to the front of the pack house we have a situation that can’t wait.” “You know I wouldn’t be bothering you right now unless it was an emergency.” “What the f**k Lincoln” Talon growls. “We can’t ignore him, we are the pack’s Alpha, Talon.” “Lincoln, what’s going on” Amelia asks me. “Michael linked me that I need to come to the front of the pack house now to deal with something.” “Well then why are we still standing here.”

She doesn’t even wait for me to respond when she takes my hand as we rush through the pack house and out the front door. I stop dead in my tracks at the sight in front of me. I roar and everyone stops what they are doing. “What the f**k is going on here?” Elder Thomas is leading Max to an SUV with two guards. “Alpha Lincoln, I’m here to take the prisoner to the Elder’s prison so he can be sentenced” Elder Thomas says. “You have no authority to take him from my pack for the crime he committed which is exactly why I didn’t include the elders in this matter.” I feel Amelia squeeze my hand I’m sure worried about the way I’m speaking to Elder Thomas. “Michael take the traitor back to the cells now.” Michael heads toward Max. “I would stand down Beta unless you would like me to take you with your brother.” Michael growls but stops. “I would be very careful Alpha Lincoln of the disrespect you show me and the Elders by stopping what is currently happening.” “You are trespassing on my pack lands.” “I’m aware of

your authority and you are over stepping it.” “You might want to have this conversation with the person who alerted me of Maxwell’s crime before you say anything further.” “Lincoln let’s just go inside and we can discuss this” my father steps toward me. “I will not go inside until Max is returned to the cells for his attack on my Luna.” I hear audible gasps from the pack. I don’t give a sh*t in this moment about a proper announcement.

“She is no Luna, she is a wh*re”, Max screams, and I lose it. Talon pushes to the surface. I let go of Amelia’s hand, stepping forward, and I start to partially shift. My father steps in front of me. “Shift back Lincoln now before you do something you’ll regret.” “Alpha Lincoln, get yourself under control” Elder Thomas says to me. I feel a hand on my arm and the tingles stop me from completely shifting. “Lincoln” she says, and Talon recedes in my mind. I look to Amelia and the fear on her face pisses me off even more. “Now as I was saying, we are taking Maxwell, for attacking a female she-wolf as you have no Luna yet.” “You do not have the authority to kill a pack member unless they attack your Luna, which you currently do not have.” “Furthermore, Amelia is not even a member of this pack.” A smile crosses Max’s face and I want to snap his neck. I notice that Jennifer is standing with other pack members watching this all happen. That b**ch called the Elders, I know she did. Elder Thomas brings me out of my thoughts. “We are leaving and the Elders will be in contact when we sentence Maxwell.” My father is holding one arm and Amelia the other as I watch him get into the car and they drive out of the pack. I look to Jennifer again and if looks could kill, she would be dead.

I pull out of my father’s grip and wrap my arm around Amelia as we head inside the pack house. “Michael, come to my office now” I say over my shoulder. My mother comes rushing toward me “Lincoln, what the hell is going on?” “Someone from this pack called the Elders to save Max’s a** after he attacked my Luna.” “Lincoln” my father yells and I turn to his voice. “I called the Elders.” A feel a million emotions at once but the one that is most prominent is betrayal. I turn without a word, walking to the stairs. My father rushes to step in front of me and I push Amelia behind me. “Get the f**k out of my way now dad.” He growls and my mother steps between us. “I don’t know what the hell you were thinking Charles, but you owe us all an explanation.” “I want this discussion finished out of ear shot of

the pack” my mother says and I lead Amelia past my father. When we reach the office, I sit in my chair and pull Amelia on to my lap, breathing in her scent to keep myself and Talon calm. How could my father do this knowing what Max did to Amelia?

“Lincoln, I need you to listen to me” my father says. I pick my head up and look my father in his eyes. “Listen to how you betrayed me and Amelia.” “Lincoln, I did this for you.” I look at him like he has grown ten heads. “You let the man live that attacked my Luna for me.” He takes a deep breath. “I know Amelia is your mate but technically she is not your Luna yet.” “You know that killing a pack member for attacking a she-wolf that isn’t even a member of the pack yet would jeopardize your Alpha status.” “Are you f**king kidding me right now dad.” “He could have killed her and our pup and all your worried about is my Alpha status.” “Lincoln” my mother says. “No mom, he should have spoken to me before he called anyone.” “I am the Alpha not you” I say pointing at my father. Amelia starts to rub circles on the back of my hand trying to calm me. “If someone attacked mom, would you have been satisfied with allowing the Elders decide his fate because I’m not.” I lift Amelia and carry her out of my office because I need to get away from my father right now before I say something I’m going to regret.

Lorraine POV

“Michael, can you excuse us please.” Michael gets up and leaves closing the door behind him. “What the hell were you thinking?” “Lorraine, you don’t understand how things work for Alphas.” I laugh “are you kidding me right now.” “Do you forget that I ruled this pack by your side and I know the ins and outs of werewolf law.” “Lorraine I was simply trying to protect Lincoln.” “No, you weren’t, you were protecting the title just like Lincoln said.” “I am ashamed of you in this moment and you better hope that Lincoln forgives you for your stupidity.” “You know me Charles and my pup will always come first.” “What the hell does that mean?” “You’re a smart man figure it out until then you can sleep in the living room.” I get up heading for the door. “Lorraine, I am your mate you know me.” “I would never do anything to hurt Lincoln.” I turn walking back to look him in the eyes. “Your wrong, don’t you realize that.” I see the

confusion on his face. “You just hurt him by allowing a man to live who hurt his mate.” I turn walking out of the office.

Amelia POV

As Lincoln carries me, my heart breaks to know how angry he is at his father. I don’t agree with Charles calling the Elders without talking to Lincoln first, but I believe it came from a pure place. Once we are inside the room, he doesn’t put me down. He sits on the bed with me in his lap. “Lincoln, I know he should have talked to you but your father cares about you.” “I know he does but he

didn't handle it the way he should have." "I will never let anyone hurt you and our pup and live." I place my hand on his face. "I know you will always protect us." "Max is being dealt with even if it isn't the way you wanted him to be punished." "I'm fine and our pup is fine." He smiles looking into my eyes. "Lincoln please make me yours now." He smiles and he stands laying me on the bed.

He pulls his shirt over his head and, my goddess, he is perfect. He is built like a Greek god and he is mine. Star growls and I chuckle. "Are you laughing at me love?" "No, at Star." I sit up pulling the dress over my head until I'm left in my panties. Lincoln's eyes darken as he looks at my breasts. They are not huge, a C cup, but they are definitely fuller since I've gotten pregnant. "You are gorgeous love." He pulls his pants down and I'm sure the shock on my face is obvious. He is definitely the biggest man I've ever seen. He smiles I'm sure about the look on my face. He bends down taking my mouth with his. He deepens the kiss and when he pulls back, we are both breathless. He starts to kiss down my body and when he reaches my breasts, he takes my n**ple into his mouth. "Oh my goddess Lincoln" I moan out as he swirls his tongue. He moves to my other breast, repeating the same attention. I can feel my core dripping just from him touching my breasts. He moves down my body, kissing my belly before he goes down to my core. He looks up smiling at me with his face at my core. He breathes in deep and I can feel the blush on my face.

Lincoln POV

I smile at her blush before I take a long lick into her core. She tastes amazing and I want this every day of our lives together. I increase my speed and I place a finger at the entrance of her core. I push forward and start to move my finger in and out at a steady pace as I suck on her cl*t. When I feel her thread her hand in my hair, I know she is getting close. She starts to buck her hips and she screams out her climax. I climb up her body, flipping her so she is on top. She smiles knowing I don't want to hurt her or the pup. She slides herself down on my c*ck so slowly it is like the sweetest torture. Once she is completely seated, I can't believe I'm inside her. I feel like a teenage boy, but honestly, I have never felt anything like this. I've never been with another woman and I never want to be. She starts to move and I'm ready to lose control already.

I pull her down to me and start to thrust up inside her. I elongate my canines and once I pierce her skin, I start to lose all control. I thrust fast and when I hear her scream out another orgasm, I let myself fall over the edge. She buries her head in my neck and when I feel her canines break my skin and the

orgasm that was already earth-shattering consumes me even more. She is mine in this life and the next. We are bonded and I will never let her go. She licks the spot she just marked and then kisses me. "I love you, Lincoln." "I love you, Amelia."

Atlas POV

I am meeting with Walker and my other men in my office. I just hung up after speaking with Elder Thomas. "I want every warrior ready for my orders." "I expect their training to be intense and I want them ready to bring their Luna home." "Yes Alpha" Walker says. I'm just about to dismiss them when I get a pain in my body like I've never felt. The pain brings me to my knees. "Alpha" Walker rushes over to me. "She is f**king him" I roar.

Chapter 22

22 Call For Help

Atlas POV

"Alpha, what can we do to help you" Walker asks me as he tries to help me up. "Get the f**k out of my office now" I say shaking him off. Silas is growling and the pain is unbearable. I feel like I'm being stabbed with a hot poker in my c**k and stomach." The door slams and I roar. She actually f**ked another man. I can't believe she let another man touch what is mine. "I told you I would leave you if we lost our mate Atlas, I was very serious", Silas says as he loses his s**t and paces in my mind. I can't lose my wolf. "Silas, if you leave me, we will never get her back." "You will never have Star again." "She is ours no matter what I did and we need to get her back working together." "Are you just going to let that ba**ard have her to f**k and as a mate." An ungodly roar comes from him "she is mine and I will have her again." "She is ours Silas and we will only get her back if we work together." "Fine but if you ever f**k up again I will take over this body and kill us both." Before I can even respond the mark on my neck begins to burn adding to the pain of her infidelity. I start to claw at my mark before I fall to the ground. I can't catch my breath and I yell out to Silas before the darkness takes me under.

