

## **Betrayed by My Beta Mate #Chapter 61 - Read Betrayed by My Beta Mate Chapter 61**

Chapter 61

61 Unexpected Ally

Maureen POV

“Maureen, Penny is safe” my mother’s voice whispers in my mind. The fear I had for my daughter is completely gone and replaced with rage for this b\*\*ch who put her hands on my pup. “Drop her John” I say, leaving no doubt that I am not asking. He releases her, dropping her to the ground at my feet. “Don’t hurt Carter, John” I say over my shoulder before I reach down, grabbing her by the hair. I pull back and punch her square in the face. “What did you plan to do with my daughter, you b\*\*ch?” She wipes the blood from her mouth and smirks at me. “I’m bringing her back to where you all belong. With those disgusting rogues that want you. You don’t deserve to have a mate like John. He should have been my mate instead of a f\*\*king rogue.” She looks around me “John, we can still be together and get rid of these rogues. I promise you it’s not that hard to kill a mate that isn’t worthy of you.” I feel bile rise in my throat. She killed her own mate because he was a rogue. “The woman who is about to end you for touching our daughter is my mate”, John says, and I love him for claiming Penny as his own. She makes it to her feet and takes a fighting stance. We start to circle each other. She throws a punch directly at my face but I dodge. I punch forward, making contact with her ribs. She gasps trying to pull air into her lungs. I see her eyes change color as her wolf is at the surface. I land one more punch to her face, knocking her on her a\*\*.

She rushes to her feet and growls. She begins to shift and I am glad to oblige. “My turn to make that b\*\*ch plead for mercy” Clarice says. I laugh knowing there won’t be any pleading in wolf form. The wolf seems taken back by Clarice’s size and color. She is bigger than most average wolves and white as snow. Clarice starts to circle her wolf. The wolf snaps at Clarice’s leg and manages to sink her teeth into our front leg. Clarice manages to shake her off and now she is even more pissed. Clarice growls and I feel like it shakes the trees. The wolf whimpers and starts to back up. Clarice stalks forward and the wolf tries to take off. She reaches her in three long strides, pinning her to the ground. She begins to

shift and Clarice steps back. "Please I'm sorry, I wouldn't have hurt her" she pleads as she scurries back. "Shift Clarice, she's mine." She does as I say and I see relief on her face. "I'm glad you believe me Maureen" she says as I walk toward her. She gets to her feet. "I don't believe you. I would have forgiven many things, but taking Penny isn't one of them." I pull back my arm, extending my claws before I punch forward into her chest. Her eyes get big before I wrap my hand around her heart. "I'm sure what the goddess has planned for your crimes is far worse than anything I could do to you", I say and pull my hand back. Her body falls to the ground and I drop her heart to the ground, too,

I turn to John who is still holding Carter although he is on the ground now. He waves his hand and I'm dressed. I smile before I walk toward both of them. "Love, where is Penny", John asks me. "Mother said she is safe." "Thank the goddess but how, she had her?" "John release Carter and I'll try to explain." "Maureen" he says and I can hear the concern in his voice. "John, I promise you that he is not a threat." He releases his hold on him and John comes to stand next to me. He threads his fingers through mine and squeezes my hand. "John, Carter is the second in command of the collective. He is also the only reason we were able to escape from Damien." "I took Penny from that evil she-wolf and hid her near a tree." "Thank you Carter."

John POV

When she tells me to release the wolf, I'm not happy. He was part of the rogue attack and I trust him even less than I trust Ethan. I link Lincoln to tell him what just happened and he orders me to bring the wolf to the pack house. "Lincoln wants to see us in the office with him", I say pointing to the rogue. She turns to me, "his name is Carter and I promise you that he means no harm to me or Penny." "I understand why you don't trust me, John, but she is right. I don't agree with the things that Damien has done. Especially the things he did to Richard and Maureen." I feel Maureen stiffen at the mention of Richard. Carter walks in front of us toward the pack house. I have so many questions but I stay quiet as I can tell she is processing what Carter just said. Once we reach the office, Maureen heads in first. I hear a growl that shakes the walls once Carter walks inside. I step in before Lincoln reaches him.

"Alpha Lincoln I know he was part of the attack but Maureen believes he is no threat and he has information about Damien" "Lincoln, let's hear him out and then make a decision", Amelia says, and I'm grateful. He takes a step back and I can tell Ethan is uncomfortable with his presence too. I just pray that Maureen is right. We all take a seat and I have to tell Lincoln about Maureen

killing a warrior. I know they have accepted her but she is technically not a pack member.

“Before he tells us anything, I need you to know that Clarice is dead.” “My warrior is dead by whose hand” he says, looking at Carter. “It was not Carter. Clarice took my daughter after she incapacitated Judith with the intent of taking Penny to Damien.” I see Lincoln’s anger fade and he looks at Maureen. She nods “I killed her for taking my pup.” “You were well within your rights to take that action against her.” “I know this doesn’t matter now, Lincoln, but she also admitted to killing a rogue that was her mate.” “She killed her own mate. What kind of monster kills, their own mate” Lincoln says, like a question, but he needs no answer. “The goddess will deal with her for what she has done to her mate”, Lincoln says. He is absolutely right. Our mates are a gift and the goddess doesn’t take rejection kindly, so I can’t even imagine the punishment for killing one’s mate.

### Carter POV

The Alpha looks at me as soon as we all take a seat. “Carter, I suggest you start talking and explain why I shouldn’t put you in the cells after you helped with the attack on my pack” the Alpha says. “I have no good answer besides that I was following orders. I have been Damien’s second in command for a very long time. He has always been a ba\*\*ard but I could live with his decisions.” I can see he doesn’t like my answer but he continues to listen. “It wasn’t until Richard, Maureen, Judith, and Penny joined the collective that I saw what he was really capable of. He knew something was different about Richard but he didn’t know exactly what it was until Desiree figured it out. Desiree is a witch that would do anything for Damien.” “So what exactly did they figure out about Richard,” Lincoln asks. “Richard wasn’t just a wolf. He was a hybrid. A hybrid of creatures we don’t often see together.” He looks at me confused. “Richard was part Fae. Once he found that out, he wanted Richard out of the way.” “That

doesn’t even make any sense. He wants me to mate him but I am not part Fae” Maureen says. This is the part that Maureen doesn’t know and I could never live with after Damien told me his plan. “Maureen, he only wants to mate you to control Penny. He plans to use her when she is old enough to mate and breed.”

Growls are heard around the room and Maureen is on her feet. “I will rip his d\*\*k off before he ever touches my daughter.” John stands and wraps her in his arms. “That is exactly the reason that I helped Maureen escape. I wouldn’t

let that happen.” Maureen comes back to sit in front of me. “What happened to Richard?” I had hoped she would never have to hear this story, but I guess I have no choice now. I wish I had reached them sooner and I could have helped Richard escape with them. “I was scouting out the pack on Damien’s orders. When I came back I headed right for Damien’s office but he wasn’t there. I linked him and he didn’t answer. One of the rogues told me that he had headed with Richard and Desiree into the forest. I shifted and ran as fast as my wolf could but I was too late. When I reached them, Richard was dead. “How” Maureen whispers? “I don’t know exactly how they overpowered such a strong hybrid. All I know is he looked like they had taken all the moisture out of his body. When I questioned Damien he laughed. They burned his remains. That is the moment I knew that I could no longer follow his orders blindly. I made the plan that day to get you, Penny, and Judith out of the collective before we went to meet with that ba\*\*ard Atlas.”

I can see the pain in her eyes and I’m glad to see her new mate will be there to help her heal. He pulls her into his arms and I turn back to the Alpha. “Damien sent me to make sure that Ethan made it out of the pack with Penny. He also wanted me to kill Ethan the minute he crossed the border. “What of my mate if I was to be killed?” “Ethan, the only thing I can say is that we need to stop him before he can make any of his plans happen.” Ethan nods at me. “You have no reason to trust me but I promise you I am only here to stop him from succeeding with his sick plan” I say to the Alpha. He nods and I thank the goddess that they believe me. “I have a plan and Damien is going to get exactly what he wants” a woman that I can tell is also a witch says. I have a feeling that Damien is going to be very sorry he f\*\*ked with this pack and Maureen.

Chapter 62

62 Plans to Be Had

Damien POV

Desiree is a mediocre witch at best, but she is a witch just the same. She has been in love with me forever and, despite me using her, she still follows me around like she has a chance of being more than a plaything. She was once a part of a coven but she was a low-ranking member. She hated her place in the coven and when we met I made her feel like she was important. Making her feel that way allowed me to use her powers. She has been an asset in helping

me keep the collective safe from other supernatural, but if I have hybrids, I won't need her anymore.

The first time I introduced her to Richard, he tried to hide what he was, but she was still able to tell despite his efforts. I still can't believe that little brat is part Fae. I didn't even think they still existed. That's one thing Desiree was useful for, detecting other supernaturals. It's one of her strongest powers. I knew that I needed to get rid of him the day she told me what he was. I wanted Maureen from the beginning, but finding out her brat of a daughter was special just made her all the more appealing. He was so stupid to think I just let them join the collective. The plan to lead him into the woods to show he was willing to contribute to the collective was brilliant on my part.

Flashback

A knock sounds on my door and Desiree walks in, followed by Richard. He keeps his expression even, but I know he doesn't trust me. He takes a seat in front of my desk. "Richard, how are you finding the collective?" "Everything is good, we can't thank you enough for sparing us and allowing us to join." "That's the leader I am Richard. My collective is the most precious thing to me and since you're no threat, we are glad to have you here. Now that you have settled in, I'm going to need you to contribute to the collective." "Of course, I am glad to hunt or do whatever you need done." I smile "wonderful, since Carter is out on a mission I would like you to join us today for a hunt" I say pointing between

Desiree and myself. I can see his apprehension but he nods. "Good, we shouldn't be gone long. I'm sure you'll want to get back to your mate and pup." We all head out and we lead Richard into the forest.

As we reach an area of the forest that is dense with trees, Desiree turns to me. I nod and she turns facing Richard. I follow seeing that she has him frozen in place. The panic on his face is comical. "Damien what is this?" "This is me giving you a chance to be honest about what you are." "I have no idea what your talking about. Release me now you evil witch", he says to Desiree. She walks forward until she is standing in front of him. "Such a shame to end such a handsome man" she says, running her finger down his cheek. I come to stand a few feet from him. "Maybe if you were honest this wouldn't be happening" I say but I can't even stop myself from laughing. "That's not true it would be happening. Your mate and daughter are mine now." He growls and I can see his hand begin to glow. Desiree must notice it too. She pulls a syringe from her pocket and, without a second thought, she places it in his arm. As

she pushes the plunger down, his screams fill the woods. After a few minutes, he looks like he hasn't a drop of liquid left in his body. She releases the hold she has on him and his body falls to the ground.

