

Betrayed by My Beta Mate #Chapter 51 - Read Betrayed by My Beta Mate Chapter 51

Chapter 51

51 Vision

Lincoln POV

As we pull into the pack, I can't wait to get back to Eli. It's crazy how much I miss him after just a few hours. I walk around the SUV opening Amelia's door and we head to my parent's wing of the pack house. I knock and we head inside. My parents are sitting on the couch just staring at my son. Eli is resting in my mother's arms, sleeping peacefully. "How did it go" my father asks. We take a seat on the couch across from them and my mother stands placing Eli in Amelia's arms. "It went very well actually. The pack will be joining us in about a month. I have spoken with the contractors and they are eager to start work tomorrow on the new cottages. Tristan and the pack members seemed happy about the move." "I'm proud of you, Lincoln, for the man and Alpha you have become. A far better leader than I ever was." My mother takes his hand in hers. I hate that he says that about himself. I stand and come to sit next to my father. "One bad decision does not take away all the good things you have done as my father and Alpha of this pack. You made things right when it counted most. I'm proud to be your son" I say and hug my father. When I pull back I can see unshed tears in my father's eyes. "Thank you, Lincoln" he says before turning to Amelia. "Thank you for forgiving me and allowing me to be part of my grand pup's life." "We love you Charles and we're thrilled our son has you in his life." She stands coming over and setting Eli in my arms before she hugs my father. I love that she has my parents and so does our pup.

We talk a bit longer about the new pack members and making it a smooth transition for both packs. Amelia feeds Eli so we can head to the hospital to see what's happening with the woman that John found. I know she hates leaving him again, but I don't want him anywhere near someone we don't know or trust yet. We start the walk down the path to the hospital when I get a link from Michael. "Lincoln, when you return, please come to the hospital." "We're back, what's happening?" "It's Pheobe's mother, the woman is Pheobe's mother", he says and cuts the link. I immediately stop walking. "What's

wrong, Lincoln” she asks, when she notices I’ve stopped. “The woman John found outside the pack is Pheobe’s mother.” “Oh, my goddess” she says. She turns rushing toward the hospital. “Amelia wait”, I say, and she turns back to me. I walk to her, “Amelia, we have no idea what her presence here means.” “She’s hurt Lincoln and her magic has been blocked.” “I understand that, but based on what we know of Lucas, he could be using her to get to Pheobe and Lily. We have no idea what he is truly capable of, and I don’t want to think that she has anything to do with it, but we have to protect our family and pack.” I can see she wants to say more, but she knows I’m right. I don’t want to think the worst either, but we have to be prepared. Right now, without her powers, she poses no threat, but I don’t trust that Lucas hasn’t set other things in motion.

Pheobe POV

As I sit holding my mother’s hand, I can only imagine what my ba**ard brother did to her. I know Lily saw more than she told me. I’m sure she is trying to protect me but I need to know. I can’t feel her magic at all. I rub circles on the back of her hand as I pray to the goddess to save her and bring her back to me. “Mom, I’m here” I say, hoping she will open her eyes when she hears my voice. She doesn’t and I feel like I’m drowning. I’ve lost my father because of Lucas. I can’t lose my mother because of him. Michael comes over, resting his hands on my shoulders. “I promise you, Phoebe, that he will pay for this with his life.” “I know he will, Michael.” “He has taken too much from me already.” I look around the room at the people I consider my family now. The people who have accepted me and offered me a place in their lives. I am grateful every day that I helped Iris and found them. I just hope that I can help my mother too. I link Michael, “do you think I could sit and talk to her alone for a few minutes? I have some things I need to say to her if I don’t get an opportunity later.” “Pheobe” Michael says, I’m sure wanting to offer me reassurance that she is going to wake up, but he can’t. No one can promise me that. “Of course,” he says, turning to Lily and Neal. “Let’s step out for a minute and give Pheobe some time with her mother alone.” Lily walks over, putting her hand on my shoulder. “We will be in the hallway if you need us.” “Thank you, Lily.” “Thank you for trying heal her.” She squeezes my shoulder before they all head out of the room.

I stand going around the bed. I know Lily is protecting me from what she saw but I need to know. I place my hand on my mother’s forehead and open the link between our minds. As the memories start to flow into my mind, I can feel the anger and pain start to rise in my body.

Vision

Lucas POV

“So, mother, you have been helping your sweet princess behind my back. You and father have no loyalty.” “You have become a monster and I’m sorry that I have ever gave you life after all you have done.” “Now how could you say such a thing to your son?” Lucas stands and wraps my mother in his arms and they appear in a room I’ve never seen. There are metal tools and tables with shackles. As soon as he steps back, my mother’s eyes get big. He starts to chant and I watch him bind her powers. She starts to back up but he raises his hand, stopping her from moving. “Well mother, you were so worried about your precious princess when you should have been worried about what I am going to do to you.” I watch as he tortures her, his own mother, as she pleads for mercy. I’m not sure how long it lasts but it seems like forever. She is lying on the floor in a pool of her own blood when he bends down in her ear. “I’ll make sure to tell your princess how you suffered before she joins you.”

She lies there again for what seems like forever. The door opens and someone comes in, but I can’t make out what he looks like because she couldn’t open her eyes at this point. “Teresa please wake up”, I hear his voice but it’s so soft I can’t tell who he is. She doesn’t respond because she can’t. “I’m going to get help love, please stay with me. Lucas is a monster who would order the death of his own mother, but I will never let that happen as long as I have air in my lungs.” A few minutes later, everything goes dark but I can still hear the distant voice. She must be barely conscious. “Teresa, I promise that I will be back but this pack will protect you until that happens.” “I know you were afraid to take my mark because of Lucas but it will help you to heal.” I feel a warmth through my body and I pull my hand back.

Vision Ends

Who the hell was that talking to my mother? I place my hand on her shoulder and pull back the gown. There is a fresh warlock’s mark that is a bright blue color. It can’t be a black magic warlock mark or it would be black or gray. I’m so confused. “Mom please, I need you to wake up.” This time I place my hand on her chest to feel the steady beating of her heart. “Mom, I realize now you did all this to protect me. I’m sorry for ever doubting you. Please wake up, I need you.” I feel her heart rate increase under my hand. “Mom, I know you can hear me and I’ll be here when you wake up no matter how long it takes.” I take a seat and take her hand in mine again. A few minutes later, the door opens. Amelia, Lincoln, and Michael walk in. I stand and Amelia wraps me in

a hug. "How is she" she asks. "She hasn't woken up yet but she's strong. I saw all that my brother did to her before he ordered her death. If it wasn't for a coven member helping her, she would be dead right now." "Why do you think the coven member helped her knowing what your brother is capable of," Lincoln asks. I'm sure he is worried that Lucas is behind her being here. I walk to the head of the bed and reveal her marking spot. "It seems he is my mother's mate and despite knowing what my brother is capable of, he saved her." "I couldn't see who he is, but I believe that he put his own life at risk to save my mother because they are second chance mates."

Amelia POV

I link Lincoln "I think that is proof enough that her mother isn't part of what Lucas has planned." "I agree love and it appears whoever her mate is, is willing to stand against Lucas, even if it costs him his life." I pray that Pheobe is right and her mother wakes up. "Pheobe, do you think unbinding her powers will help her wake up quicker." "It definitely couldn't hurt but I understand if you're not ready for that to happen yet." "No, Lincoln and I both believe she is not a threat to the pack after all you have told us." She smiles and nods. A few minutes later, the door opens and Lily walks in, followed by Neal. "Are you ready Pheobe," she asks. "I'm only here for support because you don't need me to do this with all of your power", Lily says. "Your connection to her is what will help the most." Pheobe places her hand a foot above her mother's body and starts to chant. An iridescent purple glow starts to engulf her body

and a few seconds later it's gone. Michael must realize the same thing I do, because he is at Pheobe's side before, she falls. She is awake but you can tell it took a lot out of her.

He leads her to the couch and Lily kneels in front of her. She places her head against Pheobe's. After a few moments she sits up on her own. "Thank you, Lily." "I'm always here for you, Pheobe" Lily says. "I'm glad to see my daughter has found such lovely friends." We all jump when we hear the voice coming from behind us. Pheobe jumps up from the couch like she wasn't just ready to faint. She wraps her arms around her mother and the room is silent. Lincoln wraps his arms around me and I am so grateful for a mate that trusts my judgment. I hope that Lucas is ready for one pissed-off sister and her family.

Lucas POV

I call for Leland. He appears in my office a few moments later. "I assume you finished her." He nods and I can tell he isn't happy with my orders but he has always been obedient. "Where is the body?" He looks at me confused. "The body is gone as you directed Lucas. I disposed of her." I grab him by the throat. "I wanted that body you a**hole. I wanted you to finish her off not get rid of the body." "She was dead when I got to the torture room Lucas, I thought you realized you killed her." I release him, as I could see how he misunderstood. "Fine, I have other ways to torture Phoebe." "Did you ready the warlocks?" "I did, when will we be attacking." "Patience, I want you to take five warlocks to the pack and see exactly where the weakest part of the border is. If you kill a few mutts that will be fine too." "Yes Lucas", he says before he leaves my office. It's sad that he is the only loyal one. My family was nothing but a disappointment.

Chapter 52

52 Warlocks Among Us

Pheobe POV

"Mother" I say as I wrap her in my arms. She rubs her hand down my hair, "I'm alright, I'm here princess. I'm so sorry" she starts to say. I feel like I could break at the tremble in her voice. "You have nothing to be sorry for. You were protecting me and I know that now. I'm sorry, I didn't realize that before all this happened." She pushes me back gently and sweeps the hair from my face. "You, my lovely daughter, have nothing to be sorry for. I'm so proud of you for standing up for what was right when I was too weak to." I wipe the tears that stain her cheeks. "You are anything but weak mother. I saw what he did to you and I'm sorry that I wasn't there to protect you." "Let's not focus on the past. We need to focus on what's coming so that you can stop your brother." I hear a growl and my mother looks over my shoulder. She pushes herself up in bed and I move to the side so she can see. "Mother, this is my beloved, Michael" I say as I reach out my hand for him to take it. "Well Michael, its lovely to meet you. I would say you, better treat my daughter well, but I don't think I need to." "No, you don't, she is my world and I would die for her." My mother nods and takes Michael's hand. "She is very lucky to have been blessed with such a wonderful beloved." "Thank you" he says and steps back taking my hand again.