I wake up to machines beeping and I look around at four white walls. "Alpha, your awake" the doctor says. "What the f**k am I doing here?" "Walker went to check on you in your office and you were unconscious so he brought you here

to be checked out.” I start to pull the monitors off and rip out my IV. “Alpha please” he says and I growl toward him. “I’m fine back off” I say before I pick up my clothes heading into the bathroom. I start to dress pulling on my pants when I look into the mirror over the sink. Amelia’s mark is gone from my marking spot. I punch the sink, breaking it in half. I can’t believe she mated and marked that ba**ard. I pull the phone out of my pants pocket and dial it, nearly breaking the phone in my hand. “Hello Atlas”, Elder Thomas says. “Time’s up Elder, he took my Luna.” “He marked my mate.” “Atlas, I have things in motion be patient.” “I’m done being patient, you come to my pack today and explain what the plan is or I wage war on everyone keeping my mate from me.” “That

includes the Elders.” “I’m on my way Atlas.” I hang the phone up and Silas pushes forward. “Finally, we agree, he better have a plan that will get our mate back or he’s the first to die.”

Lily POV

Neal and I head to John’s cottage. I knock and a few seconds later, the door opens and a pretty blonde wolf is standing smiling at us in a t-shirt and nothing else. Neal immediately turns around and I couldn’t love this man more. I wouldn’t be upset if he didn’t turn because I know how much he loves me, but the fact that he thought he should is sweet. “Is John here?” “John” she says, and my cousin rushes for the door. I give him a look and he steps out on to the porch. “Clarissa, please give me a moment.” She smiles and he closes the door. He turns back to me and I cross my arms over my chest. “Don’t give me that look, Lily.” “This is the only thing I’m going to say and then I won’t say anymore.” “She is going to have a mate and you’re going to have a beloved who is going to be hurt that you didn’t save yourself.” I see pain flash across his face. “Lily” I raise my hand. “You have to deal with what you do and the repercussions of your actions.” “I’ve said my peace.”

“I only came to tell you that Neal and I will be going back to our coven today.” His face morphs from an expression of sadness to anger. “Like hell you are” John says. “We left that place to save you from your father’s plans and we will never go back.” I smile “John your mother came to me last night to tell me that my mother needs me.” “I don’t want to go back but I won’t leave my mother to suffer for helping me.” “What do you mean in a dream?” “No, Neal heard her too or I might have thought it was just a dream.” “Fine, I’m coming with you.” “John” I say but he doesn’t listen. He walks back into the cottage, closing the door. Five minutes later, he walks out dressed. “What about Clarissa, John?” “She will leave after she showers, now let’s go.” “I still have to talk to Amelia

and Lincoln before we leave.” We head toward the pack house and when we get inside Lorraine is sitting in the living room. When she sees me, she smiles but it doesn’t reach her eyes. “Lorraine, is everything alright?”

She motions for us to sit down and tells us about Max attacking Amelia. My blood is boiling and if I had a wolf I’d be shifting right now. Neal wraps his arm around me feeling my emotions, which helps a bit. ”

“Where is that f**ker now?” “Tell me he is dead, Lorraine.” Her face falls even more and she tells me about what Charles did. “Where’s Amelia now?” She smiles “if I had to guess I would say with Lincoln on the Alpha floor.” I hug Lorraine before I head for the stairs. “Lily, don’t you think we should wait if they are upstairs alone.” I turn shooting daggers at John. He puts his hands up in surrender. I turn around, walking to the third floor with Neal and John on my heels. As soon as we reach the door, I don’t hear anything that makes me think I should stop. I bang on the door and within seconds it flies open. A very pissed-looking Lincoln is standing there but his look softens when he sees its me. “Where is she?” He moves aside and Amelia is slipping a robe over her nightgown.

I rush in and wrap her in my arms. “How are you and little bean?” “We are both fine Lily.” “I promise, we are fine.” “I want to hear exactly what happened.” We all sit down in a sitting area next to their room and Amelia tells me exactly what happened. “He is going to pay for ever putting his hands on you, the Elders and their stupid rules be damned.” She takes my hand. “Lily, I love you and I need you to be safe.” “Please let Lincoln handle this.” “You know how wolves are about their laws.” “Fine but if he ever comes near you again, he will pray for death when I get done with him.” I hug her my body finally relaxing that she is safe. “I came to check on you and to tell you that we need to leave for a few days.” “Where are you going?” “We have to travel to the Blue Star coven today.” A look of concern flashes on her face. “Lily, I told you we would go together to deal with the past.” “I love you for that but something has changed those plans.” “You need to keep little bean safe and I have no idea what we are going to be walking into.”

I explain my aunt’s message. “Please be careful and come back in one piece.” “Our son is going to need his aunt.” I hug her again and then Lincoln. That’s when I notice the marks. “Oh, my goddess you’re marked.” I squeal hugging them both again. “Congratulations”, I say before we head for the door. We head outside and I take a deep breath, getting ready to teleport to a place I had hoped would stay in the past. Neal pulls me to him and kisses me. “We

are going to help your mother, Lily.” “I know we will, I just hope that my father hasn’t punished her for helping me.” “I can’t imagine what else would be

happening to my mother besides dealing with my father’s wrath.” “I wish that was something new but he has always been an a**hat.” “Lily we will figure out what’s going on with Aunt Iris.” I hug John before I go back taking Neal’s hand. I close my eyes and picture the place I used to call home. A moment later, I open them and we are standing outside the coven shimmer. It only takes a moment for three guards to appear.

“Lily, where have you been” Timothy, an older guard, asks me. “That doesn’t matter, I need to see my mother and father.” “I will take you and John to see your father but the wolf will have to stay here.” Neal growls and I thread my fingers in his. “Neal is my beloved and he will be going with us.” He turns without another word and we pass through the shimmer. Neal’s eyes get big when he sees buildings and people everywhere. I lean in whisper in his ear. “Pretty cool, right.” “Very cool” he says with a smile. We follow Timothy as he leads us into the mansion. We reach my father’s office and he knocks. “Come in” a voice I hate says. He opens the door and I walk in hand and hand with Neal, followed by John. My father stands “how dare you come here after what you did?” “How dare you try to use me in trade to protect your position.” “Where is my mother?” “You bring a filthy wolf into my coven and make demands of me.” I step toward him “I am not the same girl that left the coven months ago Conrad.” “Where is my mother?” “She died of a broken heart because her selfish b**ch of a daughter left her to suffer.”

Chapter 23

23 The Truth

Lily POV

“You’re a f**king liar” I say and my father steps toward me raising his hand to slap me. I hear a growl from behind me and my father finally acknowledges that I’m not alone. He lowers his hand with a look of disgust on his face. “You brought a filthy wolf to my coven.” “That handsome wolf is my beloved and I would be very careful how you speak, Conrad.” “Do you think I’m scared of a little girl or this animal” he says pointing at Neal. “You should, be very scared of the witch that Iris’s daughter has become” John says. He laughs “scared of what you pathetic traitor?” “Do you think that I don’t have warlocks here that

will deal with the three of you?" I place my hand on John's arm. "I have no desire to be here or even look at you after what you tried to do to me." "I just want my mother." "Time away from the coven has made your ears not work apparently Lilith, your mother is dead." "You don't get to call me that." "Only my mother gets to call me that." "I don't believe a word you say and I'm not leaving without my mother."

John comes to stand next to me. "Where is my mother, Conrad" John asks. "She came to Lily so don't try to say she is dead." He looks pissed at first but then he laughs again "your mother went against me and the coven so she is being punished for her crimes." I raise my hand and my father rises in the air. He starts to grab for his throat as I begin to choke him without even touching him. He attempts to cast against me but he can't. I watch his eyes get big and I just smile. "What's wrong Conrad shocked this little girl is more powerful than you." I drop him to the floor. "I have no desire to end your pathetic life but if you keep my mother from me I will absolutely do it." He is gasping for air and again tries to cast against me. "What have you done?" "I used my powers to stop yours, now you can tell me where Aunt Jiselle and mom are or I can finish what I just started." I see fear flash across his face. "Jiselle is in the cells." "My mother" I say as a question.

"Your mother isn't here." "I told you that day I called you to my office that I had made a deal with the Black Rose Coven and you left anyway." "Lucas the new leader of the coven came for you the day after

your birthday and your mother refused to tell either of us where you went." "He wanted you and he was irate that you were gone." Neal pulls me to his side "mine." "I'm yours love, no one will ever have me but you" I link him. My father rolls his eyes in disgust but continues. "Lucas was livid and because you broke the deal, he took your mother in your place." I feel sick to my stomach with what he just said. He allowed another man to take his beloved and my mother. "What the f**k do you mean he took her?" "You know exactly what I mean." "Because of you another man has my beloved." "You allowed that warlock to take my mother." "I told you that we needed the protection of that coven." "He would have killed me and everyone here." "Had you just thought about someone other than yourself none of this would have happened." "You selfish b**ch."

"You are disgusting." "I would die before I would ever allow someone to have my beloved." "You are no warlock or man for that matter." "What is the name of the coven that has my mother?" He stays silent and I step forward. "You were worried about saving your own a** before so know that I will turn you

inside out if you don't tell me the answer." "It is the Black Rose Coven and Lucas Morris is the leader who took your mother." "That is a black magic coven you bastard." This time I raise my hand slapping my father across the face. "For the crimes you committed against my mother and your beloved you will be punished by me." I wave my hands and he winces as energy flows from him to me. He starts to feel himself obviously thinking I was going to take his life. "Don't worry Conrad, I've given you something worse than death for a man like you." "You will live the rest of your pathetic life as a powerless human." "Death is too good for you." I watch as he tries to cast but nothing happens. "You can't do this." "I can and I did." "Have a nice life."

I turn to John and Neal. "Let's get Jiselle and leave this place." Neither say anything and we leave the office heading to the cells. When we reach the door, a warlock is standing there with his arms crossed. I wave my arm before he can do anything and he falls to the floor. We walk down the stairs and the conditions are disgusting. John is ready to lose it as we go from cell to cell. John reaches the last cell and he throws the door open. We rush inside and my aunt looks like she has been beat and starved. The room we are in is hampering my magic so I'm sure it stopped hers completely. John picks her up

and we leave the cell. I can see he is torn. "We need to take care of your mom but I promise you that anyone who helped my father do this will pay just as he has." He nods before we teleport back to the pack. We rush to the pack hospital. "Alert the Alpha we have returned now" I say to the nurse.