Even I'm taken back by what she just did. She has powers but she is an average witch at best. "Desiree you want to tell me what the hell just happened." She turns and smiles like she has a secret. "You better tell me what the f\*\*k you just did or you can join him." Her smile falls and she turns back into that scared little girl who wants to please me. "I visited the black magic coven. My cousin helped me with some black magic when I told him I wanted to kill some wolves. He hates your kind." I smile "very good, now let's get back. I have to tell Maureen the bad news and comfort her." I can tell she isn't happy about Maureen but she won't ever go against me. "Damien" I hear Carter yelling my name. I turn just as he breaks through the trees. When he looks at Richard's body I see disgust on his face. "What the hell happened?" I smile but never answer. "Desiree take care of the body" I say and lead Carter back to the territory. "Go get Maureen, I have to tell her about Richard." "What are you" he starts to say but I cut him off. "That is none of your concern, just get her and remember your loyalty is to me." "Of course, Damien" he says before he heads for the cottages.

End of Flashback

"Carter will be back tomorrow and Maureen will be here with me where she belongs. Once I have her pup she will do whatever I want her to." "I still don't understand why you need Maureen. I can take care of her pup till she is old enough. You know I would do anything for you, Damien." I roll my eyes. I stand walking around my desk until I'm standing in front of her. "Desiree, you be the good girl you have always been and get me what I want." I bend down and slam my lips on hers. I pull back "go to my room. I'll be there in a minute." She smiles and jumps up from the chair like I promised her more than a good f\*\*k. Once she leaves I link Carter, "is everything going to plan?" "Yes, I will be there tomorrow with the pup and Maureen." I cut the link and head to my room. I need to keep Desiree on board with the plan till this is all done and then I can be rid of her. She is getting on my last nerve with her bullish\*t about having me.

Maureen POV

After we discuss the plan for tomorrow, we head back to the cottage. I need to hold my pup after everything that happened tonight. "Maureen, are you sure about this plan", John says. "My cousin and I are strong but anything can

happen. I can't lose you and Penny." I stop and turn to him. "I promise you that after tomorrow Damien and that b\*\*ch Desiree will be dead. You will never lose me and Penny. You are stuck with us for the rest of our lives" I say as I place my hand on his cheek. I press my lips to his feeling his love and pouring all my love into this kiss. We pull apart when we are both breathless. "Just please be careful. We will be near the pack but if you need me you link me immediately." "I will" I say taking his hand as I lead him up the stairs. As soon as I open the door, Penny is wrapped around me.

"Mama I was scared." I scoop her up and we take her into the living room where my mother is sitting on the couch. I sit holding her on my lap. "Penny, how did you get to Nana?" She smiles "the nice man put me by a tree. He told me to think about home. I thought about my new room and toys." I smile and kiss her forehead. "Then what happened sweetie?" "The tree opened like a door and when I went inside I

was back in my room." I look at my mother. "I heard her yelling for me in her room." I rushed up the stairs and there she was holding her doll. That's when I linked you to let you know she was safe." I squeeze her a little bit tighter. Those are her Fae gifts. The ability to use the earth and nature. I say a thank you to Richard for keeping our pup safe. John wraps his arms around the two of us. I believe in my heart that Richard sent John with the goddess's help to protect and love us.

After we tuck Penny into bed, John and I head back downstairs. I notice that my mother has her things in a bag near the couch. "Mother, what are doing?" "Don't get nervous, I'm not leaving the pack, just the cottage. Tomorrow, your handsome mate is going to show me to my new home and he will be moving here with you and Penny." I smile and rush over to wrap my mother in a hug. I can't believe all that has changed in just a couple of days. "Thank you, Judith" John says. "You don't need to thank me. You just be a man of your word and take care of my girls." He nods and we all get ready for bed. Not that I'll get much sleep with what's going to happen tomorrow.

## The Next Day

"You be safe and come back to us in one piece" my mother says as she wraps me in her arms. We head for the pack yard and everyone is waiting for us. "Are you ready to do this, Maureen," Lincoln asks. "I am more than ready." "Before we leave I want you to be part of the pack so you can link us all, not just John." I smile, when I become part of the pack Penny does too. "We will perform the ceremony with Judith when we return." I smile grateful this pack

has been our salvation. Neal hands me a cup with Lincoln's blood in it. "I, Alpha Lincoln Thomas, extend you, Maureen Elizabeth Bloom, an invitation to become a member of the Nightfire pack. Please make your vow to the pack." "I, Maureen Elizabeth Bloom, vow my loyalty to the Nightfire pack. I also vow my loyalty to Alpha Lincoln and Luna Amelia. I will keep all the pack secrets and raise our pup to do the same." "Maureen, you and Penny are now members of the Nightfire Pack and as such, are under the protection of its Alpha, Luna, and ranked members." I feel the connection to the pack and it's amazing. I never expected in my life to be a pack member. I've been a rogue all my life but I'm glad that has changed now.

Lily steps in front of me. "Are you ready to do this?" "Yes, I trust you completely." Once she performs the spell, we follow Carter in the direction of the collective. The others will be near but will not move in until we give them the word. When we reach the area where they will be waiting, John kisses me. I can see how torn he is to let me go ahead but I have to do this. "I promise I won't be long." I kiss him before I take her hand. We walk another ten minutes before we are met by one of the rogues from the collective. "Carter, your back. Damien told us to expect you with Maureen and her pup." "Well, here we are so he doesn't have to wait any longer." He moves aside and I grip her hand a little tighter. Once we're in the building, I say a prayer to the goddess that Lily's plan works. Carter knocks and opens the door. He ushers us inside and Damien is sitting behind his desk with a sickly sweet smile on his face. "Welcome home Maureen" he says and bends down. "Welcome home Penny."

Chapter 63

63 Secrets and Truths

Maureen POV

I hold my breath as he bends down to her. "Penny, my friend Carter here is going to take you to meet Miss Desiree" he says so sweetly. I pull her close to my side. He stands and leans in so he is close enough for me to feel his breath on my face. "If you want your daughter to be safe from harm, you will listen like the good mate you're going to be." "I want her to stay here with me, Damien. I came here willingly so please don't take her from me." "She will be right next door and as soon as we finish talking I'll have her brought back. You have my word." His word, I can't wait to rip his head from his body. "Mama I'll



be OK” she says before she takes Carter’s hand. I bend down, hugging her. I link her so he can’t hear “please be careful.” She pulls back with that beautiful smile that normally brings me such peace, but not even that is helping right now. They head for the door and once it shuts, Damien places his hand on the small of my back. He leads me to a chair in front of his desk. I want to openly gag, but right now I need to play along. He takes a seat behind his desk and the smile on his face makes me believe he suspects nothing.

“I’m glad you came home, Maureen. This is where you and Penny belong. You belong here with me. We are going to be a family.” I look at him like he is crazy. I have my hair covering John’s mark but I want to stick it in his face. “I’m not sure what you think is going to happen here, Damien. My mate is dead and I have no desire to have another.” The words taste awful on my tongue but I don’t mean one word. “Even if I did, what makes you think it would be you? I have never shown any interest in you, Damien, after Richard was killed.” The smile that he so proudly wore slips from his face, replaced by pure anger. “Maureen, I know you are not stupid, so please don’t act like you are. You have no choice in this. You will either let me mark and mate you or I will hurt your precious Fae pup.” I give him the reaction he’s looking for by feigning shock. The smirk returns to his face. “Yes I know exactly what she

is and what Richard was.” “You killed my mate and now you expect that I will mate you.” He laughs and I feel like I’m in a bad movie when the evil doctor laughs because he thinks he’s won.

“Yes I did and, honestly, you are just a means to an end. So you can get on board and have a chance to see your daughter grow up or you can die here today.” “I will never allow you to use my daughter as a breeder.” This time it’s his face that has shock written all over it. “I see Carter has loose lips. He’ll be dealt with as soon as I’m done dealing with you.”

### Damien POV

That ba\*\*ard betrayed me after all I have done for him. I made him my second in command when he was nothing to me. Now he brings her here, for what? Does he really believe this she-wolf stands a chance against me? She came here thinking she will be the one walking out in one piece. How wrong she is because I don’t need her to control the brat since I have Desiree. I’ve put up with her this long. I can use her a little longer. She stands and I mimic her movement. “You’ll never make it out the door, so I wouldn’t even try Maureen.” I start around the desk and before I can reach her she is gone. Crane growls and I’m ready to shift. I rush from the office outside expecting to

find her with some low-level witch. There is no other way she teleported out of my office on her own. Instead, I find wolves and a warlock who has his arm wrapped around Maureen. I'm ready to shift into Crane. This is not how this was supposed to go. "You still have the brat", Crane growls in my mind and I smile. He's right, one word from me and Desiree will kill her. "You forget I still have your pup. Even if you manage to kill me, Desiree will have her dead before you can ever reach her." A smile of victory breaks out on Maureen's face and all the confidence I just had about having the upper hand seems to fade away. What the f\*\*k is going on?

### Carter POV

I lead her into the cottage where Desiree is waiting. I stop outside the door that leads into the living room. "Please wait here, there is something I need to do." She nods and I walk into the living room

where Desiree is sitting on the couch. "Where is she, Carter" she says with irritation in her voice. "I came here because despite all you have done you have a chance to make things right." She rolls her eyes "Carter, I have made it perfectly clear to you that I will never be yours. Damien is the one I want." Her words hurt me as much as they did the first time she said them when I realized she was my mate. "I had hoped that you would realize the value in the gift the goddess gave you, but honestly you're not worthy to be anyone's mate." She conjures a black ball of energy in her hand "I would be careful Carter because we are nothing to each other and I will think nothing of ending you where you stand." "You're right Desiree, you are nothing to me. Lily, you can come in now" I say, and the door opens. "What the hell did you call her" Desiree asks. Before I can say a word she shimmers and where Penny stood Lily now stands. She throws the energy ball in my direction and like it's a child's ball, Lily catches it. "Carter, you can leave now" she says. "Are you sure", I ask and she smiles. "Yes, go check on Maureen." "You betrayed him" she screams and Lily whips her head in Desiree's direction. The look on her face leaves no doubt Desiree is about to suffer for all she has done. I turn to leave, closing the door behind me. I can hear her scream out my name and I feel nothing. The little remaining bond was gone the minute she made her choice.

### Lily POV

As I stand outside the door and listen to the fact that Carter is that b\*\*ches mate, I can feel the anger grow which I didn't think was possible. She chose to spit in the goddess' face and torture this poor man by choosing that disgusting

wolf over and over again. Once the door is closed, she starts to scream for Carter. I'm sure she realizes my power as I release my masking spell. "What seems to be the problem, Desiree? You couldn't detect me with your pathetic powers." "I don't know who you are but I've done nothing to you." I can see she is trying to teleport with no success. The panic on her face is quite comical. "What are you" she asks. "I'm a blessed witch and much stronger than you will ever be." I paralyze her before I invade her mind to see exactly what her crimes are. As the images flow to me, I see the day she went to Lucas for the potion that killed Richard. I can't believe all the lives he

destroyed. I'm glad he's dead and this b\*\*ch is about to join him. I release the mind hold on her but she is still frozen in place.