“Mother, I would like you to meet the rest of our family. Lincoln and Amelia are the Alpha and Luna of the Nightfire pack. Lily is the Gamma female and her mate, Neal, is the Gamma. He is on patrol right now but you’ll meet him later.” “What are you to the pack Michael,” she says with a smile. “I am the Beta of the pack.” She turns to me, “which makes you the Beta Female.” I nod “congratulations princess for finding your place.” “You’re not upset that I won’t be returning to the coven when all this is over.” “Would I love to have you with me every day, absolutely but your place is here with your mate.” I hug her again holding her tightly. “Besides once Lucas has been dealt with you and Michael will come to see me often at the coven.” “Yes, we will” Michael says and I chuckle. I pull back and for the first

time since she woke up, I see concern on my mother’s face. “What’s wrong mother,” I ask while I look her over. “Leland has put himself in danger.” I smile knowing that she cares for him as much as he did for her. “Leland the second in command and your beloved.” She looks shocked by my words. She places her hand on her marking spot. “If Lucas realizes what he is and what he has done to help me, he will kill him. I can’t lose him, Pheobe.” “We will get him back, mother.”

Leland POV

When I walked into that room and saw her lying on the floor barely alive, I couldn’t breathe. My whole world was crumbling with the thought of losing her. She never gave into the bond with me after her first beloved died because she was afraid of what Lucas might do to me. She has been protecting people all her life and I refuse to let her die because of it. Leaving her at the edge of that pack after marking her was the hardest thing I have ever had to do. Lucas summons me and I pray I can keep myself under control. I take a deep breath before I walk into the office. I don’t even want to look at him but I do to keep up appearances. As I listen to him speak about Teresa, it is all I can do not to attempt to kill him right now. If I knew I was strong enough, I absolutely would. I know Lucas is magically stronger than me and I will not risk never seeing Teresa again. She has lost enough at this monster’s hands. Once he orders me to take warlocks to scope out the pack, I’m hopeful this is an opportunity for me. I head downstairs and to the meeting hall. “Lance gather the others and meet me outside.” A few moments later, the five warlocks join me.

“We need to head to the Nightfire pack immediately.” They nod and we all teleport to the woods outside of the back border. Memories of the last time I was here holding my beloved in my arms flash in my mind, but I push them away. I need to focus right now. “Lance you’ll come with me and the rest of

you spread out along the border. Watch for the patrol guards to come and go. We need to determine the pattern and the best place to strike during Lucas's attack." "Yes Leland" they say in unison. Two head toward the northern border and two head toward the southern border. Once they are out of sight, I turn to Lance. "What is the plan here, brother" he asks, and I smile. "The plan is I'm about to be caught by

the pack and you're going to take these a**holes back to the coven." "Leland how do you know they won't kill you before you can explain yourself." "I'll just have to pray the goddess keeps me safe. You just make sure you let me know the minute they leave the coven for the attack and keep yourself safe." "How do you want me to explain that we weren't able to fight off wolves?" "Don't you remember there are witches in this pack, Lance" I say with a smile. He wraps me in a hug and I pray this works. "Alright Lance, time for me to get caught and you to try out your acting skills." He chuckles and I head across the border. As I move through the trees, I can hear paws hitting the ground. I haven't masked my scent and they should be on me soon.

Lance POV

I watch my brother head into the wolf's territory and I hope that I see him again. He is all I have left of our family. I know I could never have talked him out of this after he told me that Teresa is his beloved. After about a half an hour, I hear footsteps approaching me. I cast a spell to make myself look injured for when they arrive. "Lance, what the f**k happened here" Jameson says as he approaches me, followed by the other men. "We were attacked by the wolves and they managed to take my brother." "How is that possible with our powers" he asks. "There was witches with them and we weren't prepared for that. She is powerful and now he is gone." They start to walk toward the border. "No, if we have any hope of saving my brother, we need the warriors from the coven with us. We need to go now and report everything to Lucas" I say and thankfully, they don't fight me. We all teleport back in front of the mansion. "Go ready the others for the battle", I say and Jameson leads the men away. I take a deep breath before I head up to Lucas's office. I know what he is capable of if he suspects that I'm being untruthful right now.

I reach the door and knock. "Come in" he says abruptly, and I hope I'm convincing enough that he believes this story. I open the door and walk inside, keeping my breathing even. When he sees me at first he looks confused and then angry. "Where the f**k is Leland, Lance?" "I'm sorry sir but he was taken by the wolves who were being helped by witches." "My sister" he says like a question. "No, I've

never seen these witches before.” “The two of them were powerful and managed to stop both of our attacks.” He slams his fist down on the desk. “That b**ch thinks that she can take my men and help those mutts.” He looks to me “you can’t wallow in what you have lost Lance. Loss is part of war. We will make them pay for what they have done to Leland.” “Thank you, sir” I say. “We will attack tomorrow at dusk, so make sure the men are ready.” “Yes sir”, I say before I leave the office. I head back to my room before I go to meet with the men. I try to reach out to Leland but I can’t. It’s like there is a block between us. What the f**k Leland? You want me to let you know what’s happening but I can’t reach you. I start to pace my room and after a few minutes I pull myself together. I need to go meet with the men before Lucas gets suspicious. I hope I can get through to Leland later or he will have no idea when we are coming.

Neal POV

Lily insisted I go on my patrol but I hated to leave her. I know it’s Pheobe’s mother in that bed but not so long ago it was her own mother that was hurt by that ba**ard. There will be no mercy when he meets his end. As Jasper runs, we catch a scent that is unfamiliar and it is definitely super natural. I link the patrol guard with me and they follow as I run toward the scent. We start to stalk toward a wooded area and the scent gets stronger. It’s a warlock I can smell clearly now. I’m sure it’s from Lucas’s coven. Who else would dare set foot in the pack? Before I can link the guards, he steps out from behind the trees with his arms up. He must think we are stupid animals. Jasper growls and starts to stalk forward. “Please, I mean you no harm” he says. “Bullsh*t” Jasper says to me and continues to move toward him. The warlock starts to back up but the guards have circled and are now behind him so he has nowhere to go. “Jasper, he could use magic against us to protect himself and he hasn’t.” Jasper stops walking. I link the patrol guard to stop. Then I link Lily “Lily, there is a warlock in the territory.” I don’t even get to finish and she appears in front of me.

Leland POV

As the wolf growls and continues to stalk toward me, I worry that I may die here in these woods. If I hurt one of them to protect myself, they will never believe that I am not a threat. My words seem to get through and the wolf comes to a stop, feet in front of me. I say a prayer of thanks to the goddess, hoping that means he believes me. A few seconds later, a witch appears in front of the wolf and she looks pissed. She starts to chant and I can feel the moment I have no magic coursing through me. “What did you” I say softly.

"Why are you here is the question" she says harshly. "I mean you and the wolves no harm." She laughs "you couldn't harm me if you wanted to, I have bound your powers. What is your name and your business here" the witch asks me. "My name is Leland and I am here to help you defeat Lucas." I watch as she appears to be linking. She is a witch, not a wolf. A second later, the wolf that was ready to kill me shifts. The man grabs shorts from behind a tree before he comes to stand next to the witch, wrapping his arm around her. She is with the wolf, that must be who she was linking. I hear paws hitting the ground and turn to see the other wolves running away. "What's happening" I ask and she smiles. "Our Alpha wants to meet you." Well, at least they haven't killed me yet.

Chapter 53

53 Went to Hell

Lily POV

I link Amelia and Lincoln "Neal has found a warlock in the woods near the border." Lincoln growls "I'm on my way." "That really isn't necessary Lincoln, I have bound his powers. He insists that he means the pack no harm and he is only here to help us deal with Lucas." "How do we know this isn't part of Lucas's plan" he asks me. "We don't, but he is powerless right now and I think it is worth speaking to him to figure out if he is lying." "We will meet you outside the hospital to speak with him" Lincoln says and cuts the link. We lead him toward the pack hospital in silence. I can feel his anxiety and worry as we make our way. When we arrive, Lincoln and Amelia are waiting for us. I can feel Lincoln's aura and if I was this man, I would be scared sh*tless. We come to stand next to Amelia and Lincoln. "This is Alpha Lincoln and Luna Amelia of the Nightfire pack." He bows to show respect before Lincoln starts to speak.

Lincoln POV

The thought that a warlock made it into the pack land pisses me off. Where the hell were the patrol guards? Now is not the time for mistakes when that f**ker is out there threatening our pack. I know that Lily has bound his powers, but what if he had reached a pack member and hurt them or worse, killed them? "We will be back", Amelia says to everyone in the room bringing me out of the rant I'm having in my own mind. Michael must know by my face that something is up. "What's going on, Lincoln" Michael links me. I retell him what

Lily told us, letting him know what's going on. "I'll come with you." "No, stay, your mate needs you here and he has no powers right now." "Let me know if you need me, Lincoln" he says, and I nod. We leave the hospital room and Amelia stops me in the hallway. She wraps her arms around me and I bury my head in her neck, breathing in her scent. When I pull back, both Talon and I feel calmer. "Thank you, love for knowing exactly what I need." "You never have to thank me for loving you. I understand why you're upset, but no one was hurt. I don't believe that anyone let this happen on

purpose. We need to hear this man out. I trust Lily's judgment and I know you do too." "I do" I say, and I mean that. She takes my hand and we head out of the hospital to wait for them to arrive.

A few moments later, a man comes through the trees, followed by Lily and Neal. I push my aura forward, making sure he knows that I am the Alpha of this pack. When he is a few feet from us, he stops dropping his head. Once Lily makes the introduction I speak. "What is your name?" He never looks at me but answers. "My name is Leland Stone." "Why have you entered our pack without permission?" "Alpha, I swear I mean no harm to you, your Luna, or your pack." "That doesn't answer my question." "Now answer the question before I lose my patience." "As I explained I am purely here to help you deal with Lucas Williams." "Who are you to Lucas?" "I am the second in command of the Black Rose Coven." "So, you are Lucas's second in command." "I was but things have changed now." "You see how that is hard to believe, correct." He attempts to pick up his head but drops his eyes immediately. I slightly pull my aura back and he continues. "Teresa Williams is my beloved and he practically killed her. I will take great pleasure in helping you end his pathetic life for what he has done to her, his own mother." I hear gasps from Amelia and Lily. This is the man Pheobe saw rescuing and marking her mother.

"You are the warlock that brought Teresa to the pack border." His eyes get big and he nods. "Is she alright" he asks with panic in his voice. I can't imagine what it took for him to leave his mate here so she would be safe. I smile and Amelia wraps her arm in mine. "She is and we will take you to her in a moment." He smiles like he has just won the lottery. "I'm going to allow Lily to unbind your powers, but understand if at any time you pose a threat to my family or pack, I will not hesitate to kill you." "Of course, Alpha, but I assure you that won't happen. Teresa is the only thing that is important to me. My brother is going to let me know when they will be attacking so your pack can be prepared." I nod and we lead him to the room that Teresa is in.