Lincoln POV

Amelia and I are sitting in my office and I can tell she is worried about Lily. I walk around the desk picking her up and sitting down on the couch with her in my lap. "Love I know your worried but Lily is strong and Neal will never let anything happen to her." "I know I'm more worried about what will happen if she can't help her mother." "Lily is going to blame herself for leaving even though she had no other choice." My phone rings and when I answer a nurse from the hospital is talking fast. "When" I ask. "They just arrived Alpha and Lily wanted me to call you." I hang up setting Amelia on her feet. "Amelia, we need to go to the pack hospital." Panic flashes across her face. "Lily is ok but she needs us to come to the hospital now." We arrive at the hospital five minutes later and the nurse shows us to the room. As soon as we walk in Amelia rushes toward Lily wrapping her in her arms.

Dr. Neilson is checking out a woman that I assume is Lily's mother. Just looking at her makes me want to shift. Once Amelia lets go of Lily I pull her into a hug. "Dr. Neilson will help your mother." She pulls back "this is my Aunt Jiselle, John's mother." I look and John is holding her hand. I don't even want to ask but I need to know what happened. "Lily what happened?" Amelia takes Lily's hand as she retells the story. Talon is growling as we listen to what her father did. How could he betray Lily and his mate to maintain his position in the coven. My mind flashes to my father actions before I bring myself back to this conversation. "Lily the pack will be at your disposal to get your mother back from this ba**ard." "Thank you but I won't put the pack members in harm's way." "This coven is black magic and will not hesitate to harm anyone that gets in their way." I smile "I appreciate that you want to protect the pack but you are part of it and we will be here when you need us." "Thank you, Lincoln."

"Lincoln, I need to speak with you" my father links me. "I'm busy, I don't have time to speak with you now." "Lincoln please, I need to speak to you about what happened." "Fine, I will finish here and meet you in my office in twenty minutes." "Thank you, Lincoln." I cut the link without another word. Amelia is looking at me with concern. I lean in "my father wants to speak with me." "I can stay here so you can have privacy with him." "Absolutely not, you are my Luna and there will be no secrets between us." She smiles and kisses my lips. "We need to go speak with my father but if you need us just call my phone." Amelia hugs Lily and we head back to the pack house. When we walk in Jennifer comes rushing toward us. "Lincoln I need to speak with you it's important." I growl "I don't have time to speak to you and honestly Jenn anything you have to say you can talk to Michael about." I take Amelia's hand heading to my office. My father is waiting inside and when he sees Amelia he stands. "I mean no offense Amelia but I would like to speak to Lincoln alone." I pull her close to me. "You either speak to me with her here or you can leave."

Lucas POV

The phone on my desk rings and I pick it up. When I see the name flash on the screen, I roll my eyes "what Conrad?" "Lucas, I need your help." I laugh "you didn't honor the deal and you want my help now." "You're lucky I haven't destroyed your pathetic little coven." "Lily came here today looking for Iris." "Where is she now?" "She left and took Jiselle but she knows you have Iris." "You let her leave you a**hole." "Why didn't you keep her there and call me?" "She is too strong, she took my powers." I laugh "that's very interesting." "I am on my way." I hang up and head to my room. I open the door that leads into a separate room off my bedroom. "Put this on we are going on a trip." Iris sits up

from the bed she is laying on. She doesn't ask a question just slips the sundress over her head. I grab her wrist pulling her up before I teleport us to Conrad's office. When he sees us, his eyes look to Iris. His eyes go to her neck and I see the anger flash across his face but he is too much of a coward to say a word. "Sit pet and be a good girl" I say pointing to a chair. She does as I say and I turn back to Conrad. "Tell me exactly what happened Conrad, now."

Chapter 24

24 Father

Lucas POV

"So, Conrad what do you expect me to do for you?" "You failed to hold up your end of the deal Conrad." "Your daughter was supposed to be mine and you failed but you expect me to help you now." "I gave you Iris in her place because you insisted on it." "She took my powers, I want them back." I laugh "your pathetic either way so I won't be helping you." "I gave you my beloved to protect me and my coven" Conrad pleads. "That was the deal." "You sacrificed your beloved for your own selfish wants and now you expect me to help you." I stand from my seat and walk over to Iris. "Stand pet." She listens like the good girl she has become and I slam my mouth down on hers. When I pull back, I turn and smile at Conrad. "You were nothing before and now you are even less." "You sure as hell can't lead this coven as a human."

His eyes get big and he rushes for the door in some futile effort to run. "Really Conrad, you think that you can get away from a warlock." I raise my hand lifting him off the floor and bringing him till we are face to face. "By the way your beloved is a good f**k" I say before I snap his neck and drop him to the floor. I call for Leland to come to me. He is my second in command. He appears in the office a few seconds later. "We will be absorbing this coven and apparently my beloved has taken up with wolves." "I want her found." "Send warlocks out to find her magical signature." "I don't care if we have to check every pack." "No, you can't do that" Iris pleads. I turn slapping her across the face knocking her to the floor. "Don't forget your place pet." "You're fun but you will never be my beloved." "I will have Lilth as my own."

Lincoln POV

“Lincoln this is a conversation that Amelia doesn’t need to hear.” “I think I was pretty clear dad that this conversation only happens with Amelia here.” I take Amelia’s hand and turn to walk back out of my

office. “Fine” he says and we turn around. I let Amelia sit in my chair to get off her feet and I stand behind her. I can see that my father is nervous and I’ve never seen him like this. “Lincoln, I know what I did hurt you and I should have talked to you first but I won’t apologize for trying to protect you.” “I am your father and you have worked too hard becoming the great Alpha you are to throw it away for anything.” In that moment I feel sick to my stomach. His choice of words doesn’t sit right with me. “What did you do dad?” “What do you mean, you know what I did?” “I called Thomas to come and take Max from this pack so you wouldn’t lose your title for killing him.” “She is not your Luna.” “What else did you do?” “Son, I have no idea what you’re talking about.” I link my mother to come to my office. If my father did what I think he did, I will never forgive him. A few minutes later the door flies open and my mother rushes inside. “Lincoln what’s wrong?” “I think you should ask your mate that question.”

“Charles what is he talking about?” My father sits in silence just staring at my mother. “Charles answer me now” my mother demands. “Max was not supposed to harm her.” Talon is at the surface and I push him down. “You ordered Max to take Amelia from the pack before we mated.” “I thought that I was so lucky to have parents who supported and loved me.” “You betrayed me for what?” “For your legacy and for a title.” “Lincoln, you need your own blood heir and a proper mate.” “Oh, my goddess Charles what have you done.” “He wasn’t supposed to hurt you Amelia I swear to the goddess” my father says to Amelia and I see red. “Don’t you ever talk to my mate again.” “Mother I’m sorry but I will not allow anyone to harm my mate or pup.” “You will always be welcome in our pack” I rest my hand on Amelia’s shoulder. I turn to my father and speak words I never thought I would have to say. “Charles Thomas you are hereby banished from the Nightfire Pack.” I link two guards to come to my office. “Lincoln you can’t do this I’m your father.” “No, you were my father.” “Now you’re just a man who chose to do the wrong thing because you cared more about a title than your son.” The door opens and the two guards come in. “Remove Charles Thomas from the territory he is banished.” “He may not return for any reason.”

They look at me like I’m crazy but they don’t question me. “Yes Alpha” they say in unison. They loop their arms through my father’s and pull him out of the chair. As they drag him past my mother, he

reaches for her arm but she pulls away. "Lorraine, you know me I wouldn't hurt her or our son." "I wish you thought about that before you were so selfish." "I told you Charles I will always choose my pup." "I, Lorraine Marie Thomas, reject and break my bond with you Charles Jacob Thomas." My mother grabs her chest and I rush to her. "I won't accept it you are my mate" he says pulling against the warriors. "Get him out of my sight now." They pull him out the door. "I'm sorry mother." "Don't you dare say you're sorry for what he did, it's unforgiveable." I help her to the couch and I look over at Amelia who looks like she is in shock. "Go check on her now" my mother says.

Amelia POV

I can't believe what Charles just said. He had Max try to take me from the pack and Lincoln. He acted so concerned in the dining room. "He was concerned because you weren't supposed to be hurt just taken" Star growls in my head. "How could he do this?" I feel like I can't breathe. "Amelia breathe, think about our pup." I try to take even breaths and bring air into my lungs. Everything around me seems like it's happening in slow motion as they drag Charles from the office. A few seconds later Lincoln is rushing toward me. "Love look at me, breathe." He picks me up and sets me in his lap. I bury my head in his chest breathing in his scent. I slow my breathing down. "Amelia please look at me." I pick my head up staring into Lincoln's beautiful blue eyes. "Amelia you are my mate and no one is going to hurt you or our pup." "Lincoln, I hate that I've come between" "no don't do that" he says. "Don't you dare take ownership of my father's f**ked up behavior." "He made his choice and he can deal with the consequences."

"Amelia come here" Lorraine says and I look at her for the first time since they took Charles away. She rejected her mate. She looks pale and she has her hand to her chest. I hop of Lincoln's lap and head to her. "Lorraine of my goddess we need to get you to the pack hospital." She smiles and places her hand on my cheek. "Sweet girl this will be over soon and there is nothing the doctor can do for it." "I'm sorry Lorraine." She smiles and it reminds me of my own mother. "Amelia, what would you do for your pup" she says and lays her hand on my bump. "I would do anything for little bean." She chuckles "that's what

a parent does, they put their pups needs above their own." "Charles chose what was important to him." "I choose you, my grand pup, and Lincoln." I wrap her in a hug. My mother believed a monster over her own flesh and blood. This woman didn't bat an eyelash when she knew her son and I were hurt by Charles' actions. She pulls back "I'm going to go rest for a while but I will see

you two at dinner.” She kisses us both before she heads out of the office. I look up at Lincoln “your mother is so strong.” “I’m surrounded by strong women” he says. He leans in kissing me and then bends down kissing my bump.

