

Betrayed by My Beta Mate #Chapter 91 - Read Betrayed by My Beta Mate Chapter 91

Chapter 91

Chapter 91

25 Best and Worst Day

Eli POV

I'm in my office going over paperwork when I get a link from Micah and Mason. "We need you to come to the eastern border now." I don't waste time asking what the hell is going on. I rush down the stairs and out of the pack house. I shift into Silas and we run as fast as we can until the warriors come into sight. As soon as we near the border, the scent of blood and rotting flesh invades our nostrils. Silas growls and I approach my men. I shift and join the others. Lying on the ground is the body of what I assume is a rogue. He is unrecognizable and he has a note stapled to his chest. I reach down and pull the note off. As I read I'm so angry I can't even see straight. I growl and turn toward my men. "I want triple patrols now." My men scatter and only Micah and Mason remain. "What the hell does it say, Eli," Mason asks. I shove the note toward him.

Letter

Alpha Eli Thomas

I sent you this gift to show you exactly what I'm capable of when it comes to you worthless mutts. I have simple demands, but if they are not met, you and your whole pack will suffer the same fate as this worthless rogue. I want your rogue Luna and her ba**ard brother or I will make sure the Nightfire pack no longer exists. I know you're thinking about how strong you and your witch friends are, but make no mistake, I am stronger. I have an army of warlocks at my command. Are you really willing to sacrifice your family and pack for those two worthless mutts? I will not wait long for your answer. I will be coming and I expect that you will make the right decision.

Octavious

Letter End

“Eli, we will all fight and die if we have to in order to keep Clara and your pup safe”, Mason says. I figured that ba**ard Grant would be a problem, but who the hell is this ba**ard? Why does he want my mate and Cayden? I will die before anyone touches her or my pack. “Eli, talk to us,” Micah says. “I know you both will. We need to figure out exactly who Ocatavious is and what the f**k he has to do with my mate? I need you both to put a protection spell on Cayden and Clara please.” “Of course we will. Are you going to let Clara and Cayden know what’s going on?” I growl “Clara is due any day. I don’t want her stressed before she gives birth. I will make sure I’m with her every minute until our pup is born.” “Eli, I need you,” Clara says through our bond. My heart stops beating for a moment. “I think I’m in labor.”

“I have to go. Clara thinks she is in labor.” They both smile and I turn shifting into Silas. “We will protect her, Eli”, Silas says as we run. This is supposed to be one of the best days of my life. My beautiful mate is going to make me a father, but instead I can’t push thoughts of that letter from my mind. I reach the pack house and rush up the stairs to our floor. Clara is in the tub and she is rubbing circles on her belly. I can see the pain on her face. “Clara, what are you doing? We need to get you to the hospital?” “I linked the doctor and she is on her way. I want to do a water birth.” “Why didn’t you mention this earlier?” “I wasn’t sure what I wanted but I’ve done a lot of research and this is what I want. Are you alright with that Eli?” “Did the doctor say this is safe for you and the pup?” “Yes, she is bringing everything she needs to make it safe.” I smile and bend down, pushing her damp hair off her face. “As long as it’s safe, I want you to do what’s comfortable for you. You are bringing our pup into the world.” She smiles and I bend down kissing her forehead.

There is silence for a minute as she breathes through the pain. “Eli, what happened” she asks and I stiffen. “I can feel your fear and anger through our bond now tell me what happened.” “Clara, I want you to focus on you and our pup.” She shoots me a glare and begins to pant again. “Eli Daniel Thomas, you tell me what the hell happened now.” “Do you know anyone named Octavious?” She scrunches her

nose. “No, I’ve never heard that name before.” I explain what we found and the letter. I see fear and sadness on her face. “I promise you Clara I will protect you, Cayden, and our pup.” She lays her hand on my cheek. “I have no doubt of that, but what about the pack members that are going to be hurt because of me.” I growl “you are their Luna they would die to protect you.” “I know they would but that doesn’t mean I have to like it.” Another pain hits her and this time she whimpers.

A knock sounds on the door and I rush over to let the doctor in. Evelyn and my mother are right behind her. The doctor's cheeks blush and I know she is the reason they know. "My apologies, Alpha, but the former Luna was very insistent that I tell her when I got the call." "It's quite alright. I was just about to link them." My mother hugs me "Eli, she will do fine. She is strong." "I know she is. I just hate to see her in pain." Evelyn smiles and hugs me before they both head into the bathroom. After the doctor has everything set up, our mothers head out to wait in our bedroom. Clara and I want to do this together, just the two of us. "Alright Luna, I'm going to check to see how dilated you are." She smiles "you're moving along nicely. You're six centimeters and if it keeps moving this fast we will have a pup very soon." Clara smiles and I kiss her forehead.

An hour passes and Clara's grunts and moans are becoming more intense. I rub her back, trying to do what I can to give her some comfort. I hate that she has to go through all this pain. The doctor checks her again and this time she is ready to push. "Alpha, why don't you slide in behind her so you can help her push." I strip down to my boxer briefs before I slide in behind her. She leans back against my chest and takes my hands in hers. "Alright Luna, when the pain hits this time I want you to bare down and I'll count to ten." Clara begins to squeeze my hands and the doctor counts. This process happens over and over again. I don't know what I expected, but I wish for Clara's sake that our pup was born already. I can see how exhausted she is and I just want her to be able to rest. "Alright Luna, stop pushing for a moment so I can check you again", the doctor says. "You're amazing Clara. You're so strong" I whisper into her ear. "Luna, a couple more pushes and we will welcome your pup to our world." It was like she

had a new determination just from the doctor's words. She grips my hands and bares down. She pushes two more times before she screams. Her body relaxes back into my chest.

I watch as the doctor pulls our daughter from the water. She starts to rub her with a towel and her cries fill the bathroom. "Oh my goddess she is here Clara. You did so well. I love you so much." "I love you Eli" she says before she closes her eyes. I rub her hair as the doctor finishes cleaning up our daughter. "Luna, do you want to hold her?" She reaches her hands up without a word and takes our beautiful pup in her arms. "Hello sweet girl" she says before she kisses her forehead. The doctor cuts the cord and helps Clara deliver her afterbirth. Evelyn peaks her head in "do you need any help?" "Yes, mom, come in and hold your granddaughter while I get out of the tub," Clara says. I slide out first before I lift Clara out of the tub. I carry her to our bed after

I dry her off. Once I lay her down, I look at my mother holding my pup. She comes toward me, placing her in my arms. "I'm so proud of you, Clara, and happy for you both", my mother says and kisses my cheek.

"Mom, can you let Cayden, dad, and Larisa know they can come in to see Clara and the pup." She nods and leaves the room. I walk over and sit on the bed in front of Clara. I hand her our pup. "She is so perfect. She has your nose and your hair, Eli." I chuckle "she is your mini-me love. She has your eyes and your beautiful smile." I lean in and press a kiss to her lips. "Do you still want the name we discussed?" "I do, I think it's perfect." Everyone comes back in and I head to the other side of the bed to sit next to Clara. Larisa walks over first. "Can I hold her?" "Of course you can, you're her aunt," Clara says. "What's her name", Cayden asks, and Clara smiles. "Her name is Faith Eve Thomas. I want her to always believe in who she is and Eve for my mother", Clara says. Evelyn slaps her hand over her mouth and tears form in her eyes. I stand and go around to hug Evelyn before she goes to hug Clara.

