

Betrayed by My Beta Mate #Chapter 81 - Read Betrayed by My Beta Mate Chapter 81

Chapter 81

Chapter 81

15 We Meet

Lincoln POV

I'm speechless when he says that Clara is his sister. The goddess truly is amazing. I pull him into a hug. "Cayden, I can't believe you're here." After what Evelyn just told us, she will finally get the chance to be with both her pups. When I pull back, he looks shocked. "I'm sorry I guess I should have explained first. Clara is mated to my son and is the future Luna of the Nightfire pack." He smiles "I'm so glad she is safe. My father assured me that she was alright, but until now it was still hard to believe." "Your father" I say like a question. "My father came to me when I was unconscious and told me about what happened to my mother. He is the reason I have powers." "Cayden, I would like you to return to the pack with me today. There is someone there besides Clara that has been waiting to see you." "Who would be there that wanted to see me besides my sister?" "Your mother is waiting for you and your sister in the Nightfire Pack. She has learned the truth and she wanted to find her pups." The smile that spreads across his face is brilliant. "How is this possible" he asks. I place my hand on his shoulder "because the goddess always has a plan."

I turn and stick out my hand to Calliope. "It's nice to meet you. I'm glad you have found a place here in the collective." "Thank you, Alpha. It is very nice to meet you." "I don't mean to pry, but you're a pack wolf aren't you?" "My mother and I were from a pack, yes. We no longer had a place there and now we are a member of the collective." I can tell she isn't ready to share that part of her past yet and I don't push. I nod and turn back to Carter. "Thank you, for calling me here today." We shake and walk out into the pack yard. Sarah and Abigale along with a woman I've never seen are waiting for us. I hug both Abigale and Sarah. "Link I want a ride" Sarah says and I chuckle. "Not today little one but I promise I will come back and Talon can give you a ride." Everyone says their goodbyes. "Cayden are you able to shift and run back to the pack?" He nods and we all shift.

Alpha Grant POV

A knock sounds on my office door and at first I assume it's Evelyn but I don't catch her scent. "Come in" I say and the door opens. One of my guards walks in and comes to stand in front of my desk. "What can I help you with" I ask him. "Alpha I took the Luna out at her request today. She did not return with me." I stand "excuse me. Where the f**k is my Luna?" "She commanded me to return without her so I had no choice Alpha. She told me to tell you to call her if you want answers." "Get the f**k out of my office now." He scurries out and I start to pace. She can't know. It's not possible. The only person who knew from the pack is dead. I pull the phone out of my pocket and dial Evelyn's number. She picks up on the second ring but there is silence. "Evelyn, I know you're there." "Yes I am. This is the last time you will speak to me after what you have done." "Evelyn, you're not making sense. I don't know what you think I have done but you're wrong. Where are you? I'm coming to get you." She laughs "no you're not. The only time you will ever see me again is when I watch you pay for what you have done." I take a deep breath trying to stay calm.

"You are a monster and I wish I never met you. You took my pups from me because you are a selfish pr*ck. You watched me suffer and you knew what you had done. You pretended you loved me but no one does that to someone they love. I, Evelyn Jane Hoffner, reject you, Grant Thomas Hoffner, as my mate and Alpha." The minute the words are spoken the pain in my chest is unbearable. Thiago is whimpering. "I will never accept this Evelyn," I manage to get out before I drop the phone to the ground. I fall to my knees trying to catch my breath. This can't be happening. The pain in my chest seems to be subsiding. I have to get to her. Even if I don't accept it the rejection will take effect the longer she is away from me. "I told you that you would regret what you did. I didn't want the pups either but I knew that we would lose her for what you did" Thiago says. "Shut up. I don't need to hear that sh*t right now." I manage to link the guard that escorted Evelyn today to return to my office.

I get to my chair and the pain is completely gone, but I feel broken. The door opens and the guard rushes inside. I see the fear written on his face. "Where did you take the Luna today?" "She is at the

Nightfire Pack, Alpha." "Is that the only place you took her?" He doesn't speak and I have no patience right now. "Answer me or I will snap your neck where you stand" I use my Alpha command on him. "I took her to a house in the human city." "You will take three warriors and go to that house. I want every person that lives there brought to me now." "Alpha" he starts to say and I start

toward him. "Yes Alpha" he says and rushes from the room. I pick up the phone and dial the Nightfire Pack. It rings twice before a voice I don't expect picks up the phone. "Amelia, it's Alpha Grant." There is silence for seconds before I speak again. "Amelia, Evelyn is confused. I would never do anything to hurt her. I need to speak to her face to face. I am on my way to the pack to get my Luna."

Amelia POV

I can't believe what Lincoln just told me. It's amazing to think that Evelyn is going to finally meet her pups. I sat with her for a few minutes after I showed her the room. I can't imagine anyone taking Eli from me. She has lost so much because of one man's selfishness. I'm waiting in the office until he gets back with Evelyn's son. I hope that Eli and Clara will be back soon. The phone ringing brings me out of my thoughts. As soon as I pick it up I feel sick to my stomach when I hear his voice. How could he dare call here after all he has done. When he starts to plead I have no sympathy in my heart for this man. "Grant you are no longer welcome in the Nightfire Pack." "You are in no position to tell me what I can and cannot do Luna." I laugh "I may be a Luna but at least I'm not a coward who hurt innocent pups." He growls "I would be careful how you speak to me, Amelia. I will have my Luna even if it means I have to burn your pack to the ground." The call disconnects and I link the patrol guards. "I want increased patrol at all the pack borders. No member of the Red Moon pack may enter the pack lands. That includes Alpha Grant am I clear?" "Yes Luna" I hear multiple guards say in my mind.

I wait patiently for Lincoln to return. I know he is on his way and I will tell him about Grant when he arrives. Twenty minutes later the door to the office flies open and I am wrapped in strong arms. "Lincoln, I'm fine. The guards have been given their orders." He pulls back and he smiles. "I had no doubt you would handle it love. You can tell me exactly what that prick said later. Right now we have

more pressing matters." He steps aside and a young man that I can clearly see is related to Clara is smiling at us. The minute our eyes meet he bares his neck to me. I make my way over to him and wrap him in a hug. "Welcome home Cayden." "Thank you, Luna." I pull back "I am Amelia to you. You are part of our family now." I can see unshed tears in his eyes and I pull him into a hug again. "You are safe."

Eli POV

We drive the twenty minutes back to the pack. When we reach the gate I notice that there is an increased number of guards around the perimeter. I link my father to make sure everything is alright. "Eli I need you and Clara to come to my office now." I can tell by my father's voice that this is important and as much as I want to make Clara mine right this minute it is going to have to wait a little longer. I park the car and go around to open her door. The smile on her beautiful face falls when our eyes meet. "What's wrong Eli?" "I'm not sure but my parents want us to come to the office." "Then let's go. It must be important." I kiss her forehead before I take her hand leading her through the pack house. As soon as we reach the door I don't knock. When we walk in Clara freezes like she has seen a ghost. I notice the man sitting on the couch with my mother. Before I can even ask who he is Clara is in his arms. I expect Silas to growl but he doesn't. At that moment I realize it's Cayden. Her brother is here and safe. How is this possible?

Clara POV

"Cayden, you're alright. How did you get here?" "There are so many things I need to tell you Clara. Things that we could never imagine being the truth of how we came to be in that awful place." The door opens and when I turn Luna Evelyn is standing there staring at me and Cayden. Before I can ask what is happening Cayden whispers "mom." My legs feel weak and strong arms wrap around me. Eli helps me to sit on the couch and Evelyn comes to sit next to me. "Clara, are you alright" she asks. I look up and Cayden is smiling at me. Could she really be our mother? I look back at Evelyn and I can feel the

tears on my cheeks. "Are you our mother?" She nods and I can't help but wrap her in my arms. I have no idea why we ended up in that place but right now I just want to hug my mother. "I don't understand." "I promise you Clara I will explain everything to you and Cayden but I need you to know that I had no idea that you were alive." My heart clenches in my chest. My mother and my brother are here with me.

Everyone takes a seat and Cayden sits next to our mother. She takes each of our hands. When she begins to tell the story of our father and how she lost him my heart breaks for her. We are not the only ones that have suffered. "I just wish that I knew what Grant had done. I would never have stopped looking for you. You two are my pups and I will never let you go again." "I'm so glad you came to the ball and that we are all together now." I hug my mother again and I can't believe that she is really here. I will thank the goddess every day for bringing me my family.

Chapter 82

Chapter 82

16 Complete

Michael POV

We reach the human city after about twenty minutes. I pray that we have no problems getting Troy and his family back to the pack. After Lincoln told me what was going on, there is no telling what that ba**ard Grant is willing to do to get what he wants. We arrive at the address that Lincoln gave me. I brought Micah and Mason along with two of the pack warriors. As we walk toward the door, Jaxon growls. "There are pack wolves nearby. I catch their scent on the wind." I turn back to my sons. "We need to get them out of here right now." I turn to the warriors. "Stay here and link me if you see any wolves." I bang on the door and when it opens I usher the man inside before I even tell him why we're here. I know it's probably not the best idea as he isn't a little man, but I can't risk something happening to him.

"What the hell are you doing in my house" he growls and his eyes turn black. "Troy, we are no threat to you or your family. You are in danger. We are here to protect you and get you all out of here." I look past him at a woman who has her arms wrapped around two identical pups. "They are in danger. I am here to get you all to safety." He turns looking at the woman and pups. When he turns back, his eyes are back to their normal color. "How do I know that Grant didn't send you here?" "I am the Beta of the Nightfire pack and my Alpha sent me to protect you and your family." I hear voices outside. "We need to go now. Grant's wolves are here." "My family cannot fight wolves. I won't take them out there to be killed." "They won't have to fight and I promise you we will keep them safe." I turn to Micah and Mason, "take them to the pack and make sure you take them right to Lincoln." They walk over and stick out their hands to the woman and pups.

"You need to go with them, Troy. We will handle the wolves outside." "You're not making any sense. If we go outside they will attack us." "My sons are hybrids. They have powers and will take you to the Nightfire pack." I hear voices getting louder and a growl comes from outside. "Troy, we don't have time to talk this over. They are here to take you and make no mistake, they will follow the Alpha's orders no matter who gets hurt." He walks toward my

sons and reaches out his hand. Seconds later, they are all gone. I walk toward the front door and once I'm outside, the men seem to quiet in my presence. I'm sure they sense that I am a Beta. There are five men and I'm not worried about defending ourselves against them. I'm worried about these a**holes exposing our kind to the humans that live in the surrounding houses.

"Do we have a problem gentlemen?" I say to the one who was doing all the talking. "We have no issue with you, Beta, but we have orders to follow." "What exactly are your orders?" "I mean no disrespect but that is none of your concern." I step forward and lower my voice. "We have orders too and I promise you that your Alpha isn't the type of man you should be following. Now, we will be leaving and I suggest that you learn what kind of leader Grant Hoffner really is before you take any more orders." They growl and start to walk toward us. That's when I notice a woman and young girl walking out of their house across the street. I wave at the woman and little girl, hoping these a**holes will back off. They turn and look across the street. When they look back at us, they begin to back up. "This isn't over" he says in a whisper. Once we are in the SUV, I make sure the men leave before I start back toward the pack.