Lily POV

I’m sitting next to Aunt Jiselle’s bed and John is lying on the couch. She starts to flutter her eyes open and I take her hand in mine. She starts to panic until she realizes where she is. “Lily, I’m so glad your safe.” John rushes over hearing his mother’s voice. “Mom” he says and bends down to hug her. When he pulls back, she is smiling. “You look good John.” “You did well protecting, Lily.” He pulls a chair to the other side of the bed and my aunt sits up. “Lily I’m sorry it took so long for me to reach you but Conrad kept me weak.” “The only person who should be sorry is Conrad and believe me he is now.” She smiles “what did you do to him?” “I made him powerless.” “Good that snake deserves everything he gets after he gave your mother away like she was nothing to him.” “Why didn’t mother call for me when it happened?” “I would have protected her.” “Your mother was protecting you as any mother does.” “That ba**ard Lucas is going to be sorry that he ever touched her.” “You have to be careful Lily he is an evil creature.” The door opens and Neal walks in. He comes over placing his hands on my shoulders. “Who is this handsome young wolf?” I chuckle “this is my beloved Neal.” “Neal this is my Aunt Jiselle.” “Your mother will be so happy you found your fated beloved.” “Aunt Jiselle I still don’t understand why this black magic warlock is so hell bent on having me.” Neal growls and I kiss his hand. “There are millions of witches just like me that he could have.” “Your mother never told you did she.” I look at her with confusion. “What didn’t my mother tell me exactly.”

Chapter 25

25 Special

Jiselle POV

“Lily, now that we know your father’s true character, it makes more sense why your mother kept this from you.” “Do you know that when wolves are born sometimes, they are blessed by the moon goddess.” “Of course, they have the crescent shape in their fur and typically they have a power bestowed upon them like a gift” Lily says. “That’s right, but once in a blue moon other super

naturals are blessed by the goddess too.” “Lily you are one of those super naturals.” She looks at me confused. “Aunt Jiselle I’m a witch with powers.” I laugh “yes you are but what you can do is unlike any witch or warlock and your mother knew that.” “Why would she think I was blessed?” I smile “besides the birthmark on your side that she always hid from your father you gained your powers when you were five years old.” She looks at me like I’m crazy. “Aunt Jiselle your wrong I never got my powers until I was seventeen.” “No, that’s when your mother unbound your powers.” She reaches down pulling her shirt to the side to expose a crescent shaped birthmark on her side.

Lily POV

I can’t believe what I’m hearing. I don’t feel special, I just feel like me. Neal takes my hand in his. “You are special”, he links me after hearing my thoughts. I roll my eyes “you have to say that you’re my beloved.” “Lily, you didn’t think that it was odd you stripped your father of his powers like it was nothing” Jiselle says. “No, I just assumed it was driven by my anger of what he had done.” She chuckles “as much of a worm as your father is he is still a strong warlock.” “Neither John nor I could strip him of his powers so easily.” This is crazy. “Lily, after you left before that ba**ard took your mother she thought that Lucas wanted you so desperately because he knew.” “How could he know if only you and my mother knew?” “She wasn’t sure honestly but she just had this feeling.” “I promise you that no matter what happens I will get my mother back and Lucas will pay for what he has done.” “I have no doubt my girl that you will do just that.” I kiss my aunt and hug John before Neal and I head out of the room.

I’m quiet as we walk thinking about all I just learned about myself. “Lily, are you alright?” “I am, it is just a lot to take in in one day.” “First to find out that my father gave my mother away to another man and now to learn that I am not an ordinary witch.” He stops and pulls me into him. “Lily, I meant what I said before and not just because I’m your mate, you are special.” “I was in awe to watch you in action in your father’s office.” “The power you wield is amazing.” He presses his lips to mine and I melt into him. When he pulls back, he rests his forehead against mine. “I can feel your worry Lily.” “I know that I’m strong but I feel like everyone is in danger because of me.” “My mother has suffered all this time.” “I’m sure that Lucas knows that I went to see my father.” “The pack will be at risk from the coven.” “Our pack Lily, being part of a pack means that we fight together no matter who we face.” “Let’s go talk to Lincoln and Amelia about what your aunt just told us.”

Atlas POV

I know Elder Thomas said he has a plan but I don't trust him to deliver. Even if he has a plan, I need to take every opportunity to get Amelia back. I take the syringe and put it into my pocket, heading to Linda and Jack's cottage. I knock and Linda opens the door. She has sadness on her face when she sees me. "Linda, I need your help I'm out of options." I head inside and sit on the couch in the living room. "Atlas, we haven't seen or spoken to our daughter since the day you spoke to her on the phone." "We lost our daughter as much as you lost your mate" Linda says. "I know and I'm sorry that all this happened." "I think we can get Amelia back but I need your help since she won't even speak with me." "What are you proposing?" "She has been marked by the ba**ard Alpha of the Nightfire pack." My father-in-law growls. "Did he mark her against her will?" "Honestly Jack I have no way to know how it happened but I felt every moment of it."

I take the syringe out of my pocket. "I got this from the pack doctor and he said that it will not hurt our pup." Linda looks torn but I know she wants to see her daughter. "Linda, I promise I would never do anything to hurt Amelia or my pup." "I just want her back home where she belongs with us." She puts out her hand and I place the syringe in it. I wrap her in a hug and hope they can get close enough to

Amelia to give it to her. "Thank you, as soon as we get her back here, she'll understand and I can mark her again." "We can get on with our lives and she can be the Luna she was always meant to be." I shake Jack's hand before I head back to my office.

Just as I take a seat my phone rings on my desk. "Alpha Atlas" I say. "Alpha Atlas, this is Elder James." He and the other Elder left yesterday after completing their investigation. I was expecting this call today. "Yes, Elder James I assume you're calling to tell me if you believe Neal's lies." He ignores my snarky comment and continues. "After our interviews and reviewing your brother's death we found no proof of foul play on your part." "Of course, you didn't because I would never hurt my own brother." "This whole investigation was a farce and Neal should be punished for his traitorous behavior." "That will not be happening Alpha." I growl, "Alpha, I understand you are upset but I would tread very carefully." "The investigation did prove that your infidelity was not a lie that Freya made up." "I made a mistake and I shouldn't lose everything for it." "Alpha, I already told you that the Elders would not get involved in Amelia's decision to break her bond with you." "You need to move

on, find a chosen mate.” “Have a good day Elder James” I say hanging up before he can answer me.

Lincoln POV

“Lily you are a member of this pack and Neal is absolutely right that we will fight by your side.” “I’m hoping it will not come to that Lincoln.” “This is a black magic coven and they will think nothing of slaughtering our pack.” “You are strong and blessed Lily” Amelia says. “I’m a firm believer that the goddess brought you here for a reason and you were always meant to be part of this pack.” “A part of our lives.” Lily smiles and I can see unshed tears in her eyes. “We will do whatever you need to help you get your mother back safely.” “Thank you both for being my family.” She comes over and hugs me and then Amelia. “Thank you, Lincoln” Neal says and they leave the office to go rest.

Amelia and I begin to talk about how amazing it is that Lily is a blessed witch. “I didn’t even know that the goddess blessed other super naturals”, Amelia says. “It is definitely not common and it happens to

wolves more often than other super naturals.” “Alpha there is a man and woman here saying they need to see Luna Amelia.” I smile at his use of her title. The pack knows who she is now and her ceremony will be happening in two days. “Who are they?” After a few seconds he links me again. “They said they are the Luna’s parents.” I can feel Talon at the surface. “How dare they come here after they sided with that ba**ard?” “Calm down Talon, this is up to Amelia not us.” “What’s happening Lincoln?” “It seems that your parent’s are at the gate asking to see you.” “They made their choice when they believed that ba**ard.” “So, you want me to have the guard send them away.” “No, I will tell them myself.” She stands heading for the door.

I stand rushing over to take her hand. We walk downstairs and out the back door of the pack house. We walk the path until we come to the gate. There is silence for a few seconds while they just stare at each other. Amelia breaks the silence. “Why are you here?” I see hurt flash across her parent’s faces. “Amelia we just want a few minutes to speak with you.” “Speak to me about how you chose Atlas over your own daughter.” “Amelia that is not true, we love you we just want you to make the right decision.” “The right decision is to stay with a man that f**ked another woman while mated to me.” “I’m carrying a pup and he didn’t care about the pain he caused me.” “I will never return to that pack so I think our conversation is over.” “Amelia, please we just want to see you for a few minutes and then we will leave.” She looks toward me and I link her. “It’s your decision love I’m here with you.” “Fine, but if you even

mention that pack or me returning to Atlas this conversation is over.” I put myself between my mate and her parents as we walk back toward the pack house.

We reach my office. Amelia and I sit on the couch while her parents take the chairs in front of my desk. Her parents look at me and Amelia takes my hand. “This is Lincoln, my mate and the Alpha of the Nightfire Pack.” I watch Amelia’s father squeezing his fist until his knuckles turn white. “How can this be while you were still bonded to Atlas?” “You took a chosen mate.” I growl “she is bonded to me not that cheating ba**ard.” “I am her fated mate.” They look at me with confusion. “My mating is not up for debate or discussion.” “You said you wanted to see me and talk.” “Do you have anything else you want to say?” “Amelia can we please talk to you alone for a moment before we leave.” “No, I will not be

leaving my mate alone with you.” “We don’t have secrets and based on what she has told me you believed someone other than your daughter.” Her father stands “how dare you speak to us that way.” “You took another man’s mate, your pathetic.” “I think we are done here.”

Chapter 26

26 Parents

Atlas POV

“Alpha, Elder Thomas has arrived to meet with you”, the patrol guard links me. “Show him to my office now.” Amelia’s parents left earlier and hopefully I will have my mate back in my arms by the end of the day. She loves her mother and she wants her father’s approval as much as she tries to act like she doesn’t. I know how he felt about me being a Beta, but he respects me now that I’m the Alpha. “He is nothing to be judging us, he has no rank.” “You need to worry about Amelia not impressing that piece of sh*t.” “We need to make her ours again” Silas growls. “Silas, we need to give her time or she will never accept us.” “I will make her see how sorry I am.” “She will be our Luna as it always should have been.” He recedes in my mind because he knows I’m right. A knock sounds on the door before it opens and Elder Thomas walks in. He takes a seat and before he can even speak, I tell him about sending Amelia’s parents to bring her back to me. I can see a look of concern flash across his face. I don’t care if he agrees with my plan or not.