Leland POV

As soon as they say they are going to take me to Teresa, I feel relief like I have never known. I worried I would never see her again, let alone touch her. Once we reach the room, I waste no time going to her bedside. She smiles as I take her hand. "I'm so glad you're alright, you had me losing my mind Teresa." "I'm fine" she says and I raise her hand to my lips. I hear someone clear their throat and I look over at a smiling Pheobe. "Hello Leland" she says. "Pheobe, it's good to see you again" I say and I hear a growl from the man standing near her. She's mated to a wolf. I remember Teresa telling me that when she confided in me where Pheobe was. "Leland, this is my mate, Michael." I reach out my hand and he takes it to shake. I pull back, taking Teresa's hand again. "Thank you, Leland, for saving my mother after Lucas did what he did to her." "Your brother is evil and I would do anything to keep Teresa safe."

Lily walks around the bed and begins to chant. A few moments later, I feel my powers return. As soon as she finished, I can feel Lance reaching out to me. I close my eyes "Leland" he yells. "I'm here Lance." "What the hell? I thought they killed you." "No, I'm fine. I'm here with Teresa and she is safe." "Good brother, now Lucas has ordered the attack for dusk tomorrow." "Excellent, I take it that means he believed the story." "It seems that way." "Please be careful Lance. Tomorrow this will all be over and Lucas will no longer be a threat." "I will brother and tomorrow I get to formally meet my new sister-in-law." I laugh before he is gone.

Lance POV

When Leland finally answers, I tell him everything that Lucas said about the attack. I hope he is right about the pack being strong enough to defeat Lucas. I'm glad that Teresa is alright. I still can't believe what he did to his own mother. Leland would have been destroyed if anything happened to her. After we say our goodbyes, I open my eyes and I was very wrong about Lucas believing my story. He is standing over me with an evil smile on his face. "Did you have a nice conversation with your brother, Lance?" "What the hell are you talking about Lucas?" "Don't test me, Lance, because you know I am a monster. I cared nothing to kill my own father and mother. I assure you that you mean nothing to me I will have no problem killing you." He waves his hand and I can feel his power take hold of me. I can't

move and the panic rises in my body. He leans down so we are face to face. "You should be scared because I'm about to show you exactly what I can do." He places his hand on my forehead and I can feel him push into my mind.

Lucas POV

He really thought I believed his story. He and Leland have been close all our lives. If he really had been captured by those mutts and witches, Lance would have been destroyed. He never would have come back without his brother. I head down the hall to Lance's room. I turn the handle slowly and he is lying on the bed with his eyes closed. I can tell he is projecting himself to someone. I place my hand above his head without touching him. I tap into the conversation. I can feel the anger flowing through my body that Leland would dare betray me. Once he stops projecting and opens his eyes, I see the fear on his face. Leland is about to be very sorry. I paralyze him before I open my mind to allow thoughts to flow back and forth between us. "Reach out to your brother", I command. He fights me as long as he can before he has no choice but to give in. A few seconds later, the connection is made.

"Lance, what's going on" Leland asks. "Does your brother need a reason to want to talk to you Leland" I say and wait for his response. There is silence for a moment. "Nothing to say, Leland." "Lucas, please" he says. "Please what, please don't kill your pathetic brother for your treachery." "Lucas, please I will come back and you can do whatever you want to me, but don't hurt him." "This isn't a negotiation, Leland. The only way your brother survives this is if you help me get my pet and prize." A few seconds go by and he doesn't answer. "This is a one-time deal, Leland. So, either you help me beat the mutts and get my property or I kill your brother slowly and painfully." "Fine, I'll help you, but if you hurt him I will kill you myself, Lucas." I laugh "don't make threats you aren't possibly capable of making good on." "Say hello to my mother for me will you." I close the passage of my thoughts and step back from Lance. I wave my hand and he disappears. He really thought he could get the better of me. I never realized how stupid Leland really is. I head to the soldier's barracks because it's time.

Chapter 54

54 Dealt With

Leland POV

As soon as I hear Lucas's voice in my head, every bit of joy I felt a moment ago is gone. After all I have seen him do over these last few months, I know exactly what he is capable of. If something happens to Lance, it will be

because he helped me. I can't have my brother pay for my decisions. As soon as Lucas breaks our connection, I open my eyes and everyone is staring at me. "What happened Leland", Pheobe asks me. A million thoughts run through my mind about what to do next, but the strongest one is to protect Lance. I don't want to hurt these people, but what other choice do I have? I compose myself to keep my heart rate even. I know the wolves can hear changes in my heart rate that could make them suspicious. I won't lie, I just won't tell them everything. "My brother reached out to me as we had planned about the timing of the attack. Lance said that Lucas told him they will be attacking at dusk tomorrow." Teresa squeezes my hand and I look down, seeing what looks like disappointment on her face. She couldn't have heard my conversation with Lucas, our bond isn't complete. "That's amazing, we will ready the warriors for their arrival. Lucas is going to be very sorry for all he has done", the Alpha says to everyone in the room. I nod and Pheobe stands. "We're going to let you rest, mother" she says and leans down to hug Teresa. "Leland, I assume you will stay with her and protect her." "Of course, with my life" I say. "I'm glad you have each other, you both deserve to be happy" Pheobe says before she takes Michael's hand to leave. I hate that she is trusting me and once again, Lucas is going to hurt her through me.

Everyone else says their goodbyes before I'm alone with Teresa for the first time since I've arrived. I grab a chair pulling it to sit down next to her bed. "So, are you going to tell me what just happened?" "What do you mean", I ask hoping she is just talking about how I got here. "Leland, do not keep secrets from me. I choose you, but if you betray my family, that will all change." I take a deep breath and look into her eyes. "Lucas has figured out what Lance and I did and he is going to kill Lance if I don't help

him." She grips my hand "You need to tell Pheobe and the Alpha everything." "I want to Teresa but he will kill Lance." She pushes herself up so she is sitting up straighter. "Leland for years I allowed my fear of Lucas to dictate my choices and because of that many of the people I love have suffered. I promise you that telling the truth and asking for help is the better path to travel. It is the only path I will travel with you." I feel like my heart is squeezing in my chest. I need both of them alive and with me. How do I do this?

I say a prayer to the goddess that Teresa is right and these people can help us save Lance. "I will tell them everything." She lifts my hand to her lips, placing a soft kiss on the back of it. Before I realize what she is doing, she lays her hand on my marking spot and begins to chant. The feeling of her magic flowing through me is so overwhelming. After a few minutes, she pulls her hand away and I lean in to kiss her for the first time. Her lips are soft and I

pour everything I feel for her into that kiss. When I pull back, she smiles. "I promise that when I'm one hundred percent we will finish the mating and complete the bond." "There is no rush love, I'm never letting you go." I go into the bathroom and look at her beautiful blue mark on my neck. The mark that shows everyone that I belong to her. I come back out and head for the door. "Where are you going" she asks, a little panicked. "I need one of the nurses to contact the Alpha so we can discuss my conversation with Lucas." She smiles and I walk to the nurse's station. After the nurse assures me, she will let him know, I head back to Teresa's room. Once I'm inside, I sit back in the chair and take Teresa's hand waiting until they arrive.

Amelia POV

I walk with Lincoln hand in hand as the others walk ahead. I wanted to be a hundred percent before I brought this up to Lincoln and today, I feel that. I feel like I'm ready to deal with Jennifer. "Lincoln, before everything happens with Lucas, I would like to deal with Jennifer. He stops walking for a moment. He steps closer pulling me into him. "Are you sure you want to be the one to do this love?" "Star and I are positive that we are the ones that will be dealing with her. She tried to hurt me and my pup by taking me away from my mate. She is mine." He buries his head in my neck. "That was really

hot love" he whispers in my ear and I chuckle. He pulls back "let's go do this." We catch up with the others. "Michael, will you take Neal to the warrior's barracks to start preparing them for the battle." "You're not coming with us" he says with confusion on his face. "No, Amelia will be dealing with Jennifer first." Lily smiles and Pheobe looks confused. I give her the short version and they both take a seat on the patio while Lincoln and I head to the cells. As we approach the guard, he bares his neck to us. "Open the door", he says, and the guard does as he asks. He leads me down the stairs.

We come to stand in front of the cell and she smiles when she sees Lincoln. She really can't be this delusional. He has her locked in the cells and she is still smiling at him. I step around, so I'm standing in front of him. He places his hands on my shoulders and the smile she had is gone. "What the f**k do you want" she says with all the venom she can muster. "Be careful how you speak the Luna of this pack" Lincoln says and growls. "She is no Luna of mine and you have made a mistake by claiming someone else's ba**ard child." That is all I need to hear and Star is at the surface. I step forward "Jennifer for the crimes committed against myself and the heir to the pack you have been sentenced to death. The sentence will be carried out by me." Her eyes get big and for first time she stays quiet. I turn to the guard "take her to the pack yard

now.” “Lincoln, please don’t let her do this. You care about me and she is jealous, please stop her from hurting me.” He laughs “my Luna has spoken.” We head for the stairs and I hear her screaming at the guard who is pulling her out of the cell.

We reach the pack yard and it’s almost dusk. The only ones around are Lily and Pheobe who stay seated in the chairs on the patio. Lily knows I need to do this for myself and won’t interfere. The guard throws Jennifer to the ground about twenty feet from me. “Star, are you ready?” “Ready to shut her up permanently, absolutely.” “Turn around” I hear Lincoln yell at the guard and I chuckle as I start to strip. “Amelia please don’t do this, I’m sorry” Jennifer pleads. “It’s too little too late, now shift” I give command before I shift into Star. I watch as Jennifer’s wolf takes over. She is an average-size wolf with dirty brown fur. We start to circle her. She starts to back up but then lunges at Star. We side step before we come around biting down on her hind leg. She whines and tries to pull free. Star releases her and she tries to run. Star follows, knocking her to the ground. The wolf rolls three times before she manages to

get to her feet again. As we stalk toward her, she shifts. At first, I think it’s an attempt to stop what is happening but then I realize it wasn’t her choice. I can hear her pleading with her wolf to shift back. Her wolf has abandoned her. She is barely able to stand on her feet with the injury to her leg and no wolf to heal her. “It’s time to end this Star.” We close the distance between us and we shift to human form.