After everyone gets to hold Faith, they leave us to spend time alone with our pup. I bring the bassinet from the nursery into our room. Once Clara feeds Faith, she is fast asleep. I place her in the bassinet. I turn back and Clara is barely holding her eyes open. "Clara love, why don't you get some rest. I will be here and if Faith needs you I'll wake you up." "Thank you, Eli. I'm so tired." "After what you just did, I

can't believe you're still awake. You are stronger than anyone I have ever met." I walk over and press a kiss to her lips. "I can't tell you how proud I am of you. Thank you for accepting me and making me a father." "I love you Eli and I always will." I climb into bed next to her and she lays her head on my chest. I look over at Faith every few minutes just watching her sleep. As I lay there, thoughts about that f**king letter flashes through my mind. A moan from Clara brings me out of my thoughts. "Are you alright Clara?" She doesn't answer and I assume she is deep in sleep until I feel something wet on my leg. I throw the blankets back and my heart sinks. There is a circle of blood under Clara's legs. I link Lily and my mother. Lily appears first and the door flies open a few seconds later. Lily teleports us and I scream for the doctor. She runs toward me. "She is bleeding, she won't wake up, help her" I scream. I place her on the gurney and they wheel her away. Lily follows them to try to heal my mate. "Eli, we can't lose her", Silas cries. This can't be happening. Everything was perfect and now here I am at the hospital praying that my mate will be alright.

Evelyn, Cayden, and my father come in with panic on their faces. My father wraps me in his arms without a word. We stay like that for a long time before I hear the sound of doors opening. I turn to see the doctor and my aunt coming towards us. As soon as I see the look on their faces I fall to my knees. I scream before I run out of the hospital. Silas is whimpering, but right now I can't even offer him comfort. My heart is being ripped out of my chest. The pain of losing her is more than I can handle when it hits me. Silas takes three steps before the darkness takes us under.

Chapter 92

Chapter 92

26 Grief and Strength

Cayden POV

I can't move. I can't breathe. I feel like I'm not even in my body right now. Even before Lily and the doctor came out, I knew she was gone. Our bond as twins broke the minute she took her last breath. I don't know how to live in a world without Clara. I had truly hoped that killing that ba**ard and driving that witch away would save her from what my father had said in my vision. I feel arms wrap around me but I can't even respond. "Cayden", my mother's soft whisper breaks me even more. I may have lost Clara, but I had eighteen years with her. She has lost her twice and this time she is never coming back. I look into the eyes of this woman that gave us both life and I break even more when I see her pain. I step back and turn to face the doctor, who looks broken. I can't bring myself to care about how she feels right now. My sister is dead. "Take me to her now" I demand. She looks past me. I'm sure seeking someone's permission, which pisses me off. "She is my sister. Take me to her now." She turns and I follow her down the hall. I can hear footsteps behind me and I know it's my mother.

When we reach the door, the doctor steps aside and I place my hand against it. Once I walk inside, it's real. I push the door open and when my eyes land on Clara's body I just stare at her. The air in the room is still. There is no rise and fall to her chest. No warmth surrounding my beautiful sister. My mother walks past me and wraps my sister's body in her arms. Her sobs break me and the tears that wouldn't fall streak down my cheeks. I walk over and take her hand in mine. Her skin still feels warm. I bend laying a kiss on her

forehead. "I'm so sorry Clara. I wish it was me lying here. You deserve to be happy with your mate and your pup." "Cayden, don't do that" my mother says through her sobs. "It's the truth. She deserved to have time with her pup and Eli. Please bring her back and take them" I start to plead with the goddess as I fall to my knees. I'm again wrapped in my mother's embrace. "Your sister

would not want to hear you say that." "My sister can't hear anything because the f**king goddess took her from the people that loved her."

"Cayden, I'm angry and broken, but we need to be strong for Clara, Faith, and Eli." "I was strong and I couldn't save my sister from the goddess's fate." I manage to get to my feet and my mother places her hands on my face.

"Cayden please" she pleads, and I wrap her in a hug. I don't want to cause her more pain, but I can't stay here. I can't pretend that everything is alright when it isn't. "I have to go. I love you mom, but I have to go." "Go where, what are you talking about? Faith is here and our pack is here." "I can't be here without Clara. Maybe someday it will be different, but right now it's not." I see fear and panic in her eyes, which I know makes me the biggest a**hole but I don't know how to breathe here. She pulls me into a hug again and I hold my mother. I know I will see her again, but I need her to know that I love her. She pulls back and she pulls my head to place a kiss on my forehead. "Fine, but we need to bury your sister first before we leave." What the hell is she talking about? "Mom" I start to say and she stops me. "I will not lose both my pups again. I am going with you and when it's time we will return because this is our home." I want to fight her but honestly, I need her as much as she needs me right now.

Lincoln POV

Talon runs following Eli's scent. As soon as we reach the trees near the border, I'm broken. Eli is lying unconscious on the ground. I shift and rush to my pup. His breathing is shallow and his skin is cold to the touch. Losing our fated mates when we are bonded is enough to kill us. Faith cannot lose Eli now that she has lost her mother. Losing Clara feels like losing one of my own pups. I push my own grief away as I manage to lift my son with Talon's help. I reach the hospital and the waiting room is empty. I can't even think about where everyone has gone as I yell for the doctor and nurses to help my son. They rush over and I place him on the gurney. "Alpha, I will do everything I can but the fight to live is up to Eli and his wolf." I know what she says is true. I lean down, "Eli, I know it would be easy to follow

Clara, but your daughter needs you”, I say before they wheel him through the double doors. I feel myself give into the loss of our daughter and the block I’ve had between Amelia and I crumbles.

“Lincoln, how could this happen? How can this precious pup never know the wonderful mother she had?” “I wish I knew love. I pray to the goddess we will all understand how this could happen.” “Where is Eli? Where is our pup?” Before I can answer, she is standing in front of me. I see Lily holding our precious granddaughter with pain on her face. I know she is blaming herself for not being able to save Clara, but she can’t. This is no one’s fault. I pull Amelia into my arms and she sobs “Eli is strong. I know he will come back for that little girl.” She squeezes me tighter and I pray to the goddess I’m right. The door opening gets both of our attention. Evelyn and Cayden walk toward us. Amelia wraps Evelyn in a hug and I can’t help but pull Cayden into an embrace. He stiffens at first but relaxes and I can feel the movement of his chest as he cries.

I never expected it when they say they will be leaving after we lay Clara to rest. I don’t agree with them leaving, but I know by the look on Cayden’s face, there is no talking him out of it. “Please promise to keep in touch and return not only for Faith’s sake, but for us.” “You are not only pack, you are part of our family now” Amelia says and she wraps them both in a hug before they head out of the hospital. The doors open again and it’s the doctor this time. “Alpha and Luna, I can take you to Eli.” The doctor’s guilt is palpable. Before I can say anything, my beautiful mate approaches her. “This is not your fault. You did everything right. We don’t always understand the goddess’s plans, but you need to let your guilt go because you have no blame for what happened.” The doctor bursts into tears and Amelia holds her rubbing circles on her back. My mate is truly amazing. When the doctor pulls back, she smiles but it doesn’t reach her eyes. “Thank you, Luna. I will try to believe that.” She leads us to the room where our son is lying motionless in a bed surrounded by machines. The beeping that signifies his heart is beating gives me some comfort. Talon whimpers again seeing our pup broken and barely hanging on. Amelia walks over and slides in next to him like she did when he was just a pup. She is whispering in his ear about Faith and my heart squeezes in my chest. I grab a chair and sit down on the other side of the bed, taking his hand in mine. I say a prayer to the goddess despite how hurt and angry I am to bring Eli back to us, back to Faith.

Silas POV

I have never known this pain. When I left Atlas, it was agony, but I gladly suffered it because Amelia deserved a mate that loved her. A mate that put her above his own wants. I may not remember our bond, but I know I did it because I loved her enough to let her be happy with a human that deserved her. That pain was nothing compared to the feeling of my bond with Clara and Cora breaking. I don't want to go on. My chance at happiness with my mate is over and now I pray for death to take me from this pain. I remember the darkness consuming us as we ran through the trees, but I have no idea where I am now. I can't feel Eli, but I'm sure he is as broken as I am. "Silas" I hear a soft female voice. I turn to see a beautiful wolf. She looks like Cora, but she doesn't. I know that makes no sense, but right now nothing does. I walk toward her and sit on my haunches when I'm a few feet from her. "Silas, I know that this is hard, but I need you to listen to me." "Cora" I say hoping I'm right. She nods and I want to rush to her, but I feel like I can't move.