“Atlas, do you think he is just going to let her leave.” “Of course not, but I’m sure he will let her talk to her parents in private.” “I gave them a syringe with something to knock her out.” “Atlas, I understand that you want her back but she is in a pack that is larger than yours with an Alpha that has claimed her.” I growl “she is mine I don’t care what that ba**ard thinks.” “I agree she is yours despite your mistakes but we need to be smart about this so I can protect you.” “They can’t just carry an unconscious Amelia out of the pack.” “You’re not thinking Atlas.” I growl “I warned you Elder that I would have her one way or another.” “I could just wage war on the pack and the Elders if that is what you would prefer.” “Atlas war is not necessary I told you I had a plan but obviously you have set something different in motion.” “Let me make a call and see if I can make arrangements in the pack so they will get her out safely.” “You do what you have to because if I don’t get her back soon there will be no stopping me or my wolf for taking her by force.” He takes his phone out of his pocket and once he

hangs up. He nods “I have someone in the pack that will help them get her out undetected.” “Elder, I am grateful that you understand that Amelia should be mine, but why would you risk yourself for me?” “Let’s just say that Elder James and I have very different feelings about what is acceptable for Alpha wolves.”

Amelia POV

I can feel Lincoln’s anger through our bond and he is on the verge of losing it. He stands heading toward my father until they are face to face. “You will never return to my pack and disrespect me or my Luna again.” My father growls and my mother stands with fear all over her face. I expect her to pull my father away, as challenging an Alpha is a death sentence in our world. It all happens in slow motion but I can’t stop it. She pulls a syringe from her pocket, jamming it into Lincoln’s arm. I reach for her but she pushes the plunger before I can stop her. “What the f**k have you done mother?” Lincoln pushes me behind him. I watch Lincoln try to swing at my father before he steps back, losing his balance and falling to the floor. I bend down grasping my mate. “Lincoln talk to me”, I say. He tries to talk to me but his words are slurred. “What did you give him?” “I’m sorry Amelia, I had no choice.” “F**k you mom there is always a choice.” “I want the two of you gone and don’t ever come back here again.” “My pup and I are dead to you.” “You are no longer my parents.” I’m lifted off the ground by my father. He has my face in his as he growls. “We are your parents.” “I told you not to mate that Beta but you insisted because he was your fated mate.” “Now he is the Alpha of our pack and you are carrying his

pup.” “You will go back with us now and do what is right.” “Like hell I will” I say and he sets me on my feet.

My father extends his claws, walking toward Lincoln on the floor. “You can come willingly or I can kill that ba**ard you have betrayed your bond for” he says, pointing at Lincoln lying on the floor. I feel sick to my stomach. I can’t believe this is my father. I know he, worries more about status and what others think, but not enough to do this to me. I was very wrong. “Amelia, your father’s right, everything will look differently once we are home.” “Your pup deserves to be with his real father and family, not this Alpha that has misled you.” I look at my mother, the woman who raised me and she is a stranger. They

have both lost their minds. I hold back the tears and my father bends down, placing his claw near Lincoln’s neck. He isn’t completely unconscious, but there is no way he could defend himself in this moment. “Make your choice Amelia.” “Fine, I’ll go with you but I don’t know how you think you are going to walk out of this pack without anyone stopping us.” “That’s been taken care of let’s go.” My parents loop their arms through mine and when we head downstairs Jennifer is waiting. She has a smile on her face like she won the lottery and I vow in that moment she will die by my hands. “You b**ch, how” I growl looking from her to my parents. “Let’s just say that your mate is very resourceful.” She hands my mother another syringe and every thought I had of escaping them is gone. I needed to get them away from Lincoln, but I had hoped I could get away from them just as I did Max. “He is not my mate, Lincoln is.”

“We will see once you’re gone.” She turns leading my parents out a back door that comes out directly where the forest begins. Once we are deep in the trees, Jennifer stops turning to us. “The guard patrol will pass by the spot straight ahead in about ten minutes.” “Once he’s gone there won’t be another one for at least twenty minutes.” “Fine”, my father says, and Jennifer heads back toward the pack house without another word. My mother turns me to face her. “Amelia please just listen and don’t make this more difficult.” “I don’t want to have to give you the shot.” I put my hand on my belly and her eyes drop to my hand. “Amelia, I would never give you something that would hurt you or the pup.” “That’s line you draw mother.” “You’ll force me to go back to a man that betrayed me, drug me, but you won’t kill my pup.” The hurt flashes across her face but I don’t care. “I will never stay with him.” “All your doing is starting a war.” “Enough Amelia, you’re acting like a child.” “This is not how you were raised” my father says. “Elder Thomas will never let that ba**ard bring war to our pack.” I laugh “Elder Thomas I should have known he would

be involved in all this.” “Linda just give her the shot she isn’t going to listen.” “I want to get far away from this pack before that ba**ard wakes up.” He grabs me by the arms as my mother takes the syringe out of her pocket.

Linda POV

I know that Jack is right but I hate giving her the shot. We don’t know that girl what if this hurts our daughter or the pup. “I won’t give it to her Jack.” “We have no idea what’s in this syringe or if that girl would hurt her.” He rolls his eyes and I place the syringe back in my pocket. “Fine, Amelia behave and I mean it” Jack says. We catch the scent of the pack wolf and thankfully we are down wind. Jack slams his hand over Amelia’s mouth. He links me “take the syringe out just so she can see it.” “Hopefully she won’t fight.” I do as he says and her eyes get big at the sight of the syringe. She stays quiet and once the wolf passes, I slide the syringe back into my pocket. We start to move and after a few minutes we pass the territory line. “Amelia, I’m going to shift and you and your mother or going to get on my back.” “If you try anything she will give you the shot whether she wants to or not.” He shoots me a look and I nod. I have to keep telling myself this is for her own good. Jack shifts and she climbs up first. I climb up behind her, wrapping my arm around her. I remind her not to do anything to hurt herself or her pup. She doesn’t even answer me.

Jack takes off and I breathe a sigh of relief that we made it away from that pack. He runs for about fifteen minutes before he starts to slow down. “Jack, what are you doing?” “I caught the scent of a wolf.” “A wolf from the Nightfire pack or a rogue.” “I’m not sure Linda.” As soon as he says the words, in our link a large black wolf steps out of the trees from the left. He lets out a roar and I can tell he is an Alpha. Oh goddess, Lincoln couldn’t be up and around already. Could we have run into another Alpha’s territory? “Jack, what are we going to do?” “I’m going to try to talk to this Alpha and explain that we are no threat to him.” “Get down with Amelia and I’ll shift to speak with him.” He bends down and I do what Jack says holding tight to Amelia.

Amelia POV

I’m confused when my father slows until I take a deep breath. I catch the scent of a wolf. When a large black wolf comes out of the trees, I don’t know whether to be happy or scared. Alpha wolves do not take kindly to wolves entering their territory without permission. My mother pulls me down but holds tight to me so I can’t pull away. My father shifts and this must be my only chance to get away while he

is dealing with this wolf. My mother is not strong enough to hold me against my will. "Amelia, please be careful, think about you and the pup", Star says. "I won't try if I don't think I can get away safely, I promise Star." My father starts to talk and I'm just about to make my move when the wolf shifts. I can't believe what I'm seeing. "Alpha, I'm sorry if we have entered your territory but we mean no harm to you or your pack", my father says. He stalks toward my father and before he can say a word he punches my father in the face, knocking him to the ground. My mother screams and I stand not understanding what the hell is happening. He walks over to us and my mother starts to plead for him to just let us pass. "Release her now" he says, and my mother steps back from me. "Go to your mate, I will deal with them", he says.

Chapter 27

27 Own I

Amelia POV

When he tells me to go back to Lincoln, I see the man I always knew he was. I hated that Lincoln and Lorraine felt betrayed by him. I start back for the pack. "Amelia, please don't go back and leave us here with him", my mother manages to get out before Charles growls. I walk back until I'm standing in front of her. "Despite all that I told you, you two chose Atlas." "Just as you made your choice, I'm making mine." "You are no longer my parents and whatever your fate is now, you both deserve it." I take off running back toward the pack. When I reach the pack house, I use the door that b**ch Jennifer led us out. I look around the corner hoping that I can get back upstairs unnoticed. Once I don't see any sign of her I head toward the stairs. I look down the hall and I notice her slip into Lincoln's office. I'm going to rip her head from her body. I start down the hall until Star's words stop me. "Amelia, be smart about this." "You can't shift and we need to protect our pup", Star says. I know she is right but I don't want her anywhere near my mate.

I head back downstairs to find Michael. When I reach the dining room, I start to look around, hoping to find Michael. I can't just ask the pack members. I notice Lorraine sitting at the Alpha table. When she notices me, she rushes over to me. "Amelia, what's wrong?" "There's too much to explain but Lincoln needs help." "Where's Michael, Lorraine?" "Amelia where is Lincoln?" "He's in the office with Jennifer." I see her eyes flash to black before she takes my hand leading me upstairs and toward Lincoln's office.

Lincoln POV

I feel like my mind is swimming. I can't connect with Talon. I can't believe that b**ch stabbed me. I can hear voices talking around me but I can't form words. Amelia's scent is still all around me and I'm trying to push through this fog. Goddess, I will kill the two of them if they do anything to Amelia. How could they choose that ba**ard over their own flesh and blood? My father pops into my mind, but honestly,

right now I need to focus on my mate and making sure she is safe. All the voices are gone and I reach out to Talon again. "Lincoln what the hell did they give us." "I don't know, but when I catch them they are going to wish they hadn't done all this." "They don't deserve Amelia or our pup."