I force my will, making her walk toward me. "You are about to tell Maureen all you have done before I end your pathetic life." Her eyes get big and I teleport us between my family and that ba\*\*ard. Damien runs toward me and John raises his hand, stopping him like a statue. He nods to me and I face Desiree. "Show them now" I say. She starts to cry looking at Carter. "No one cares about your tears. Show them the monster that you are", I say, forcing her memories to play like a reel for everyone to see. I know that Maureen needs to know what happened because I have been there. She needs this to let go of the questions she has about what happened to Richard. When the reel stops she buries her head in John's chest. "He made me do it, please have mercy" Desiree pleads. "Mercy is for those that are sorry, not for those that are sorry they got caught." I raise my hand lifting her off the ground. "The only fitting punishment is for you to feel all that you did." Her eyes get big and the fear is palpable. I start to chant and her screams fill the air. "I hope you and your cousin will enjoy the goddess's wrath together", I say, before I drop her lifeless dried out body to the ground. I turn on Damien but before I can deal out his punishment, a hand is on my shoulder. I turn and Maureen is looking in my eyes. "Thank you, for all you have done, but he is mine." I step back and Neal wraps his arm around me. Lincoln and Amelia both nod at me.

### Maureen POV

As I watch what they did to Richard, I feel sick to my stomach. I bury my head in John's chest. Most people wouldn't understand the need to know exactly what happened but Lily did. I have grieved but now I can let all that go and move forward. John kisses the top of my head and I pull back, looking into his eyes. No words are exchanged between us but he knows. He nods and I stop Lily from killing that pathetic excuse for a wolf. She steps back and I face this man. John still has him frozen in place, but I will not kill him like this. "You took

something from me and my pup that you had no right to. Unlike you, who gave Richard no opportunity to defend himself, I will allow you to fight back.” I look at my mate,

who has nothing but love in his eyes and he nods at me. I back up, “Clarice, it’s time.” “Yes it is and I’m so proud to be your wolf.”

I shift and as soon as John releases him, Damien shifts too. Clarice is bigger than his average size wolf. He is an ugly brown color that looks like mud. As we circle each other, I think about all the pain he has caused me. The anger builds and Clarice growls. He lunges at us but she side-steps. We turn so we are facing him. As we head toward him, Clarice builds up speed and when we reach him she clamps down on his shoulder. He starts to shake trying to free himself from her jaws. We hear the bone break and she finally lets go. He limps but continues to come at us. This time he manages to swipe across our chest. I can feel the warmth of the blood running down and dripping onto our paws. “Clarice”, John yells, and I pray he doesn’t interfere. I can feel Clarice’s anger that he made the mark. She growls again and this time the wolf steps back before he runs toward us. Clarice manages to clamp down on his front leg. She shakes her head back and forth. We can hear the tearing of bone and flesh. After a few seconds, she has pulled the leg from his body. He starts to try to drag himself from us but she is having no part of it.

She begins to circle his pathetic body lying on the ground. She bites down on his hind leg this time. After a few minutes of shaking and his cries filling the air, his leg is again pulled from his body. She comes around until we are standing over his broken body. She growls and the wolf’s eyes turn. Without any warning, he shifts back into human form. What’s left of him lying there waiting for death to come. “Finish him, Clarice, and send him to the goddess.” She bends down, showing more mercy than he deserves. She takes him in her jaws and bites down, breaking his already broken body in half. Clarice turns heading toward John. When we reach him, she lays down in front of him. He bends placing his head against hers. It’s over, it is finally over.

Chapter 64

64 Good News

Carter POV

As I watch Maureen's wolf walk over to John after she killed Damien, I can breathe again. I know she is strong but I've known him long enough to know that he would do whatever it takes to get what he wanted. He would think nothing of taking Richard and Maureen from that sweet pup. I thought for sure that I would feel guilt about Damien, but honestly, all I feel is relief that he won't be hurting anyone anymore. "Carter, where is Jeanine" Ethan's words bring me out of my thoughts. I turn and he follows me, running toward Damien's cottage. I just pray that he didn't touch Ethan's mate. I'm sure he would know, but I don't dare ask. We reach the hallway in the cottage and when we reach the door it's locked. I don't turn to go back to his office for the keys, I simply break the door. Thankfully, Jeanine is sitting in a chair across the room. As soon as she sees Ethan, she is on her feet and in his arms. I turn to leave, giving them privacy for their reunion. "Thank you, Carter", I hear from behind me. I turn back and they are both smiling at me. Jeanine has tears staining her cheeks. "You are both very welcome. I'm just happy you're both safe and all this craziness is over."

I leave them to head back out to speak with the others. Maureen has shifted back into her human form. She smiles when she sees me coming down the stairs. I'm not sure what happens now, as I look at the Alpha and Luna speaking to the others. I bare my neck to them, showing my respect. I look at Lily and I can see sympathy on her face. She is the only one now that knows Desiree was my mate. Again, I thought that my heart would be broken because my mate is dead, but she was never really my mate. "Carter, I assume you will take over leadership of this collective", Lincoln says. I nod knowing it's my responsibility as the second in command to take over the leadership. "Your collective is now under the protection of the Nightfire pack. Consider this a verbal alliance. I don't expect a formal agreement, but we will be here if you need us", Lincoln says. I have never met an Alpha like this man. The Luna smiles and I'm glad to have met them. We are rogues and pack wolves don't associate with us. He is willing to

ally his pack with our collective. I stick out my hand and he reaches out, shaking it. "Thank you, Alpha, it would be an honor to have an alliance with your pack. We extend you the same protection. We are here should you need our help. Our collective may not be as large as the pack, but an alliance is a two-way street." He smiles and nods at me.

Maureen POV

As Carter walks toward us, my heart breaks for him. He has lost so much. He did what was right, but that doesn't mean it was easy to stand against

Damien. He has been loyal to him for a long time. Long before we joined the collective. I watched him lead Ethan inside to find his mate. He is a good man and I hope that now he will find the happiness he deserves. As I listen to Lincoln offer the collective his alliance, I'm in awe of him as an Alpha. I am so glad my pup will grow up in the Nightfire pack. I can't wait to get back and hold Penny. We are ready to return to the pack after the alliance is made. I walk over to Carter. "Thank you, for saving me and my pup from Damien." He laughs, "I think you saved us all, not me." "I may have ended him, but I would never have had the opportunity if you hadn't been the man you are. You stood up for what is right and I will forever be grateful for that." I wrap him in a hug. "Please come to see us" I say. "I promise I will." I step back and John wraps his arm around me. He sticks out his hand shaking Carter's. He steps back and without warning, we are standing outside the cottage. I'm still not used to the teleporting but I'm grateful to be back home so quickly. "A little warning would be nice", I say to John and he smiles. He leans in, pressing his lips to mine. He deepens the kiss and I feel it down to my toes.

I hear someone clear their throat and a giggle. We separate and my mother has her hand over Penny's eyes. "I take it you took care of the problem" she asks with a smile on her face. "Yes, both of them." "Good, now we can get on with our lives." I wrap my mother in a hug before I bend down and scoop Penny into my arms. We all head inside. After we tell my mother about everything that happened while Penny plays with her dolls, I take her upstairs for a nap. I sit down on the floor, so I'm looking at my beautiful daughter's face. "Penny, we are going to stay here from now on." She smiles like I just gave

her a bowl of candy. "This is gonna be my room forever?" "Yes, sweetie this is going to be your room." She wraps her arms around my neck. When she pulls back, I sit her on my lap. "Penny, John is going to live here with us." "Is he nice?" "Yes, he is very nice." "Ok, mama" she says and I don't know what I expected her to say. I know she still remembers Richard and I hate the thought that she won't remember him someday. "We will make sure she remembers him", John says in my mind. I couldn't love this man anymore than I do at this moment. I place Penny in her bed and lay down next to her to read a story. Before I finish, she is fast asleep. I kiss her forehead before I head downstairs. John wraps me in his arms when I reach him. "Thank you" is all I say before I rest my head against his chest. "I told you so" Clarice whispers and I chuckle to myself. Yes she most certainly did.

Two Days Later

## Amelia POV

Pheobe and Michael will be back today. It's hard to believe everything that has happened. The goddess had a plan for all of us. As I look up at the ceiling while I lay here in our bed while our son lies peacefully in his crib, I couldn't be more grateful for that plan. When it all started, I was devastated and angry, but now I can't be anything but grateful and happy. Eli starts to fuss and I smile. I roll out of bed and pick up my handsome pup. No one would ever question him belonging to Lincoln, but we won't keep the truth from him. I want him to know that Lincoln chose him as much as he chose me. He never thought about rejecting me or Eli. He is Eli's father in every way. The door opens and Lincoln walks in. He smiles and I know he heard my thoughts through our link. He walks over wrapping us both in his arms. "You're absolutely right my love, I never thought of having anyone but you and my son. You're wrong too." I look at him confused. "You two were never a choice. You were both my fate." He presses his lips softly to mine. He pulls back, looking into my eyes. "I love you, Lincoln." "I love you, Amelia." He takes Eli from my arms. "Time to get ready for our brunch." I nod and head into the bathroom.

Once I'm showered and dressed, we head to our private dining room. Everyone is waiting for Pheobe and Michael to return. Lily, Neal, Iris, Walker, Lorraine, Charles, Maureen, John, and Penny are all sitting around the table. I look at this family that isn't bound by blood but by love and loyalty. Lorraine rushes over, taking Eli from my arms. I chuckle and we take our seats at the head of the table. I notice that Lily is smiling and Neal is acting strangely. I lean in and whisper in her ear. "What is up with you?" "I'll tell you later" she whispers back. "No way, tell me now." She pretends like she can't hear me. Before I can press her to tell me what's going on, Pheobe and Michael appear in the room. After everyone greets them, we all take a seat and start to eat. I look over at Eli lying in a pack and play in the corner. When I look back, I notice that Lily is smiling at him but it's different than normal. I'm just about to say something again when Michael stands up. I notice Pheobe smile and he pulls her to her feet.

"We have an announcement to make. We had the test this morning to confirm what I already knew. Pheobe is pregnant." Oh my goddess she is going to have a pup. As soon as the thought runs through my head. I look at Lily. She smiles at me and shakes her head. She leans in, "I don't want to take their moment." "Lily, I love you for wanting others to have their moment but this is your moment too. Please, everyone wants to share your happiness that's here. Besides that's my niece or nephew growing in there." She smiles at me

and once Pheobe and Michael sit down she stands. Neal smiles and stands taking her hand. "We're having a pup too" she blurts out. I wrap her in a hug first. "Congratulations sister, now it's your turn to protect the little bean." She pulls back and we both laugh. Everyone congratulates both couples before we finish eating. I'm glad Eli will have pups to grow up with.