Evelyn POV

I can't help but stare at my pups. I notice that Eli is rubbing circles on the back of Clara's hand. I'm so glad she found a mate that loves her. I look at Amelia, Lincoln, and Eli. "Do you think that I might be able to speak to Clara and Cayden alone for a moment?" They both smile but I notice that Eli squeezes her hand. I lay my hand on top of their joined hands. "I need to ask my pups questions about the past Eli and I don't know how that will make Clara feel if you are here." Clara smiles "Eli knows my past and I want him to stay while we talk." I nod and Amelia leaves with Lincoln. "I don't need the exact details

but I need to know what happened to the two of you after that ba**ard gave you to the rogue." Clara looks at Cayden and then back at me. "We were used as slaves in the collective. Franklin made sure that we were kept weak so that we could not fight back." The pain in my chest at the thought of my pups being abused every day is worse than the pain I felt the day Theo died. I didn't think that was possible.

Clara takes my hand in hers. "Mom, that is the past. You had no idea we were even alive, let alone what was happening to us. We survived and we are here with you now. No matter what happens in the future, I am happy and loved right now. I found my mate" she says, smiling at Eli. "Cayden is safe and we

have you. We need to focus on being happy now, because nothing else matters. We can't change the past." She stands and I wrap her in a hug. I hold my daughter like I never got to when she was a pup. "I love you, Clara. You're right, we need to focus on now and not the past, but I promise you both that Grant will pay for what he has done." She pulls back and I push her curly hair off her cheek. She has Theo's nose and his hair. Cayden has Theo's eyes and his hair color. I love that they each got something from him. After we talk for a while longer, Clara and Eli leave the office. I stand expecting Cayden to do the same. "Mom, can I talk to you before we find the others?"

Cayden POV

"Of course you can." "Before I escaped the collective, dad came to me when I was unconscious." She smiles "he has been watching over you and your sister" my mother says. "Yes, and he told me about you and where Clara was. I wish he would have lived to see us all together." She takes my hand "I do too, Cayden. I can tell something is bothering you. You can tell me anything, Cayden." "I'm not sure if I'm supposed to but I feel like I'm keeping things from Clara that I shouldn't." She looks at me confused. "When dad came to me I had an uneasy feeling when he was talking about Clara's future. I felt like he was telling me something might happen to her. How can I not tell her and Eli that?" She places her hand on my face. "Cayden, your sister is right. Nothing is promised to us. We need to be present and happy at this moment. Did he tell you anything specific that we could stop from happening?" "No, it was

all very cryptic but he did mention she would give us a gift. He never said exactly what would happen or when. I just don't want to keep anything from her, especially if we can stop something from happening."

"If you tell Clara and Eli that something might happen, they will live in fear until it does. If this was something that you could change, I don't believe that your father would have been so vague. Knowing your father the way I did, he probably wasn't even supposed to tell you anything about the goddess's plan. Your sister and Eli deserve to be happy for however long the goddess sees fit. Despite all that's happened Cayden, I still believe the goddess tries her best to give us our happiness. Evil people are the problem, not the goddess. If she has a plan for your sister, there is nothing we are going to do to stop it from happening. I want nothing more than to hold you both close and protect you from the world, but I can't. All we can do is love each other and don't waste the time we have together." "Thank you" I say and wrap her in a hug. I never thought I would have this moment with her.

Clara POV

We leave the office and head back up to the room we now share. I can't believe that Cayden and my mother are here. We are all together and safe. The door knob turning brings me out of my thoughts. Eli leads me inside and pulls me into his arms. "I'm so happy that Cayden is safe and that your mother is here with us. I promise you that we will deal with Franklin and Grant." "I don't want to think about them right now. Having them here is a miracle. The goddess is truly amazing." "Do you want to shower, first love", Eli asks, and I'm confused for a moment. "Eli, nothing has changed about what's happening tonight." He walks over and places his hand on my cheek. "Clara, I'm sure that you have a hundred thoughts going on in your mind. I want to make you mine with every fiber of my being, but that isn't fair to ask of you right now." "Eli, shut up and kiss me." The look of shock fades to a smirk and he slams his mouth down on mine. We have kissed before but this time it's different. He is deepening the kiss and I feel it in my core. He runs his hand down my back and I love the way his touch feels. I worried if I would stiffen or pull away after the past, but this is nothing like that and I want this man as much as he wants me right now.

He pulls back looking into my eyes. He must find what he is looking for because he reaches down, pulling my dress over my head. I'm left in a black bra and panties. He lifts me, laying me in the center of our bed. I watch as he peels his suit jacket off and his dress shirt. My goddess, the t-shirt is pulled taut over his muscular chest. Cora is growling low and I couldn't agree more. Once his chest is bare, it is like torture that he hasn't touched me yet. "Eli" I say in a breathy voice. He climbs up on the bed and kisses me much softer this time. He starts to kiss down my body and I realize he is kissing everyone of my scars. It doesn't make me want to cover up. I never thought I would feel comfortable being naked in front of him but I am. He pulls the strap of my bra down on each side, exposing both of my breasts. When he bends taking my right n**ple in his mouth my whole body is on fire. The feeling of the kiss is nothing compared to him circling his tongue around my n**ple. He does the same to my left side and my panties are soaked. He unclips my bra and starts to work his way further down my body.

His face is right above my core when he breathes deep. His eyes flash black before they return to the beautiful blue color I have come to love. He kisses my mound on top of my panties before he pulls them down my legs. I'm fully exposed to him and I make no move to cover up. He bends and takes a long lick of my core. "Eli" I scream his name. I see him smile before he starts to circle his tongue around my cl*t.

Eli POV

I can feel she is getting close. I grab both of her hips and when I feel her hand in my hair I s**k her clit into my mouth, pushing her over the edge. She screams and my c**k could not get any harder. I stand pulling my pants and boxer briefs off as she comes down from her high. I climb back up her body until my mouth is hovering over hers. I kiss her, letting her taste her juices on my lips. I pull back looking into her eyes one more time. I see no doubt as I line my c**k up with her core. "I love you, Clara." "I love you, Eli. Please make me yours." I push forward until I'm completely seated. "I am yours forever and you are mine." She nods and a single tear rushes down her cheek. At first I worry that this is all too much but when she smiles I realize the tear is from happiness, not pain. I wipe it away before I start to

move. I have never felt anything like this and I'm trying not to embarrass myself. I need to make her c*m again before I lose control.

"Mark her Eli" Silas growls. "I'm going to mark you, Clara." She nods and I sink my canines into her marking spot. The feeling of our bond forming nearly makes me lose it. She screams out her orgasm as her core begins to milk my c**k. I pull back licking my mark. I feel the sear of pain as her canines pierce my skin before the orgasm rips through my body. The moment she pulls back and licks the mark she just made, I feel the bond is complete. I have never felt so good in all my life. I pull back and the smile that she has makes my heart clench in my chest. "Thank you for trusting me with your heart. I will protect it for the rest of our lives." She lifts her head, pressing her lips to mine. She pulls back and smiles. "You are my heart and I am yours." I roll off her and pull her back to my front. I kiss the back of her head. I hear her breathing even out and I know she is asleep. "Thank you, Eli" Silas says. "Thank you for being a better man." "We will spend the rest of our lives making her happy Silas, I promise you that." I fall into a peaceful sleep with my Luna in my arms.

Chapter 83

Chapter 83

17 What Does It Mean

Franklin POV

“I’ve never seen a wolf with red fur like fire. She was amazing. That energy ball had no effect on her at all.” “I was there, Franklin. I know what the f**k happened. If you don’t stop talking about that f**king wolf, you’re going to be sorry.” “You seem upset that your power had no effect on her, Lydia.” “F**k you Franklin.” She generates a ball in her hand. “It may not have hurt her but it will sure as hell hurt you.” I smirk “we both know you won’t hurt me. We need to figure out exactly who and what we are dealing with before we attack the collective again. A wolf like that could be worth something big.” She extinguishes the ball and plops down on my couch. “What about Cayden?” “How could we not know that he was part warlock? He never fought back against the men, not even when they tortured the mutt.” “You kept both of them so weak that I’m sure he wasn’t able to come into his powers. You’re lucky he didn’t kill you before I stepped in front of you when he escaped.” “I want that piece of sh*t mutt, dead. He can’t be as powerful as you” I say as I pull her to stand. I pull her close to my body. She smiles “you’re lucky you’re so good in bed.” I slam my mouth down on hers. I pull back from her as I get a link. “F**k” I say and she looks at me.

“That ba**ard Grant is here with ten warriors.” I take her hand, leading her outside the cottage. I keep a significant distance between us because he definitely looks pissed. “It’s good to see you again, Grant. To what do I owe this visit?” He growls and my men come to stand behind me and Lydia. “My Luna is gone.” “Well, I assure you she isn’t here, Grant.” He steps closer and Lydia lights her hands up. “I may not be as strong as you, Grant but I would be very careful to not piss Lydia off.” “I didn’t come here to kill you or fight. I came here because I’m going to need your help again to get my Luna back. We need to speak in private.” “It’s not really private if you have ten warriors with you” I say, crossing my arms over my chest. “They are here purely for my protection. They will remain out here while we talk in

private.” I turn to my men “you link me if even one of them moves.” They nod at me and I point to the cottage. I will not let that ba**ard walk behind me.

Once we are inside the office, I make sure that the desk is between us. “What can I possibly help you with, Grant?” “My Luna is in the Nightfire pack. I need your witch to get her back. I will not lose my Luna over some pups that should have never been born.” “I am no man’s witch”, Lydia says. I lay my hand on her arm. “Lydia isn’t a member of this collective, but I’m sure if the price is right she would be willing to help you get your Luna back.” I look at Lydia and she nods. “Fine, what is it that you want, witch?”

Larisa POV

I'm lying in my bed getting ready to get up for the day. Clara has been spending more time with Eli. I'm so glad she has finally accepted that my brother loves her. Clara and Eli deserve to be happy. The twins are constantly training, so Rose and I are left trying to occupy ourselves. A knock sounds on the door and my mom walks in. "We will be having breakfast in the private dining room today." I sit up and swing my legs over the side of the bed. "Is something going on, mom?" She smiles "we have some guests for breakfast." She turns and closes the door behind her. I grab a pair of jeans and a t-shirt before I head into the bathroom. As the warm water flows over my skin, I start to feel hot all over. I adjust the water temperature, trying to cool myself down. I completely turn off the hot water, but despite the cold water rushing over my body, my skin still feels like it's on fire. I bend, placing my hands on my knees. My breathing is fast and I can feel myself starting to panic.