I don't know how long passes and I feel the fog is starting to lift. I'm not in control yet but I can feel it returning. The door opens and the scent I pick up isn't Amelia. "Oh, my goddess, Lincoln" I hear Jennifer's voice. She picks up my head placing it in her lap and I manage to pull away. "Lincoln, I'm not trying to mate you." "You're sick, I'm trying to help you." "Amelia" I manage to get out. "I have no idea where she is." "I'll call the pack doctor." "I won't leave you like she did." I manage to growl and she looks at me before she picks up the phone. Once she calls the doctor, she comes back over kneeling next to me. She takes my hand and I again pull it away. "Lincoln, just because you have a mate doesn't mean we can't be close like we used to be." "You will always be my first love and if she is gone then maybe you can find those feelings for me. Before I can even attempt to tell her to f**k off", I hear a growl and Amelia's scent invades my nose.

Amelia POV

When we walk into the office, Jennifer is kneeling next to my mate talking about him mating her. "Move your a** away from my mate now you b**ch." She turns to the sound of my voice and there is shock on her face. "What didn't expect to see me again after you helped my parents take me away from Lincoln and our pack." She stands and her eyes flash black. "Lincoln and this pack should belong to someone pure like me, not a wh*re like you." I can see she is ready to shift and attack me when Lorraine steps in front of me. She immediately stops and her look changes to hurt. "How could you want this for your son?" "She is pregnant by another Alpha and you are willing to accept her." "He deserves a pure mate that can give him a real heir." Lorraine growls and grabs her by the throat. She begins to squeeze and Jennifer scratches at her hand trying to break free. I place my hand on her shoulder. "Not until

Lincoln hears all she has done.” Lorraine drops her to the floor. As she gasps for air I step around and punch

her in the face as hard as I can. She falls over unconscious on the ground. Lorraine wraps her arm around me “well done sweetheart.”

We both lean down and Lincoln grips my hand. The door flies open and the doctor rushes inside. “What the hell happened?” she says as she looks between Lincoln and Jennifer. Lincoln is awake but whatever they gave him hasn’t worn completely off yet. “My parents gave him something that knocked him out.” She pulls a syringe out of her bag and leans down giving Lincoln the shot. Within seconds he is completely coherent. “Lincoln, can you call for the guards to take Jennifer to the cells so I can tell you all that I have learned.” “Of course, my love.” He links the guards and they arrive a few minutes later to take her away. Dr. Nielson leaves after she makes sure that Lincoln is fine. “I’ll leave you two to talk” Lorraine says. “No, please stay you’re going to want to hear this story.”

She takes a seat and Lincoln won’t let me go. He takes a seat and pulls me onto his lap. I rub circles on his back as I tell the story. I tell him about Jennifer and I’m glad she isn’t in the room because I have to kiss Talon to calm him down. “We will deal with her but you need to hear the rest of the story.” “How could she possibly know that ba**ard Atlas?” “I don’t believe she knows Atlas directly.” He looks at me with confusion on his face. “Jennifer mentioned Elder Thomas.” “I believe he got her to help my parents.” “That son of a b**ch.” I tell them how they made it out of the territory but I was saved by an Alpha. “What Alpha saved you?” “I’ll forever be in his debt” Lincoln says. I smile at Lorraine and then back to my mate. “Alpha Charles saved me from my parents.”

“My Charles” Lorraine says like, a question. “Yes, he knocked my father out and he told me to go back to my mate.” I can see Lincoln is torn after what Charles did. “Lincoln your dad made a mistake.” “He isn’t perfect but he did the right thing when it mattered most.” “If he didn’t stop them, I would be with Atlas right now.” He growls and buries his head in my neck. He stands lifting me with him until he sets me on my feet. He kisses my forehead and I’m so glad to be back here with him.

Lincoln POV

I link Michael “come to my office please.” A few seconds later he walks in. I give him the short version of what Amelia just told us. “Stay with them until I get back.” “I need to go find my father.” “If you go straight out the back door of

the pack house you should run right into them, Lincoln”, Amelia says. I lean in and peck her lips before I head for the door. As soon as I am out the back door, I shift into Talon. We take off at full speed. I catch my father’s scent and I step out from the behind the trees. Linda is begging for her life as she sits near a lifeless wolf, I assume is Jack’s wolf. Maverick my father’s wolf, is pacing back and forth. “Maverick” I yell and he turns toward me. Just as he does Linda shifts heading for Maverick.

I don’t even get the words out when Maverick turns catching her wolf in his mouth. He clamps down and I hear bones break. He drops her to the ground. My father shifts and we stand in silence for a few minutes. He pulls on shorts before he walks toward me. “Lincoln” he says but I raise my hand to stop him. “I was so angry with you for what you did.” “I’m sorry” he starts to say and I again stop him. “Dad, you tried to take my mate from me.” “I know I did and I will spend the rest of my life making up for it if you and Amelia will forgive me.” “When I saw them taking her from you, I thought about your mother.” “How I feel since she rejected me is indescribable.” “I wouldn’t wish this on my worst enemy.” “I would never want this pain for you Lincoln.” I pull him into a hug. “I forgive you dad.” He pulls back and for the first time in my life I see tears in my father’s eyes. “Thank you, Lincoln.” “Charles Thomas I lift your banishment from the Nightfire pack.” “Do you think your mother will ever forgive me?” “I hope so dad.”

We shift heading back toward the pack. We both shift pulling on shorts. We head up to the office and when my mother sees us, she rushes over hugging my father. I smile and motion my head for Amelia and Michael to leave my office to give them privacy. I have a phone call to make. This time he is going to be very sorry and wish that he left well enough alone.

Chapter 28

28 Failed

Lorraine POV

When Amelia said that Charles had rescued her from the people who should have protected her hope blooms in my chest. I love my mate and I hated the choice he made. I will always stand by Lincoln, but I pray that Charles returns with him. That he has truly made things right. It’s Lincoln’s decision but I know my son’s heart. “Lorraine, I know that Lincoln wants to forgive his father.” She

wraps me in a hug and I thank the goddess again for giving this woman to my son. "How are you feeling Amelia?" "Honestly I'm fine." "Little bean has been moving all over the place all afternoon despite everything that's been happening." I lay my hand on her belly and I feel him kick against my hand. A few moments later, the door flies open and Lincoln walks in followed by Charles. I don't even say a word, I just run to him. Feeling his arms wrapped around me I can feel the tingles despite my rejection. I hear the door click shut and I pick up my head to look into Charles's eyes. "I'm so sorry" he starts to say but I pull his lips to mine.

When I pull back, I place my forehead against his. "I know your sorry for what you did." "I'm more than sorry Lorraine." "After you rejected me I realized how I would have devastated our son." "I was devastated losing our bond and I know it is what I deserve." I place my hand on his cheek. "I, Lorraine Marie Thomas, accept and solidify my bond with Charles Jacob Thomas." I instantly feel the strength of our bond and Charles throws me over his shoulder. "Charles what are you doing?" "I'm going to make sure our bond is solid by taking you to our room to mate and mark again." I laugh "you won't get an argument from me." We head out the door and toward our room.

Lincoln POV

We head downstairs to another office. I have Amelia's hand in mine because Talon and I need her close. That is twice we almost lost her. Michael looks so distraught. "Michael talk to me, what's going

through your mind right now?" "Lincoln if Elder Thomas was helping Jennifer and Max do you really think he took Max to the Elders territory for a trial?" "We are about to find out Michael but honestly, no I don't." I pick the phone up off the desk and it rings three times before he answers. "Alpha Lincoln, I'm sorry I haven't got to call you about the investigation." "I know it's probably not what you want to hear but we were unable to prove Atlas killed Elias." "Right now Elder James, I don't give two sh*ts about Atlas because he is going to die regardless if he killed his own brother or not." "Alpha Lincoln what has happened?" "I have a question before I tell you why I am calling." "Go ahead" Elder James says. "Where is Maxwell Major?" There is silence for a moment. "Alpha Lincoln I'm confused by your question." "Maxwell is part of your pack." "Why would I know where he is?"

"Elder James I need you and the other Elders to come to the pack today to discuss Elder Thomas, Maxwell, and Jennifer Lorris." "I have no problem coming to your pack but I need more of an explanation to bring all the Elders."

“Elder Thomas has aligned himself with that ba**ard Atlas and attempted to take my Luna again today.” He growls “we are on our way.” I hang up before I turn to Amelia and Michael. “I need to get the book with my numbers from my office.” “I have one more call to make before we prepare for the Elders arrival.” They follow me upstairs and once we are in the office, I dial the number while the phone is on speaker. A few seconds later, he picks up. “Lincoln to what do I owe the pleasure of this call” Atlas says with that smug tone. “Are you looking for my mate?” “How does it feel to lose her?” “I wouldn’t know since she is standing here in my arms.” There is silence and I know he is debating whether to bite. He thinks that I’m bluffing.

“Nothing to say Atlas” Amelia says. He roars “Amelia what have you done?” She laughs “you ask me what I have done you pathetic excuse for a wolf.” “You actually sent my so-called parents to take me from my mate.” “You are my f**king mate and I will have you if I have to kill that entire f**king pack.” “That will never happen and you are done talking to my Luna.” “This call was purely to let you and Thomas know that your time is limited before you go to meet the goddess and pay for your crimes.”. “I’m sure Thomas is listening and if not, you can let him know that he will pay just as you will.” “You really believe that I am afraid of you and your pack Lincoln.” “Now Atlas, I know you really don’t think

your pathetic pack can take mine on and win.” “I welcome you to bring your warriors so I can show you what real warriors look like.” “I plan to rip your head from your body for all you have done to my Luna” I say before I disconnect the call.

An Hour Later

Elder James

After I hang up with Lincoln, I call for the other Elders to come to the meeting hall. Once they arrive, I tell them about Thomas recent behavior and my phone call with Lincoln. “Do you really believe he would betray his vow like this” Elder Marcus asks me. “I wish my answer was no but honestly I believe that Thomas thinks that Alphas are above our laws.” “We have all been Alphas and the reason we became Elders was to ensure that the laws applied to all wolves.” “Thomas apparently has different ideas and I for one am not going to allow him to abuse his powers.” “He will receive a trial as all wolves should to determine his punishment but he will need to be stripped of his title.” “Are we all in agreement that he needs to be dealt with accordingly?” They all nod and agree with everything I have said. “Alpha Lincoln has requested us at

his pack after a kidnapping attempt was made on his Luna today that Thomas took part in.” They all gasp and I can see how upset they are by my words. “We will leave in twenty-minutes, so ready yourselves and meet me at the SUV.”