"I know that you and Eli don't understand why this has happened, but I promise you that it will all make sense very soon." "Nothing about losing you and Clara will ever make sense" I growl. "Silas, you were given this second chance because of the sacrifice you made for Amelia but that doesn't mean that life will be without it's trials. You and Eli will not always be broken unless you choose to be. Our pup is the part of Clara and I that you will always have but we are not your future." My heart breaks all over again hearing Cora speak about our future. We can't have a future without them. "Yes you do, but you can choose to throw that future away and deny the gift the goddess gives you because you're hurting. We don't want that for the two of you. I can promise you that Clara and I want you both to be happy. We want you to go back and love our babygirl with all your heart and when the time comes, we want you to open your heart again to the goddess's gift." "We can't" I start to say and she growls. "Silas, you can

and if you ever loved us, you will. We will always be watching over you both and Faith. Now it's time for you to make the right choice and go back to our pup. She needs you."

"She needs her mothers." Cora walks toward me and places her forehead against mine. "You will keep us alive in the memories you share with our daughter and the love that you give her every day. I know that you and Eli are going to feel confused, angry, and hurt, but you need to accept the gift the goddess gives you. It was always meant to be this way and you will never know how happy you two have made us. Now it's time to go back and wake up." Everything in me wants to stay with Cora until the perfect face of our pup pops into my mind. I stare into Cora's eyes knowing she did this. She licks my

face and I close my eyes, reveling in the feeling of this wolf I love one more time before I take us back to our life. I just pray that Eli hasn't given up.

Two Days Later

Eli POV

I come out of the bathroom and pull on my suit jacket. I look into the mirror, and I shake my self-pity away. I walk over and pick up my beautiful daughter. When I finally woke up, I wanted to run. I wanted to be anything but an Alpha and a father. I lost the other half of my soul. How could I go on living without the most important part of me? It took hours before I finally felt Silas and honestly, I thought about giving into death until visions of my daughter scrolled through the darkness. I know that he was showing me why we had to live. My mother has given me more than one get your sh*t together for your pup talks over the last two days. I would be lost without my family. I was angry when Cayden and Evelyn said they would be leaving for a while, but we all grieve differently. I carry Faith downstairs and my mother takes her from my arms. I pull my sister into a hug. I'm not the only one who has lost her, and my sister is hurting. I have to be strong for my pup and my family.

As I watch them lower my mate into the ground, I feel the loss and I give into it this time. I know I have to be strong, but I allow myself this moment of grieving. I look around at my pack members who have lost their Luna and I can see the heart break on their faces. I hold my pup tight in my arms and I promise her that she will know how amazing her mother was and how much I loved her. We head back toward the pack house to celebrate Clara and Cora. After dinner, Cayden and Evelyn spend time with Faith before they get ready to leave. "Eli, we will return. I promise you" Evelyn says, and I hug her. She is so amazing. She lost Clara twice and she is still standing. If I didn't have Faith, I know I wouldn't be here. I need Faith to be close, so I had her crib and other items moved to our room. I mean my room. I feel a tear roll down my cheek as I correct my thought. Larisa walks over and takes Faith from me. "Let's go take care of Faith and get you some rest." Larisa has moved to my floor to help me with Faith. I told her it wasn't necessary, but my sister isn't one to take no for an answer. Honestly, I'm glad to have her with me. We reach the floor and she helps me give Faith a bath before I feed her. When Larisa leaves, I slide into the bed that still has a faint scent of Clara and I let the darkness take me.

Lincoln POV

“Alpha, we have unwanted visitors at the southern border.” I growl that someone dare come here after we buried our daughter today. “Amelia, I have to go, apparently there is a problem at the border.” This time she growls and slips her shoes back on. I know better than to argue with her right now. We both shift once we are outside and when we arrive at the border, I can’t hold back the growl that escapes me. It shakes the trees and most of the wolves standing behind the two a**holes drop their heads. I shift as does Amelia. “What the f**k are you doing here?” I expect Grant to speak but, it’s the warlock that does. “I made it clear to the Alpha that I would be here to collect the mutts, so what his answer.” I try to walk toward him, but he stops me. “I don’t have time to play games with you wolf and I have no problem killing you and this whole pack.” “My son buried his Luna today so you can f**king leave or I will call every pack member here to rip you apart.” “Where is my Luna?” This time Amelia growls “you have no Luna. Evelyn and her son are gone and you will never see them again.” Grant growls and

whatever was holding me back lifts. I shift but just like that, we are standing alone. Lily and Pheobe appear and I know that this is far from over.

Chapter 93

Chapter 93

27 First Shift

Alpha Grant POV

One minute I’m growling at that ba**ard Lincoln and the next I’m standing in my pack yard. “What the f**k” I say as I turn to Octavius. “You were supposed to get my mate back. We had a deal.” “A deal means that both parties get what they want. Are my nephew’s pups dead?” “It is not my fault that the ba**ard left the pack after his b**ch of a sister died.” “When I get what I want then you will get what you want. Find the mutt so I can end the abomination my nephew created and I will give you back your Luna. Until you find him, our deal is void. Do not call me until you have met the terms of our deal.” Before I can respond I’m standing alone. “So much for your brilliant plan to get Evelyn back”, Thiago says. Sometimes I hate my damn wolf. I block him and head back inside. Once I reach my office, I pull the book out of my desk that contains my contacts. I need a tracker that cares more about money than morals. I find the name I’m looking for and dial it.

“Alpha Grant, to what do I owe this phone call?” “I need you to track someone down and bring him back to me alive.” “You know the deal, Grant. I need the details to determine the cost.” “Come to the pack and we can discuss the details and your payment. I will be waiting for your arrival.” “I will be there in five days”, Hudson says. “I need you here tomorrow.” His laughter pisses me off. “Grant, I tell you when I’ll be there. I said five days and that is not negotiable. If you want my expertise, then you will wait or find someone else to do your dirty work.” “Fine, I will see you in five days, Hudson.” I slam the phone down. Goddess, I hate dealing with werebears.

Amelia POV

It’s been two weeks since we lost Clara. I’m trying so hard not to be angry with the goddess for taking her away from Eli and Faith. I know she has her reasons, but my pups are hurting. We are all hurting.

Clara was my daughter even if it wasn’t by blood. Lily has been distraught and Neal is losing his mind about seeing his mate this way. Eli hasn’t talked about Clara since her burial ceremony. Lincoln and I are worried that he is not allowing himself to grieve. He doesn’t let Faith out of his sight. He has set up a pack and play in his office and despite our offers, he won’t let us give him a break. “Larisa, can you please meet us in Eli’s office,” I link her. We need to get through to him because what he is doing isn’t healthy. He has thrown himself into his Alpha duties and taking care of Faith. Larisa meets us in the hallway and I knock before opening the door. Eli is holding Faith and giving her a bottle. He looks confused when he sees the three of us. I walk over and put my hands out to him. “I got her mom.” “I know you do, Eli, but I would like to hold her. She is safe with me.” I can see how hard it is for him to let her go when he hands her to me. We all take a seat and he has such fear in his eyes. He is afraid he is going to lose Faith the way he lost Clara.

“Eli, look at me.” He does as I ask. “I understand that your worried about Faith. Anyone that has been through what you have would be scared.” “I’m not scared” he says. “Eli, you can lie to yourself, but I am your mother and I know you’re afraid of losing Faith.” He growls “I’m not afraid because I won’t let anything happen to Faith.” I hand Lincoln our granddaughter before I walk around the desk. Eli turns toward me and I make him look in my eyes as I speak. “You did not let anything happen to Clara. No one is to blame for that sweet girl going to be with the goddess.” I can see that he is fighting back tears. He stands “I should have insisted she go to the hospital. I should have realized sooner that something was wrong.” I pull my son into my embrace and I can feel the sobs as he cries for the first time since he lost his mate.