"Larisa, are you coming?" I hear Rose's voice coming from my room. "Rose" I manage to get out. She rushes into the bathroom and when our eyes meet she looks scared. "Larisa, what the hell is happening?" "I'm not sure. Go get my mom, please" I say before everything goes dark. A few minutes later, I'm in a place I've never seen. It looks like a pack house but it's empty. The interior is dark and a shiver runs down my spine at the coldness I feel in the air. I hear voices coming from a hallway off the main room. I know I should run away, but instead I find myself walking toward them. The door is cracked and I can see a group of men sitting around a table. The man at the head of the table is

younger than the others but he is very much in charge. A woman pushes open the door and walks past me like I don't even exist. I follow her into the room, keeping my distance from the table. She snakes her arms around the neck of the man sitting at the head of the table. I don't know why, but her touching him pisses me off. "Jonelle go back to our room. I'm busy and I don't have time to play right now." Bile rises in my throat at his words, but I don't know why.

She kisses him before she leaves the room, closing the door behind her. I ball my hands at my sides, but hearing him speaking about the Nightfire pack gets my attention. "I'm not sure that doing what your father has asked is a good idea", one of the men says. Anger flashes in his eyes as he stares at the older man that dared to speak. "This is not a meeting to discuss what you think, Argo. I am the leader of this coven. It is my birthright and you will follow my orders. Do I make myself clear?" "Yes sir, I meant no disrespect. I purely mean that the pack is also supported by the former Black Rose Coven. The warlocks and witches will defend the pack against us. We are strong but no match for that amount of magic." "I'm well aware of who and what we are

dealing with. Why do you think I keep Jonelle as a bed warmer? She will do anything I ask of her. Her coven will bend to my will if I make her my beloved." I want to run from this room but I need to find out what coven I am seeing right now. I don't know why I'm having this dream or vision, but it must be important to the future of the pack. The men stand and I follow the man he called Argo.

"He is going to get us all killed for some stupid promise he made to a man that is dead. I will not die fighting for the Black Heart coven because he is still acting like a boy seeking a man's approval." "Argo" I hear a harsh voice from behind us. I move farther away as he rushes toward him. He grabs him by the throat and everything goes black again. This time I hear a voice in the darkness. "Sometimes the goddess chooses someone who is strong for someone that needs to be saved by the bond" the voice says. "Who are you and what does that mean?" The voice doesn't answer and I feel alone. I don't know how much time passes in the darkness before I can hear a beeping. I try to open my eyes. They feel like lead and I can't manage to pry them open. I can hear voices around me. My father's growl quiets

the room. "Tell me exactly what the hell happened." I try again to open my eyes and this time I can. I look around and everyone is staring at me. "Larisa, you scared the hell out of us", my mother says, and wraps me in her arms. My father hugs me next and helps me to sit up.

"Are you alright" Rose asks as she comes to stand by my bed and takes my hand. "I thought you were shifting but when you passed out I was so scared." I squeeze her hand. "I'm not sure exactly what happened but I believe the goddess was showing me something important." Eli and Clara stand next to my parents. I scream when I realize she is marked. "Oh my goddess, you're marked" I say pointing to her marking spot." She smiles and my mother shoots me a glare. "Could you not scream after what just happened please?" I smile "sorry I just got excited. Congratulations Eli and Clara." "Congratulations later, tell us about what you saw" Eli says. I think back to the man and how looking at him made me feel. I shake those thoughts away and tell them about what was said about the Nightfire pack. My father and brother both growl. Clara hugs Eli and my heart squeezes in my chest to see that they are finally bonded.

Everyone stays for a while and speaks about the coven. "We have had no issues with vampires in the past that I know of so I have no idea why they would be planning an attack on the pack", my father says. I have to stay in the pack hospital overnight even though I feel fine. Once the others leave my mother and Rose are the only ones left. Rose is sitting on the couch in my

room watching TV. My mother walks over and brushes the hair off my face. "How are you feeling Larisa?" "I'm fine, I really could go home mom." She growls and I chuckle. "Fine, I'll suffer through one night." "Larisa, you know you can talk to me about anything. Did you see something else that you didn't want to talk about in front of the others?" I debate whether to tell her about my feelings toward the man, but my need to know what she thinks wins. "The vampire that seemed to be the leader was a little older than me." She nods but stays quiet. I tell her about the woman and the anger I felt. "I have no idea what it means. I don't know if it was my feelings or something the goddess made me feel. I have no wolf yet." I tell her about the voice in the darkness and what she said. She scoots in beside me and pulls me to her side. "I don't know all the answers but this is what I can tell you. I know people say the goddess doesn't make

mistakes and I agree. She believes in the pairings she makes, but sometimes people are too far gone to save. People still have free will to screw things up. If he turns out to be important to you but he can't see the gift the goddess gives him because he is worried about a title, power, or some other stupid detail that isn't important, then he isn't worth saving. You deserve a mate that will love and respect you. No matter what happens, your family will always be here to support you." I wrap my arms around my mother "thank you for being the best mother." She kisses my forehead and I snuggle into her side. My eyelids feel heavy again, but this time it's sleep that takes me.

Chapter 84

Chapter 84

18 Ceremony

Eli POV

It has been a week since Larisa was in the hospital. I don't know that I have ever been as scared as I was when my mother linked me that they had rushed her to the hospital. Clara was amazing and kept me calm while we waited for her to wake up. I know Larisa is worried about the vampire she saw in her vision. My sister is strong but she worries about what will happen to others. I'm hopeful that getting her wolf will help her have some piece of mind. My father has been in contact with all the packs that we have formed alliances to try and locate the coven. Every time we speak about it with Larisa I see a

sadness in her eyes I've never seen before. I hate that she is carrying that worry despite all my reassurance. I push those thoughts away as today is one of happiness and not worry.

Silas and I both know that there will always be people who want to interfere in our happiness, but none of that matters now that we have Clara. The door opens and I laugh when Micah, Mason, my father, and Michael step inside. The boys are wearing blue suits and they look like bouncers instead of Betas. I don't think I have ever seen them dressed up. I'm already dressed in a black suit with a lavender tie. I'm so ready for the ceremony to begin. I finally feel ready to take my place as Alpha of the pack. I know that I will have my father and mother's support in running the pack, but I'm still nervous. The twins are smiling from ear to ear because they will take their ranked place as Betas of our pack today. They were like teenage girls when my parents announced our ceremony last week at dinner. Despite the nervousness I'm feeling, I won't lie and say that I'm not excited about this change in our lives. I just pray to the goddess that I am half the Alpha my father is.

After we all exchange bro-hugs, the twins and Michael leave my father and I alone. He begins to straighten my tie and I can tell that he has something to say. "Eli, I can't tell you how proud I am of you.

I have held you as a pup and watched you sleep. This tiny person that I was responsible for protecting and teaching all the important things in life. I have watched you grow from a child into the man that stands before me. I have had the great pleasure of being blessed to be your father. I thank the goddess every day that she brought you to me. You are my son and the destined Alpha of the Nightfire pack." I fight back tears that threaten to fall. I love this man more than I could ever describe in words. He is my father. He chose me and gave me every part of him. I pull him close and place my forehead against his. "I am the son of Lincoln Thomas. The son of an Alpha that has taught me how to love, to be kind, to be fair, and above all things, treat all people equally. I love you, dad." He pulls me into a hug. There is silence that stretches between us before he pulls back. "I love you. It's time for you to become the next Alpha of the Nightfire pack, Eli Thomas." We head for the door and I can't wait to see Clara for the first time in the dress she picked out with Larisa and my mother's help. Silas is bouncing around in my mind and his happiness is contagious. I'm glad he is getting this second chance with me.

Clara POV

I take some deep breaths. When Eli and I discussed this ceremony while he held me before I fell asleep a few nights ago, I was nervous. Now that it is actually here, I feel like I could throw up. I know that Eli loves me and I am happy that we are now bonded, but becoming Luna is crazy. How can I be the Luna of this pack? I know nothing of how to carry myself as a Luna. The Luna is the mother of all the wolves in the pack and she is strong. I don't want to embarrass Eli. "Clara, I know you are worried, but you are stronger than you know." "You have to say that, you're my wolf." She chuckles "that may be true but Eli didn't have to accept us. He didn't just accept us, he wanted us. He helped us grow strong and work through the things that happened in the past so that we would accept him. He has never acted as if he thought we weren't good enough. If a true Alpha thinks we are worthy, then who are we to doubt that?" I feel the tears running down my cheeks. Before I can answer her, a knock sounds on the bedroom door. I wipe the tears from my cheeks and take a deep breath before I tell them to come in. The door opens and my mother walks in, followed by Amelia. Amelia walks toward me first. She

wraps her arms around me and I relax. "I am blessed to have you as part of my family and Eli is lucky to have you. You are going to be a wonderful Luna."

She kisses my cheek and leaves me alone with my mother. As she stands looking at me in the gown that Larisa insisted looked amazing on me, I have no idea what she is thinking. It's a lavender ball gown with a beaded bodice. When I looked into the mirror when I tried it on for the first time in my life, I felt beautiful. I start to fidget under her gaze. "Is it too much?" She looks confused at first before she smiles. "Absolutely not. It looks like that gown was made for you. Honestly, I'm staring because my Luna gown was the same color." She wipes tears from her cheek and comes to take my hands in hers. "I'm so grateful to the goddess to be here and share this moment with you and Eli. I will no longer dwell on what I have missed. I will focus on enjoying every moment we have together. I know that all of this can be overwhelming. I never expected to be a Luna, but I promise you that you will do an amazing job by Eli's side. You have a strength that I saw in your father."

I wrap her in a hug. "I love you mom." "I love you so much Clara. You and Cayden are my most precious gifts." I pull back and she wipes the tears from my cheeks. She pulls a brooch out of a pocket in her beautiful green dress. I chuckle that a dress has pockets. "They come in handy" she says as she shows me the brooch. "Your father gave this to me. It is a wand and a wolf that are bonded together. I want you to have it and know that we are both proud of your strength and the woman you have become. I know normally fathers walk their daughters down the aisle to their ceremony, but I hoped you

would allow Cayden and I to stand in for your father.” My heart squeezes in my chest and I pray he is with us in spirit. I nod and we head for the door.

As we come down the stairs, Larisa, Lincoln, and Amelia are waiting for us. “Clara, you look amazing,” Larisa says as she hugs me. “I love this dress, thank you for encouraging me to get it.” “That’s what sisters do” she says before she heads out the double doors. Lincoln comes to stand in front of me. “You look beautiful Clara. I am so happy that Eli found you and I have another daughter to love.” I can’t even stop myself from wrapping my arms around him. He rubs my back and I have never felt more

loved than I do today. The goddess has truly blessed me. Lincoln kisses the top of my head before he takes Amelia’s hand and heads outside. Cayden walks in and his smile is contagious and the nerves seem to lessen. “You look amazing, Clara. Eli is very lucky.” I laugh and he wraps me in a hug. “You’re the only reason any of this is happening. Thank you for saving me. I love you Cayden.” “I love you too, sissy.” He pulls back and kisses my cheek. “You ready sweetie” my mother asks. I nod and we loop our arms together.