I see a moment of hope in her eyes before I take a fighting stance. I can’t kill her in wolf form when she doesn’t have a wolf. I am not a monster. She smiles and we start to circle each other. She doesn’t realize that just because I’m not a warrior doesn’t mean that I haven’t trained. She comes at me and I superman punch her in the face. She is knocked to the ground. I don’t allow her time to get up and I’m on top of her. I punch two more times before I grab her and pull her into a seated position. I wrap my arms around her neck and head. I move in one swift movement and I hear her neck break. I drop her to the ground before Lincoln helps me to stand. He takes off his shirt, placing it over my head. It looks like a dress on me. “Take her body and throw it over the border. She will not be buried in our territory for all she has done” Lincoln gives orders to the warrior. He leans down kissing my lips. “I’m proud of you, Amelia” he says as he pulls back. “I’m going to get cleaned up and get Eli from your parents while you go be the Alpha.” He chuckles “yes Luna.” He kisses me softly once more before I walk over to the patio. Lily wraps me in a hug first and then Pheobe. “Give little bean a kiss for me”, Lily says. I head upstairs and jump into the shower before I go upstairs to get Eli. I tell Lorraine

and Charles about Leland and Jennifer. "You just be careful that pup, my son, and this pack need you", Lorraine says before she hugs me. Charles hugs me and I take Eli to our room. I feed him and lay him in the bed next to me. Once he finishes drinking and I kiss him, I lay him in the bassinet. The exhaustion hits me hard and I lay down in our bed to wait for Lincoln to come back.

Lincoln POV

I'm just finishing up with the warriors when I get a link that my presence is being requested at the hospital. I really would like to get back to Amelia and Eli but I can't ignore a request as Alpha. When I reach the hospital, the nurse directs me to Teresa's room. What else could they need to tell me after we

spoke earlier? I knock and head inside. Leland stands and bows to show respect. "The nurse said you wanted to see me." "Yes Alpha, I wasn't completely honest earlier." I growl "what does that mean exactly?" He tells me about Lucas and his brother. I do understand why he didn't tell us but I'm glad that Teresa convinced him it was the right thing to do. "Teresa's right, it is always better to ask for help than to keep secrets Leland." He nods "we will do everything we can to save your brother from that ba**ard." "Thank you, Alpha. I'm sure that means he won't stay to the timeline, he told Lance." "I'm sure your right about that Leland. We will be ready whenever he attacks." Just as the words leave my mouth a patrol guard links me. "Alpha we're under attack by warlocks."

Chapter 55

55 Battle

John POV

I'm heading to the warrior's barracks after Lily came to tell me everything that is happening regarding Lucas's attack. I'm glad Leland is doing the right thing. I want to be there to see that ba**ard suffer after what he did to my aunt and his mother. As I walk down the path that winds through the cottages and leads to the barracks, a white wolf runs across in front of me. The wolf stops and starts to sniff the air before it runs toward the cottages. I don't know all the wolves in the pack, but if I remember correctly, white wolves aren't common. I watch as the wolf comes to stop in front of one of the cottages. When the wolf shifts, I can see it's a beautiful woman even though I some distance away. I

don't want to act like a pervert, but I can't bring myself to look away. She notices me but before she can say anything, a little girl comes running outside. "Mama, I want to ride Clarice", I hear the little girl say. Another woman comes out onto the porch and stares in my direction. If looks could kill, I would be dead. The woman shifts again into the white wolf and the little girl climbs on her back before she takes off. I watch her weave through the trees until I can't see her anymore. "The show is over, get lost" the woman yells from the porch. I say nothing and finish the walk to the barracks.

When I arrive, I speak with Michael and the warriors about our plan when Lucas makes his move to attack the pack. Lucas has no idea what he is about to walk into. "Get some rest, everyone needs to be at their best tomorrow so we don't lose any warriors", Michael says to the men. We start the walk back from the barracks toward my cottage and the pack house. "Michael, the white wolf I saw tonight, who is she?" He stops and looks at me like I'm crazy. "There is no white wolf in the pack. I would know about a white wolf if we had one. They are blessed by the goddess herself and very special." "Michael, I am telling you that the woman in the cottage up ahead is a white wolf. I watched her shift." "Show me what cottage you're talking about" he says and we walk farther up the path. I point to the cottage and he smiles. "That is the place we gave to Maureen, Penny, and Judith. They were rogues that Atlas had

locked up and Walker helped free them. She was part of a collective but ran because its leader is nuts and was trying to force her to mate. I haven't seen her wolf yet." "Well, I assure you that she is white as snow." "That's amazing, I'll let Lincoln and Amelia know before I head home. Don't say anything to anyone else, John. There has to be a reason she kept that fact to herself." "Of course, I won't say a word." Michael starts to walk toward the pack house as I walk toward my cottage. We have only taken about ten steps when we hear growling and screaming. Michael rushes toward me, "we are under attack, I guess the a**hole changed his mind about when he was coming." We both rush toward the border. I see him linking as we run. He shifts and I can't keep up, so I teleport to the trees near the border.

Lincoln POV

As soon as the patrol guard cuts the link, I'm on my feet. "Lucas is here, its time Leland." I know this is hard for him to leave Teresa, but we will need all the help we can get if we have any hope of keeping our pack safe and saving his brother. "Leland, I have my powers, I'll be fine. Go help make things right once and for all, please." He bends down and kisses her before we rush from

the room. I link Amelia to meet me outside the pack house. I shift and Leland disappears. As soon as I reach the pack house Star is waiting. We take off toward the border. I say a prayer to the goddess to keep Amelia and everyone safe. Once we arrive, there must be a hundred warlocks standing across the border. I shift as does Amelia, pulling on shorts and a t-shirt. "Well, aren't you a pretty mutt", Lucas says. I growl and Talon is ready to rip him to shreds. We have to be smart about this. After all, he is a warlock with powers.

"Don't speak to my Luna you pathetic excuse for a warlock." He laughs and that pisses me off more. "I assume you're the Alpha of this worthless pack." "I am the Alpha of this pack that is about to end your existence." He rolls his eyes before he looks around. "Where is my little sister hiding herself?" I hear Michael growl from behind me. I turn and Pheobe appears next to him. They join hands and I smile. I turn back and a look of disgust passes over the ba**ards face. They come to stand next to us. "Oh, I'm

sorry, let me introduce you to Pheobe's mate, Michael. The Beta of this pack. "You have accepted a disgusting wolf as your beloved. You are no sister of mine and will die today for your betrayal of your kind." "No, I am not a sister to you. You are a monster and not worthy of being anything to anyone", Pheobe says. A noise draws our attention from the woods and Leland walks over and stands next to Lucas. I hear gasps all around me. Pheobe looks like her heart is breaking, but right now I can't explain what's happening. "How could you betray my mother," Pheobe says. "Don't worry, Pheobe, mother won't be alive long enough to be disappointed that her beloved follows my orders."

Pheobe POV

I feel like I can't breath, as I watch Leland come to stand next to Lucas. How could he do this after all he said? I ball my fist with the anger that I feel at Leland's actions. I expected my brother to be a snake, but I had really hoped that Leland loved my mother enough to be a man of his word. "I think it's time that you all learned exactly what we are capable of." He raises his hand and without a thought, I do the same. I deflect every energy ball he throws. I hear him give the order and all hell breaks loose. He starts toward me, but honestly, I am not afraid of him anymore. I am strong enough and with the support of the people around me, I can do this. Lily comes to stand on my left side and Iris on my right. I smile when I see Lucas stop about twenty feet from us. "Isn't this perfect, my pet and my new beloved?" "I am nothing to you. That is my beloved", Lily says, pointing at Neal, who is fighting in wolf form. Again, a look of disgust crosses my brother's face. "The only thing that you will be receiving today, Lucas, is a one-way trip to the goddess for your real

punishment”, Iris says. He laughs before he starts to chant. I watch a large blue ball start to swirl around him.

He raises his hand and I prepare to block whatever comes toward us. The sick smile on his face makes a pit form in my stomach. He turns throwing the energy ball toward warlocks and wolves that are fighting. He doesn’t care about his own coven members. Neal and Michael are among them. Before I can even react, I watch as the energy ball breaks into a millions, of tiny pieces. I let go of the breath I didn’t even realize I was holding. That’s when I realize that John is coming out of the trees. He and

Leland are the reason the ball was destroyed. Lucas screams and throws an energy ball at John, knocking him back into a tree. Leland disappears before Lucas can do anything to him. He turns back to us with rage on his face. Lily rushes toward him, fueled by anger about what he just did to John. Iris and I walk toward him, following behind her. For the first time, I see fear in my brother’s eyes. Lily begins to chant and this time when he goes to throw the energy ball at her, I raise the purple haze like a shield. The energy bursts the minute it touches the haze. As she continues to chant, he grips his chest, falling to his knees. After a few moments, she turns to me. “You can drop the shield, Pheobe.” I look at her like she is crazy. “I won’t let him hurt you.” She smiles “he can’t hurt anyone anymore. He has no powers.” I do as she asks, but I’m still nervous.

Lily POV

When I see John hit the tree after he saved our beloveds, I feel the anger consume me. I begin to chant a spell to make him human. He will die today but he will do it with no power. He is just like my father and being powerless is worse than death. When Pheobe drops the shield he smiles, not realizing that he is in a world of trouble. He raises his hands to conjure and nothing happens. “What’s the matter, Lucas, feeling a bit human?” He tries again but still can’t cast. “What the f**k did you do to me you b**ch?” “I gave you exactly what you deserved. I stripped you of your powers and now you will know what it is to be helpless.” He starts to look around at his men, but unfortunately for him, despite their powers, they aren’t doing very well against the wolves. They are no help to him. I notice that Walker’s wolf, Rowan, is stalking toward him. I’m sure my mother told her mate everything that this ba**ard did to her. As much as I would love to be the one to end him, I think Walker and my mother should have the pleasure. I turn to Pheobe and she nods at me already knowing my question.

I turn to my mother. "I believe your beloved is ready to have his pound of flesh mom." She smiles "me too." Walker's wolf comes to stand next to her. "For all you did to my mother, you die today." He turns like the coward he is and takes off like he can really out run a wolf. My mother appears on Rowan's back and they stalk toward him. As soon as they reach him, my mother lifts him off the ground. I watch

as his skin begins to turn red. She is boiling him from the inside out. It suddenly stops and he screams. My mother tosses him with her powers like a chew toy before Rowan jumps up taking him in his mouth. Rowan begins to shake him as his screams echo the field. Everything stops, all the warlocks freeze, realizing that the leader is on the brink of death. Rowan turns with Lucas in his mouth. He bites down and his body falls to the ground in two pieces. My mother throws a fire ball, striking both pieces and they burst into flames. It's over, he's dead. I think about John, I turn to rush over to the tree but he's gone. What the hell could have happened to him?