“Nothing would have changed what happened, Eli. Clara may be gone, but she is never going to be forgotten. We will all tell your pup what a wonderful mother she had. You can’t stop living because you lost her.” He pulls back and I wipe away the tears covering his cheeks. “Now you’re going to let us help you have balance. You can trust us to take care of Faith when you have things to do. What you have been doing isn’t healthy. You need to grieve and live.” I can see he wants to protest but he doesn’t.

“Your dad and I are going to take Faith for a while and you need to go for a run. I’m sure that both you and Silas need time together. You need to be there for each other.” He nods before he wraps me in a hug again. “How am I supposed to go on without her, mom? Every time I think about the fact that she is gone, it’s like I lose her all over again.” “I know sweetheart, but you can’t be a robot. You need to feel the pain but don’t let it consume you. Remember that you can talk to any of us and lean on us when you need a break.” “Thank you”, Eli says and pulls back. I see the first genuine smile on my poor pup’s face. He hugs Lincoln and Larisa before he kisses Faith. “I won’t be long”, he says, before he leaves the office. I’m just happy he is listening even if he only takes short breaks in the beginning.

Eli POV

I know my mother’s right and I will try to do better for both my family and Faith. “It has to be for you too, Eli”, Silas says. I’m glad to hear from him because we haven’t talked much since everything happened. “Silas, do you think we can go for a run?” “Of course, Eli” he says. Silas has been very quiet and honestly, I really didn’t want to talk or think about Clara. I know how selfish that sounds, because my wolf lost his mate too. My mother is right. I try not to think about Clara, not because I don’t love her with all my heart still, but because it kills me. I shift and Silas takes off. It feels good as the wind rushes through our fur. We run for thirty minutes and I try to keep my focus here. Thoughts of Faith start to increase my anxiety and I decide I need to go back to my pup. “Silas, I want to get back to Faith.” “I do too, but we need to talk first.”

He lays on the bank near a pond in the territory. “I need to tell you about what happened when we were both unconscious.” He starts to tell me about the conversation he had with Cora. My heart twists in my chest when he tells me about opening our heart to someone else. I stay quiet as a hundred thoughts run through my mind. “How can they even suggest that we open our heart to another woman? I will do everything I can to be the best father to our pup, but Clara is the only mate I will ever have.” “I don’t like the idea of another mate either, Eli, but our mates want us to honor them by being happy.” “No, we will

honor our mates by being an amazing father and Alpha.” Silas whimpers and I feel bad for yelling. “I’m

sorry Silas but I won’t betray the bond we shared and having a new mate feels like a betrayal of that bond.” “I understand Eli. We will be happy with our pup and family. Even though it wasn’t long enough, I’m so happy we had the privilege to love our mate while she was here.” “Me too, Silas.” Silas takes off toward the pack house and back to our beautiful pup.

Two Weeks Later

“Larisa, can you take Faith this afternoon? I have some work I want to finish and then I would like to go for a run.” “Of course, Faith loves hanging out with her cool aunt.” He chuckles and hands Faith to me. Eli is doing much better. I know he still worries, but he is talking more about Clara and trusting us to take care of Faith. Cayden and Evelyn called using facetime last night so they could see everyone. They are staying in the human city near one of the covens. Cayden wants to find the witch that helped Franklin. I’m hopeful they will return after he is able to deal with that evil b**ch. I take Faith up to my room and call Rose. She arrives a few minutes later. “How is Aunt Lily”, I ask her. “She is doing much better. My mother is strong, but she forgets that even she can’t change some things.” After an hour, Rose has to leave for training with her mom. She has gotten some of her powers and she is having trouble controlling them. “Well, it’s just you and me, Faith.” As soon as the words leave my mouth, I start to feel warm all over. It’s the same feeling I got last time before I had the vision. “Mom, I need you to come to my room.” “I’m on my way, Larisa.”

The door flies open and I hand her Faith. My skin feels like it’s on fire and like I’m being poked by thousands of pins. “Larisa, it’s going to be alright. Your wolf is waking up. I’m going to link your father and brother. Let’s go out to the garden.” When we reach the garden, the feelings are getting stronger. “I can’t take this mom. I feel like I’m on fire.” “I know baby. You are so strong. I know you can do this.” The pain makes me fall to my knees. My mother keeps offering me encouragement. I can hear my father and Eli’s voices even though I can’t focus on what they are saying. “Larisa, I’m here with you. My name is Ara and I am your wolf.” I groan, the pain becoming unbearable. “It’s time to shift. Focus on my voice and let me do the work Larisa. I won’t lie, it’s going to hurt, but if you fight me, it will be worse.” I try to

relax and give control to Ara. My bones feel like they are all breaking at one time. I scream and after ten minutes everything stops. The pain is gone. I can

hear everything clearer than I ever have. I'm finally able to focus and my family is smiling at me.

My mother walks over until she is standing in front of me. "Your beautiful. Let's run my pup" she says and shifts. We take off and I have never felt anything like this. It almost feels like flying. We run until we come to the lake. We walk over and Ara begins to drink. I see my wolf for the first time. I gasp "Ara, you're a white wolf." "Yes, I am and you are a very special human. I am a very lucky wolf." I can't believe this. My wolf is white as the snow. Her eyes are a beautiful blue color. We spend some time with my mother before we head back to the pack house. Eli is sitting on the bench holding Faith with my father. I head behind the trees and pull on shorts and a t-shirt. When I come out, Eli wraps me in a hug. "Congratulations Larisa, your wolf is amazing." "Ara is very amazing." My father pulls me into a hug. "She is just like my little girl, special." I'm so happy to have my wolf. The moment is ruined when thoughts of the man from my vision pop into my head. "Don't worry Larisa, everything will work out the way it's supposed and you will always have me."

Chapter 94

Chapter 94

28 It's Not A Dream

Calliope POV

Every time I have tried to talk to Aurora about the pup in our vision, she sounds like a fortune cookie. "You'll know soon enough but the road to happiness with our pup and mate won't be easy." I've stopped asking but the pup plagues my dreams. A knock on the door gets my attention. "Calliope, breakfast is ready", my mother says. I head to the bathroom to shower and get ready for training before I have breakfast. When I walk into the kitchen, my heart sinks. My father is sitting at the table. This isn't possible, it has to be a bad dream. "It's not a dream, Calliope. He is here in the flesh", Aurora says. "Let me kill him and wipe that smug look off his face", Aurora says. "We need to find out where mom is before we do anything." I feel bile rise in my throat. "Good morning, daughter" he says with the evilist grin on his face. "How," I ask. How could they possibly get through the protection spell undetected? "Where is my mother?" "Oh, don't worry, she is still alive for now. If she stays that way is up to you." I growl "if you hurt my mother, I will rip your head from

your body.” He laughs “always thinking your something you’re not.” He stands walking toward me and I try to step back. He grabs my chin firmly “this is why you, a weak female, could never beat an Alpha like me. You think with your heart” he says, poking me in the chest. “Women are good for one thing and you will learn your place is to please the man I choose for you and bare his pups. You will learn it even if I have to beat you into submission.”

Every part of me wants to show him right now who the real Alpha is, but I know that I can’t for my mother’s sake. I need to find out where he took her and then kill this ba**ard. A hard slap across my face knocks me to the floor. “I am the Alpha and that is just a little of what you and your wh*re of a mother can expect for your betrayal.” I rush to my feet and growl. I’m just about to charge him when he smiles. “I wouldn’t if I were you. If I don’t return, Simone has orders to kill that b**ch.” I breathe getting myself under control. “Now you’re going to go with me quietly or your mother is dead.” “You think you

can just walk through the collective and no one will notice or stop you.” He smiles reaching into his pocket and pulling out a vial. Its contents are a shimmering purple liquid. He pops the top and downs the liquid. Right before my eyes, he turns into Carter. Even his scent is gone. He doesn’t have Carter’s scent. He smells of nothing. “Now let’s go. It’s time to go home.” That is not my home and it never will be again. He thinks he has won, but I will never submit to him or any man. I will go, but only to save my mother from this ba**ard. He grabs my arm and we start outside. The yard is empty except for some children playing.