Eli POV

We stand on the stage and butterflies dance in my belly with the anticipation of seeing Clara. When the doors open, she takes my breath away. I have never seen anyone look so stunning. Silas growls and I can’t help the chuckle that escapes me. My father looks at me and smiles. I meet Clara at the stairs and take her hand, leading her up to stand next to my parents. I grip her hand in mine, needing to feel her skin against mine. My father steps forward.

“Nightfire Pack tonight is the night we change the power of the pack from one Alpha and Luna to another. It is my great pleasure as the current Alpha to name my successor and his Luna. Eli step forward with your mate.” We come to stand in front of my mother and father. They both cut their hands and allow the blood to flow into the chalice. Once the cup is filled, he hands it to me. “Eli Daniel Thomas make your vow to the pack.”

“I, Eli Daniel Thomas, vow to put the needs of the pack above my own. I will protect the pack with my life and rule with fairness to all its members.” I drink from the chalice and immediately feel the connection to the pack. I hand the chalice to Clara. I steady her shaking hand and she smiles at me. My mother speaks directly to Clara, “Clara Josephine Merritt, make your vow to the pack as the future Luna.” “I, Clara Josephine Merritt, vow to put the needs of the pack above my own. I will protect the pack with my life and rule by my Alpha’s side. Once Mason and Micah make their vows, my father turns to the pack.

“Nightfire, welcome your new Alpha, Eli Thomas and your Luna Clara Thomas.” Hearing my father call her with our surname makes warmth spread throughout my chest. “Your Alpha and Luna will now lead you in a pack run.”

I take Clara’s hand and lead her down the stairs. I notice she loses her footing and I catch her before she can fall. “Are you alright Clara?” “Yes, I think it’s all the excitement getting to me.” She smiles and I have an uneasy feeling despite her reassurance. We both strip and our howling starts the run. We take off and the pack is running behind us. The feeling of connection is amazing. As we run near the southern border, I catch the scent of rotting flesh. The anger I feel at the fact that rogues may try to ruin this night for us is tremendous. I link the guards to sweep the border for any sign of rogues. As soon as I break the link I notice that Cora is slowing down. Silas slows and rubs against her side, but he feels it too. Something is wrong with our mate. I link my mother and father, who were at the back of the run as Cora lays down. A few minutes later, she shifts and I do the same. I pick her up and start to run toward the pack hospital. She is awake but weak. “Clara, I’ve got you.” What the hell is happening to my mate is the only thought I have as I hold her in my arms and run as fast as my legs will carry me.

Chapter 85

Chapter 85

19 Surprise

Eli POV

My heart is in my throat as I run with Clara in my arms. Silas is losing his mind. Once we reach the pack hospital the doctor rushes over to us. I lay Clara on the gurney as he orders, but it kills me to let her go. “Alpha, we will take care of the Luna”, he says, as he starts to push Clara away from me. I start to follow and he turns allowing the nurses to take her through the double doors. “I know you want to come with us but you need to remain here and let us help the Luna.” I want to tell him f**k no but she needs him more than she needs me right now. He proceeds through the doors and I just stare at the door, willing it to open. I need them to come back and tell me she is fine. Familiar arms wrap around me and for a moment I’m a child again wrapped in my mother’s comforting embrace. She says nothing but rubs circles on my back. I feel the first tear rush down my cheek. The doors fly open and my

father, followed by my sister, comes rushing inside. My mother leads me over to a chair and reluctantly I take a seat.

For the first time, I think of something other than my agony. I look at my father “rogues.” “It’s being dealt with, you focus on what’s happening here.” “Do you think that black magic had anything to do with this?” The rock in my stomach gets bigger with the thought of a witch or warlock doing this to my mate. “Lily and Pheobe are on their way. They will check her for any signs of black magic”, my mother says. I am so grateful for my aunts at this moment. Goddess, I hope they can help my mate if someone tried to use magic to hurt her. The door opens again and Cayden and Evelyn walk in. They both look defeated and I stand pulling Evelyn into my arms. “She is strong.” I’m about to say more when the door opens and the doctor walks toward us. We all rush toward him. “Alpha, I need you to come with me.” “Tell me what’s going on with my daughter” an irate Evelyn yells at the doctor. “I assure you ma’am that Luna is fine but I need to speak with the Alpha alone.

She seems to calm down from his words. “I will be back to tell you all what’s going on as soon as I know.” I follow the doctor to the room and when he opens the door, Clara is sitting up smiling. I have no time to be confused as I rush over and wrap her in my arms. “Goddess, Clara, you scared the hell out of me.” I start to kiss her face before I finally pull back and look into her eyes. I hear someone clearing their throat and I realize the doctor is still in the room with us. “Alpha the Luna asked that I be the one to tell you why she passed out.” I look at Clara who is still smiling and then back at the doctor. I nod and he hands me a paper. “The Luna is pregnant. Based on what she told me, I would say she is a week along. We will do an ultrasound to confirm the gestation.” I can’t have heard him correctly. Did he just say we are going to have a pup? I look back at Clara and tears are rolling down her cheeks. I hear the door close and I know the doctor has left.

“We’re going to have a pup?” She nods her head and I pull her into my arms. I kiss her forehead and just hold this woman who has given me everything. She is my mate, my Luna, and soon she will be the mother of my pup. “I love you Clara. Thank you for giving me the gift of being a father.” “I’m the one that should be grateful, Eli. You accepted and loved me when I thought I wasn’t worthy of either.” I let out a small growl and she chuckles. She runs her hands through my hair before she presses her lips against mine. The kiss is soft and I can feel all the love she has for me in this kiss. I can hear loud voices and I laugh. “I think our family is going to start a riot if we don’t tell them what’s going on.” “Maybe you should go get them. I’m excited about telling them our news” Clara says. I kiss her one more time before I head for the door.

As soon as our family sees me, they stop talking. The doctor bows and goes back to the nurse's station. "What the hell is going on, Eli" Evelyn asks first. "Come with me", I say and turn back toward Clara's room. Once we are inside, Evelyn rushes over, wrapping Clara in her arms. "Oh my goddess you scared the hell out of me young lady." I chuckle and she shoots me a glare. I go to stand next to Clara and she takes my hand. "What is going on" Larisa asks with irritation in her voice. I look down at Clara as I want her to tell our family. She smiles "we are going to have a pup." Screams and hoots erupt in the room. I'm pushed out of the way by my mother and Larisa. My father slaps me on the back

"get used to that son." He pulls me into a hug "congratulations, I'm proud of you. You are going to be a wonderful father." "I had a great teacher." Cayden hugs me. When he pulls back, I see a mix of emotions in his eyes. I definitely see happiness, but I'm not sure what else he is feeling. He heads over to Clara and my sister and mother finally come to hug me. "I'm going to be the best aunt," Larisa says as she hugs me. "I have no doubt."

Clara POV

When Cayden comes to hug me I can tell that something is wrong. He wraps me in his arms and I feel like he is hugging me, like he's afraid I will disappear. I'm sure what happened scared him. I will talk to him alone after everyone leaves. Cayden and I only had each other when we were in that hell and I want him to be happy too. Everyone stays for a while till the doctor comes in to check on me. They all kiss me before they get ready to leave. "Cayden, I have to have an ultrasound but I want to talk to you before you head back to the pack house." He nods and leaves the room. Eli looks at me. "I want to make sure he is alright." Eli nods and the doctor brings the machine to the side of my bed. He starts to move the wand and the screen lights up. I have no idea what I'm looking at and the doctor starts to speak. "Your pup is right there." He points to something that looks like a bean on the screen. "Luna, are you a pure wolf?" The doctor's question takes me off guard and Eli growls.

"I mean no disrespect Alpha and Luna. I'm simply asking because the pup is big for only being just over a week." "My father was a warlock but I have no powers." He smiles "despite not having powers your genes are still that of a hybrid. The fact that you're a hybrid and you mated with an Alpha wolf will make your pregnancy much shorter." I see concern on Eli's face. "What does shorter mean?" "Your gestation will be around three months and a half months but could be shorter." Holy sh*t I could have a pup in three months.

“Everything about the pup is perfect. Congratulations on our new Alpha” he says and bares his neck before he leaves. I’m still in shock, but I am so happy. Before I can say anything to Eli he bends down, putting his face against my belly. “Hello in there. I am your dad. I can’t wait to meet you.” I have never been more in love with this man than I am right now. He stands and kisses me. “I’ll

go get Cayden for you. I need to check on the rogue situation.” He heads out and a few minutes later Cayden returns.

I pat the bed for him to sit down. He sits and smiles at me but it doesn’t reach his eyes. “Cayden, what’s wrong and don’t you dare say nothing?” “I don’t want to ruin your happiness, Clara.” “You could never ruin my happiness.” He seems deep in thought for a moment before he looks into my eyes. “If you knew something may happen to me but you had no idea when, how, or where would you tell me?” I smirk “that sounds like a very vague thing to tell someone. I told you before I’m happy right now, Cayden, and that is what matters. None of us know what our future holds. Don’t keep holding onto this burden. Whatever is meant to happen will happen.” He pulls me into a hug and begins to sob. After I hold him for a few minutes, he sits back. “You are so strong and I love you so much Clara.” “My brother made sure I was strong. Now let’s be happy. I’m going to have a pup, which means that you get to be an uncle.” He smiles this time and it reaches his eyes. “You’re going to have to teach my pup magic if he or she is blessed with that gift.” “I promise I will teach them once I learn how to use my own powers.” We both laugh and he hugs me again.

Eli POV

I can’t believe the difference a few hours can make. I was so happy at our ceremony and then I was terrified that I was losing Clara. Now I’m so happy I could yell it from the rooftops. I realize for the first time that Silas has been quiet since we found out that we are having a pup. “Silas, what’s up with you? I thought you would be dancing around my head.” “Eli, I never thought I would have a chance to have a pup. When I left Atlas, I never expected to have a chance like this. A chance with a human like you who loves our mate and would never hurt her.” “Silas, you deserve this and we are going to be the best father to our pup.” I feel his happiness through our bond. I finish the walk to the cells. When I head down the stairs, the smell of rotting meat is pungent. My father, Michael, Neal, and the twins are waiting for me. “What do we know?” “We were able to capture three rogues. A handful ran before we could

reach them. It was like they disappeared”, Micah says. “Have they given us any answers about their

collective?” “No, they haven’t spoken a word. Based on what they look like, I would say they were sent here as sacrifices”, Mason says. “What makes you think that?” “There is one woman and two men but they can’t fight. They look like they have been abused.” I growl “they were seeing how fast we would respond. Let them rest for tonight and make sure they get fed properly.”

My father smiles and I can feel his pride. “I’m going to speak with them before I head back to my Luna.” “Congratulations”, they say, and I head toward the two cells. The men and woman look up at me with fear in their eyes. “No one will harm you here. I will let you rest and get something to eat before we talk.” They don’t move but I know they heard me. I step closer and bend down. “You have no reason to trust us after all you have been through, but I am the Alpha of this pack and I give you my word that no one will harm you.” They look at each other before they look back at me and nod.