Chapter 65

65 Epilogue

Two Months Later

Lily POV

I could not sleep last night. We are finding out what our pup is today and what my new niece or nephew is. Neal has been amazing. I thought for sure he would be overprotective because of his wolf, but he hasn't. He trusts me, which I appreciate more than he will ever know. I would never do anything to put our pup at risk and he knows how strong I am. I'm in our kitchen on our floor making breakfast for us. It's crazy that Neal and I have our own wing of the pack house. It's like an apartment. We spend a lot of time with the pack, but it's nice when we want it to just be the two of us. Neal walks in and smiles at me, putting his plate on the table. "It doesn't matter what you're doing, your beautiful." I laugh "OK Casanova, come eat your breakfast. I want to get to the hospital. I'm so excited to find out what our pup is." He pulls me into his arms. "Casanova, huh" he says with that smile that makes me weak in the knees. "Oh no, eat and then hospital." He finally sits and I join him. Once we finish eating, we head downstairs and Amelia is waiting for us. I'm so glad she is joining us for the ultrasound. She is truly my sister and I can't imagine her not being there.

I take Eli from her arms. "Hey buddy, where are auntie's kisses", I say as I plant kisses all over his face. His little laugh is so sweet and I can't wait till our pup is here to grow up with him. "So are we ready to find out what my niece or nephew is" Amelia asks with a weird smile on her face. "What is that face about?" "I think that we should have a gender reveal lunch for all of you today." "Are you kidding, you want me to wait till lunch?" She laughs "yes, I have the kitchen ready to make the cupcakes. Please, let me do this for you?" Oh I can't tell her no. It is really sweet and it's only a couple of hours. "I want lunch at 11 or no deal." "No problem, we can make it happen at 11. Lincoln



will be back and everyone can find out together.” I give her a glare. “Everyone but you.” “That’s the best part. I get to find out first.” I roll my eyes and she takes Eli from my arms so we can head to the hospital.

Once I’m on the table, the doctor comes in. “Luna and Gammas, good morning.” “Good morning” we say in unison. “Are we ready to see what the future Gammas are?” Before I can answer, Amelia tells the doctor about the gender reveal. He looks at me and Neal asking permission. We both nod and he starts the exam. He turns the screen so we can see the pup and it looks perfect. “Your pup’s growth is perfect for a hybrid.” I smile and look at Neal. He bends down, pressing a soft kiss on my lips. I hear the door close and both Amelia and the doctor are gone. “She is a sneaky thing”, I say, and Neal laughs. “Yes she is.”

### Pheobe POV

I can’t believe that we get to find out what our pup is today. After I get out of the shower, I dry standing in front of the floor-length mirror. I turn to the side and place my hands on my big belly. I feel like it grew overnight. The pup has been moving all over the place. Michael was shocked the first time I let him feel the pup kick. The door opens and Michael comes in with a smile as he looks at my body. Before I can say anything, he is on his knees with his lips against my belly. He stands and kisses my lips. “Ready to check on our pup mama?” I chuckle “yes I am.” I get dressed in a blue sundress and sandals. Lily and Neal have their ultrasound today too. Lincoln had to meet with an Alpha about an alliance and Amelia stayed behind with Eli. John accompanied him to the meeting. Amelia usually goes with him but she decided that being with us was more important than today’s meeting. Amelia has become like a sister to me and I’m glad she will be there with us today. We are supposed to head to the coven later to spend a few days with my mom and Leland. She is so excited about being a grandmother.

We reach the pack hospital and the nurse leads us to an exam room. “The Luna is already across the hall with the Gammas”, the nurse says. I smile and the nurse leaves after Michael helps me get onto the table. A few minutes later, the doctor walks in with Amelia who is holding Eli on her hip. “What are Lily and Neal having?” Amelia looks like the cat that swallowed the canary. “They don’t know yet.” I look at her confused as she takes an envelope out of her pocket. “I am the only one that knows.” “Why do I have a feeling that you have something planned?” “That’s because you know me so well. The doctor

will give me your gender and we will have lunch before you leave for the coven to find out what you're all having." I look at Michael, "you heard the Luna." I chuckle "I guess we can wait a little longer." "Did you hear that Eli we are getting to have cupcakes today.?" Eli smiles like he knows what she is talking about. He is the sweetest little boy. The doctor takes his seat with the screen facing him. He begins to move the wand and Amelia gasps. "What's wrong with the pup", Michael says before I can. "No, nothing is wrong with pups." Did I hear him right, he said pups? It can't be, we had an ultrasound before. They would have already seen if it was twins. I look at Michael and he looks like he is on cloud nine.

"Yes, Betas, there are two pups. One must have been hiding when we did your first ultrasound." I can't believe this, we are having two pups. Michael takes my hand and squeezes it. "Are you alright love?" "Yes, I'm fine. A little shocked but fine." After a few minutes, he hands Amelia a paper. "Everything looks perfect with the pups" the doctor says before he wipes my belly. "I need to get to the kitchen so we can have a very special lunch", Amelia says as she heads for the door. Michael helps me sit up and wraps his arms around me. "Thank you, love." I chuckle "I don't think I did it by myself Michael." He pulls back "thank you for accepting me, loving me, and making me a father." I press my lips against his. I am so grateful for my family and my mate.

Lunch

Amelia POV

After I gave the genders to the girls in the kitchen, I head upstairs. with Eli. I have butterflies swirling around my stomach. Eli is babbling when I set him on the floor in our room. I pull the test off under the mattress. "Hey buddy, can you keep a secret?" He places his little fingers on my face. "I'll take that as a yes." I show him the test. "You're going to be a big brother. Do you want to help mama tell your daddy?" He keeps babbling and I smile. Once we are both ready, we head down the hallway and I'm greeted by my handsome mate. "So I heard that you have orchestrated a takeover of the gender reveals." "I

wouldn't say a takeover, but I am the only one besides the girls in the kitchen that know what everyone is having." He smirks and leans down to kiss me before he steals Eli. "What's in the bag love?" "Something for the reveal and no you can't look." He takes my hand and we head to the private dining room. Charles, Lorraine, Neal, Lily, Pheobe, Michael, Iris, Walker, Maureen, John,

and Phoebe are all waiting for us. Needless to say, everyone eats as quickly as possible.

“Alright, Amelia, it’s time” Lily says. The girls bring in three platters of cupcakes. One says Phoebe and Michael and the other says Neal and Lily. The third is for everyone to eat. I look at Phoebe and Michael so they can announce about having the twins before we start. Phoebe stands this time. “We have an announcement before we find out the gender. We are about to find out what our pups are.”

Everyone is smiling from ear to ear. “Twins, your having twins” Lily says and goes around the table to hug her. “Alright let’s see what my the new little beans are.” I bring the tray to Lily and Neal first. “Now bite the cupcake at the same time.” They both do and the tears run down Lily’s face before she turns it toward us. It’s pink, a little girl. “We’re having a girl” she says and kisses Neal. Iris wraps her in her arms and I am so glad she is here to share this life and journey with her daughter. Everyone congratulates them and I take the tray over to Phoebe and Michael. I point to the first two cupcakes.

Phoebe and Michael bite down at the same time. They both turn them toward us and have the biggest smiles on their faces. The frosting is blue. “We’re having a boy”, Michael yells and we all laugh. “Let’s see what pup number 2 is, the hider.” They bite into the second cupcake and Phoebe’s eyes get big. They turn the cupcake toward us and bright pink frosting is oozing out. “It’s a girl, a boy and a girl. Oh my goddess” Phoebe says. I’m so happy for both of them. After everyone congratulates them, the girls start to hand out the remaining cupcake. When they put the one I asked for in front of Lincoln I can’t help but smile. He takes a bite and looks around at everyone else eating their cupcakes. After he realizes his is different with pink and blue frosting in the middle, he looks at me confused. I stand and bring him the bag. “This is from me and Eli.” The room gets quiet and he opens the bag. When he realizes what it is, he looks up at me with hope and love in his eyes. “Is this what I think it is?” “Yes, we

are going to have another pup?” He stands scooping me up in his arms. “Thank you, Amelia, for making me a father again. I love you more every day.”

Chapter 66

66 Bonus Chapter

## Lincoln POV

I hated leaving Amelia sleeping in our bed this morning. I watched her sleep for a long time. Watching her body change with this pregnancy has been just as amazing as it was with Eli. I can't wait to meet our daughter. I hate that I have to meet with that ba\*\*ard from the Crescent Moon pack today. My father entered this alliance before I became Alpha. He doesn't like him either, but sometimes we have to make decisions that benefit the pack, even if it means dealing with an a\*\*hole like Alpha Mateo. Once I'm in my office, I make sure everything is in order so I can get through what we need to cover quickly. "Lincoln the Alpha and his Beta have arrived" Michael links me. "Show them to my office please", I say before I cut the link. A few minutes later, they arrive and Mateo takes a seat in front of my desk. "Alpha Lincoln, it's good to see you. This is my Beta Bradford." "Alpha Mateo and Beta Bradford welcome to the Nightfire pack." They both nod and I start to spread out the paperwork. "Alpha Lincoln, since I haven't found my mate I was hoping I could meet with your unmated females. I'm sick of using bed warmers when my Luna is what my wolf wants" This guy makes my skin crawl and I pray that he is not mated to anyone in my pack. I link Michael to have the unmated females in the pack yard.

"I'm sure that can be arranged." "Wonderful, let's get all this formality done so we can see if my mate is here." Thankfully, it doesn't take us long to finish up the changes that needed to be made to the alliance. I know he wasn't happy that I insisted on changes to the alliance paperwork he did with my father but I don't trust him. As we head downstairs, Michael joins us. I say a prayer to the goddess that no woman is unlucky enough to be mated to this tool. We reach the pack yard and the women are waiting with smiles, excited about the fact that they might meet their mate.

## Amelia POV

I'm due in a few days but I've been having contractions. I know that Lincoln is nervous after everything that happened with Eli's birth, so I haven't said anything to him. I know my body is just getting ready. I can't believe we will have a daughter soon. Two perfect pups, one boy and one girl. There are so many pups in the pack house right now. We have set up a playroom on our floor so the pups can stay there when we need to tend to our duties. Only the omegas that I have picked watch the pups. Lily and Neal had a little girl two months ago. She is beautiful and looks just like her mother. They named her Rose Amelia. To say I was honored was an understatement. Our girls will be the best of friends. Pheobe and Michael had the boys three days after Lily

gave birth. They named the boys Mason Hunter and Micah William. I'm sure with Eli the boys will be a pain trying to protect our daughters. I chuckle at the thought. I have had so much fun helping them take care of the new pups during the day. By the time night comes I'm exhausted, but I knew I would be with our pup getting so big. Eli is such a good pup. He hardly cries and he is always so happy.