Chapter 56

56 Beloved

Maureen POV

Clarice begged me to go on a run. I had spoken to the Alpha and Luna to make sure it would be alright given we aren't technically part of the pack. They have both been so kind and told me that my mother and I may both shift freely. I know my mother is still nervous about being here and about Damien, but I really believe we belong here. I hope this pack will be a safe place for Penny to grow up. We are coming back through the woods toward the path that leads to the beautiful cottage they have let us so graciously use. As we approach the path, Clarice growls low. We notice a man walking and I expect her to keep moving toward the cottage but she shocks me and stops in front of him. "Clarice" is all I manage to get out before she scents the air. The smell of lilacs fills our nose. "Mate" she says, and I'm ready to freak out. "Clarice no, we have to think about Penny. She lost her father. We already lost our mate and I won't live through it again. You know Damien is still out there and he won't stop trying to get us." "Maureen, he's a warlock, he's strong" Clarice pleads with me. "Do you think he is really going to want a rogue with a child?" She whimpers and takes off toward the cottage. I can feel her heart breaking just as much as mine is.

I shift intending to rush into the cottage and away from him. He doesn't realize who I am because he never looked into our eyes. I hear the door open and my sweet girl runs out onto the porch. "Mama, I want to ride Clarice, please", Penny says in her sweet voice. My mother comes out behind her and I see her staring at the man. I'm sure she can feel something is off with me. I don't give her a chance to ask any questions and shift. She helps Penny get on Clarice's back and we take off. She lays her body down snuggling into Clarice's fur. Being with our pup helps the heartache we are both feeling right now. We run for a long time. "Clarice, I think it's time to take Penny back and get her ready for bed." "Alright" she says, which isn't like her. She would normally give me some witty response or at least talk to me. I hate that we can't just be with our fated mate. The goddess gave us a mate and he was taken away.

It's better to hurt now and move forward than to be rejected or lose him. Clarice's low growl brings me back to the moment. That's when I realize that warlocks have come into the territory. "Clarice, Penny is with us." She starts to back up but we can still see when the Alpha and Luna arrive. We shift and I turn to Penny. "Sweetie, I need you to be very quiet right now." "Ok mama, I will." I position us behind a tree and that's when the scent hits me, lilac.

I scan the clearing but I don't see him. I wish Penny wasn't here with me because I would be out there helping the pack. I watch him step out from the trees in front of us. Everything in me wants to protect him, but I can't leave Penny. A million scenarios run through my mind, but before I can act, he rushes out into the clearing. I watch him protect a group of wolves and pride blooms in my chest even though he isn't mine. He is a good man. In the blink of an eye, the feeling of pride is replaced by fear as I watch him fly through the air hitting a tree. The sound of his body striking the tree makes me sick to my stomach. "Mama, he's hurt" my sweet girl whispers. I turn back and bend down so we are eye to eye. "Yes, he is sweetie and mama needs to help him, but I need you to be a good girl and stay right here." "Do you promise mama?" "Yes, I promise" she says and I kiss her forehead. I start toward my mate, looking back to check on Penny as I move forward. His body is lifeless and I say a prayer to the goddess that he is still alive. I grab under his arms to pull him back into the trees.

I look up to see Lily and Pheobe dealing with the attacking warlock. I'm in awe of their strength. I know they don't need any help from me and I focus on helping my mate. The feeling of tingles on my hands where I'm touching his skin is hard to ignore. "Don't ignore it, claim him" Clarice says. "Stop, I told you we can't do that. Focus on helping him, Clarice." Once we are far enough,

in the trees, I call Penny over so she is near me. "Is he alright mama?" "Not yet baby but mama is going to help him." She smiles and I turn back to the most beautiful man I've ever seen. I shake away those thoughts and concentrate on healing him. I lay my hands on chest. I can feel the glow start in my fingertips and into his body. After a few minutes, the glow dies down and I can hear his heart rate slow. I rub my hand down his face, feeling his warm skin. "Is he better mama?" "Yes, sweet girl, he is." I look up when I hear Lily's voice calling out to him. "John, where are you" she says. I look down and his eyes are open

looking at me. Sh*t I say when I see the realization on his face. "Beloved" he whispers. I stand and Lily rushes over looking at me with concern on her face. I turn and grab Penny's hand. We run for a minute putting some distance between us. I stop "Penny, I need you to climb on Clairce' back right now." She nods and I shift. She climbs her snout and onto her back.

I hear footsteps and look back to see John running toward us. "Go to the cottage Clarice, now." She whimpers but does as I ask. We run and in a few minutes, we're at the cottage. I shift and usher Penny up the stairs. "Maureen please", I hear as we reach the porch. I take a breath and before I can turn to face John, the door to the cottage opens. My mother has a look of disapproval on her face but, thankfully, she hands me a dress to put on. I slip it over my head, grateful to have a way to cover myself. "Penny go inside with grandma." "Maureen", my mother says my name like a command. "Mother, I will be in in a minute." I know she wants to say more, but thankfully, she goes inside.

John POV

I'm consumed by darkness but I can hear distant voices. I feel warmth throughout my body and the pain I had when I hit the tree is gone. I hear Lily's voice and I will my eyes to open. The woman from earlier is leaning over me and the little girl is with her. She looks down and our eyes meet. I feel like I can't breathe. "Beloved" I say and she acts, she acts as if I burned her. Before I can say a word, she takes off with the little girl. I push to my feet. "John what are you doing, you're hurt" Lily says as I start in the direction she just went. "She is my beloved, I can't lose her." "Her name is Maureen" Lily yells to me and I can hear the happiness in her voice. I love my cousin and going with her was the best thing I ever did. When I finally reach her, she is in wolf form and takes off. She will not get away from me that easily. I teleport to the trees near the cottage and wait for her to arrive.

When I see her wolf come down the path and shift, I take a deep breath. I step out of the trees and say her name. She stiffens before the door opens. The woman from earlier is still shooting me a death stare. Once we're alone, she turns back and I can see her beautiful face. Her eyes are the most

piercing blue. "John, we need talk." Her words are like a bucket of cold water on my hope. "Before you say anything please hear me out." She nods "you are my beloved and I accept you. I accept everything about you. I will never want anyone but you. You were chosen by the goddess for me and I accept the gift that you are. Please accept our bond and be mine." I see a single tear roll down her cheek. I step forward but she raises her hand to stop me. I feel like there is a rock in my stomach and I can't breathe. "John, I know you believe what you just said but it's not that simple." "Yes, it is" I say before I close the distance between us. I'm close enough to touch her but I don't. Her breath catches before she composes herself. "Tell me what you're thinking right now." "John, I am a rogue with a child. I have a man that is hell bent on claiming me no matter who he has to kill." "The f**k he will", I say before I can stop myself. She smiles but it's gone as quickly as it came.

"John" as the words leave her mouth a growl comes from behind me. I turn and a wolf is stalking toward us. Maureen steps in front of me and I'm just about to step around her when she shifts, jumping in front of the wolf. No f**king way is anyone going to hurt my beloved. I wave my hand, freezing the wolf in place. I have no idea who this wolf is, but until I do, he won't be moving. I can see the fear in his eyes when he realizes he can't move. Maureen's wolf looks back at me and I can see softness in her eyes. I hope that means she wants to accept me and will help Maureen see that we are meant to be together. I walk until I am standing next to her staring at the wolf. "You thought that because the pack was under attack it would be easy to try to take my beloved." I hear a sound that reminds me of a cat purring coming from Maureen's wolf. I smile before I link Lincoln. "You will never have my beloved. The Alpha and Luna are on their way."

Chapter 57

57 New Coven

Amelia POV

I watch Lily and Pheobe end that pathetic f**ker quickly. I knew they were stronger than Lucas, but expected more from the warlocks. I know our pack is by no means weak, but we didn't lose one warrior, which I'm so grateful for. Pheobe and Michael come to stand next to me and Lincoln. There are thirty warlocks kneeling in front of us and Leland is standing off to the side. Pheobe steps forward, "you have come here today to the Nightfire Pack under the orders of your coven leader, who is now dead. Leland, please step forward. Before he comes to stand in front of Pheobe, he stops in front of me and Lincoln. He bares his neck, showing us respect. I smile and Lincoln nods at him. He moves coming to stand in front of Pheobe. "I, Pheobe Brin Williams, decree that from this day forward you, Leland Stone and your beloved Teresa Stone will be the leaders of the Blue Rose Coven. This coven that was once the Black Rose and the Blue Star will now be one under your leadership. Leland Stone, do you accept this responsibility of the coven and its members?" He smiles and I'm happy that the coven will have the leaders it deserves.

"I, Leland Stone, accept the role of coven leader for the Blue Rose Coven. I will lead with my beloved Teresa Stone. We will lead with strength and kindness. All coven members will be shown respect by their leaders and peers." He turns to the remaining warlocks. "Anyone of you that doesn't agree with that will not remain part of the coven." I see many of them nodding their heads while others stand stoically staring at Leland. Pheobe steps forward again. "This coven will be under my protection and anyone who goes against it will have the same fate Lucas did. So, you will each show me your energy signature now." Leland looks confused and honestly, I am too. Lincoln looks like he knows exactly what's happening. "What is she doing," I link him. "Watch, she is about to weed out the bad seeds" he links me back with a smile on his face. I roll my eyes but do as he says. I turn back and the warlocks all have energy balls swirling above their hands. Most of them have swirling balls of light but five don't.

The balls are black swirling clouds above their hands. They are the warlocks that didn't look happy about what Leland was saying.

Pheobe POV

I had truly hoped that all the warlocks that didn't perish would use this as an opportunity to have a better life, but unfortunately a small group of them haven't. I raise my hand and push an energy ball knocking the five warlocks away from the group. The others gather off to the side. I'm sure realizing what is about to happen. As they get to their feet, a look of disgust and anger

adorns their faces. "You f**king pathetic b**ch" the one to the front of the group says and I laugh. "You really have to be stupid after what you just witnessed." "You could have been the strongest black magic witch that anyone has ever known but instead you chose light and mutts." I'm just about to cast and turn them to ash when the one speaking is struck with an energy ball that came from behind us. I turn and smile "don't you ever speak to my daughter that way again." I turn back and between the three of us the remaining four are ashes in seconds.