Chapter 86

Chapter 86

20 The Past and Present

Grant POV

Franklin and that witch walk back to where I’m waiting for them. “What the hell was that? You didn’t even kill one of them.” “I’m sure you know as an Alpha we need to learn all we can about the enemy we face. That was the whole reason we took the weakest collective members. There is no loss from them being killed.” “So what did you learn?” “It seems the new Alpha has taken his place in the pack. Which means that b**ch Clara has become a Luna.” I can feel the anger at the thought of that mutt that isn’t a pure wolf being anyone’s Luna. “Lydia has set things in motion, but it will take time. You need to prepare your pack for war because the Nightfire pack isn’t weak. It might be a good idea to see if you can align your pack with others that will fight against the Nightfire.” I nod and we return to the road that leads to the human city. I parked my car away from the pack as I’m sure they have been given orders if I or any of my pack members are seen. I get into my SUV and drive back to

my pack. Thiago has yet to speak to me since our last conversation after Evelyn left.

As I reach my office I catch a scent I haven't smelt in a very long time. I push open the door and Octavius stands by the window that looks out on my pack. Thiago growls and he turns with a smirk on his face. "No need to growl, wolf, I mean you no harm, yet." "What the hell do you think you're doing in my pack without permission?" "I showed you my power once, Grant. Don't make me do it again." "What do you want, Ocatvius?" "I think you are well aware of why I am here. Had you let me deal with the half breeds, none of your troubles would be happening right now." How the f**k could he know about everything that has happened? "Now what is your plan to deal with the mess you have made?" "I'm dealing with things and I don't need any help from you." "That's good, I'm not here to offer you help. Honestly, I would like nothing more than to wipe out all of your kind. Now I'll ask you one last time, what

is your plan?" I know I am at a disadvantage, with his powers, but I hope one day I can rip this ba**ards head off.

"The collective leader and a witch have offered to help me get my Luna back and deal with the Nightfire pack. They are the ones that are harboring Evelyn's ba**ard pups." He laughs "it seems that you have grossly underestimated your enemy. Do you know that the Nightfire pack isn't just made up of wolves?" I look at him confused. It's a wolf pack, what the hell does he mean? "That pack contains a number of powerful witches and half-breeds. They are also supported by a powerful coven." I stand pacing my office. I need to get Evelyn back, but how can I do that with just that mediocre witch's help? I turn to Octavius "I know you didn't just come here to revel in my misery. What do you want to help me get my Luna back?" He smiles and I hate the look of satisfaction on his face.

"I want what I have wanted from the beginning. I want to end those two half-breeds my nephew should never have spawned. You can have your precious Luna and help from the coven if I get what I want." "Evelyn will never come back to me now that she knows what I did to her pups." He waves me off "we can wipe all those memories away." He sticks out his hand and I reluctantly take it. "I will be in touch" he says and then he is gone. Why do I feel like I have just made a deal with the devil? "As long as we get my mate back I don't care what happens to that pack or those pups", Thiago says. For the first time since Evelyn left, we both agree. I will have my Luna in my arms soon. I sit down in my chair and for the first time, I feel hope that I will get my life back in order.

Calliope POV

I have become one of the top warriors in the collective in the very short time we have been here. Unlike my pack, these men and women respect me regardless of who my father is or what title I hold. They see my skill and value for me. I have come to love Sarah, Abigale, and Carter like they are my family. Oliver has become my best friend. We are on patrol and Aurora is enjoying spending time with Oliver's wolf, Piper. They act like siblings, but right now we are on alert. They cannot play when we are on duty. We reach the furthest point of the territory and Aurora scents something in the air. It isn't the smell of

other rogues, so we know it isn't Franklin again. The scent is familiar. A wolf steps off behind the trees and Piper steps in front of me. I know this wolf and I know he wouldn't hurt me. I shift and he does the same. I run my hand down Piper's side to let him know it's alright. I walk toward Bradford, my father's Beta. I'm sure my father has him looking for me and my mother. He pulls his shorts on before he pulls me into a hug. "Calliope, your safe."

I hear a growl and I turn to see a shifted Oliver coming toward us. "I'd ask if he is your mate but I see no mark" he says when he pulls back. "No, Oliver is just a friend. Oliver, this is Bradford, my old pack's Beta." I see panic on Oliver's face. "I would never do anything to harm Jasmine or Calliope. Had I known what the Alpha was doing I would have helped them escape." "How did you find us?" "Honestly, I had given up until I went to neutral territory and heard a rogue talking about a red wolf in this collective. I figured what are the chances of another red wolf being so close to our pack. You are the only one I have ever seen in my life." "That ba**ard Franklin has been running his mouth apparently." Oliver growls again and Bradford smiles. "I'm glad you have found a safe place, Calliope, but make no mistake he has no intentions of giving up." "I'm not concerned about my father." "I understand that Calliope but he is a desperate man and he went to see Simone. He hasn't heard back from her but you know as well as I do she is as evil as they come." "F**k" I say. I wasn't worried about Franklin's witch, but Simone is a different story. I was told stories of how she worked for my grandfather when the price was right.

"You know that I will never tell him where you are, but that witch is strong enough to figure it out. Calliope, I will be leaving the pack with my family because your father is getting desperate. He has already threatened to harm my mate. I can't risk your father hurting my mate and pup because I still can't find you." I hate that he is risking himself and those he loves to keep me safe. "Don't even think about it. I did not say that to make you feel guilty. I just want

to make sure you know so you can be prepared. You are destined for great things and I hope someday I get to see you again.” I wrap him in a hug. He has been more like a father to me than the ba**ard who calls himself an Alpha. “Please be safe and tell your family I’m sorry for all of this. Your son’s birthright was to become Beta and now that

won’t happen.” He let out a low growl. “I will tell them you, send your regards, but I will never tell them you’re sorry. You have nothing to be sorry for. Believe me, my son wants nothing to do with being Beta to Mateo.” He starts towards the woods and I make a vow to make my father pay for his selfish ways.

I turn back and Oliver is just staring at me. “Come on, we need to go speak with Carter.” “You’re not leaving Calliope. I won’t allow it”, Oliver says, and I laugh. I love how close we have become. “I never said I was leaving but I need to find a way to keep the collective safe.” We reach the office and I knock. I don’t want what happened last time to happen again. “Come in”, Carter says, and we walk inside. I tell him everything Bradford just told me. I expect him to be upset but he seems calm. “Calliope, this is your home now. I will call the Nightfire pack. The Beta female and Gamma are both powerful witches. I’m sure they would be willing to help us keep everyone safe.” I feel my body relax and Aurora stops pacing. We could protect ourselves from that witch, but not all of our friends and family. Aurora is powerful, but black magic witches aren’t known to play fair.

The Next Day

The sun is peeking through my window but I have been up for hours. My mind was plagued by the thought of that evil witch hurting people I have come to love. “Calliope, I know your worried but remember that we have been blessed by the goddess herself and we will do all we can to protect them.” She is right, I just hope it’s enough. A knock sounds on my door and my mother pops her head in. “Abigale said that the women from the Nightfire pack are here.” I don’t even let her finish and I’m throwing on jeans and a t-shirt. When I reach the office, Abigale opens the door without me even knocking. She is smiling and when I walk in, the women stand. I bare my neck to show the proper respect. “Calliope, it is a pleasure to meet you” the blonde woman says. “I am Pheobe, the Beta female of the Nightfire pack and this is Lily the Gamma of the Nightfire pack. It is a pleasure to meet you. Carter has told us about you and what’s going on.” I nod “it’s nice to meet you both.”

“Come sit with me Calliope”, Lily says. I take a seat and she puts both her hands out to me. I place my hands in hers and she closes her eyes. After a

few minutes, she opens them. Her smile makes me wonder exactly what happened. "Calliope, have you shared who your father is with Abigale and Carter?" "No, I hadn't at first because I was worried, but then it just didn't seem important anymore." She nods and I turn to them. "My father is Alpha Mateo of the Crescent Moon Pack." Carter growls and Abigale looks shocked. I look back at Lily, confused by their reactions. "Mateo was fated to Abigale before he rejected her. Carter was her second chance mate." The realization that he has always been a disgusting person is almost too much for me to take. Abigale comes to kneel in front of me. "Calliope, what he did has nothing to do with you. I am happy he rejected me. I am with my fated mate." I smile at her and Carter places his hand on my shoulder. "You and your mother are where you are supposed to be. I have no doubt of that", Carter says. I'm so grateful for finding our place here among these amazing people.

"Calliope, I'm sure you already know how special you and your wolf are, but do you know what being a red wolf means?" I'm sure I have a look of shock on my face. She chuckles, "I am a blessed witch, which makes me very powerful. That means I am marked by the goddess, but your wolf is a direct descendant of the goddess herself. That is why you are so powerful and your wolf is as big as an Alpha wolf." I can't believe what I'm hearing. I knew we were different but I never expected all that Lily just said. Aurora is puffing her chest out and I chuckle. "Carter is right, you are where you belong. You were never meant to become a Luna, as your father expected. You are an Alpha." I smile at her. "Now Pheobe and I will be putting a protection spell around the collective. If any black magic is used against it, we will know immediately. What is the name of the black magic witch your father has sought out?" "Simone, but I have no idea what coven she belongs to." She places her hand on mine. "We will find out, you just keep the collective safe. When things in the pack have settled, we would like you to meet the new Alpha and Luna." "Is everything alright?" She smiles "yes they just had their ceremony and are going to be welcoming their first pup soon." "Please pass on my congratulations." They both hug me before they head out to perform the spell. I look at Abigale. "Don't you dare apologize. You are nothing

like him and you are not accountable for his actions. I'm sorry for what your mother went through with him." My mother has no idea that Abigale is my father's first mate. A few minutes later, the door opens and my mother walks in. Abigale walks over and hugs her. They have become like sisters and I hate what he did to them both. He is no Alpha.

Chapter 87

Chapter 87

21 No Permission Needed

Bradford POV

I return to the pack and I pray that Mateo believes me when I tell him we haven't located the Luna and Calliope. I will be happy when my family is far from his pack. Thankfully, my cousin is Beta for the Blue Moon pack. He has spoken with his Alpha and he agreed to allow us to join them. I told my cousin that I could no longer stay Beta for Alpha Mateo. I was grateful he didn't ask me for more of an explanation. I reach Mateo's office and I can hear a female voice along with his. I knock and the voices go quiet. The door is thrown open and I'm confused when the office is empty. "Come in Bradford", Mateo says. His pleasant demeanor does nothing to ease my nerves. "So what progress have you made on locating that treacherous b**ch and my ungrateful daughter?" There is the Mateo I know. "We have searched everywhere both in the human city and the surrounding packs. There is no trace of either of them, Alpha." He doesn't speak for a long moment and I pray my heart doesn't give me away. Before he speaks again, a woman appears next to him. I can tell by her scent she is a witch. I growl as she has my mate by the wrist. My wolf is pushing to the surface, but I know that I am no match for them. I won't risk Julie being hurt.