Lincoln was out of bed this morning before me to meet with the Alpha of the Crescent Moon. He didn't seem very excited about the meeting when we discussed it last night. I got the impression that the pack Alpha is an a\*\*hat. They are meeting here because Lincoln wanted to be close in case anything happened. Eli's babbling on the monitor makes me chuckle. I head across the hall and he is standing in his crib smiling. "Mama" he says when he sees me. "Yes it's mama little one." I scoop him up, taking him over to the changing table. Once he is cleaned up and dressed for the day, I sit down in the rocking chair to feed him. It's been normal for the breastfeeding to cause some contractions, but the amount of pain I'm in is stronger than it's been. I think I'm in early labor. I hope Lincoln's meeting doesn't take long. I don't want to have to interrupt him.

### Lincoln POV

Mateo starts to walk past the woman like they are milk at a grocery store. Talon is growling in my head and I agree with him. He stops and turns toward a young woman named Abigale who works in the kitchen. I hear him say "mate" and I cringe. He walks until he is standing directly in front of her. "What is

your name and rank, mate?" What the f\*\*k kind of question is that to ask the woman the goddess blessed you with? I can tell she is afraid to say that she is an omega. "Speak mate", he says sternly, and Michael growls. He turns his head, eyeballing Michael. "Do you have a problem, Beta" he says to Michael. "Be careful Alpha Mateo, I know you are not disrespecting my Beta in my own pack." He looks at me "my apologies, Alpha Lincoln." He turns back and steps even closer to Abigale. He breathes in deep, which I'm sure is his wolf. "What is your name, little mate?" Now I know it's definitely his wolf by the change in his voice. "Abigale, Alpha," she answers. I am an omega." He steps back and I can see the hurt on her face.

"Excuse me, an omega. That can't be. I'm an Alpha." I see the tears that start to flow down her cheeks and I have had enough dealings with this ba\*\*ard. "I think it's time for you to leave Alpha Mateo." He turns and he looks pissed but

I could care less. "Michael escort the Alpha and Beta from my pack. Consider our alliance over." Michael starts toward him "you are making a big mistake. Are you willing to cause animosity between our packs over a pathetic omega?" Talon growls and everyone drops their gaze, including Mateo. When he finally is able to look at me, I see the shock flash on his face that his wolf gave in to mine. "Fine, we are leaving but you will be sorry for your choice." He turns like he is going to walk away and as he walks past Abigale he grabs her arm. He starts to drag her and I am on him in seconds. "Release her now." He growls but complies with my command. "She is mine to do with what I want." I step so we are nose to nose. "Do you intend to accept her as your mate and Luna?" He laughs "as if I would take an omega as anything but a bed warmer." "Then you will leave here without her." I look to Abigale and she nods. "Leave my pack and don't ever return. I will make sure the other packs we are aligned with know what kind of Alpha you are." I see him ball his fists at his sides and I wish he would take a swing. He turns heading for the gate. "Follow him Michael, and make sure the men know that no member of his pack is allowed on my pack lands." "Yes, Alpha" he says.

I start to walk toward Abigale when I get a link from Amelia. Oh my goddess she is in labor. I link Lily and Phoebe. "Maryann, will you stay with Abigale, the Luna is in labor." Abigale and Maryann both smile. "Go Alpha, I'll be fine" Abigale says. Maryann nods at me. She is the head omega and I know

she will take care of Abigale until I can speak with her about what happened. I reach the pack hospital and Lily appears with Amelia, who is groaning. "Pheobe has Eli", Lily says as I wrap my arm around Amelia. "Love how long have you been in pain?" By the look on her face, I know it didn't just start. "Luna and Alpha are we ready to have a pup" the doctor says saving Amelia from my question. Once we have her set up in bed, I pull a chair next to her. I lay my hand on her belly. "Are you ready to meet our daughter?" "Yes I am so ready." "I could feel your anger earlier. Is everything alright" she asks before another contraction hits. "We will talk about that later. You and my daughter are what is important right now."

### Amelia POV

The doctor comes in to check on me and I'm hoping that I won't have long before I'm ready to push. "Well, Luna, you're progressing nicely. You're dilated to five centimeters." Not exactly what I wanted to hear but I'm glad to be half way there. "I'll be back to check on you shortly. Let us know if you need anything." I nod and he leaves the room. "We have time now for you to tell me what happened at the meeting. It will distract me." He rolls his eyes but

tells me everything that happened with Alpha Mateo. “What the hell is wrong with him?” “I don’t know love but he is not an Alpha I will ever have an alliance with.” I smile at how amazing my mate is. After another hour of contractions, the doctor comes in to check me again. “It won’t be long Luna, you’re doing well. You’re seven centimeters and the pup is moving down.” I’m excited and nervous. I just want everything to be good. I know how scary it was last time for me and Lincoln. “Everything is going to be fine,” he says, squeezing my hand.

An hour later, I start to feel sick to my stomach. “Lincoln, I’m not feeling good. I’m going to throw up.” He hands me something and rushes out of the room. A few minutes later, the doctor and nurses come back in following Lincoln. “Let’s check you, Luna” he says calmly. As soon as he checks, he smiles “it’s time, Luna, to have your pup. That happens sometimes when it’s time to push, so don’t be nervous.” His words make me feel a little better. Lincoln grabs one leg and the nurse grabs the other. I push for another twenty minutes and with one more push I hear the best sound. My pup’s cries fill the room and

the relief that washes over me is unimaginable. Thank you, goddess. I say a silent prayer of thanks. Lincoln leans down, kissing my forehead. “I’m so proud of you, love. You were amazing.” I smile and look at the nurses wrapping my sweet girl in a pink blanket. Lincoln walks over and brings her to me. He sets her in my arms before he snuggles in, wrapping his arm around us both. As I look down into her perfect little face I’m in awe. She has Lincoln’s eyes and her hair that matches her brothers. “Thank you Amelia for making me a father again.” I turn, pressing my lips to his. When I pull back, I rest my forehead against his “thank you for loving me and our pups.” “Do you still think the name we picked fits her” he says with a smile. I look down at our daughter “yes, it’s perfect. Welcome to the world Larisa Lily Thomas.”

Two Weeks Later

Amelia POV

“Maureen, did you invite Carter to the party?” “I did, he will be here shortly.” “How are you feeling?” “Well, besides John driving me a little crazy, I feel great. Penny is super excited to be a big sister.” “I’m sure she is.” “Abigale, how is everything going with the food?” “Maryann and I have everything under control, Luna.” I smile “I’m sure you do. Thank you for all your hard work today.” She smiles and heads back toward the pack house. Lincoln pushes the stroller into the garden where we are having the party. He is such a good father. I am truly blessed. Everyone finally arrives and the whole pack was

invited to the party. I love to see our pack having fun after all the drama we had to deal with. “Luna and Alpha, it’s good to see you again” I turn to Carter’s voice. “It’s good to see you too. We are glad you could make it.” “Ethan has come a long way and is more than capable of looking over the collective while I’m gone.” “That’s good to hear.” He takes a seat at the table and looks around at all the pups. “My goodness it’s pup overload.” We all laugh before we hear a growl and the word mate. We all turn and Abigale is staring at Carter. Oh my goddess, he’s her second chance. Carter stands and walks toward her. He wraps her in his arms and buries his head in her neck. “Mate” he says, claiming Abigale. The goddess is truly amazing and we have all been blessed by her.

Chapter 67

Chapter 67

1 Broken Alpha’s Second Chance Book 2

Seventeen Years Later

Eli POV

As we sit at the table having dinner, I start to feel really hot. I can’t even stop myself before I pull the shirt over my head. “Eli, what the hell are you doing” my father asks. My mother has a look of concern and my sister just keeps eating. “I don’t know dad but I just got really hot all of the sudden.” I have a week before I turn eighteen, so it can’t be my wolf. “Eli, let’s go outside” he says. “Do you think it could be my first shift?” “It absolutely could. Let’s go down to the pack yard just in case.” My mother, father, and sister all follow me outside. The pack yard is empty right now, which I’m grateful for. I really don’t want to shift for the first time in front of the pack. I feel prickles all over my skin. This is really happening, I’m getting my wolf. The pain overtakes me and I fall to the ground on all fours. My father gets down so we are face to face. “Don’t fight it Eli. I’m so proud of you and you can do this.” The next voice I hear is inside me. “Eli, your father’s right don’t fight the change. It will hurt but it won’t last.” I try my hardest not to fight against what’s happening to my body.

The pain starts moving through me like a wave. My face feels like it’s on fire as the bones extend into a snout and my back arches as my spine



rearranges. The movement of every bone in my body nearly takes me under, but I manage to stay on my feet. Well, not feet now. I look down and my hands are now paws. Huge silver paws that I dig into the earth. I look up and my father is smiling with pride written all over his face. I turn my head and my sister gives me a thumbs up. I chuckle to myself. I look at my mother next and I can't tell what she is thinking. I can see tears in her eyes but also shock. My father walks over and wraps her in a hug. "Let's run, Eli" my wolf says. I will see my mother as soon as we come back from the run. I need to spend some time with my wolf right now. We take off and the

feeling of running with my wolf is indescribable. "Eli, my name is Silas. I can't tell you how happy I am to be your wolf." "I am happy you're with me Silas."

We maneuver our way through the trees and run for a while before we reach the clearing. Silas lays down and rolls in the grass. Once he finishes, I can feel he is anxious but I have no idea why. "Eli, I need to tell you why your mother looked so shocked when she saw me." I stay quiet and wait for Silas to go on. "I know you are Lincoln's son in every way, but I also know that you know about Atlas." I hate that name. "I know how he hurt my mother. Atlas donated a cell that doesn't make him anything to me but a sperm donor. My father's name is Lincoln Thomas." "How do you know about Atlas," I ask him. "I was once Atlas's wolf." My mother told me the story of Atlas's wolf leaving him for all he did. "So you and my mother" I start to say and he stops me. "I have none of those memories. I know she is important to me, but now it is for a different reason. The goddess has given me another chance with a human that has a good heart. A human who will love his mate the way I wish Atlas had done." I smile because in a small way, Silas is the good part of the sperm donor and now he is my wolf. "I'm glad the goddess gave you this chance and you are my wolf." I feel him relax. He must have been worried to tell me, but he doesn't need to be. I trust the goddess's choices completely.

After a while, we head back toward the pack yard. I hope my mother isn't upset that Silas is my wolf. We shift and I grab shorts from behind the tree. I head inside and up to our floor. My parents are sitting on the couch. I'm sure they are waiting for me to return. As soon as my mother sees me she jumps up and rushes over, wrapping me in my hug. "I'm so proud of you." "Thank you mom. Mom" I start to say and she stops me. "Silas is your wolf, isn't he?" She pulls back so she can look into my eyes. "Yes but he has none of the memories of being your mate." She smiles "I'm glad he has the chance at happiness. He deserves this chance to be with a man that will respect his wishes and his mate." My mother is truly amazing. She hugs me again and I can feel Silas's peace from her words.