As soon as Sarah sees me and who she thinks is her father, she rushes toward us. Goddess, please protect this pup. She wraps me in a hug first. “Cali, do you want to come play with us?” I bend down so I’m at her eye level. “I would love to, but we need to go to training. Later we can watch a movie, alright?” She smiles and starts back toward her friends. “Don’t worry, I’ll be back for her and her sl*t of a mother. She was given to me by the goddess and I plan to have what is mine.” Aurora is pushing to the surface when I feel a pinch in my arm. I pull away and notice he him putting a syringe in his pocket. “What the f**k did you just give me?” “Don’t worry Cali, it’s a little wolfsbane to keep your wolf in check.” “Don’t call me Cali, we are not friends” I snap at him. “That mouth will be the first thing I deal with when I get you back to the pack.” I roll my eyes and start to walk toward the trees. I can’t reach Aurora and I can’t risk trying to reach Lily until I know where my mother has been taken. We reach the border and are approached by a wolf who bears his neck to Carter. I want to scream, don’t you realize his scent is

different, but the wolf just moves on. We leave the collective and I say prayer to the goddess keep me and my mother safe.

Alpha Mateo POV

As soon as Simone returned and told me about her plan to get my treacherous mate and daughter, I was ready. When we reached the border, the protection spell was still in place but it was weaker. Simone was able to procure a spell that shielded us from detection. She also gave me two vials. I drank the first. When we arrived at the cottage where I can scent my ex-mate, we head inside. I walk

into the kitchen where she is standing at the counter cooking. "It smells delicious mate." She turns so slowly, it's almost comical. "Mateo" she says, and I can see she is about to scream when Simone silences her. "No yelling for help Jasmine. Aren't you happy to see your mate?" She shakes her head vigorously and that just pisses me off. I walk over, grabbing her by the throat. "You're lucky I have plans for you or I would snap your neck right here." I expect tears to stream down her face, but she just stares back at me even when I push my aura forward. What the hell? I throw her down on the floor and Simone picks her up. "Take her to the cells. I'll be along after I get the other guest of honor." They disappear and I take a seat at the table waiting for Calliope to come.

As soon as we reach the pack, I lead her down to the cells. Simone is gone but Jasmine is sitting on a dirty cot. I smile seeing her right where she belongs. "Calliope" she says, rushing toward the bars. As soon as she touches them, she pulls her hands back. The burns from the silver are visible. "I wouldn't touch if I were you. Silver burns can be quite nasty and, without medical attention, could last for a long time." "F**k you Mateo" she spits with all the venom she can muster. "No thank you, the omegas are far better. In fact, let me show you." I open the cell door, throwing my daughter inside. I grab Jasmine before she can even attempt to stop me. I close the door locking it. "Don't worry Calliope, I won't kill her yet." I drag Jasmine up the stairs to the room we used to share. I push her down into a chair that faces the bed. I mind link Madison one of the omegas I've been f**king. She knocks before she walks in. She stops when she makes eye contact with Jasmine. "Strip" I say and I can see hesitation on her face. "The Luna" she starts to say and I growl shaking the walls. "She is no longer the Luna of this pack. When I give orders, you follow them. Do you understand?" "Yes Alpha," she says and starts to strip. I look at Jasmine expecting to see anger or hurt but her face is devoid of any expression. What the hell is happening with this woman?

As soon as I'm done, I dismiss Madison, who rushes from the room. I walk over, running my finger down Jasmine's cheek. She pulls away and I grab her chin roughly. "If you had been a good Luna none of this would be happening." She chuckles only pissing me off further. "Something to say" I ask releasing her chin. "In order to be a good Luna, you need to be mated to a real Alpha." I see red and

lose control. I smack her across the face, knocking her off the chair. She looks up at me with anger, not fear. I reach down, grabbing her by the neck. "I'm not sure what you think, but make no mistake, you are not leaving this pack alive." This time I pull back, punching her in the face. She goes limp and I drop her to the floor. I link Benson, my new Beta, to come to my room. When he arrives, he looks at Jasmine lying unconscious on the floor. "Take her to the cells but make sure she is not put in with Calliope." "Alpha" he says my name like a question. "I would follow orders, or you can join them." "Yes Alpha", he says as he scoops her into his arms. Once she is gone, I smile to myself. It's time to take back what should have been mine from the beginning. My wolf stirs hearing me talk about Abigale. He has been quiet and refused to shift until he gets what he wants. "I want her Mateo." "I know, we will have her. She will be our mistress and we will find a strong Luna to replace that weak b**ch." He only cares about having his mate, but he knows I won't make her Luna. He will accept my terms if he can have Abigale.

Calliope POV

It's been three days since Mateo brought us back to this hell. I refuse to call him my father. When Benson brought my mother back, I wished I could feel Aurora. She was unconscious and I could see her nose was broken. Every part of me wanted to shift and rip this whole pack apart. "I'm sorry Calliope" he said as he laid her in the cell next to mine. "Is this the man you want to follow? Do you see what he did to my mother? Is that the actions of a man you consider your leader?" I could see regret in his eyes as he left us alone. She thankfully woke up a few hours later and she was able to fix her nose that Mateo broke. I insisted she tell me exactly what he did and I hate him even more. I don't blame Madison and neither does my mother. She says what he did in front of her didn't hurt her, but I don't know if that's true. He was once her mate. We haven't seen him since that night, but I know he has more planned for us both. I just pray that I can reach Aurora before it happens. I've stopped eating the food because it's the only way he could be giving me wolfsbane. It has to be the reason I still can't

reach Aurora. My connection to Lily won't even work and I assume it has to do with me not being able to reach Aurora.

I have no idea how much time has passed when I hear the door open. That ba**ard walks downstairs, followed by Benson. "Good evening, ladies. Jasmine, your nose looks better." She doesn't answer but I do. "Only a man that is weak and pathetic hits a woman without warning. Take me outside and I will gladly show you who is weak." He laughs and turns to Benson. "You are going to have your hands full with this one, but don't worry I will help you break her." Benson smiles and I feel sick to my stomach. "Don't you dare touch my daughter you ba**ard." "He is going to do more than touch her. Calliope, Benson will be your mate and the future Alpha of the pack." I look at Benson and his smile makes my skin crawl. I have known him since we were children. We trained side by side for years and he has always been nothing but respectful to female warriors. How can power and status change people so much? The door to the cell opening brings me out of my thoughts. "Aurora, please I need you." She doesn't answer and the little hope I had vanishes when Benson pulls me out of the cell. I could take him one on one, but my father is here. He leads me up to a room on the second floor. There is a guard waiting and he pushes me inside. "Benson, remember what we talked about. You are to be Alpha, you need her to submit." "Yes, Alpha" he says and turns closing the door. He is facing me and I take a fighting stance. I would rather die than submit to this man.

Chapter 95

Chapter 95

29 Friend

Carter POV

"Where the hell could they be", Oliver asks me. Its been two days since Sarah told us she saw me walking into the woods with Calliope. "Oliver, we will find them. I'm sure that ba**ard Mateo had something to do with this. We can't put everyone at risk and attack his pack. We are strong but not as strong as an entire pack." "Where is the Nightfire pack to help us? Aren't they our allies? They are supposed to help us in time of need. I am not just going to sit here and wait while that ba**ard hurts my best friend." "Yes, you are. Getting yourself killed is not going to help Jasminee and Calliope. Lily will be here

soon and we will get them back.” “I still don’t understand what happened to the damn protection spell.” Before I can answer, Lily does. “Unfortunately, Clara’s death took a toll on me and it caused the spell to weaken. My guilt at not being able to save her had weakened my spirit. My powers suffered, which weakened the spell.” My heart breaks to hear Lily speak of her pain and loss. She is one of the strongest people I know. It doesn’t matter how powerful a person is if destiny has other ideas. She shouldn’t blame herself, but I’m sure that is easier to say than do. I can’t imagine losing Abigale. I shake away those thoughts, not wanting to think about her ever being gone from me or Sarah.