"Bradford, I told you there would be consequences for failing me." "Punish me, she is innocent in all this. I'm the one that is to blame. I am the one that failed you. Please Alpha, I have been a good Beta all these years. Please spare my mate." I hate the fear I see in her eyes. "Bradford, where are my manners? Do you remember Simone?" My heart clenches in my chest. She leaves my mate and comes to stand in front of me. Without warning, she places her hand on my forehead. The pain I feel is unimaginable. My wolf howls and I scream. After a few minutes, she removes her hand and the pain is gone as quickly as it came. The smile on her face makes my skin crawl. "It seems he is not as loyal as you had hoped, Mateo" she says over her shoulder. A growl that shakes the office makes me drop my

head. "What the f**k did you see?" "He knows where they are and he is planning on fleeing the pack with his mate and pup." I'm gripped by the shirt and pinned to the wall. "You f**king piece of sh*t. How dare you betray your Alpha? Find their pup and put all three of them in the cells until I decide what

to do with them.” I don’t even try to plead with him because I know our lives don’t matter to him. If his daughter means nothing to him, then we have no hope.

He drops me to the floor and I rush over to my mate, wrapping her in my arms. “I’m so sorry love.” She presses her face to my chest. The witch walks over, placing her hand on both of our arms. The next thing I know, we are standing in the dungeon inside a cell. I look at the b**ch that just put us in here. I can’t help the growl that escapes me. “Careful wolf, I have no problem making your mate a widow right now.” Julie squeezes me tighter. “Now where is that brat you call a son?” Neither of us answer her and she walks over placing her hands on our heads. “So you don’t know where the little ba**ard went. This isn’t over. I’m very good at what I do” she says and she is gone. I pray to the goddess that Anthony is far from this place. I’m grateful Julie told him to leave and we would contact him when we were safe. I just pray that evil b**ch doesn’t find him.

Alpha Mateo POV

My wolf is ready to shift and rip this whole f**king pack house down. I can’t believe he would betray me. I have trusted him all these years. I’m ready to go down to the cells and torture Bradford in the worst way possible. After he watches me take his mate, he can feel the pain of the bond breaking when I rip the head from her body. Before I can leave my office, Simone reappears. “Did you find Anthony?” “No, but we have other things to deal with” she says, and I hate having to play nice with this witch. “I give the orders. I am the Alpha and you work for me.” “Get over it Mateo. You may be an Alpha, but without me you won’t get what you want.” I growl and she creates a black energy ball in her hand. “Do you really want to try me?” “Fine, what do we do next” I growl out. “I know where your Luna and daughter are located.” The anger fades and only satisfaction remains. “So we don’t need that traitor in the cells.” “Slow down Mateo. Think like an Alpha and not like an angry child. He obviously has a relationship with

your daughter if he is willing to protect her. We can use them if we need to. Leave them rot there for now.”

I hate that she is right. “What’s our next move?” “We will scout out the collective and once we have all the information that we need we will burn it to the ground.” “What collective” I ask confused. Is she saying my mate and daughter are living among rogues? “They are living in the Silver Paw collective.” She walks until she is standing in front of me. She places her hand

on my arm and my office disappears. We are surrounded by trees. It is dusk but I can hear people speaking and laughing. We change our position and I can see children playing. "I've never seen a collective that seemed so much like a pack", she whispers. "We can move closer but do not do anything stupid", she says. I swear I want to wrap my hands around this woman's neck. She starts to chant and then she is gone, but her wretched scent remains. "What the f**k?" "I'm still here. We just can't be seen. We will be able to get closer without being detected." We come off behind the trees and start to walk toward the edge of the collective.

I feel her grab my arm. "What the hell are you doing?" "We need to leave. This land has been enchanted with a very powerful protection spell." "What are you going on about?" Before she can answer, two women appear with two wolves. I can tell they are ranked pack wolves. She places her hand on mine but before we teleport, I see two women run to one of the children. What the f**k? We appear in my office and this time I do shift and begin to rip it apart. I feel our body in the air before it hits the wall. I shift back and stare at a very pissed-off looking witch. "Do you want to explain what the f**k that was about?" "Those two women are my mates." She looks at me confused. I explain what happened with Abigale all those years ago. How did they end up with each other and who were those people that appeared? She laughs and I swear she is testing all the control I have. "The goddess surely has a sense of humor. I will try to find out about the witches and I will be in touch." She is gone without another word and I'm grateful. I look around my office before I link my Gamma to get this mess cleaned up. I head for my room because I will not wait around to take back what belongs to me. Lincoln isn't

there to protect that f**king omega now. I smile as I head into my shower and think about all the things I'm going to do when I finally have her.

Calliope POV

We are on patrol when my mother links me that someone has breached the protection spell. Aurora growls and we turn back toward the cottages. Lily and Pheobe, along with two men, are standing in the middle of the collective. I shift as soon as I reach them. The men look at me with shock all over their faces. Lily and Pheobe both laugh. "We are sorry about our mates", Lily says. "This is my mate, Neal, and that is Pheobe's mate, Michael. They have never seen a red wolf before." "A red wolf and she is dressed even though she just shifted", Michael says. I laugh before I remember why I rushed back. "Who entered the collective?" "They are gone. The spell was effective but Pheobe and I are going to see if we can determine what type of supernatural tried to

make it into the territory.” “I’ll come with you. Aurora can tell from the scent if they meant any harm to the collective.” We take off and Phoebe directs us to follow the tree line. As soon as we reach it, Aurora growls. “Our father was here.” We shift and I can feel the panic rise in my body. “My father was here and he wasn’t alone.” “A powerful black magic witch was with him”, Lily says. I feel bile rise in my throat. I have brought this danger to the collective. Lily takes my hand. “Don’t do that. I’m sure the witch isn’t stupid. She felt the power of the spell. That buys us some time to deal with your father and that witch’s evil a**. I’m sure that Lincoln will gladly help deal with that a**hat once and for all.”

She pulls me into a hug and I can’t believe how kind these people have been to us. The fact that pack wolves are in an alliance with a collective is unheard of. She pulls back. “We will figure this out. I promise you that Calliope.” I nod and we return to the others. Sarah wraps herself around my leg. Carter, Abigale, and my mother are smiling at me. “Calliope, I thought you left.” I bend down and pick her up. “How could I ever leave you?” She wraps her arms around my neck. “Aurora, we need to protect them at any cost.” She growls her agreement. I will not let that evil ba**ard hurt people I love. “Carter, I will be sending some warriors to help with the patrolling until we deal with this a**hole”

Michael, the pack Beta, says. “Calliope, we will be available if you need us at any time” Lily says. She walks over and takes my hand. She moves her finger that is glowing in my palm. It looks like a flame with a crescent moon above it before the light fades. “You are now connected to me” she says, but her mouth doesn’t move. Holy sh*t, she just linked me. “How is this possible” I link back. “I told you that I may be blessed but you are a descendent of the goddess. You and I are connected by our gifts. You were always meant to find me.” She wraps me in a hug before they all disappear.

Cayden POV

I knock on the office door. “Come in”, Eli says. I walk in and he smiles when he sees me. “Hey Cayden, I’m glad to see you. We haven’t really had much time to talk.” “I can’t thank you enough for all you have done for my family.” “Cayden, you and Evelyn are my family. Mason and Micah tell me you are doing well with training. How is the magical training going?” “Lily, Rose, and Pheobe are amazing. I can’t thank them enough. I have learned how to control my powers.” “Why do I have a feeling that you didn’t just come to make small talk with me?” I smile “I want to destroy Franklin, Lydia, and the collective. You saw what he did to those poor wolves. He isn’t going to stop.”

“We will, but I want to make sure that everything is good with Clara and our pup before we deal with those ba**ards.” “I want to do this for both of you. Franklin and Lydia are both so evil, the goddess only knows what they are plotting.” “Cayden” he starts to say, and I stop him.

“I respect you as the Alpha and my brother-in-law but I’m not asking your permission.” I stand and he comes around the desk. “Your sister will never forgive me if I let you leave without telling her.” I smile and stick out my hand. He takes it and I pass a sleep spell to him. I catch him so he doesn’t hit the floor. That is no easy task with an Alpha wolf this heavy. “I’m sorry Eli, but now she can’t be angry with you.” I link my mother and sister at the same time. “I love you both. Never forget that.” Their questions start and I break the link. I teleport myself outside of the pack. “Cayden, we will see them again”, Riggs says. I take one last look at the pack before I teleport again outside a place I had hoped to never see again.

Chapter 88

Chapter 88

22 Pain

Clara POV

As soon as Cayden breaks the link, I rush to Eli’s office. The fear I feel after my brother cut the link is making it hard to breathe. I don’t even knock when I reach the door. My mother rushes in behind me and the sight of my mate lying motionless nearly does me in. She grips my arm to steady me. “He’s breathing, Clara” she says to reassure me. I focus on the fact I need to make sure my mate is alright and find out where the hell Cayden went. I can’t fall apart right now. I have to be strong. I bend down and place my hands on Eli’s face. “Eli, please wake up.” I bury my head in his neck, praying that my scent will bring him back to me. I feel two strong arms wrap around me. I feel a momentary spark of relief knowing that Eli is here with me. I pull back and he smiles. As quick as the smile came it fades. “What happened Eli?” He starts to try to stand and my mother and I help him to his feet. We lead him to the couch that sits under the bay window. He takes my hand in his. “Cayden is gone” he says. My heart starts to beat faster and I feel sick to my stomach.

“Where did he go?” I see the pain on his face before he finally answers me. “He went to the Black Mountain Collective.” My mother gasps and I fight back tears. What the hell is he thinking? Without a word to Eli, I link Lily. “Clara, what’s wrong” she asks. “I need you to come to the office please”, I say and I’m sure she can hear the panic in my voice. I never thought I would see Cayden again and now he has gone back to the wolves’ den without a word. I’m scared and angry at the same time. Lily appears and I stand walking toward her. “Lily, I need you to take me to the Black Mountain Collective.” A growl sounds from behind me. “That will not be happening.” I turn on Eli and his eyes are black. “I can’t let him deal with those evil ba**ards alone. I should be there with him. It was us that they tortured for all those years. He is still trying to protect me.” The tears I’m trying to hold back begin to run down my cheeks. Eli comes to stand in front of me. “Clara, I know how strong you are, but our pup is growing in

your belly. I need you both to be safe. Please let me handle this. I will do everything in my power to bring Cayden back safely.” I look at my mother and I can see she agrees with Eli. I know that they are both right, but I can’t just sit here and do nothing. He pulls me into his arms. “Clara, our mate will help Cayden. We need to keep our pup safe” Cora says. I manage to stop the tears. “Eli, I need you to come back to me.” “I will always come back to you, Clara.” He pulls back and presses a kiss to my lips before he bends and kisses my belly. Goddess, I love this man.