## One Year Later

As we drive back from the Alpha meeting I can tell that something is bothering my father. "Dad, what's up with you?" "That a\*\*hole Mateo was there today. He was smart enough to stay away from me but I could hear him talking to the other Alpha's about his first mate." "Is he the Alpha that rejected Abigale because she was an omega?" "He is one in the same. I should have beat his a\*\* the day he came to the pack." I laugh because my father is the kindest Alpha on the planet. I have hardly ever seen him raise his voice, let alone beat up a jerk like Alpha Mateo. It makes me angry and I wasn't even there to see it happen. No wolf should ever deny the mate the goddess gives them. The guard opens the gate after he bares his neck to my father and then me. I'm not Alpha yet but I'm hoping to find my mate soon. I discussed with my parents about waiting till I find my mate to officially become the Alpha of the Nightfire pack. Once we park, we head toward the pack house. I can tell my father needs to see my mother. "I will see you at dinner, Eli" he says, as he heads for the stairs leading to our floor.

Micah and Mason are waiting for me in the dining room. I head toward the table and take a seat. "How did the meeting go" Micah asks. "Were you bored out of your mind", Mason asks. I laugh "no it was actually interesting." "I still don't understand why you aren't taking the title now that you're almost nineteen. We have our wolves now and we are ready to be your Betas", Micah says. I laugh "we will take our place soon enough. I want my Luna by my side first." They both nod and I hear my sister's voice coming from behind me. I turn to see her and Susan heading in our direction. Susan is Larisa's best friend. She has also made it perfectly clear that she hopes I'm her mate. If she is, when she turns eighteen, then I will accept her, but until then I will not. "I told you, Eli, I don't think she is", Silas says. "I don't think so either, Silas, but we will have to see after her birthday." Larisa goes to sit next to me but Susan manages to push her way in.

I move over so that there is space between us. "Hi Eli" she says. "Hello Susan" I say as I go to stand. "Where are you going Eli, we just got here," she says with a pout. "Micah, Mason, and I are on guard patrol. See you around Susan. Larisa, I'll see you at dinner." I can hear her as we walk away asking my sister about coming to dinner. I roll my eyes as we head outside. "That girl wants to be your mate in the worst way." "Well, she can want, but unless the goddess chooses her for me she is out of luck." They

both laugh before we all shift and take off toward the pack border. We are approaching the eastern border when I catch the scent of rotten eggs. I link

my father about the scent of rogues. "We are on our way, stay in the pack lands." He cuts the link and we stay on alert to make sure no rogues enter the territory. As Silas is scanning the trees on the other side of the border, we catch movement. He growls before the scent of strawberries invades our nose. "Mate" he says.

He starts to stalk forward but Micah and Mason's wolves jump in front of him. He growls leaving no room for debate, and the wolves back down. They step aside and he continues to stalk forward. As we pass into the trees outside the territory, the scent is getting stronger and stronger. We finally catch sight of the woman the goddess has sent for us. She is petrified and looking at her is doing nothing to keep us calm. Her clothes are ripped and she looks like she has been beaten. "Shift Silas, we are scaring her. I need to try to show her we are not a threat." He does as I ask and I cover myself the best I can. Someone clears their throat and I turn to see Micah throwing me a pair of shorts. I'm grateful they followed me right now. I slide them on and turn back to the woman that is meant to be my mate and Luna. "Mate" I say hoping that will make her realize I am no threat to her. Her eyes get big and she takes in a deep breath. She must finally realize I am her mate, but she doesn't claim me.

Silas whimpers and I hate this for him. "Mate, what is your name?" "My name is Clara, Alpha. I swear I mean your pack no harm. I was just resting." She called me Alpha instead of mate. "Clara, you are my mate and the future Luna of this pack." "Alpha, I don't expect you to accept a rogue as your mate and Luna." I step forward and bend down so we are eye to eye. "I am not Alpha to you. My name is Eli Thomas, mate. I accept you as my mate and Luna. I don't care that you are a rogue. The goddess has chosen you for me and that is what matters." I see tears running down her cheeks. I reach out my hand and I pray she will take it. After a few seconds, she reaches out her hand, placing it in mine. The tingles are amazing and I'm so grateful we have found her. I help her to stand. "Clara, are there any other rogues with you?" "No, I ran from the collective after the leader tried to force himself on me." I growl at the thought that a man tried to hurt my mate. Tried to take something she did not offer him. I place my

hand under her chin so she is looking into my eyes. "I will protect you with my life." She smiles and I pull her close to my side.

Micah and Mason remained so quiet I didn't even realize they were still there. We walk toward them and they bare their necks to my mate. I love my family. "Clara, these are our future Betas, Micah and Mason." She smiles and we walk until we reach the pack border. The warriors break through the trees with

my father leading them. I feel Clara tighten her grip on me out of fear. “No one is going to hurt you.” My father shifts, pulling on shorts and walks toward us. “I see you listened to my orders about staying in the pack lands.” I roll my eyes. He looks at Clara with my arm wrapped around her. “Dad, this is Clara, my mate.” The smile that breaks out on my father’s face is amazing. “Clara, welcome to the Nightfire Pack.” “Thank you, Alpha.” “Oh none of that. I am simply Lincoln to you.” We head back toward the pack house and my mother is waiting outside with Larisa. As soon as they see her, I can see the sadness on my mother’s face before she smiles. She walks over, taking Clara from me and wrapping her in a hug. My sister does the same. “Let’s take you to get freshened up.”

I hate the thought of being away from her but I know they will take good care of her. As we head inside and toward the stairs Susan is sitting in the living room. She stands and turns staring at Clara with my mother before she looks at me. She starts walking toward me and I need to make this clear to her, because if she doesn’t accept that she is not my mate she will not remain in this pack. “Eli who is that girl with your mom” she asks. “Susan, that is my mate and your future Luna.” She looks at Larisa before she turns running out of the pack house. I look at Larisa “it had to be said. You made it perfectly clear many times that you would only accept your mate. Hopefully she will accept it now and wait for her mate.” I smile at my sister and we head upstairs to check on Clara.

Chapter 68

Chapter 68

2 Accept Me

Amelia POV

When Lincoln links me that Eli found his mate and she is a rogue, my heart breaks. Not because she is a rogue, but because he says that she looks like she has been abused. She must be petrified and god only knows what happened to her. As soon as I see her, I wrap her in a hug. I feel her relax a little in my arms. I let her go and Larisa wraps her in a hug. I see a small smile cross her face. “Let’s get you freshened up.” I see the smile leave her face as quickly as it came. I wrap my arm around her, leading her up the stairs. “Larisa go get some fresh clothes for Clara.” She rushes toward her room as I

lead Clara to mine. I sit her on the chair in the corner while I turn the water on in the tub. I turn and she is gripping the torn clothes. I didn't even think about it but she probably should be seen by the doctor. I walk over and crouch down so we are eye to eye. "Clara, I know you have been hurt. I think we should have the doctor check you over." She starts to shake her head in a panic "no, please don't. I'm fine, it will all heal like it has before." "Clara, I know you're probably not ready to talk about what happened, but when you are I'm here."

There is a knock and the door opens. Larisa comes in, placing the clothes on the vanity. I turn back to Clara, "we will be right outside. If you need anything, just yell." That small smile is back and she nods. I lead Larisa out and take a seat in my bedroom. "Mom, what happened to her?" "I'm not sure, sweetheart, but right now she just needs time." "Maybe we should have Aunt Lily help her" Larisa says and I smile. "You're so smart. That is an excellent idea. Why don't you go get your aunt while I stay here in case Clara needs me?" She jumps up and heads out of the room. I didn't say anything to Larisa, but besides healing her, Lily can find out exactly what happened to her. For the safety of the pack, we need to know if we need to prepare for a fight. After about ten minutes, the door opens and Larisa walks in, followed by Lily. "I heard my little bean found his mate" she says. "What's wrong with

you" she asks me in a panic, my face giving away my sadness. I link her so Clara can't hear us. I tell her what I know, which isn't much.

The bathroom door opens and Clara comes out in the dress that Larisa brought her. Everywhere we can see skin, she is bruised. "Clara, this is my best friend and the Gamma of the pack, Lily." "It's nice to meet you" she says softly. "Lily is a witch and she is going to help you heal faster." Her eyes get big "a witch" she whispers. I smile, "a good witch like Glenda." I laugh and Lily rolls her eyes. Lily walks over and offers Clara her hand. "Don't be afraid. I won't hurt you. You are safe here." Clara sticks out her hand after a few seconds. Lily takes it and closes her eyes. "Clara, close your eyes and relax." Clara does as Lily asks and we watch the glow pass between their hands. The glow moves all over her body and once it's gone so are the bruises. The glow ends and Lily opens her eyes. "You can open your eyes Clara." Clara's eyes open and she looks down at her arms. That smile returns and she looks up at Lily. "Thank you" she says and bares her neck to Lily. Lily steps forward and wraps her in her arms. "You are the next Luna. You don't bare your neck to me." She steps back and bares her neck to Clara. I smile knowing that whatever Lily saw showed Clara is pure of heart and fated to my son. "Clara, I think we had better get you back to Eli. I'm sure he and his wolf are pacing every second you are out of their sight if I know my son."

## Eli POV

We follow my mother, Clara, and Larisa upstairs. Once they head to the bedroom, Silas is pacing in my mind. We are both nervous that Clara may not accept us. I have no idea what she has actually endured, but I'm sure it is going to be hard for her to trust me. Silas whimpers in my mind. I stand and start to pace myself. "Eli, you need to stay calm. Your mother and Larisa are taking good care of her." "I know they are dad but you saw what she looked like. She may never accept me after all that has happened to her." My father walks over and stands in front of me. "The goddess always has a plan. You may not understand that plan because you see a small moment but she sees the big picture." I smile and he wraps me in a hug. "Have faith in the goddess and the mate bond." He pulls back and

pats my back. Someone rushing down the hall catches my attention. Larisa passes us without saying a word. "Larisa, where are you going?" "Mom wants me to go get Aunt Lily." "Is she alright?" She doesn't answer and heads out the door. I turn to walk down the hallway. "Eli, let your mom take care of her. She probably just wants Lily to heal her."