We are on our way to the Nightfire pack. I still can’t believe that Thomas would be so stupid. I can’t believe he betrayed the vow we all took to uphold werewolf law. To be impartial to all packs. I brought three of the four remaining Elders. Elder Zane remained with our warriors in case Thomas tried to return to the Elder’s territory. I gave him strict orders to place him in the cells until we return. We are about fifteen minutes from the pack when I hear a wolf howl. I turn to look out the window when all hell breaks loose. I look back in time to see three wolves come out of the trees and stand in the road. Elder Marcus cuts the wheel and before I know what’s happening, the SUV is on its roof. I free myself

from the seatbelt and begin to crawl from the window. The other Elders are doing the same. We all stand facing the wolves and the five more join the other three.

“Well, gentleman, it looks like you had a little accident” I hear a voice from the trees. I almost expect to see that ba**ard Atlas but instead Maxwell walks out. “My new Alpha wants his Luna back and you gentlemen are interfering.” “Max, what the hell are you thinking?” “Do you really believe that Atlas cares anything for you?” He growls “he respects me more than that ba**ard Lincoln does or my own brother for that matter.” “He was willing to allow Lincoln to kill me over a woman that means nothing to the pack.” “I hope you know that you will all die for standing against us and betraying your true alpha.” The wolves growl and we all shift. Five of the wolves are average size but Max and one other wolf are larger than average. They start to circle around us before they snap their jaws at each of us. It’s a scare tactic since they outnumber us. I have had more than enough of this bullsh*t. I lunge in Max’s direction. He is able to dodge but I turn back, biting down on his hind leg. Before I can break it one of the other wolves jumps on my back biting down into my shoulder. Gunnar my wolf whines at the pain and I shake him off.

I look around and the others continue to fight, but with their numbers, despite their size we are struggling to take these ba**ards out. Elder Marcus is being held down as another wolf approaches. I run in his direction, jumping on the wolf, knocking it to the ground. I bite down, breaking its neck. I turn to return to the fight but Max and another wolf jump at me at the same time. We roll and I end up pinned under Max’s wolf. The other wolf bites down on my front leg.

Maxwell's wolf bites down on my neck and I can't breathe. I expect him to bite down ending my life but it seems he wants to suffocate me. He wants to feel powerful for killing an Elder I'm sure. Darkness takes me under and I pray that the goddess protects Lincoln, Amelia, and their pack.

Chapter 29

29 One Down

John POV

I left the hospital to run home and shower. My mother was busting my a** that I was starting to stink. I'm so glad she seems to be getting back to her happy self. I reach the cottage with a million thoughts running through my mind. Once I'm finished in the shower, I dry heading into my bedroom. I throw on a pair of jeans and a t-shirt before I head downstairs. I grab an energy bar with something to drink and get ready to head back to the hospital. I'm still haunted by the way we found my mother in those cells. I can only imagine the torture she endured at that ba**ard's hands. I try to push those thoughts from my mind and focus on the fact that she is safe. Now we just need to help my aunt. I know I did the right thing going with Lily and protecting her but it doesn't take away the guilt that I wasn't there for my mom or to protect my aunt. I'm glad Lily took his powers from him. She is absolutely right that it is a fate worse than death for a man like him. I'm just about to head out the door when I hear a knock. I open the door to find a smiling Clarissa. I had hoped to have this conversation with her when I wasn't in a rush, but I guess it is going to have to happen now. "Hi John, how have you been" she says as she tries to wrap her arms around my neck. I stop her and she looks confused. I place her hands at her side.

"Clarissa, we need to talk." I see the moment she understands what I'm about to say. "Let's go for a quick walk before I have to get back to the hospital." "Why do you need to go to the hospital, are you alright" she says. "I'm fine, my mother is there being watched over by the doctors." "She wasn't well but she is doing better now." As we start to walk down the path toward the eastern border Lily's words repeat in my mind. I hate that this might hurt Clarissa, but it's not fair to either of our mates to continue being together. "John, I already know what you're going to say." "It really isn't necessary." "I would like to say it anyway." "I really like you, Clarissa." "Your beautiful and someone is going to

be very lucky to have you as a mate.” “John, you don’t need to act like this is a breakup.” “We had some fun and I knew

we wouldn’t be a forever thing.” “I’m fine with just being friends.” I’m glad she feels that way but I’m kind of in shock she isn’t upset.

We walk a little further when Clarissa stops looking around. “Did you hear that” she asks, and I look at her confused. I didn’t hear anything. “Clarissa what do you”, she puts her hand up to stop me from talking. She starts to walk faster and I follow her. We pass the territory line. “Clarissa, where are we going, what is happening”, I whisper yell. She takes a deep breath in and her eyes flash black. “There are wolves near that do not belong to the pack.” “Something isn’t right about their scents.” She starts to walk faster and I grab her arm. “Clarissa wait” I say and cast a spell to make us invisible. I have no idea what we are walking into. We continue to walk to the edge of the forest and I feel in my gut something is very wrong. The road is visible from where we are and I can’t believe what I’m seeing. Wolves are fighting that I have never seen before. It appears that four of the wolves are larger than average. They look like Alphas, but what packs could they belong too? I realize that I do know one of the wolves. It’s that ba**ard Max. How the f**k is here if Elder Thomas took him to the Elder’s territory? Just as I realize it’s him, I watch him attack a large gray wolf. He is holding the wolf down by his throat while another wolf bites his leg. “What do we do, there are too many for us to handle” Clarissa says. “Clarissa link the Alpha that we need help”, I say before I start to wave my arms and begin to cast. The ba**ard has no idea what’s happening before his wolf falls over and lands next to the gray wolf. The wolf holding onto his leg lets go and steps back.

Lincoln POV

I’m in my office with Amelia waiting for the Elders to arrive. The warriors and patrols have been increased in case that a**hat Atlas decides to attack the pack. Michael walks in and takes a seat on the couch near the window. “Amelia, I think we should have your Luna ceremony tomorrow.” She smiles “I would love that.” “I want to be yours in every way possible.” She comes over and kisses me before she sits in my lap. I love this woman and I will kill anyone who tries to take her from me. I start to get a link and I allow it to come through expecting it to be a patrol guard telling me the Elders have arrived.

“Alpha, we need help”, I hear a female voice come through the link. “What’s happening” I say as I stand setting Amelia on her feet. “There are wolves fighting outside the eastern border and one of them is Max.” I growl and cut

the link. "What is going on Lincoln" Amelia asks. "There are wolves fighting near the Eastern border." I turn to Michael, "one of them is Max." "Son of a b**ch" Michael growls. We both head for the door and I stop immediately, remembering that I don't want Amelia here alone. I link Lily and within seconds she is standing in my office with concern written all over her face. "Please stay with Amelia, I need to get to the border." She doesn't even ask questions. She just nods and Michael follows me out of the door. Once we are outside the pack house, we both shift taking off. We run as fast as we can and I hope that this is my chance to end that ba**ard once and for all.

As we break through the trees, I roar. The wolves turn looking at Talon . I'm shocked to see Max's wolf lying on the ground not moving. As we approach, John appears with Clarissa in front of us. Four wolves are dead and four are standing just staring at Talon. He is much larger than their wolves and despite not being their pack Alpha, the wolves recognize my authority. I shift walking forward until I'm just feet from them. "Shift now", I give Alpha command. The four wolves have no choice but to give into my command. "You will be taken into custody by the Nightfire pack." "We have not breached your territory, you have no authority to imprison us" one of the men say. John rushes to the gray wolf that is not moving. The remaining two wolves, who were not affected by my command shift, and the Elders are standing before us. I realize that one of the dead wolves is an Elder. I feel sick to my stomach that he perished fighting these ba**ards right outside my pack. The remaining two of them are injured but they will heal. "You have attacked the Elder wolves and killed Elder Brandon." "We grant the authority to imprison and carry out your punishments to the Nightfire pack and Alpha Lincoln Thomas", Elder Marcus says. More patrol guards arrive and they take the four wolves away. That's when I realize the gray wolf must be Elder James. I am at his side in an instant. Elder James's wolf is barely breathing and his neck is bleeding. John stands and before I can say a word he is gone. What the hell? I start barking orders for my warriors to help me to get him to the pack hospital.

Lily appears and before I can say anything, she does. "John is staying with Amelia." "My healing power is stronger and will give the Elder a better chance at survival." She begins to chant and pass her arms up and down his body. His breathing seems to even out and he shifts back to human form, but he remains unconscious. I say a silent prayer to the goddess that he is spared after all he has done for me and Amelia. Lily turns to me, "I have done all I can, the rest is up to him and his wolf." My warriors pick him and place him in an SUV that has just arrived. The three Elders are taken to the pack hospital. Elder Brandon's body will be taken to the pack hospital and prepared for the

warrior's burial ceremony. The other warriors are bringing Max to the pack yard because I will not take the chance that he will get away again. Lily teleports back to Amelia and a few seconds later, John appears. "Clarissa head back to the pack, thank you for helping John and linking me" I say and she nods before she takes off.

We reach the pack yard and the guards throw Max's wolf to the ground in front of me. "Michael, are you going to be alright with" he stops me. "After what he has done, he is no longer my brother", Michael says. "He deserves the punishment, is about to receive." I nod and turn to John. "Lift the spell John" I say and he waves his hands in Max's direction. I watch as the wolf shakes his head and a few seconds later he gets to his feet. He growls when he realizes where he is and that he is standing before me. "Maxwell Major for your crimes against my Luna and my pack you have been sentenced to death." I shift into Talon and we start to circle each other. Max's wolf is big but not as big as Talon. He jumps but we are able to dodge. He immediately turns running at us full speed. We don't move this time and when he gets close, he attempts to bite into our shoulder. Talon rears up and when we come down, he bites the back of the wolf's neck. He whimpers and tries to shake us off. After a few seconds we release the bite and the wolf's fur is stained with blood. He starts to circle again "end him, Talon." "It will give me great pleasure" he growls out before he runs full speed slamming into the wolf and knocking him into a nearby tree. We can hear bones break and he hits the ground. He makes attempts to stand but it appears his back is broken. His wolf is lying at the base of the tree as we stalk forward.