Cayden POV

As I cross into the territory, I mask my scent. I want to reach that ba**ard and witch before anyone can let them know I’m here. I had hoped I would never see this awful place again but I need to do this for Clara. I push those thoughts away because I need to focus on the evil in front of me. I approach the cottage that I was taken to before I escaped. “Be careful, Cayden. Something doesn’t feel right”, Riggs says. Before I can even respond, I feel a pain in my back. It feels like all the air was knocked out of me. I try to pull air into my lungs but it’s impossible. I hear laughter and growls. “Cayden, we need to get up now.” “I’m trying Riggs.” I manage to get to my knees before I’m knocked onto the porch of the cottage. “It seems despite being a warlock, you’re still just a worthless mutt” Franklin says. I can feel the rage consume me just hearing his voice. Memories of the times this man hurt Clara flash through my mind. Riggs growls and we manage to get to our feet.

This time I dodge the energy ball that b**ch throws. I shift and we start to make our way through Franklin’s men. Riggs rips through three rogues while

dodging the witch's attack. I can hear a commotion behind me but I can't stop now. I have to reach them before my sacrifice is for nothing. Fifteen men are standing in front of Franklin and Lydia. I shift back into human form and he smiles. I hear growls from behind me and I know that more of his men have surrounded me. "It seems that Grant will get his wish after all mutt. I should have killed you and your b**ch of a sister when you were just pups." I feel a calm wash over me. "Cayden, it's time. Focus and the magic will do the rest," I hear my father's voice. I open my arms and all my thoughts are about ending this collective. When I look

back at Franklin, I see fear in his eyes. The men start moving toward me when the cottage behind us burst into flames.

The wolves' focus shifts from me to the next building that bursts into flames. I start to stalk toward Franklin and Lydia. I watch her reach for his hand. Before he can take it, I surround him in a purple orb. She looks back at me with panic. "You ba**ard" she screams before she disappears. Franklin begins to scream her name and I take great pleasure in his misery. Despite not being mated, she has always protected him, but this time she saved herself. Her day will come. I will make sure of it. I drop the orb and he shifts running for the trees that surround the collective. "He will not get away from us", Riggs says. I shift and Riggs runs as fast as he can toward the trees. We slow down and stalk forward making sure he doesn't attack us first. I have no idea if Lydia came back for this a**hole. I catch his scent and move forward. He is hiding like a rodent in the tall grass. I wave my hand and the grass disappears. "Cayden, I can help you get revenge on that ba**ard Grant for what he did to you and your sister." I growl that he dare speak of Clara. "This was all his doing. I can help you kill him, Cayden."

"Now I'm Cayden instead of a mutt." I can feel my eyes are glowing and I know I need to calm myself down. "I need nothing from you. You deserve a slow torturous death, but honestly, that would make me a monster just like you." I raise my hand and picture his blood moving fast in his body. His face turns red and he screams in pain. His body begins to swell before he explodes all over the trees. I drop to my knees. "That was amazing, Cayden. You did it, you ended that ba**ard" Riggs says. "I did but Lydia got away." "We will find her and she will suffer the same fate." I hear wolves growling in the distance and I manage to get back to my feet. "Riggs, can we shift again?" I know how exhausted I am but I'm not sure how my magic affects him. "Yes, I'm good. Let's shift and finish off the rest of these wolves." We run back toward the cottages and I stop when I realize that Eli and Lily are here. They have killed the remaining rogues. I head toward the cottage that houses the cells. When I

get inside, there are two female wolves lying on the floor of the cell. They are in rough shape but they are both breathing.

I rush to where the keys hang on the far wall. I start to try each key. It sounds like a stampede coming down the stairs. I look up to see a very pissed off Eli and a smiling Lily. He heads straight at me and punches me in the face. I know it isn't as hard as he can or I would have been knocked out. "What the hell were you thinking? How do you think she would have felt if something happened to you?" He reaches out his hand to pull me to my feet. He pulls me into a hug. "Next time you let us help from the beginning." I pull back and nod. I go back to trying to find the key. "Do you know these women, Cayden?" "Yes, they are sisters. That ba**ard had them taken from their pack when they were about five years old." The last key finally works and I push the cell door open. Eli and I scoop up the girls. Once we are upstairs and far away from the cottages, Lily turns them all to ashes. I don't have time to enjoy the fact that this place will never hurt another person. We need to get the girls to the pack hospital. Without warning, Lily places her hand on my forearm and we reappear back in the pack.

We rush inside the hospital and the doctor and nurses bring over two gurneys. They rush the girls to the back and I take a seat in the waiting area. The adrenaline that was flowing through my body is starting to subside. I'm suddenly exhausted. Lily sits next to me. "Though I agree with Eli that you shouldn't have gone alone, I'm still proud of you." She wraps her arm around my back and her words make Riggs puff out his chest. I chuckle and the hospital door flies open. My sister and mother rush toward me. I stand and when Clara reaches me she pounds on my chest. "How could you be so selfish?" Her tears break me. I manage to pull her into my arms. "I'm sorry I worried you. I needed to protect you from them. I had to try." She quiets and lifts her head to look at me. "No more running off without talking to us. Family takes care of each other and my pup needs their uncle." "I promise" I say before my mother wraps us both in a hug. The doors open again and Micah and Mason walk in this time. They walk toward me ready to take my hand. "Mate" they both growl and I smile.

Chapter 89

Chapter 89

23 New Mates

Cayden POV

As soon as Micah says mate, I know what the hell is happening but he doesn't. Mason is sniffing the air and walking toward Eli. Mason lets out a growl that would make most wolves sh*t themselves, but Eli smiles. "Your mates are here and safe now, calm down." Their eyes shift back to their normal color as they look between us. "They were prisoners of the collective that Clara and I were held in." Now both their growls fill the room. "Enough" Eli gives Alpha command and they both quiet. "I know you are angry and scared but going crazy in the hospital will not help your mates. Clara goes to stand near Eli before she turns toward the twins. "They will need time just as I did, but I have faith that the two of you can help them overcome all they have been through", Clara says. She walks over to Mason first and wraps him in a hug. I wait to hear Eli growl, but it never comes. She hugs Micah and his sadness is palpable in the room. "Have faith in the goddess. She knew that you and your brother are who the girls need to be happy. Anything worth having is worth fighting for Micah." He squeezes her a little tighter before he finally releases her. She rejoins Eli and we wait to hear from the doctor. I say a prayer to the goddess to protect Eudora and Edita.

After what feels like hours, the doctor comes back out to speak with us. "The young ladies are stable but they are in no way out of the woods. They are severely malnourished and have bruises covering most of their bodies. I believe their wolves have been suppressed and are not healing them." I hear a whimper and I know it's Mason. "We are going to do everything we can for them, Betas." They both nod and my heart breaks for the pain I see on their faces. "Can we sit with them doctor and try to offer them healing," Micah asks. "Give the nurses a few more minutes and then absolutely. Anything that will help them heal can't hurt." We all take a seat and Mason breaks the silence. "What are our mates' names?" "Eudora and Edita are their names. They came to the collective when they were five years old after

they were taken from their pack. They couldn't remember anything about their pack. They said that their daddy was a big wolf and their mommy was pretty." I smile at the memory of the little girls who were so innocent. I wish I was able to protect them as much as I wish that I could have protected Clara. I look up and my sister is walking toward me. She sits down and pulls me into a hug. "You need to stop blaming yourself for things that were out of your control. You are a survivor as much as those girls are, as much as I am. You are the reason that the three of us are alive." She pulls back and I love the strength and happiness I see in my sister now.

Micah POV

After about twenty minutes, the doctor comes out and leads us to the room. When he swings open the door, the most intoxicating scent of lilac invades my nose. Dax is losing his sh*t when he sees our mate is hooked up to machines and her face is covered in bruises. I do everything I can to keep my wolf under control. If that f**ker wasn't dead right now, I would rip him apart with my bare hands. That witch is next in line for death for helping him hurt people I love. Mason goes to Edita's bedside and takes her hand in his. This is not how I expected finding our mates to go. I wasn't sure if we would share a mate as that happens often with identical twins. I'm grateful that we don't. I want this beautiful woman to myself. I just pray that Clara is right and she accepts me. I can't live another day of my life without her. I take a deep breath and pull a chair next to her bed. I take her hand in mine and I'm grateful to feel her warmth. The tingles that dance wherever our skin touches feels amazing. I brush my fingers up and down her forearm. I notice that the monitor that lets me know my mate is alive starts to beep faster with my touch. Even though she is unconscious, her body recognizes her mate. "Let's try to help our mate Micah", Dax says. I place my forehead against hers. I think about healing her and I can feel the energy moving out of me and into her. I pull back when I'm done and place a soft kiss on her forehead. She doesn't wake up but the bruises that were prominent on her face are now gone. I just pray that she wakes up soon before my wolf and I lose it.

Mason POV

I can't believe all this is happening. I'm so grateful that Cayden rescued our mates from that horrible place. What if they had died? My wolf growls "don't talk like that. She is here with us where she is meant to be." "I know Jett, but what if Clara is wrong? What if they can't get past what those bastards did to them?" "Then we don't deserve to call ourselves their mates." His words sting and I hate that he is right. I don't care how long it takes, I will prove to this woman that no one will ever hurt her again. That she is safe here with me. That she is meant to be mine. I hold her soft hand in mine while I look at the most beautiful face I've ever seen. Despite the bruising and cuts, she is gorgeous. I turn to see Micah doing the healing spell before I stand and do the same. I think with all that has happened we forget that not only can the doctors help our mates but we can. My overwhelming sadness was clouding my thinking. I place my forehead against hers and as soon as the energy passes to her, I pull back. Her face is completely healed and I can't help but run my fingers down her cheek. I take my seat again before I take her hand in mine.

A light knock sounds on the door and Eli walks in with Clara. She walks over to Eudora first and bends, whispering something in her ear. She comes over and does the same in Edita's ear. Despite our hearing, I can't make out exactly what she said. She stands back up looking between myself and Micah. "Congratulations to you both and I know where your minds are right now. I know you both have the strength to prove to your mates that they are everything to you despite what they have been through", Clara says. We both stand and bro-hug Eli before we wrap Clara in another hug.

A moan gets my attention and I turn to see my mate's eyes fluttering open. The minute she sees us, the fear I see in her eyes guts me. I start to walk toward her but Clara lays her hand on my forearm, stopping me. Clara starts to walk toward my mate. "Hi Edita, do you remember me from the collective?" She nods and it takes all that I have in me not to scoop her up in my arms and hold her to my chest. "You are safe here. No one is going to hurt you, I promise" Clara says. She offers her hand to my mate and she takes it. "Where is Eudora", she asks with panic in her voice. "Your sister is right there. She is fine, she just hasn't woken up yet." "How did we get here?" "Cayden destroyed the collective and he

and my mate saved you both." She looks around the room between Eli, me and Micah. Clara points to Eli, "that is my mate. He is the Alpha of the Nightfire pack." Her eyes get like saucers and I hold back a chuckle. "That means you are a Luna, Clara." "Yes it does." She looks back at me before she drops her gaze. "Edita, that is Mason and that is Micah. They are the Betas of this pack." She manages to look at me again before she drops her gaze. Without her wolf present, she doesn't realize that I am her mate. Clara must know what I am thinking. "Edita, have you been able to feel your wolf yet?" "Yes, I can feel her now." My heart sinks. She knows that I am her mate and she hasn't claimed me. Jett whimpers and I hate this for both of us.