Leland rushes over wrapping my mother in his arms. "Teresa, you should be resting." "Leland don't tell me what to do. I am fine." I chuckle to myself, loving their exchange. Arms wrap around me from behind and I lean back into him. Feeling relief and grateful that Lucas and the others have been dealt with. Michael stiffens and I turn in his arms expecting to see concern on his face, but I see happiness. "What just happened" I ask. He leans in, whispering in my ear "I'll tell you later." I'm just about to demand he tells me now when my mother calls my name. "Pheobe, we will be returning to the coven to ensure all the black magic warlocks are dealt with. We also need to find out what happened to Lance." I turn to Michael, Amelia, and Lincoln. They all nod at me even though no words are spoken between us. "Mom, Michael and I will be returning with you to ensure that they are all dealt with and the new coven is in order." "Thank you, and all of you" my mother says. Neal, Lily, Iris, and Walker join us. I notice my mother's smile fade. Iris must notice too. She walks until she is standing in front of my mother. Without a word, she pulls my mother into a hug. I know words pass between them but I can't make out what

they say. I will have to ask Michael exactly what he heard. I know with his wolf hearing he knows what they said to each other. They pull back from each other and both of their faces are tear-stained. I'm glad to see them make peace. I love my mother and Iris has become part of my family. I hug Amelia and Lily before I wrap my arms around Michael. "We will be back soon", I say before I teleport us to the coven.

Lincoln POV

As we watch Michael and Pheobe disappear, I wrap my arm around my beautiful mate. The remaining warlocks, Teresa, and Leland all disappear and the clearing is quiet. I lean down whispering into Amelia's ear. "Are you ready to go get our little one?" "More than ready Lincoln." I shake Neal's hand and let go of Amelia as she goes to hug Lily. "I think its time for us all to get some rest", I say to everyone. We start our walk back to the pack house when I get a link from John. "Alpha, I'm with Maureen outside her cottage and I have a

rogue frozen that was going to attack her.” I growl “we are on our way.” “What’s wrong, Lincoln?” “A f**king rogue made it into the pack. Of all the nights for this bulls*t. It’s just like last time with Atlas. They wait till they know we are dealing with another a**hole. I just don’t understand how they could know. We assumed that Atlas had a hand in the last rogue attack but obviously he has nothing to do with this.” “We will figure it out Lincoln, let’s just go deal with the rogue.” I lean down, pressing my lips to hers before we head to the cottages.

As we approach, the wolf looks like a statue. John and Maureen are standing waiting for our arrival. John looks more pissed than I’ve ever seen before. “John” I say, and he focuses his attention off the wolf and on me. “He came here to attack my beloved.” Now that just pisses me off. I turn to the wolf. “You have made a grave mistake, but before I deal with you, you will tell us who sent you. John, release your hold on him.” John does as I ask. The wolf begins to back up, ready to take off. “Shift now”, I give command and despite being a rogue, his wolf gives in. He shifts and the man standing begins to plead for mercy. “Who sent you to our pack?” “I can’t tell you, please don’t kill me.” “What do you mean you can’t tell us?” “The man that sent me here has a witch and she gave me something that

won’t allow me to tell you anything about the collective or him. I can only tell you why I’m here. All I know is he wants her” he says, pointing at Maureen. I turn and Maureen is on the porch holding Penny in her arms with Judith standing next to her. I turn back to the man. “What were your orders from the collective’s leader?” “Please, he has my mate and he will kill her.” “We have ways to determine if you’re telling the truth and if you are we will help you save your mate but only if you tell me what he wanted you to do.” I can see the worry on his face and I actually believe his story. John will be able to tell us for sure if he is being truthful. “He wanted me to take the little girl back to the collective because he knew that Maureen would come for her.” I hear a growl and Maureen is gripping Penny tightly.

I link a warrior to come to take him to the cells for now. “How long did he give you to return with the Penny?” “Three days and if I’m not back he kills Jeanine.” “My warriors will take you to the cells, but I promise once we ensure you are telling the truth we will be dealing with the collective leader.” He nods a look of relief washing over him. He can only be eighteen years old. This ba**ard is another monster using a weaker wolf to do his bidding. Once the rogue is gone, I turn to Maureen. “Do you remember him, Maureen?” “I do, he was kind and I remember his mate too. They just found each other a few months ago. Damien is a coward sending that young man to take Penny.”

John climbs the stairs and stands next to them. "That will never happen, I promise you" John says. "We all need to get some rest and tomorrow we come up with plan to deal with the f**king ba**ard." John and Maureen both nod at me. "Bye Alpha" Penny says in her little voice. "Bye Penny" I say and we walk the rest of the way to my parent's floor to get Eli.

Maureen POV

When I hear Ethan say that Damien sent him to take Penny, I feel sick to my stomach. "Maureen, I told you he wouldn't stop no matter where we are" my mother says. "Mother" I say, but John stops me. "Judith, I understand that you are worried about your daughter and granddaughter but I promise you that this pack is exactly where you need to be. This pack will protect them with their lives. I will protect them at any cost." For the first time, I see a smile on my mother's face. She takes Penny out of my

arms before she leans into John's space. "If you hurt my daughter, you will be very sorry, warlock or not." She turns to go inside "you never have to worry about that Judith, she is my beloved." The door closes and we are alone. He looks into my eyes and all the reasons I had to say no seem stupid. "They are stupid accept our mate" Clarice says.

Chapter 58

58 Accept Him

Pheobe POV

We appear in front of the mansion that I hoped I would never see again. A mansion that held fear and pain for a long time. I hope that all that is behind us now and it will be a place of happiness. Michael lays a kiss on my forehead and I smile. I'm just about to ask him about what happened earlier when the others appear. The mansion door opens and coven members begin to file out. Some look concerned and others look relieved. Leland looks at me and I nod. Leland and my mother are the coven leaders and he needs to make that clear today. He takes my mother's hand and faces the coven members. "Lucas Williams is no more. As decreed by Pheobe Williams, I, Leland Stone, with my beloved Teresa Stone are now the coven leaders." I hear gasps from the coven as they look at my mother. I haven't seen the smile my mother is wearing since Lucas took my father from us. "This coven will be at peace and

all of its members will be one. We are no longer two covens joined by evil force. We are one coven, the Blue Rose Coven. If any of you don't agree, now is your time to speak." I look around and honestly, I'm in shock. Every witch and warlock bows in respect. They show their magical signature before their new leaders and they are all light.

"We will be meeting with each of you to discuss your ranks and roles in the coven going forward" my mother says. They all stand nodding their agreement. "Thank you for your loyalty to the coven and to us. You are all dismissed", Leland says. After a few minutes, the courtyard is empty. My mother walks over to me and wraps her arms around me. "Thank you for being so strong and good, Pheobe. You are the best thing I have ever done. If your father was alive, he would be as proud as I am of you." I can feel the tears as they run down my cheeks, landing on her shoulder. I open my mind, allowing my mother to hear my thoughts. All these years, I really believed that my mother loved Lucas more than me. That I was a disappointment because I wasn't a fierce black magic witch. "I have always loved you and I have always been proud of you. You were never meant to be black magic. I knew that the

moment you were born. Fierce doesn't even begin to describe you sweetheart", she whispers in my ear. I pull back and she wipes the tears from my eyes. "I love you, Pheobe." "I love you, mom." When she steps back, Leland looks to Michael for permission. He nods and Leland wraps me in a hug. "Thank you, Pheobe for being so strong." "You don't need to thank me, just take good care of my mother and treat her as an equal." "I always will."

Leland is a good and honorable man. I'm glad the goddess has given my mother her second chance at happiness with him. He pulls back and I see panic flash across his face. "Lance" he says, before he rushes inside the mansion. He heads downstairs to the cells first. We all follow closely behind him. When we reach the cells, Leland begins to go cell to cell. Michael joins him while my mother and I stand near the stairs. I don't feel Lance's magic, but I remain hopeful. I pray that my brother did not kill Lance. A meow brings me out of my thoughts. I turn and a beautiful white cat is sitting on the stairs. I pick her up, holding her in my arms. That's when I realize that she is really a he. I rub my hand down his head and he purrs at my touch. He snuggles into my arms and looks up at me with beautiful blue eyes. "You're a beautiful cat." He jumps out of my arms and heads upstairs. I turn back and Leland is heading back toward us. "He isn't here. What if he" my mother stops his words by taking his hand. "Don't think like that. Let's go look through all the rooms in the mansion. Hopefully he has him in one of the rooms." Michael joins us and

we start back upstairs. We begin on the first floor, going room to room. We reach the floor that I shared with Lucas and my mother.

We walk into Lucas's room and memories of what he did to Iris come rushing back. I hate this room and that little room he kept her in. We start back out of the room and I make sure I'm last to leave. I turn back, waving my arms until nothing is left but an empty room. A fresh start for whatever the future holds for this space. I smile and follow them to my mother's old room and then to mine. I'm starting to lose hope that Lance is still alive. My brother was a monster and would think nothing of going back on the deal he made with Leland. We head down to the floor that Leland shared with Lance. Lucas allowed Leland to keep his brother close. Probably one of the only kindnesses I ever saw from my brother. We head into Lance's room first. There is no sign of him and I can see that Leland is losing

hope. We head toward the last room, which is Leland's, and the door is open. I say a prayer to the goddess that Lucas has him in here under some spell I can easily remove. Leland pushes the door and his face immediately falls. We all know that Lance isn't there just by his look. Leland walks in and I'm shocked to see the white cat from earlier sitting on the bed. Leland plops down defeated and the cat jumps onto his lap.

Maureen POV

He is so close I can feel his breath on my skin. It's making it hard to focus on what I need to say. His scent is invading my nostrils. Clarice is practically in heat as she tries to push to the surface. I tamper down her lust so I can focus. "You better accept our mate, he was made for us." I ignore her and I feel him slide his hand into mine. "I meant what I said Maureen. You are my beloved and I will protect and love you for the rest of my life." "I'm sure you have already figured out that I don't come alone John." He smiles "I will love that little girl like she is my own flesh and blood." "My mother" I say as a joke but he shocks me. "Your mother is my family now and I know that she is protecting her daughter when she is harsh." I smile at his words. Every part of me wants to believe him and accept this bond. Losing my first mate almost killed me. "What if" I start to say to Clarice in my mind. "No way, you will not live in the land of what if. That is not living Maureen. It is time to give him our love and to let him love us." He clears his throat and when I look at him, he is smiling like he knows a secret.