I relax a little at my father's words. Larisa returns with my aunt and heads straight down the hallway. I start to pace again. Someone laughing makes me look up and Clara is standing there in a dress. Her blonde hair framing her beautiful face. "Thank you, auntie for healing her." "You don't have to thank me Eli. You are just what she needs but she is going to need time." I smile and nod at my aunt. I walk over and offer Clara my hand. "Clara would like to have dinner with us." I see a small smile on her face and my chest warms. Silas is prancing in my mind. I want to laugh, but I don't because honestly I feel the same way. I lead her to the dining room. Uncle Neal, Rose, Micah, and Mason are waiting for us. Phoebe and Micheal are at the coven. I don't want to overwhelm her by having her meet everyone at once. Everyone sits in the chairs around the table. I pull out the chair next to mine and Clara takes a seat. "Clara, I know you have met my mother, sister, Lily, and my father. This is Neal and Rose, Lily's mate and daughter." She smiles at Rose but doesn't make eye contact with Neal. "It's very nice to meet you both" she says.

The food is served and I try not to watch her because I don't want her to feel uncomfortable, but I notice she doesn't eat much. After we finish dinner, everyone says goodnight and we are the only two left in the dining room. She stands and walks around the table. She paces for a few seconds before she turns to me. "Eli, I know that you're a good man. How could you not be surrounded by all this love and support." I go to say something but she stops

me. "Let me say this please. I know you feel the pull because I feel it too. Believe me, my wolf is losing her mind at what I'm about to say." I stand rushing around the table. Even though I'm close to her, I still don't touch her. "Please don't reject me." The look that crosses her face is utter shock. "Eli, this is not about me rejecting you. This is about you finding a mate that is worthy of an Alpha. I am not disillusioned about who or what I am."

I reach out my hand, taking hers in mine. I'm glad when she doesn't pull away from me. "Who and what are you, Clara?" She smiles but it doesn't reach her eyes. "I am a rogue who isn't pure or worthy of being a Luna to any pack." "Can I tell you a story, Clara?" She nods and I lead her over to a chair. I sit facing her and take a deep breath. "Clara, what do you think about my mother?" She looks at me confused. "She is kind and amazing, but why are you asking me that?" "When my father met my mother she was a pregnant rogue. She had left her cheating mate and pack even though she knew she would be considered a rogue." I take her hand again. "I want you, my fated mate and Luna. I have no idea what you have been through, but whatever it is doesn't make you not pure. Clara, what is your full name?" The tears start to run down her cheeks and I wipe them away with my thumb. "Eli please" she says. "Clara, tell me your full name." She takes a deep breath "Clara Josephine Merritt" is my full name. "I, Eli Daniel Thomas, accept you, Clara Josephine Merritt, as my mate and Luna." The tears continue to flow down her cheeks. "Please don't cry, I mean every word I just said Clara." She smiles and this time it reaches her eyes. "I, Clara Josephine Merritt, accept you, Eli Daniel Thomas, as my mate and Alpha."

The minute the words leave her mouth, I feel the bond start to form. I bring her hand to my lips and kiss the back. "I promise you that I will protect you and honor you for the rest of our lives." "Eli, I know you probably want to mate and mark." I stop her "whenever you are ready, we will complete the bond. I don't want you to feel rushed." "I don't know how I got so lucky to be blessed with you as a mate, but I will thank the goddess every day" she says. "So will I, Clara." Silas has stayed quiet just enjoying being near our mate. I could feel his anxiety when I thought she was going to reject us. "Eli, ask her what her wolf's name is please?" I smile "Clara, Silas my wolf, and I would like to know your wolf's name." "My wolf's name is Cora and she is very excited to meet Silas." We sit for a few minutes just enjoying being in each other's presence. I break the silence. "I'm going to show you to your room if that's alright." She nods but she seems nervous. "It will be a guest room next to mine." She relaxes and I take her hand leading her upstairs to our floor.

We reach the door and I open it. She steps inside, looking around, and when she turns back to me I see unshed tears in her eyes. "This is amazing Eli. Thank you for everything." "You never have to thank me for taking care of you. I'll be right next door if you need me." I turn to leave and she calls out my name. I turn and she rushes over, going up on her tippy toes. She places a soft kiss on my cheek. "Good night Clara", I say, before I head to my room. Despite the fact that we haven't marked and mated, I still feel whole knowing she is here with me. After I shower and slip into sleeping pants, I slide into bed. "Eli, thank you for being a human who cares about our mate. I am grateful for the chance that the goddess has given me with you." "No matter what we face now, Silas, we will do it with our mate by our side." I close my eyes and fall into a peaceful sleep, dreaming of a future with my beautiful mate.

Chapter 69

Chapter 69

3 Your No Alpha

Alpha Mateo POV

I'm sitting at my desk going over the pack's financial statements. A knock sounds on the door and when it opens Jasmine walks in. "I'm busy, I don't have time for your nonsense, Jasmine." "That is no way to speak to your Luna Mateo." I slam my hand down on my desk. "I will speak to you any way I see fit. I am the Alpha of this pack. Honestly, Jasmine, I only mated you because of your breeding and to give me an heir which you failed at miserably." She growls "don't speak of my pup. I have been a good mate and Luna to you despite how you have treated me. Maybe you should have mated the omega. Then you could have a son with omega breeding, since you can't see how strong our daughter is." I'm around the desk in seconds pinning her to the wall. "I would be careful of the things you say. You're of very little use to me now. If you ever repeat that I was fated to an omega to anyone, I will make sure you never speak again." I see fear on her face at my words. After I mated this b\*\*ch I drank too much wolf wine and spoke of my omega mate. I drop her to the floor. "Get out of my sight. Remember your place, Jasmine, or you won't have one." She leaves my office without another word.



I link Bradford to come to my office with Anthony, his son. I have no intentions of handing over my title anytime soon, but I do need to have a plan for the future. That b\*\*ch was only able to give me one pup and no woman will ever take over my pack. She thinks, because she trains, that she can take on a man's role in this pack. That will only happen over my dead body. The door opens and Bradford walks in, followed by Anthony. They both take a seat in front of my desk. "Bradford, how is training going with the warriors?" "Excellent Alpha,, Calliope is an amazing fighter in both human and wolf form." I roll my eyes. "I don't want to hear about my daughter's attempt at training. How are the real warriors looking?" "The men are doing well, Alpha. Anthony is starting to take over some of the training in preparation for his role as Beta." "Excellent, but that is actually what I called you here to discuss. When I am ready to

step down as Alpha, I would like Anthony to take the role and mate with Calliope." Both men remain quiet for a long time. "Alpha, we are both honored by your offer, but Anthony plans on mating his fated mate." I can't help myself, I laugh out loud.

"I am offering you a chance to become Alpha of my pack and you're worried about a mate you haven't even met. She could be a rogue, for all you know, or a pathetic omega" I say to Anthony. He stays quiet and I'm just about to demand a response when we are interrupted. The door to my office swings open and Calliope walks in. By the look on her face she has been talking to Jasmine. "Bradford and Anthony, will you excuse us? We can continue this discussion later." They get up, leaving my office and close the door behind them. "What is so important that you need to interrupt my meeting, Calliope?" "I believe you know why I'm here, father." "Enlighten me dear daughter" I say. "Mother is crying because of you. What did you say to her?" "What happens between me and your mother is none of your concern. You need to focus on learning to become a good Luna for your future mate and Alpha,"

### Calliope POV

I'm just coming back from training when I head upstairs to grab a shower. When I walk in, my mother is sitting on the couch with tears in her eyes. "Mother, what happened" I say as I sit down next to her. She wipes the tears from her eyes trying to hide her sadness from me. "I'm fine sweetheart." I give her a look like I'm not buying it and she chuckles. "I had a fight with your father." "Tell me what he did." She smiles and brushes the hair away from my face. "Promise me that you will mate because of the bond and love not because it's your duty." I look at her confused. "Mom you're not making sense.

I thought you and dad were fated mates.” A sadness that I’ve never seen before is in her eyes makes my heart clench in my chest. “I wish that were true. I thought that maybe your father would come to love me one day, but he only mated me because of what he could gain. My father was a powerful Alpha. When we mated, your father gained my pack and pack lands.” “Why didn’t you just become Alpha of the pack and find your fated mate?”

“Oh sweet girl, my father would never give his title to a woman and your father is just like him.” “Are you saying that because I am a woman he will not make me Alpha of this pack?” “That’s exactly what I’m saying.” I stand heading back out the door. My mother calls out to me and I turn walking back to her.

“Calliope, please don’t do anything to get yourself hurt. You are all I have in this world.” I hug my mother before I head to my father’s office. I don’t even knock before I walk in . I don’t care that he is having a meeting with his Beta and Anthony. Once they leave, I try to control the anger I feel at my mother’s words. “You want me to be the Luna. I am your only child. This pack is my birthright and I have training to become an Alpha worthy of it.” My father laughs and Aurora growls in my mind. “Women are not Alpha’s. They are meant to be Luna’s and serve their mates. You will never be the Alpha of my pack.” I stand without another word, walking toward the door. I open the door and turn back to my father. “I will never be Luna of this pack.” I walk out the door and I can hear him yelling at me using Alpha command. Aurora doesn’t even whimper. Once I’m outside, I shift and we take off toward the woods.

“Calliope”, Aurora starts to say, but I stop her. “I don’t want to talk, I just want to run.” We run until her legs are ready to give out. She lays down near a tree I visited many times as a child. “Calliope, it’s time to talk.” I sigh “I knew he was an a\*\*hole but never did I think that he was cruel to my mother or that he thought I was unworthy of leading this pack.” “Your father is no Alpha. An Alpha sees strength in others and fosters it for the good of many. Your father is small-minded and selfish. You are an Alpha Calliope.” “Thank you , Aurora. I would be lost without you.” “You never have to worry about not having me. You’re stuck with me.” She rises to her feet and takes off toward the pack house. As I walk back down the hallway of our floor, I can hear my mother’s cries of pain coming from my parents’ room. I push open the door and she is writhing on the bed. “Mother, what’s wrong” I ask as go to her. “Calliope, please, I don’t want you to see this. Just go, it will be over soon.” “What are you talking about? What is causing you this pain?” She doesn’t answer but Aurora does. “It’s your father being unfaithful to their bond.” The anger I feel is all consuming. He is a bastard and she doesn’t deserve this.

I stand stalking toward my father's office. I push the door open without warning. My father's eyes are fixed on me as the omega, he was just f\*\*king scrambles for her clothes. I don't even blame her because I'm sure she had no choice. "What the f\*\*k do you think you are doing barging into my office again?" "Really that's what you say when your hurting my mother and being an overall sh\*tty wolf." "I don't answer to you and your mother is well used to it. Now leave before I lose my patience with you, Calliope. You better learn your place because your mate will do the same to you." "I would rather die than have mate as pathetic as you." He laughs "you will mate whoever I tell you to or you can leave this pack." "That's fine with me, I would rather be a rogue than stay here with you. I, Calliope Justine Robison, leave the Crescent Moon Pack and all its secrets behind. I reject you, Mateo Connor Robison, as my Alpha and father." His eyes turn black. I'm sure his wolf is angry that his pup is breaking the bond with him. I turn down the hallway and head back to my mother. She can't stay here and I won't leave her behind.