I watch as Lily rubs the palm of her hand. “I can’t feel Calliope.” Oliver growls and is on the verge of shifting. “Calm down now” I say and he manages to get himself under control. “That just means that she isn’t connected to her wolf right now. I’m sure the ba**ard gave her something to suppress her wolf” Lily says. She places her hand on Oliver’s shoulder. “I will do everything I can to bring Jasmine and Calliope back safely. I need something of hers so I can perform the location spell. I’m sure that Mateo has them, but we need to be sure”, Lily says. Oliver rushes from the room and returns a few minutes later with a rope bracelet that I’ve seen Calliope wear. “I gave this to her”, Oliver says. I say a

prayer to that goddess that he won’t hurt her or Jasmine, but I don’t think we have much time before he does.

Calliope POV

“Aurora now would be a really great time for you to be here with me.” She still doesn’t answer and I prepare myself to fight him. He steps toward me but stops. He crosses his arms over his chest and smiles. “Do you really think I would fight you after the last time you handed me my a** when we sparred?” “I don’t know what you are playing at Benson, but I will never mate you. I will only bear my mate’s mark. I will die before I let you touch me. You can have this pack for all I care, but it will not be with me by your side.” “I have no doubt of that, Calliope. Whoever your mate is will be a very lucky wolf to have such a strong, loyal mate. I have no intentions of forcing myself or my mark on you. I only went along with your father’s rambling about me being Alpha so that I could help you and the Luna escape.” I stand but I’m not sure if I can trust him. He takes a vial out of his pocket and pours it into a glass. “I won’t drink anything from you or that ba**ard.” “I need him to think that you drank it, Calliope. When he comes back to check on us, I need you to pretend that you

are being compliant with my orders.” “How do I know I can trust you? That this isn’t just a way to gain my trust so you can betray me.”

“It’s like you said earlier. I can’t follow a monster and that’s exactly what Mateo has become. When I walked into that bedroom and saw your mother lying helpless on the floor, it was all I could do to control my wolf. I am strong, but your father’s wolf is still an Alpha. I promise you that I will do everything in my power to protect you and the Luna.” “You can trust him, Calliope. He is being honest with you”, Aurora says. I can feel tears prick my eyes when I hear my wolf for the first time since Mateo brought us here. “Calliope, I swear to you” he starts to say, and I cut him off. “These are tears of happiness, not fear. Aurora just spoke to me. I know you’re telling the truth.” He nods and picks up the cup with the liquid in it. He goes into the bathroom and comes back with an empty cup. A small amount of blue residue remains as proof. It feels like forever before a knock sounds on the door. Benson turns to me and I nod. He walks over and opens the door. My father walks in with a smug look on his face. He looks around

the room until his eyes focus on the cup sitting on the night stand next to me. “Good evening, Calliope”, my father says. “Good evening, Alpha”, I respond, keeping my eyes cast down. “Come here Calliope”, Benson says very coldly. I stand without hesitation and walk until I’m next to him.

He wraps his arm around my waist and I try not to stiffen when he buries his nose in the crook of my neck. “Keep your breathing even. Remember he is helping us” Aurora says. “It is good to see you finally know your place, Cali” my father says. “You will be a better Luna, than your mother ever was.” Benson squeezes my side, trying to keep me from saying all the things I want to say to this piece of sh*t. He pulls back and addresses my father. “Alpha, now that my future Luna is in the right headspace, I would like to take her to my room to complete our mating and marking.” He looks between us and I keep my eyes cast down. “Of course, but it needs to be done before that potion wears off. She will be bound to you, but that doesn’t mean she won’t fight. Simone will be back in the next few days to wipe her memory and suppress her wolf.” He hands Benson another vial. “Only give her the wolfsbane if you absolutely have to. I don’t want her dead. I want her in her place. That is far worse torture for a woman like her.” He laughs before he turns to leave the room. “Alpha, I will have Johnson take my patrol for tonight. If you need me, please link me.” “I should be fine, you just focus on the task at hand.”

Benson takes my hand, leading me down to the second floor. Now that he is Beta, it's his floor. I'm grateful when the guard doesn't follow us. As soon as we are safe inside, I start to pace. A hundred thoughts are racing through my mind. Every time I think he can't do anything worse, he proves me wrong. A hand on my forearm tries to soothe me. "Calliope, I'm so sorry. I knew he was an a**hole but most Alphas are. I never expected that he would hurt his own mate and daughter." "I am not his daughter. He is just a sperm donor. He has never treated me like I was important to him and now I realize why. No one but Mateo is important in his world and he will do whatever it takes to get what he wants. He loves no one. He is going to die a slow and painful death if I have anything to say about it." Before I can say anymore, Benson pulls me into a hug. I don't know why, but I don't pull away. I know it is an act of friendship and nothing more. I let go of all the hurt and anger as he rubs circles on my back. When I finally compose myself, I pull back. "Thank you for helping me." He nods and I smile. "If you

ever tell any of the warriors that I cried like a baby I will kick your a** just like I did last time." We both burst out laughing.

A knock on the door makes me freeze. Benson walks over like he's expecting someone. Madison, the omega from the other night, comes in with a tray of food. She doesn't make eye contact with me and I can feel the anxiety rolling off her. I watch Benson pick up a drink off the tray and pour some of the wolfsbane in. "What are you doing?" "I'm giving your father a dose of his own medicine." "Madison, after you give this to the Alpha, I want food taken down to the Luna." "Yes, Beta" she says and turns to leave. "Madison" I say and she stops walking. "My mother isn't angry about what happened. I promise you that neither of us hold it against you." She turns back to me with tears in her eyes. "Thank you, Alpha" she says before she leaves. It's odd for her to call me that. The pack has never referred to me as anything but Calliope. "She can feel your aura. You are an Alpha even if your father is too stupid to see it", Benson says, like he is reading my thoughts. "Soon we will all be free of Mateo."

Hudson POV

As soon as I arrive at the pack, I remember why I hate dealing with wolves. Rules, that is all they care about. The guard leads me to Grant's office and Tyson is already growling. He hates being inside stuffy places. This office definitely qualifies. "Calm down, we won't be here long." "Good, I don't trust this wolf." "Neither do I, but you know we don't have to trust him to take his money." Tyson snickers and moves to the back of my mind. "So, what is this

job exactly Grant.” He explains that he needs me to track down his Luna and her son. “What are your intentions when I find them?” “I’m confused why the hell you care about that information. You’re a tracker and that’s what I need from you.” “I was clear on the rules, Grant. I don’t take jobs unless I know all the details.” “Alpha Grant” he corrects me. “I am not a wolf and you are not my Alpha. In my world, respect is earned not given.” He growls low and I chuckle. “You called me here so either answer my questions or I can move on to another job.” He throws a folder at me and I take it. I start to shuffle through the papers. Pictures of a beautiful woman and a man that resembles her are on top.

I look back up at Grant and he sighs before he tells me exactly why he wants them brought back. Tyson growls in my mind hearing him speak of his deceit with his mate. Werebears usually go through their whole life without a mate because we are solitary creatures. I can’t imagine betraying a person that you have chosen to spend your life with. “You haven’t answered my question about what you intend to do with them when I find them.” “I intend to have my Luna and turn Cayden over to a warlock named Octavius.” I laugh “you actually think your Luna is going to take you back after all you have done. After you take her son from her.” “You don’t need to worry about my love life. Are you taking the job or not, Hudson?” I give a low growl before I nod. “Wire half of the money to my account now and I will expect the rest when I complete the job.” He picks his phone up off the desk and I get the ding that the money is deposited. I take the folder leaving his office without another word. Tyson is restless and I need to shift to calm him down.

Calliope POV

Aurora is pacing in my mind. She is as eager as I am to deal with Mateo. “The wolfsbane should be working by now. Are you ready?” “I am more than ready.” I stand and follow Benson upstairs toward my father’s office. He opens the door without warning and my father is sitting at the desk with a smug look of satisfaction on his face. Fear grips my heart when I see Madison lying motionless on the floor and my mother crying as she holds her. “Next time, don’t use a weak omega in a plan against an Alpha.”