"You're talking to your wolf" he says and I nod. "What is her name?" Clarice is preening like a peacock in my mind. I roll my eyes and laugh. "Her name is

Clarice and she can't wait to meet you." For the first time he looks sad. I squeeze his hand. "what's wrong John?" "I'm sure she wishes that I had a wolf but I can't let you go." Before he can say another word, I reach up yanking him down until our lips crash together. The warmth and tingles from the kiss move down my body and I feel my knees go weak. He wraps his arms around my waist, pulling me against him. Am I really doing this right now? "Hell, yes you are. Stop worrying and accept our mate" Clarice growls. I pull back when we are both breathless. I walk over to the door. "Maureen where" he says. I open it and my mother is standing there. "Go, I'll take

care of Penny." I rush in, kissing her cheek before I go back out to John, who looks like he won the lottery. I offer him my hand and he takes it, leading me down the stairs and up the path. I have butterflies in my stomach. I was only ever with Timothy. I catch John staring at me several times as we walk and it makes me smile.

As we reach the porch, I notice that a woman is sitting on a chair. "Who the f**k is that" Clarice growls. I don't answer her. I just tighten my grip on John's hand. He must finally notice the girl. He stiffens for a moment but says nothing. He stops at the bottom of the stairs and the woman looks at our joined hands. "What's up Clarissa," he says rather coldly. I'm sure he knows this woman in a way I wish he didn't based on his behavior. "I just wanted to check on you John. I heard about the warlocks coming and the battle. Are you alright?" "I'm better than alright." He turns to me "this is my beloved Maureen." I see a look flash across her face but it's gone as quickly as it came. She walks toward me sticking out her hand. "My name is Clarissa, I'm a friend of John's. It's very nice to meet you. Congratulations on finding your mate." "Thank you, Clarissa." "Well, I guess I should be going. I'll see you both around, I'm sure." John nods and I follow him up the stairs into the cottage.

John POV

As soon as I see Clarissa sitting on the porch, Lily's words play over in my head. After everything, I could lose my beloved over being an i***t. Once Clarissa's gone, I lead Maureen up the stairs into the cottage. I close the door and before I can explain myself, Maureen attacks my lips. I give into the kiss for a few minutes before I pull back. She looks confused, but I need to be truthful with her. I don't want secrets between us. "Maureen, Clarissa and I" she raises her hand to stop me. "John, will you ever touch another woman?" I look at her like she has ten heads. "Not as long as I live. You are the only woman I will ever touch." "Even though I hate the thought of any woman touching you, I can't hold the past against you." The relief that washes over

me is tremendous. I lift her off her feet and carry her bridal style to the bedroom. When we get inside, I set her on her feet. "I don't want you to feel rushed, so if you're not ready for us to mate I can wait." "John, I want you to make me yours." She doesn't have

to say that twice. "First, I, John Liam Bloom, accept you, Maureen Elizabeth Mane as my beloved and mate." She smiles "I, Maureen Elizabeth Mane, accept you John Liam Bloom, as my mate and beloved." I kiss her softly before I pull the shirt over my head and her eyes rake down my chest.

She lays her hands against my chest and the heat under her finger tips goes right to my groin. The kiss we shared on the porch was unlike anything I have ever felt before. I reach down, gripping her shirt and pulling it over her head. Her bare breasts are on display and I cup them in my hands. As I begin to knead them, she lets out a little moan. I can feel my member growing just from touching her. I need to get myself under control so I don't embarrass myself. I lift her, laying her down in the middle of the bed. I step back pulling off my pants and boxer briefs, freeing my er*ction. I look at her face and she is biting her lip as she stares at me. It's the hottest thing I've ever seen to see my beloved lying on my bed naked from the waist up biting her lip. I bend down, gripping her pants and sliding them down her perfect legs. I climb on the bed, kissing her legs until I reach her core. I look into her eyes as I take a long lick into her core. Her taste on my tongue is amazing. I plan to do this to her every day for the rest of our lives. I'm relentless as I swirl my tongue around her cl*t. She threads her hand into my hair, using me for her pleasure. It's so hot and I want desperately to be inside her. To mark her as mine. I bite down on her cl*t sending her over the edge. She screams out my name and I can't hold back anymore.

I climb the rest of the way up her body until we are face to face. I can feel my er*ction touching her core. I press my lips to hers as I press forward into her body. Her core wraps around my c**k and there aren't even words to describe how good this feels right now. I start to rock my hips and she grips my a** pulling me into her. I don't know how long I will last with how good feels right now. I want her to c*m again and I pick up the pace. I place my hand on her marking spot and pass my magic to her. When the glow starts, she screams out her orgasm. Her core begins to milk my c**k and I start to empty my seed inside her. She pulls me down and at first I feel a pinch of pain, but then the pleasure that consumes my whole body is life-affirming. The bond is complete and I feel whole. She pulls back and licks the spot she just marked. Once we both come down from our orgasms, I roll off pulling her into my

side. "You are mine and I am yours in this life and the next." "We are one and we always will be John." She presses soft kiss to my lips before she falls asleep with her head on my chest.

Chapter 59

59 Two-Faced

Pheobe POV

I can tell that Leland is in no mood to deal with the cat right now, so I scoop him up in my arms. I'm not giving up that Lance is still alive. "Leland, can you get me something that would have meant something to your brother?" He looks up at me with hope in his eyes. He rushes from the room without another word and I say a prayer to the goddess that this works. "It looks like you found a new friend love," Michael says. I look down at the pure white cat as I rub his head. As soon as Leland comes back, I hand the cat to my mother. He places a gold watch in my hand. "Our father gave Lance this watch. It's his most prized possession." I smile and take a seat on the bed. I place my hand over the top of the watch and begin to chant the location spell. After a few minutes, my eyes fly open and land on the cat my mother is still holding. Well, my brother was definitely creative this time. He didn't kill Lance, he stripped his powers and made him a cat. It would be funny if he hadn't worried Leland so much. I stand walking toward my mother. I take the cat in my arms and place him on the bed. "What's happening Pheobe," Leland asks. "My brother hid your brother in plain sight. I guess he figured that would be worse than death."

I wave my hand and begin to chant. The cat begins to morph back into its true form. Lance appears on the bed. He smiles at first but then he must remember he's naked. He covers himself and I laugh. "Welcome back, Lance." I wave my hand again and he is dressed. I don't need Michael losing his sh*t because he is naked. I look back and he smiles at me. I roll my eyes and look back at Lance. He stands from the bed. "Thank you, Pheobe." "No thanks is required, I'm just glad you're alright." Leland pulls him into a hug. Once they release each other, I step forward. "Give me your hand Lance." I wait to hear the growl but it never comes. Goddess, I love this man. I begin to chant and I feel the magic flow from me into Lance's hand. After a few seconds, I step back. "You have your powers back." "You are

truly amazing, Pheobe. I can never thank you enough.” “Being the best second in command to the coven is thanks enough.” He smiles “I promise I will make you and Leland proud.”

“Pheobe, you must be exhausted after all you’ve done today. Why don’t you and Michael go to your room and rest? I think for a moment and smile. We will be visiting my mother and Leland often, so we will need a real room. We can’t use the room I had as a teenager and honestly, I want to give that room a new purpose. I want to erase everything that Lucas did. “I’m going to take a different room if that’s alright?” My mother smiles before she pulls me into a hug. I take Michael’s hand and lead him back to that empty room. I wave my hand, creating a room that is nothing like it was before. It is light and beautiful. There is no darkness. Michael wraps his arms around me pulling my back to his front. “It’s beautiful love.” I turn in his arms and lay my head against his chest. “Now can you tell me about what happened earlier?” He chuckles before he lifts me, setting me down on the bed. He kneels in front of me and lays his hand against my stomach. I gasp “our perfect pup is growing inside of you. I can hear its heart beating” he says, and I can’t help the tears that start to flow down my cheeks. “I’m going to be a mother” I say like a question. “Yes, love you are and I’m going to be a father.” I can’t believe I’m going to be a mother.

Clarissa POV

I walk down the stairs to relieve Troy. “Clarissa, what are you doing here? Lenny was supposed to relieve my post.” “You know his mate is due any day now. I offered to take his post tonight. Besides, it’s not like we have any prisoners. I’m only here if something should happen.” “Actually, they brought a rogue in about an hour ago. He is in the second cell.” “Really, he made it into the pack without being caught by the patrol guards.” “Yes, from what I heard, he was after John’s mate. He was able to get in because the others were dealing with the warlocks that attacked.” “I didn’t know John had a mate. Did he hurt her” I ask. “No, from what I know, she is safe and so is her pup. We aren’t to touch the rogue Clarissa per the Alpha’s orders. I know how you feel about them. The Alpha and Luna will be meeting with him in the morning.” I roll my eyes, “I won’t touch the filthy rogue.” He crosses his arms over his

chest like he doesn’t believe me. “Clarissa, I remember what happened last time we had a rogue in the cells while you were on duty. I’m warning you that if anything happens to that rogue you will become one yourself. The Alpha was very clear.” I wave him off. “I don’t need a lecture, Troy. Thank you for the report. You can leave.” He nods before he heads back up the stairs. Once

he's gone, I walk toward the cell that has the rogue in it. He is lying on the cot and sits up when he sees me. "Who are you", he asks with a shaky voice. Not only is he a rogue, but he's weak. "I am a pack warrior. What's your name?" "My name is Ethan." "Why did you come to our pack?" He looks worried about my question. "I already told the Alpha why I came. I didn't have a choice."

"Well, I'm not the Alpha, so tell me what your business is here?" "The leader of my collective wants Maureen to mate." I keep my face stoic even though I'm smiling inside. "What is your leader's name?" He's silent and that pisses me off. "Answer me rogue, now." "I can't, I was enchanted by a witch that lives in the collective. She does the leader's bidding" "He can't be a very good leader if he sent you. You don't look like you can fight at all. Why would he send such a weak wolf?" "F**k you" he says, shocking me. I laugh "be careful rogue I have killed your kind before and I have no problem doing it again." I see fear flash across his face. "Now answer my question." "I was here to take her pup or he'll kill my mate." This time I can't help my smile. He wants the little girl so that Maureen will come for her. "How long did it take you to reach the pack?" "I traveled for two hours in wolf form." "What direction did you travel?" "Why do you want all this information from me?" I raise my hand extending my claws. "If your dead you can't help your mate." "I traveled to the north as the witch directed. She located Maureen using some kind of black magic." "Very good mutt. Now, we never had this conversation, am I clear?" He nods and lays back on the cot. I take a seat at the desk to wait until the next guard comes for their shift. Then I will do what needs to be done to get rid of that b**ch.