Calliope POV

I wake to find myself outside our cottage. The night air feels cold against my skin and I have no idea how the hell I got out here. I remember going to sleep. Movement in the trees gets my attention and I reach out to Aurora. It's strange but I can't feel her. I start to panic until I see a red wolf walking toward me. "Aurora, how is this possible?" "You're still asleep but there is something that the goddess wants you to see." This is the craziest dream I have ever had but I go with it. Aurora lays down and I climb on her back. She takes off and I don't know how long we run before things start to look familiar. "Aurora, why the hell are we here?" She doesn't answer and continues to run, crossing the

border. I pray no patrol guard sees us right now. “No one can see us, Calliope. We aren’t really here.” She enters the pack house and when we reach the cells my heart sinks. Bradford is huddled in the corner of the cell holding onto Julie. “Is this real or am I imagining this happening? Where is Anthony?” “I wish it wasn’t real but it is. Anthony left and is in hiding. They never made it out of the pack.” The rage that begins to build is blinding. “We have to save them. They are in here because he tried to protect me. I will not allow my father to hurt another person that is important to me.” “The goddess agrees but the rest is up to us, Calliope.”

She turns heading up the stairs and back out of the pack house. “What are you doing, Aurora? We can’t leave them here.” “Calliope, we are not here but we will come back for them. I have to show you

something else before we head back. We run through the trees until we come to a clearing that is covered with flowers. The temperature that was cold is now warm against my skin. Aurora stops and a few feet away is a bassinet. I’m confused, but it doesn’t stop me from sliding off Aurora’s back and walking toward the bassinet. I reach it in ten steps. I look down and the sweetest little pup is sleeping peacefully. I turn to Aurora to ask her what this means, but she is gone. The pup starts to cry and I can’t help but lean down and scoop her in my arms. I start to walk with her pressed to my chest. She quiets and I feel a sense of peace. I start to feel exhaustion like I’ve never known, but I’m not ready to let go of the pup, so I lay down on the soft grass with her on my chest. I don’t know how long has past but I wake up in a panic when I realize the pup is gone. I look around and realize I’m in my room. I wipe sweat from my brow and reach out to Aurora. I can feel her but she is quiet. “Aurora, who was the pup in our dream?” “She is our pup.” I can’t have heard her right. I don’t even have a mate. Before I can ask her any more questions, we get a link that there is a wolf at the southern border. I throw the blankets off and rush outside. We shift and rush toward the border and Piper joins us. Carter is already waiting and as soon as I see the man, I shift. I run to him, wrapping him in a hug when I hear a growl and the word “mate” from behind me.

Chapter 90

Chapter 90

24 It’s Time to Act

Calliope POV

I release Anthony and turn to see Oliver's eyes are black. "Mate" Anthony says and I smile. Oliver shifts and runs through the trees. My heart breaks when I see Anthony's face. I grab his arm "I'll talk to him." I turn back to Carter. "Carter, this is Anthony. He is a friend and can be trusted. I'm going to talk to Oliver and then I need to speak to you and Abigale." He smiles and nods. I shift and Aurora takes off following Oliver's scent. We reach the training field and Oliver is sitting on the bench. I shift and walk toward him. His head is resting in his hands. "Oliver" I say his name and when he picks his head up I can see he is fighting back tears. I sit next to him. "I don't understand. How can he be my mate?" "What did you expect your mate to be like?" "A woman" he says. I rub circles on his back. "What qualities did you hope they would have?" He looks at me deep in thought for a moment before he finally answers. "I had hoped my mate would be loyal, kind, strong, and funny." "I know you don't want to hear this but Anthony is all of those things. I won't tell you what you should do, Oliver, because my opinion doesn't matter, but I think you should really think about what you do next."

He looks at me before he pulls me into a hug. I hear a growl and it makes me smile. When I pull back, I turn to see Anthony with an embarrassed look on his face. "I'm going to give you guys some time to talk. I need to go discuss things with Carter" I say to Oliver and he nods. I stand walking toward Anthony. "I'm sorry for growling at you, Calliope." "You don't need to be sorry. Go talk to your mate and be patient." He nods and walks past me. I head for Carter and Abigale's cottage. I need to discuss what Aurora showed me about Bradford and Julie. Thoughts about the pup are whirling around my mind but I push them aside for right now. I haven't found my mate and I won't be having a pup till I do. I reach the cottage and knock. The door swings open and Abigale is smiling at me. She pulls me into a hug. "Thank you for being such a good friend to my brother. I know he was shocked, but I know Oliver. He

wants his fated mate." She pulls back and leads me toward the office. Carter is waiting inside and I take a seat.

"If you want to discuss Anthony, I'm sure you know that he is welcome to stay in the collective whether he and Oliver accept each other or not. Abigale and I trust your judgement, Calliope." "That means a lot to me, but actually I wanted to discuss a vision that Aurora showed me." They both stay quiet and I tell them about Bradford and Julie. "I can't let them suffer for trying to protect me from that ba**ard." "Of course not. We will do all we can to help you get them out safely." "Honestly, I know that Lily offered to help me should I need it and

I'm going to take her up on it. There is no need to put anyone at risk for this rescue mission. My father will have his day, but for now I just want to get Anthony's parents out before those evil f**ks do anything that I can't undo." Carter nods and I rub the symbol on my hand, not even knowing if this will work. After a few minutes, Lily appears in the office. "Calliope, what's wrong?" I smile at her concern for me. I know she said we are connected, but she genuinely cares for others.

I explain what my father has done to Bradford and Julie. I also explain how I came to know what has happened. She smiles "your wolf just continues to amaze me. Let's see about making things right shall we." I stand and take her hand. "You two better be careful" Abigale says in her best mom voice and I chuckle. We both nod and Lily turns to me. "Picture the cells in the pack in your mind." I do as she says and when I open my eyes again, we are standing inside the cell. Just as it was in my vision, Bradford is holding onto Julie and they both have their eyes closed. I'm just about to turn to him when I hear a growl. I turn to see a guard trying to find the key to get to us. Lily waves her hand knocking him against the wall. "Calliope, what the hell are you doing here" Bradford asks. "We are saving you and your mate from my ba**ard of a father." They both rush to their feet and come toward us. I hear the door bang and I don't need to even look to know who is rushing down the stairs. We all join hands and my father growls when he sees me. I flip him the bird before I close my eyes. When I open my eyes, we are standing in Carter's office. I'm pulled into strong arms "thank you Calliope. You saved my mate and for that I am forever in your debt." "You owe me nothing. You were only in the cells because you were trying to protect me." When he steps back, Julie wraps me in her arms.

"Is your mother here with you?" "She is and so is Anthony." She stiffens at my words. She pulls back with disbelief in her eyes. "My pup is here." I smile and nod. I'm just about to tell them that he should be back soon when the office door opens. Oliver walks in first, followed by Anthony. Anthony rushes toward his parents and I'm glad that they are all safe. "Mom and dad, this is Oliver, my mate." Oliver walks toward him and takes his hand. I look at Bradford and his face is unreadable. He steps in front of Oliver and pulls him into a hug. The tension in the room from moments ago fades away. "Welcome to our family, son", Bradford says before Julie hugs Oliver. I know my father and he will be here soon enough, but right now I'm going to enjoy my friends and family's happiness.

Alpha Mateo POV

I'm balls deep in one of the omegas when the guard links me. "Alpha we have a problem in the cells." "Deal with it I'm busy." "A witch is here with your daughter." I don't even say a word as I pull out and pull on my pants. I run at full speed for the dungeon. I'm down the stairs just in time to see them teleporting. I growl and that little b**ch flips me off. She is going to beg for mercy when I finally get my hands on her. I'll break her by using her b**ch of a mother. I turn on the guard who is getting to his feet. "You let them escape with my prisoners." "Alpha the witch" he starts to say but I want none of his excuses. I grab him, breaking his neck. I rush back upstairs to my room to grab my phone. The omega was smart enough to leave or she would be suffering the same fate as that worthless warrior. I dial that witches f**king number and she picks up on the second ring. "Get your a** here now" I say without greeting her. "I'm sorry you must have the wrong number because no one speaks to me that way." As soon as I'm done using this b**ch I'm going to rip her a** apart before she can use her magic.

"The prisoners are gone so I need you here." The call disconnects and she appears in my room. "How the hell did your f**k ups let them escape?" I growl "my daughter, with the help of a light witch, teleported them out of the cell." "Well that interesting." "Care to share, what is so interesting." "I've been looking into what witches would have been strong enough to make that protection spell that was around the collective and it seems that the Nightfire pack has two very strong light witches." "So what

the hell does that mean you are two weak to go up against them." She steps into my space "you have paid me a lot of money but make no mistake you cannot get a refund if you're dead. I am one of the strongest black magic witches on the planet. I will get some reinforcements because I always deliver on my deals." That's the last thing she says before she disappears. Goddess I'm going to take great pleasure in ripping her throat out when the time is right.

Clara POV

I can't believe our pups will be here soon. I keep expecting that ba**ard Grant to attack the pack. Hopefully, he realizes he is no match for the warriors and witches in our pack. My friends and family are having a shower for our pup today. I'm so glad my mother is here and a part of the planning. She seems to truly be focused on the time we have together now instead of all that we missed. Strong arms wrap around me from behind as I look in the full-length mirror. He places his hands on my belly. We decided to reveal our pup's gender during the festivities today. "You look beautiful love." I turn in his arms and press a soft kiss to his lips. "Thank you, but you have to say that you did

this to me.” He laughs and I love that sound. “We better get down to the party before our mothers come looking for us” Eli says. He takes my hand leading me downstairs. When we walk into the garden I’m speechless. There isn’t an area that isn’t decorated. There is huge cake and a smaller one on a table covered in food. My mother rushes over and wraps me in a hug. “How is my grandpup today?” I chuckle “same as yesterday, kicking up a storm.”

I look around the tables and our pack members are all here to celebrate with us. I notice that Eudora and Edita are sitting at the same table with Micah and Mason. They haven’t accepted each other yet, but the girls are opening up and spending more time with their mates. I have faith that they will find the strength to accept the bond. Larisa and Rose rush toward us. Eli rolls his eyes and I slap his arm. “Your sister and Rose are just excited.” He kisses me before he heads over to where his father, Michael, and Neal are standing. I was shocked when they agreed to attend the shower, but I don’t think their mates gave them much choice. “Clara, I’m so excited to find out what you’re having”, Larisa says. She wraps

me in a hug. “So what do you two think we are having?” “I think it’s a boy”, Larisa says. “I think it’s a girl”, Rose says. “I guess it’s time to find out” I say when Amelia calls for Eli and I to join her and Lincoln. “Thank you all for coming to celebrate with the Alpha and Luna as we find out the gender of the future Alpha of the pack and our grandpup” Lincoln says. He smiles at us and we cut into the cake together. When I see the pink cake my world stops. We are going to have a daughter.