Chapter 96

Chapter 96

30 New Alpha

Calliope POV

“What have you done, you ba**ard?” “What happened to you calling me Alpha?” “You are no Alpha. In fact, I challenge you for the Alpha title of the Crescent Moon Pack.” He laughs “you really want to do this, Calliope? That title means everything to me and I will never let you take it from me. I will show you no mercy.” “That feeling is very mutual Mateo.” He growls “very well.” “Calliope”, my mother says, and I turn toward her. “Don’t worry Jasmine, you will join her soon enough.” “I was going to tell her to kill you quickly. My daughter is the only true Alpha in this pack.” I can see the anger flash on his face, but he turns heading into the hallway. “Take Madison to the pack hospital”, I say to my mother and she nods. Benson follows me outside and most of the pack have gathered. My father is spewing lies about our betrayal against the Alpha and pack. Benson steps forward. “An Alpha challenge has been issued by Calliope Robison. This challenge is for the right to be the Alpha of the Crescent Moon. Challenger picks the fighting form as it is written in werewolf law”, Benson says, looking at me. “Wolf”, I say without hesitation. My father smiles because he has never seen my wolf and he thinks beating me will be easy. “He is about to find out what an Alpha wolf really looks like”, Aurora growls. Goddess, I love my wolf. “This is a fight to the death” my father says. The pack members look horrified that my father is willing to kill his own pup. “I accept the terms of the challenge.”

The pack steps back, giving us both room. My father shifts first and his wolf is impressive. I haven’t seen him since I was a child, but he is large with black fur and green eyes. I can see sympathy in the wolf’s eyes, despite my father. I know his wolf can’t back down from my challenge as an Alpha, but he is torn because I am his pup. I shift and the pack members gasp. Aurora is bigger than my father’s wolf and her red fur is magnificent. Benson smiles because he has seen her before when we trained. My father jumps at us and we easily side-step. “That ba**ard tried to attack us without a formal start”,

Aurora says. “I expected nothing less. He will not fight fair to win this challenge, Aurora.” We start to circle each other and he snaps at me but never makes contact. “He is afraid I can feel it”, Aurora says. “He should be”, I say before we lunge forward. We swipe our claws across his chest, drawing first blood. He growls in warning, but it does nothing to stop my attacks. Aurora jumps landing on his back. She bites down into his shoulder and his wolf whimpers before he bucks us off. We are back on our feet facing him. We don’t give him time to get his bearings. Aurora rushes forward, clamping down

on his front leg. The wolf cries out, but she refuses to let go. I can hear bones crunch and break as she bites down harder.

He manages to bite down on our shoulder and Aurora releases her grip on his leg. She shakes him off and he lands on his back. He scrambles to get back to his feet, but his mangled leg is making that impossible. As we stalk toward him, he shifts. "Calliope please. I'm your father. You can't kill me." I shift keeping my distance because no part of me trusts him. He smiles thinking that his pleas have saved him. "I believe the rules set by the old Alpha were to the death. You are no father of mine. The world will be a far better place without your evil a** in it." I shift back and Aurora starts to close the distance. He shifts and tries to drag himself away, but this ends today. He has tried to hurt and kill people I care about. Images of him hurting my mother, Bradford, Madison, and Julie pop into my mind, strengthening my resolve. The wolf whimpers as we stand over him. Aurora bends clamping her teeth down on the wolf's neck. He gives out a long howl before she rips his throat out and drops it to the ground." I feel the power shift from Mateo to me, but that is not what this was about. He will no longer hurt my family or this pack.

I shift and arms wrap around me. My mother pulls back checking me for injuries. I smile "mom, I'm fine." "You were amazing. I'm so proud of you, Calliope." I turn to face the pack. They are all bearing their necks to me as a sign of respect. My body relaxes before an unfamiliar female voice speaks from behind me. "It seems I missed all the fun." I turn and the witch that has been working with Mateo is staring at his wolf's body lying dead on the ground. "I didn't think you had it in you little girl." Aurora growls "I am far from a little girl. Mateo is dead. Your business here is done." She laughs "I don't take

orders from little girls. I decide when my business is done. Honestly, I've never seen a red wolf before. I'm intrigued about what power you hold. What power I can take from you." My mother and Benson step in front of me. I'm honored they want to protect me, but this witch is powerful. I can sense her power. She creates a black energy ball and before she can throw it, we shift, jumping in front of Benson and my mother. It strikes me and it is much stronger than the energy ball from the witch that was after Cayden. It doesn't take us off our feet, but it does damage to our side. Aurora takes off toward the witch, who throws two more before we reach her. I know we are going down, but before the darkness consumes us, I hear familiar voices. I've shifted and I'm wrapped in strong arms. "Keep my mother safe."

Oliver POV

“She is definitely in Mateo’s pack.” “Then what are we waiting for, let’s go.” Lily smiles “I take it you will be coming with me and Carter.” Before I can answer, Tony steps forward “we will be coming with you.” We head out into the yard and Lily starts to chant a spell opening a portal. We walk through and if I wasn’t worried about Calliope I would be amazed at her abilities. We are in an area surrounded by trees. I can scent the pack nearby. We start to move forward and there are no guards patrolling, which is definitely strange. We hear howling and my heart clenches in my chest. I’ll never forgive myself if anything happens to Calliope. Carter and Anthony grab my arms. “Slow down, let Lily lead us. We are no good to Calliope if we are dead.” I see pleading in Tony’s eyes and I don’t want to hurt my mate. We follow Lily and my heart breaks when I see a witch hit Aurora with two energy balls. Lily raises her hands and the witch’s eyes get big. “It seems that today is not our day, little girl. Don’t worry, I’ll be back for you” she says before she disappears. I rush over, taking Calliope in my arms. “Keep my mother safe” is the last thing she says before she loses consciousness.

Lily rushes toward us and I pray that she can help Calliope. Her mother pushes us out of the way. She wraps Calliope in her arms. “Jasmine, she is still alive”, Lily says, and Jasmine looks at her with pleading eyes. Lily places her hand on Calliope’s forehead and a light glows under her fingertips. Lily is

strong and I’m hopeful she can heal her. I expect Calliope to open her eyes, but she doesn’t. “She needs time to heal. I have done all I can. She is strong and she will come back to us after her strength returns. Most wolves would not have survived an attack from a dark magic witch of that b**ch’s power level, but Calliope isn’t most wolves. Oliver, take her to the pack hospital”, Lily says and I scoop her in my arms. “Calliope, I need my best friend so please wake up” I whisper into her ear as I carry her. We reach the hospital and I lay her on a gurney. The doctor smiles at me with sympathy in his eyes. “We will do all we can for the Alpha.” They push her through the double doors and I wrap Jasmine in my arms as she sobs. “She is strong and stubborn.” She pulls back “you’re right about that.” We all take a seat and Tony takes my hand. I’m so glad he is here with me. I say a prayer to the goddess to bring Calliope back to us.

Two Weeks Later

Calliope POV

I don’t know what’s happening. I feel like I’ve been in darkness for ages. I still can’t reach Aurora no matter how many times I try. I can hear voices, but I

can't make out what they are saying. I hate that I can't wake up. I honestly thought I had died, but now I'm not sure. I hope that the afterlife is more than darkness. "Do you really think I would let you die", Aurora says. I could cry, I'm so happy to hear her voice. "Where the hell have you been?" "I'm sorry I scared you, but I promise there is no need for tears. That witch was powerful and it took a lot out of us both." "I thought I lost you. I'm so happy your still here with me." "You're never getting rid of me. Now it's almost time for you to wake up, but we need to talk first." "Are you finally going to tell me something about the pup in our vision?" "We are going to meet our mate very soon and you are going to need to be the strong woman I know you are." "You're not going to tell me why are you?" "No, I can't, but I will be with you and together we can get through anything. It's time to wake up Calliope. Just know that everything worth having is worth fighting for." I feel warm fingers rubbing on my hand even though I can't open my eyes yet. The beeping of machines

lets me know that I am in the pack hospital. I remember for the first time that I ended Mateo and I smile to myself that it is over.