I had hoped that John would not find his mate and we could be together but that f**king rogue had to show up. Troy doesn't realize that the rogue I f**king killed was my mate. I would never accept the bond with a rogue. My wolf even agreed and I had no problem killing him. I felt nothing as I watched the light leave his eyes. I told the Alpha, he attacked me, so I had no choice but to defend myself. He is so

gullible and wants to see the best in people. If that b**ch Luna hadn't showed up, Jennifer would have become Luna. All this is happening because he accepted a rogue. I don't care if she had a pack once. She was a pregnant rogue and he just gave into the bond instead of showing the strength of an Alpha. He should have chosen a proper Luna just like John shouldn't mate a f**king rogue.

Damien POV

I open the door and walk into the room that I'm holding Jeanine in. Her head whips in my direction and I can see she has been crying. "Don't worry Jeanine, I have faith in your mate, don't you" I say with a smirk. She stays quiet and refuses to look at me. I watch as she wipes her cheeks and sits up straighter trying to show me she is strong. I walk over until I'm standing in front of her. I run my finger down her cheek until I'm gripping her chin. "Even if he fails, I may keep you as a mistress when I mate Maureen." She pulls her face away from me. "I will never betray my mate and Maureen will never mate with you" she spits out with all the venom she can muster. I bend down, looking in her eyes "if he fails, you won't have a mate and Maureen will be mine or she won't have a pup", I say before I head for the door. "You are an evil ba**ard" she yells at my back. "You have no idea" I say before I walk through the door. Once I lock her inside, I head to my office. Desiree is waiting for me when I arrive. "This better work, Desiree." She rolls her eyes and it is all I can do not to slap her off the chair. "I found her, didn't I? If it wasn't for me, you would have no idea she was even in that pack." She is right about that. I have no idea how they made it that far. "I still don't understand why you sent that weak a** wolf to get the brat in the first place. You have stronger warriors who could actually fight. Then you wouldn't let me block his ability to tell them any details about why he is there." I smile "do you know what's good about pack wolves, Desiree?"

"No Damien, as far as I'm concerned, nothing is good about pack wolves." "They have morals and rules. If he gets caught the minute he tells them we have his mate, they will feel obligated to help him." She looks at me like I have ten heads. "Your collective is no match for a pack that size. If he leads them here, you will lose." "You underestimate me. If he makes it out of there with their help, they will find

nothing here. I have already made arrangements for the collective to move locations tomorrow. Carter is near the pack waiting to let me know if Ethan makes it over the border with the pup. He has his orders and I trust Carter with my life. You just be ready to do what needs to be done once I have the brat." "I'll be ready, I just hope your plan works." "Have a little faith, Desiree."

Chapter 60

60 My Pup

Judith POV

I pray to the goddess that the warlock is a man of his word after all that Maureen has been through. Losing Richard almost killed her. She told the Luna about losing him but she didn't tell her everything. Not because she wanted to deceive her, but because she is worried about Penny. Richard wasn't just a wolf and neither is Penny. I know that ba**ard killed Richard, but I still don't understand how? Richard being a hybrid made him powerful, more powerful than Damien could ever be. I still don't understand why he is hell bent on having Maureen. She never showed any interest in him. There is no way he knows about her gifts. No one knows about her being blessed but me. "Nana, where's mama, it's time for a story." I know Penny is used to Maureen putting her to bed so I hope she isn't too upset she isn't here. She needed this time with her mate. "Mama will be back tomorrow. Is it OK if I read you a story and put you to bed." She thinks for a minute and then smiles. "Yes Nana" she says, and I lead her upstairs. Once she is in her pajamas, I tuck her in and read her a story. Thankfully, she falls asleep quickly. Maureen was right. This pack is the best place for Penny to grow up and I will not let that ba**ard hurt either of my girls.

The Next Day

I head to Penny's room. I can hear her awake already and playing with her toys. I open the door and she jumps up, rushing to me. "Nana, where is mama?" I bend down until we are eye to eye. "Mama will be back soon with John. How about if Nana gets you some breakfast?" She smiles with her toothy grin. "Can I have chocolate chip pancakes?" I scoop her up and carry her to the kitchen. "Of course, you can" I say as I put her in the chair at the table. I make the pancakes as she sits and talks about all her toys. She is so sweet and innocent. She has no idea about all the adult bulls*t and that's how it should be. I set her plate down and she digs into her pancakes. She smiles with chocolate on her face and I chuckle. A knock sounds on the door. I know it's not Maureen because she wouldn't knock. "Nana will

be right back. You sit and eat your pancakes like a good girl." She nods and I head for the door. I look through the window before I open the door. I believe what Ethan said, but that doesn't mean Damien couldn't be using him as a distraction for the real plan. The pack wolf smiles and waves at me. "Can I help you?" "I'm one of the pack warriors, the Alpha sent me to watch over you and the pup. I can stay out here if you're more comfortable." "Thank you, I would appreciate that." She nods and I go head back toward Penny sitting at the table. "Was it mama" she asks without even looking away from her pancakes. "No, it wasn't sweetie" is the last thing I say before the darkness takes me under.

Lincoln POV

Eli's cries wake me from sleep. Amelia must be in the shower. I scoop my son up in my arms and once I have him changed, I sit in the rocking chair. As I wait for Amelia to come out of the shower, I look down at his perfect little face. "Eli, do you know how lucky we are? The goddess blessed us both with your mother. She is the kindest, most beautiful, and strongest woman I have ever met. I pray that one day the goddess will bless you just as she has me." "He has a long time before he finds his mate. Let's not rush that", Amelia says with a chuckle. I look up and she is dressed in jeans and a t-shirt. We are meeting with Ethan this morning. Lily and Neal will be joining us since Michael and Pheobe are staying at the coven for a few days. She walks over and presses her lips to mine before she takes Eli from my arms. "We have some place to be this morning, so you better get dressed, sleepy head" she says with a smirk because she was up before me. I stand and slap her behind before she sits to feed our son. I head into the shower. As soon as I'm dressed, I head back out and my mother is already waiting. "Let me hug him before you steal him again mom." She shoots me a look and I chuckle. I walk over and kiss his forehead. I hug my mother before I head downstairs with Amelia.

We reach the door that leads to the cells. The guard bares his neck at us. "The Gammas are already downstairs, Alpha and Luna." I nod and we head downstairs. Lily turns when she hears us and smiles. Neal is standing near the cell and seems calm. "I was able to reverse whatever the witch did to Ethan so he can tell us exactly where that f**king collective is." I smile "I take it that means that he was being

truthful in his reasoning for entering the territory." "Yes, he was. The collective leader's name is Damien and his collective was part of the attack that Atlas ordered the day you killed him." I feel Talon at the surface when she says Atlas's name. Amelia threads her arm in mine. "Atlas is dead and this a**hole will be soon too." I take a few deep breaths before I walk over and unlock the cell. Ethan has a look of shock on his face. "Ethan, we can finish our discussion in our office", I say as I point between myself and Amelia. We all head up to the office and Ethan takes a seat. I can tell he is still worried about his mate. I would be losing my mind if someone had Amelia. "Ethan, I promise you that Damien is going to pay for threatening your mate and all that he has done." "Thank you, Alpha" he says and seems to relax a little.

Maureen POV

Last night was amazing. I can't believe I found my second chance and he is so perfect. I won't ever forget Richard, but I know he would want me to be happy. He was an amazing mate and father. I look at John sleeping peacefully and I smile. He is so handsome and kind. I'm very blessed and I can't wait to join the pack after Damien is dealt with. I have to tell John about Penny before I tell the Alpha and Luna. I brush the hair off his forehead. I can't just leave, but I need to get back to Penny. I have never spent a night away from her. I know she is safe with my mom but I miss her even if it's only been overnight. "Good morning beautiful" he says with his eyes still closed. "You can't even see me to know what I look like this morning. I could have bed head and drool on my face." "You are beautiful even with bed head and drool" he says. He opens his eyes and I lean in pressing my lips to his. I pull back "good morning." I slide out of the bed and start to pull my clothes on. He starts to do the same. "You don't have to get up John. I just want to go check on Penny." "I have no intentions of letting you out of my sight until that a**hole is dealt with." I smile and when we are both dressed we start down the path toward the cottage.

We are about halfway there when I feel someone trying to reach me. I stop dead because the only person who could ever do that was Richard and I'm sure now John. "What's wrong Maureen?" "I'm not

sure" I say and focus on whoever is reaching out. "Mama" is all I hear before I lose the connection and my body fills with dread. I don't even say a word and I take off at full speed toward the cottage. John is calling out but I can't stop to explain. I need to reach Penny. I rush up the stairs and throw open the door. I go room by room and when I reach the hall that leads to the kitchen, every bit of hope I had is gone. I rush over, placing my hand on my mother's chest. My hand begins to glow and I pass my healing to her. She has no injuries that I can see but she has to be hurt, she is unconscious. "Maureen" John yells out and I respond telling him where I am. He rushes to me "John, Penny is gone." "She took her Maureen." I look down at my mother. "Who mom, who took her?" "The pack woman who said she was here to protect us." I growl "that f**king b**ch from last night." "I'm alright go get our girl." "She can't be far" my mother says. "Are you sure your alright" I ask. "I am more pissed than hurt now move your ass." I smile before I turn to John. He pulls me into his arms and I'm just about to protest when he speaks. "Think about Penny." I close my eyes and focus on my daughter.

"Penny, can you hear mama" I say in my mind. After a few seconds, she finally answers. "I'm scared mama. This lady is mean." I temper down my anger and focus on saving my daughter. "Baby girl, what do you see around

you?" "Trees, just lots of trees mama." A few seconds pass and she speaks again. "Mama, I see water." "That's good sweetie. Is it big water or little water?" "It's big mama." "Good girl, you be brave. Mama will be there soon." "OK mama" she says, and I lose the connection. I open my eyes. "She is near a lake. She still has to be in the pack lands. Her scent was still in the house. She won't dare shift because she won't be able to control Penny." He smiles and wraps me in his arms again. I feel strange and in the next second we are surrounded by trees. John holds on to me until I'm steady. "Teleporting takes some getting used to. I'm sorry I didn't warn you." "Thank you, for getting us here so quickly." I scent the air and catch Penny's scent. I shift and lower down so that John can get on Clarice's back. She starts to stalk toward the scent, trying to keep the element of surprise. As we reach the edge of the trees, there is a clearing that leads to the pack border. I remember it from when Walker brought us to the pack. I finally spot them just passing over the border. I'm just about to take off when I feel John is no longer on my back. That b**ch is so dead when I get to her. Clarice takes off "she is

more than dead for touching our pup." As we cross the border Clarice stops and I don't understand what the hell is happening right now. "Carter" is all I can make out before John has them both suspended in the air screaming. I look around and Penny is nowhere in sight. I walk toward the b**ch who looks scared. She should be. "Where is my pup you b**ch?"