He begins to whimper as we get close. Talon growls before he bites down and breaks the wolf's neck, ending him for good. We back away from him and shift. Michael rushes over, looking me over for injury.

"I'm fine Michael." "I would like to take care of the body if that's alright." "Of course," I say. I slip shorts on "Michael, do you want me to do this with you." He smiles "thank you for asking but I need to do this alone." We bro-hug before John and I head to the hospital. When we walk in, Amelia and Lily are in the waiting room. "What did the doctor say?" "She said the same thing I said, that it's up to Elder James and his wolf now." We take a seat and wait. I wrap my arm around Amelia and place my hand on her belly. "Are you ok love, I know how stressed I am and that can't be good for you and the pup." She smiles "I won't say this isn't stressful, but honestly, as long as you're with me I will have the strength to get through this." I press my lips to hers. She pulls back and rests her head on my shoulder.

Chapter 30

30 Peace

Michael POV

Once everyone has left, it is just me standing alone. I appreciate Lincoln for offering to do this with me, but honestly, I need to do this alone. As I look down at Max lying where his wolf once was, I grieve. I grieve for the brother that he once was. I grieve for the life and happiness he will never have because of his actions. Max and I were best friends growing up but when our father died, he changed. He never seemed happy, despite all the good things we had in our lives. Losing our father in battle was devastating, but he let the grief consume him. He turned into a man that knew no joy, only anger. He never laughed and he was all about being a warrior. He became the head warrior and a man I didn't even recognize as my brother anymore. I wish I could go back and make him understand that he was taking the wrong path, but I can't. I won't let that guilt consume me or burden my soul. I will end up the same way Max did, bitter and angry. Not knowing the happiness that remains despite these feelings of sadness and guilt. I bend down and place Max's body over my shoulder. Jaxon whimpers and recedes to the back of my mind at our loss. He has lost just as I have.

I walk toward the clearing that's near the lake inside the pack lands. I lay Max's body on the shore and sit down. I close my eyes, thinking back to the past. I think of our father who was the pack Beta returning from training and showing us how to fight. He would shift into his wolf, so Max and I could feel what it would be like to run in wolf form. Our father was kind even after he lost our mother while she was giving birth to Max. He would tell us about her and how in love they were. Even though I couldn't remember her, his stories made her real. Max believed our father was invincible, which made his death even worse. I loved my father and he would never have wanted Max to become who he did.

I say a prayer to the goddess that she forgives Max for all he has done and that his soul is at peace. After a few seconds, I stand and look out at the water. I link John, "can you come to the lake for a moment." A few seconds later, he appears next to me. "I don't want to bury Max in the pack lands

cemetery as only an honorable warrior deserves that.” “His actions have made that an impossibility.” He stays silent and just lets me speak. “Can you please help me burn the body and then leave me to grieve.” John says nothing but steps around me. I turn and watch him conjure a red ball in his hand. He closes his eyes for a moment. I’m sure speaking to the goddess before he throws the ball, striking the body. Max’s body is engulfed in flames and I turn to thank John, but he’s gone. I sit down and watch the flame carry my brother’s spirit home to the sky. “Dad, please be there when he arrives and help him find peace with the goddess.” “I know there will be punishment, but I pray there is forgiveness there too.” Soon there is nothing left but ash and I stay longer because I’m not ready to go about life just yet.

Amelia POV

I must have nodded off because the doctor’s voice wakes me. Lincoln and I both stand to meet her. I can feel the tension in his hand as he squeezes mine. “How is he,” Lincoln asks, and the doctor smiles. “He hasn’t woken up Alpha, but all of his vital signs are stable.” “I believe his wolf is trying to heal him, which is very tiring with the amount of trauma he had.” “Lily’s magic definitely helped the healing process.” “Hopefully he will wake up soon.” “Both of the other Elders are healing quickly.” “There wounds were much more superficial.” “Elder Marcus would like to see the two of you.” She leads us back to a room and both the Elders are in bed. We both bare our necks in respect and Elder Marcus smiles. “The doctor told us that James is stable because of what you and your pack members did.” “We will forever be grateful for your pack’s actions to save him and us.” Lincoln nods but doesn’t say anything because I’m sure he is thinking about Elder Brandon who wasn’t able to be saved. “We’re glad to see you both are alright too.” They both smile at me. “Amelia, we have heard so much from James about what you have endured because of your ex-mate. Lincoln growls and I squeeze his hand. “The goddess has blessed me with a second chance that more than makes up for all that Atlas put me through.” “Your strength is truly admirable” Elder Marcus says before he looks at Lincoln. “Lincoln, where are Elder Brandon’s remains?”

My heart breaks that all of this is because of Atlas. Elder Brandon is dead, Michael lost his brother, and Lincoln almost lost his father because of this man that is connected to me. “No don’t do that” Lincoln’s voice brings me out of my thoughts. I look up at him. “The only person responsible for their disgusting actions is Atlas, Thomas, and Max.” “Your mate’s right, Amelia” Elder Marcus says. “We were on our way here because of what Thomas and Atlas, had done.” “We were attacked by wolves that I’m sure were following their orders.”

"You are not responsible for the actions of evil wolves" Elder Marcus says. He looks at Lincoln, "that means you are also not responsible either, Alpha." I smile "thank you", I say knowing that Lincoln needed to hear that as much as I did. "I just wish that Atlas would go away and leave us alone." He smiles "he will, it just won't be by his choice" Elder Marcus says. Lincoln wraps his arm around me at the elder's words. "Elder Brandon is here in the hospital being prepared for a warrior's burial ceremony" Lincoln says. "We will have some of our warriors pick up the remains for burial in the Elder's territory." "Thank you both for taking care of him."

Lincoln POV

"I will forever be sorry we didn't reach you sooner and save him from this death." The Elders nod "you have nothing to apologize for Lincoln, but we both appreciate your condolences." "I am sorry for your loss also" Amelia says. "Thank you" they say. "We will let you rest." "We will check on Elder James before I head to the cells to speak with the prisoners", I say. I take Amelia's hand and lead her to the room the nurse said Elder James was in. When we walk inside, he looks totally different than the last time we saw him. He looks weak but his breathing is still even and easy, which I'm grateful for. He is hooked up to monitors that are beeping steadily. He has bandages covering his neck and he looks like he is sleeping. We walk over standing at his bedside. I hold onto Amelia's hand and find comfort in her presence. I lean down and place my hand on Elder James's. "I promise you that the men responsible for the loss of Elder Brandon and hurting you will wish for death when I finish with them." "I'm sure they will, Lincoln" Elder James says with his eyes closed. His words startle both of us. His eyes flutter open and he smiles. I say a silent prayer of thanks to the goddess for sparing him.

He tries to sit up and I rush to help him. "I'm glad to see that you're ok." "I will be fine." "I heard what you said about Brandon but how are the others." "They are fine and a few rooms down from yours." "The four wolves that survived are in the cells so I can find out all I can from them before they are dealt with." "Elder James, I'm sorry" I start to say. "No, you are not responsible for Brandon's death." "You do what you have to with those four wolves but we will be ending those two ba**ards together." "Thomas is mine for betraying us all." I nod before Amelia and I head back out to the waiting room. John, Lily, and Neal are all waiting. After we tell them about the Elders, we all start to walk back to the pack house. "Lincoln, I would like to be there to question the wolves." "I probably know them and I know how they think", Neal says. "Of course, I will take all the help I can get." "I want Michael to have all the time he needs after his loss so I won't be linking him to help with the interrogations."

He nods and once were inside I kiss Amelia before Lily takes her upstairs. I lead Neal down the stairs and we come to stand in front of the first cell. "Walker, I should have known he would send you", Neal says, and the wolf growls.

Unknown POV

I head into his room and to the door where he keeps Iris. I hate him and I wish that I could get her out of this hell. I'm stuck here but she shouldn't have to be. I turn the handle and when I open the door, I feel sick. She is lying on the bed completely naked and she has bruises covering her back. I walk toward the bed and I see her cringe thinking that I'm Lucas. "Iris, it's me." As I get closer her sobs wreck me. I place my hand on her back and begin to chant. Lucas has blocked her powers so she can't help herself or escape. I watch as the bruises turn to her skin tone. I conjure a blanket covering her. "I wish the goddess would just take me." "Don't say that, Iris." "Why, I'm stuck in this hell and he has no mercy." "Even when I do as he says he still hurts me." "He is a monster Iris and I promise you no matter what I have to do I will help you." She rolls over and looks into my eyes. I'm sure she is looking for any sign of deceit. She won't find it because I mean every word I just said.

"What the f**k are you doing in here?" My head snaps to the door and Lucas looks like he is ready to kill me. "Lucas, she is really hurt, I just don't want her to die." "Did I ask you to heal my pet?" "Of course

not, but" he waves his hand and I can't speak. He comes to stand in front of me. "The only reason you're not dead right now for defying me is because of my mother." "That doesn't mean I will not punish you for interfering in my business." My eyes get big and he raises his hand. I start to feel like I can't breathe. Even though he isn't touching me, I feel the grip getting tighter and tighter. "Please stop, it won't happen again", I here Iris plead. He drops me to the floor and I suck air in trying to fill my lungs. "Your so concerned about my pet I think your punishment will be to watch me punish her." I still can't speak.

He picks her up off the bed by the throat. He smacks her so hard the sound makes me sick. She falls to the floor and her body is limp. He walks over and kicks her in the stomach. "Are we clear that you are never to come in here again" he asks looking at me. He waves his hand at me so I can answer. "I won't please, just stop." "I don't know if I believe you " he says with a smile. He turns back to Iris. He puts his hand up, making it glow the color of heated iron. "No don't" I scream but he places his hand on her shoulder like a brand. She screams until she passes out. He walks back over to me. "Get out and

don't ever step foot in here again." I scramble to my feet rushing for the door. I say a prayer to the goddess to help me end Iris's suffering as I walk to my room.