As soon as I reach the room, she is sitting on the bed. "Calliope, what have you done?" I should have known he would link her. I can only imagine what he said to her. "Mom, please, we need to leave. You can't stay here and keep taking this abuse." She looks at me with sadness in her eyes. "Calliope, there is nowhere to go. If we leave we could be killed by rogues or other packs." "What kind of life is this for you to endure this disregard and abuse? I would rather take our chances as rogues than stay here with him." "We don't have long. He expects me to bring you to him after I speak to you about your behavior." She gets up packing what she can carry. I run to my room and do the same. After a few minutes, we head downstairs and I grab the keys off the key holder for an SUV. We need to get out of the pack before he realizes we are gone. I pull up to the gate and the guard approaches my window.

"Hello ma'am, does the Alpha know you are leaving the pack lands?" My mother squeezes the armrest and I pray she doesn't say anything.

"It's actually a secret that we are going to buy a gift for my dad. We won't be gone long." I can see he is torn. "Jared I kicked a\*\* this morning at training. I don't need anyone to protect me or my mother." His

face turns red and he nods. He opens the gate and we drive through. We drive down the road that leads away from the pack and I stop at the very end. My mother steps out and turns toward the pack. "I Jasmine Alyssa Robison, reject you Mateo Connor Robison as my mate and Alpha. I leave the Crescent Moon pack and all its secrets behind. I am no longer the pack Luna." I can tell she has pain, but after all she has endured, I'm sure it is mild in comparison.

We hear a growl that I know is my father. "We need to go mom", I say, and we both quickly get into the SUV. I start to drive and I know that wolves will be coming. I make the turn that leads to the human city. "What are you doing, Calliope?" "The wolves will be coming. We can go to the human city until we figure out what to do next." She nods and once we pull down the main street my body relaxes. I know this feeling won't last but for now we are safe.

Chapter 70

Chapter 70

4 Find Our Place

Calliope POV

We reach the human city and pull into the parking lot of a coffee shop. I look over at my mother and I can't read her face. "Mom" I say and she turns pulling me into a hug. "Thank you Calliope. You are so strong. I'm sorry" she starts to say and I stop her. "What are you sorry for?" "I should have been strong enough to fight my father when he insisted I mate Mateo. I should have left your father when I knew he was never going to love me." I pull back "don't do that. You are stronger than any woman I know. You sacrificed your own happiness to protect me from the vile things he was doing. I know based on what I saw today this isn't new behavior for that ba\*\*ard." She laughs and the brightness actually reaches her eyes. I wish I had realized how unhappy she really was before today. "You deserve to be happy, mother. This isn't about me. You don't owe me an apology. You did nothing wrong." I can tell she doesn't think she deserves to be happy. "What are we going to do now, Calliope? Your father isn't going to let this go." She reaches into the bag she packed and pulls out a wad of money. "Mom, how much is there?" "A few thousand dollars but it won't last long." She is right about that. "Let's go in and have something to eat before we find a hotel to stay in for a night or two. I don't care if we have to live among humans. You are never going back to him." She reaches up and touches the spot where he marked her. She brushes her fingers over it and smiles. "It is already starting to fade."

We get out and head inside the coffee shop. I can't help but look around. I doubt the wolves will follow us into the human city. My father knows that the Nightfire pack protects this city and will not take kindly to wolves entering without permission. Alpha Lincoln is someone my father spoke of often and it

wasn't fondly. I have never met him, so I'm not sure why my father hated him so much. Based on everything I just learned, Alpha Lincoln is probably a good man. We take a seat in a booth after we get two cups of coffee and muffins. I continue to look around to ensure there is no threat to my mother. There are many

people in the shop but they are all human. I pick my coffee cup up and place it to my lips. As I take a sip, I scent a wolf. I place the coffee on the table in front of me and look toward the door. A beautiful woman who is around my mother's age walks in with a girl who looks about eight. The woman is definitely a wolf. The little girl waves at me and the woman looks in our direction. Her eyes get big as she must realize we are wolves too.

"What's wrong, Calliope?" "A woman that's a wolf just walked in. She knows we are wolves." She indiscreetly looks before she looks back at me. "It's alright, she has a pup. She isn't going to confront us with her pup." I hope my mother's right. A few seconds later, she leads the little girl to a table near ours. "Calliope, I don't believe she is a threat", Aurora says. Aurora isn't an average wolf. She can feel the emotions of others. A gift given to her and me by the goddess. My father has never even seen Aurora or asked about my wolf so he has no idea. "My name is Sarah, what's yours," a little voice brings me out of my thoughts. "Sarah, don't bother the ladies" the woman says to the little girl. "It's no bother. My name is Calliope and this is my mother Jasmine." "You have the same name as a princess." My mother smiles "yes, I do. You have a very pretty name, Sarah" my mother says. I look up at the woman who is smiling at her daughter. She looks at me "my name is Abigale. It's very nice to meet you both." "It's nice to meet you and Sarah." She looks worried but I'm not sure why. "Can I ask if you two are alright? I don't usually see unique women such as yourself in the city." I lower my voice so the humans around us can't hear. "We will be. Thank you for your concern. We are just passing through and we mean no harm." She smiles "I wasn't worried that you did."

### Alpha Mateo POV

Dante is pacing in my mind after my conversation with Calliope. "We cannot let our pup leave the pack. We need our bloodline to continue and she is the only way that happens, Mateo." "I am aware of that Dante. She isn't going anywhere. Just like Jasmine accepted my rules, so will she." After I link Jasmine to bring Calliope back to my office, I take a seat at my desk. I will be damned if any woman will speak to me like that. After fifteen minutes, I start to lose my patience. I stand and head toward the door. I

reach for the handle when a pain like I've never known almost knocks me off my feet. "That b\*\*ch you chose is breaking the bond with us", Dante growls. I manage to get my bearings. "Bradford, you are to have every warrior out looking for my Luna and daughter," I link him. "What's happening Alpha?" "Do what I f\*\*king ordered now." I break the link and head downstairs. As soon as I'm outside, I take a deep breath to scent the air. I can't scent Jasmine. We shift and Dante takes off toward the gate that leads into the pack. We reach it in minutes and I shift. The guard looks worried and I have a feeling I'm not going to like what he is about to say. "Where are they?" He doesn't even ask who I mean because he knows. "They left fifteen minutes ago, Alpha. I'm so sorry they told me they were leaving to buy you a gift." "What way did they go" I growl and shift. I will deal with his stupid a\*\* later. I link the men to follow me and I take off toward the direction the guard points with his shaking hand.

As I run I think about what I'm going to do when I catch this b\*\*ch. "This is your fault for taking her a\*\* as our mate." I focus on running to reach the SUV. Her scent is getting stronger as we run. We stay in the woods. As we run I realize where she is going. That b\*\*ch thinks she can hide from me in the human city. She is very wrong. I may not be able to walk in as Dante, but I will find them both. I don't care about that ba\*\*ard Lincoln. They both belong to me and I will have what is mine. We reach the edge of the forest and my men stop behind me. Bradford's wolf comes to stand next to me. "What now, Alpha" he asks. "Return to the pack, this isn't over."

Two Days Later

Calliope POV

I get out of the shower and throw on a pair of jeans and a t-shirt. I open the door and my mom is sitting at the table in the hotel room we rented. She has pancakes and eggs waiting for me. I smile because I'm starving. I take a seat and start to dig in. We eat in comfortable silence for a few minutes before someone knocks on the room door. I look at my mother and place my finger against my lips. I get up and when I reach the door I look out the peephole. "I think you should let them in, Calliope", Aurora

says. I turn to my mother and I can see the fear on her face. "It's not dad" I say in a whisper. "Calliope, we are here to help. Please let us in." I see relief on my mother's face and I turn back to the door. I reach for the handle and open it. Abigale, Sarah, and a man are standing there smiling. "Please come in", I say, and step back until I'm standing next to my mother.

“Calliope and Jasmine, this is my mate Carter. He is the leader of the Silverpaw Collective.” He clears his throat. “We are the leaders of the Silverpaw Collective.” She rolls her eyes. “Hi Calliope” Sarah says, and I smile. “It’s good to see you again Sarah. It’s good to see both of you. It’s nice to meet you Carter.” “Can we talk,” Abigale asks and I know what she means. I turn on the TV for Sarah and we all sit down at the table. “I mean no disrespect but why are you here?” “We are here to offer you help”, Carter says. “We know that you are not rogues. You are definitely pack wolves”, Abigale says. My mother and I both stay quiet. “We understand you may not be ready to tell us exactly what you’re running from, but we know you’re running”, Abigale says. I look at my mother and she nods. “You can trust them” Aurora says. “We are running from my father. He is an Alpha who has been abusing my mother.” Carter growls and I smile. Abigale reaches her hand across the table, taking my mother’s hand. “I’m so sorry your mate treated you like that. He isn’t worthy of you. Hopefully the goddess will give you a second chance just as she did for me.” My mother smiles and I guess my father isn’t the only a\*\*hole wolf.

“So we came to offer you a place in the collective” Abigale says. I’m shocked that they would offer wolves they don’t know entrance into their collective. “I don’t mean to sound ungrateful, but how do you know that you can trust us? Not that I’m saying you can’t, but you don’t know us. You would be putting your collective at risk. My father will be looking for us. He will not think twice about hurting you or the people you care about.” This time Carter smiles. “We have an alliance with the Nightfire pack. The Gamma and the Beta Female of the pack are very powerful witches. They have provided us a serum that allows us to know exactly what your character is based on your aura. If you drink it and your aura is blue, then you are pure of heart. If you drink it and your aura is red, then your intention is evil. We understand that the man your running from may be a problem but I promise you between the collective

and the Nightfire pack you will be safe”, Carter says. “I have never heard of a pack aligning itself with a collective.” “The Nightfire pack is not your typical wolf pack. The Alpha and Luna are amazing and they don’t judge people based on their rank or lack of rank.” Carter sticks his hand in his pocket and takes out two vials. He sets them on the table in front of us.

“Aurora, are you sure about these wolves?” “Yes I am. You and your mother are safe with them.” I link my mother, “Aurora feels we are safe with these wolves.” As soon as I say it, my mother picks up the vial and drinks it. The glow that surrounds her is a brilliant blue. I pick up the vial and do the same. I look at everyone and they look like I just grew ten heads. “What’s wrong, it

can't be red?" Abigale smiles "it is not red. It is the purest white I have ever seen." "What does that mean?" "It means you are now both members of the Silverpaw collective. Let's go home" Abigale says. "We will wait for you downstairs", Carter says, and they leave us alone in the room to gather our things. "Are you sure this is what you want to do mom? We will be considered rogues from this day forward." She wraps me in a hug. "I would rather spend the rest of our lives with these people who have been kinder to me than your father ever was. I don't care if people call us rogues. Your father and mine were both wrong. Rank doesn't matter, kindness and how you treat others does. There is strength in kindness."