I try to force my eyes open and this time I manage to open them completely. I look around and Oliver is sitting in the chair reading a book. "Catching up on your romance novels", I ask and he gasps. "Calliope" he says, before he wraps me in strong arms. "You scared the sh*t out of all of us. If you weren't in this hospital bed, I would kick your a**." I laugh "that would never happen." The door bursts open and my mother rushes inside, followed by Carter, Abigale, and Sarah. I expected to see my mother, but why the hell are Abigale and Sarah here in the Crescent Moon? Everyone hugs me and I look at Abigale. "I didn't expect to see you and Sarah." "Calliope, when Carter told me that you were unconscious in the hospital, I felt like my own pup was here. You are important to us and I needed to see for myself that you were alright. Besides, Sarah needed to see her Cali." I wave Sarah over and she climbs up next to me. Aurora's words play over and over again in my mind. I hold Sarah a little tighter hoping that I will have my pup from the vision someday, even if it's not easy.

Hudson POV

I'm shocked how far these two have made it. I reach a human city four territories away from Grant's pack. They were harder than most to find, but I always find my targets. I head toward a cottage on the edge of town. I'm pretty tech- savvy and I have found that it was recently rented to a mother and son. The internet has made my job so much easier. I can hack pretty much any system. I find a place in the shadow of the trees to watch the cottage. Hours

pass and there is no movement. I can't just rush into the cottage when the names of the rental don't match the ones Grant provided me. It only makes sense they would use fake names, but I need to be sure it's them before I act. Movement on the porch catches my attention. A woman walks out and takes a seat on a porch swing. I know it's Evelyn. She has on yoga pants and tank top. Her red hair is messy and up in a bun. I watch as she places a cup to her lips. She seems at peace despite all she has been through. I read that file at least five times. Most

women would have been broken, but she seems strong. A part of me regrets what I'm about to do, but this is my job.

Chapter 97

Chapter 97

31 Third Times A Charm

Cayden POV

I'm sitting in a supernatural bar in neutral territory. I can scent warlocks, wolves, vampires, and fae. I haven't been able to find that b**ch despite how hard I've tried. I will not return to the pack until she has paid for all she did to Clara. I can't bring her back to me, but I can make sure that justice is served. When I learned of this place, I was hopeful that someone would have information that could lead me in the right direction. My mother wanted to come but I convinced her I would do better alone. "What will you have hot stuff," a pretty vampire says from behind the bar. "A werebeer please", I say and she winks. A few minutes later, she sets my beer down in front of me and serves someone else. As I take a sip, I feel like I'm being watched. I turn in my seat, looking around the bar. I notice a pretty woman around my mother's age with long white hair sitting alone in the corner staring at me. When she realizes I'm looking at her she smiles and waves. I'm confused but I get up and walk toward her table anyway. "What the hell are you going to say to her," Riggs asks. "I really hadn't thought that far ahead." "Hello Cayden", she says and I'm even more confused. I've never seen this woman how could she know my name. "Please sit, I am no threat to you", she says. I sit across from her. "How do you know my name?" "It's one of my many powers." "You can guess people's names" I say and she laughs. "No, I can see your past." I stiffen at her words.

“Cayden, my name is Selma and I’m sure you can scent that I’m a witch. I can sense that you are a hybrid who is looking for revenge.” “I’m sure if you have seen my past, you understand why I want to end the witch.” She nods “I do and I can help you.” “You’re a black magic witch. You don’t do anything for free. What do you want in exchange for helping me?” “I’m neither light nor dark. I don’t harm others that don’t deserve it, but I have no problem making someone suffer that deserves it. Everything in our world is not as black and white as most would like to think.” “So, you don’t want anything to help me find that evil witch.” She smiles “let’s just say I have my reasons for helping you, but you will owe me nothing in return.” “How can you trust this woman we don’t even know her” Riggs asks. “I assure you Riggs that I would never hurt Cayden” Selma says inside my head. She is talking to my wolf. How the hell is that possible? She laughs, “anything is possible, but I meant what I said, Cayden, I will not hurt you.” “I’m glad but I don’t understand why you would be so adamant that you won’t hurt me.” “I will tell you that soon enough, but for right now I need you to trust me. I will be in touch when I have the location of the witch you seek.” I nod and she disappears.

I head back to the bar and I take another sip of my beer. “What do you think, Riggs, after all she said to us?” “I don’t know but she is powerful and if she wanted to hurt us, she could have. Something feels familiar about her, but I know we have never met her.” “I agree, I just don’t understand why she is so willing to help us.” A hand on mine brings me out of my conversation with Riggs. My eyes land on the smiling bartender. “I get off in an hour if you want to have some fun” the pretty vampire says and I smile. “If I wasn’t a wolf with a mate out there, I would take you up on that pretty girl.” She smiles and I get up to leave. I want to get back to the cottage to tell my mother about Selma and her offer to help.

Evelyn POV

When Cayden said he was going to a supernatural bar, I was nervous. I know how strong Cayden is, but he has no idea what he is walking into. I finally conceded, but I wasn’t happy to be staying in the cottage while he was putting himself at risk. The only reason I finally agreed is because he is carrying a tracker that will give me his location if he needs help. He has been gone for two hours and I can’t clean the cottage anymore. I take a shower and make myself a cup of tea. I put my hair in a messy bun and head out onto the porch. Sadie has been very quiet since we lost Clara. She shifted so we could run with Cayden, but other than that she hasn’t spoken to me. “Sadie, I miss you.” There is silence for a few minutes. “I’m sorry Evelyn. I felt so broken and I was

selfish. I worried about my own grief and I abandoned you when you needed me the most.” “Sadie, I love you and you’re here now. That is what matters. We will get through this together. We have Cayden and the pack. We are strong and we need

to be there for them both.” The phone rings in my pocket and I take it out feeling relief when Cayden’s name flashes on the screen. “Cayden are you alright”, I ask. “Yes mom, I’m on my way back and we have a lot to talk about. I’ll see you soon” he says, and the call disconnects.

I’m glad he is safe and on his way back to the cottage. I wonder what he found out at the bar. “He sounded excited. Maybe he knows where that witch is hiding”, Sadie says. A shiver runs down my spine despite there being no chill in the air. I turn looking out into the darkness, but I can’t see anyone. I take a deep breath in and I don’t scent Grant, but something is definitely out there. It’s faint and Sadie is growling in my mind. I make my way to the door, keeping my eyes toward the darkness. A low growl makes bile rise in my throat. The scent is stronger and everything in me wants to scream. This can’t be happening. It isn’t possible. Could the goddess be giving me a third mate? It can’t be, it’s not possible. I feel like I’m crazy as I keep repeating it in my mind. A large figure steps out from behind the trees. Large is not even a sufficient word to describe this man. He has to be over six foot five. He has a broad chest and arms like tree trunks. Besides his citrus scent, which is making it hard to focus, I can’t tell what type of shifter he is. One thing I know for sure, he is not a wolf. “What do you want,” I finally manage to ask and he chuckles.

“It seems your mate wants you back, Evelyn.” How can he not know what I am to him? “Cayden masked your scent, Evelyn. He has no idea that we are his mates.” “I would rather die than go back to that ba**ard. You can tell him that.” “I’m not really the messenger type. You will go back with me as soon as your son returns.” “No one will hurt my pup” I say as I shift into Sadie. I jump off the porch and land in front of this wall of a man. Sadie growls and he laughs. That just pisses me off and we jump toward him. He catches my wolf and I feel his body stiffen. “He feels the tingles” Sadie says. He sets us down and we back away from him. Once we shift, he is staring at me with confusion and wonder. “Evelyn” is all he manages to say before he is thrown against the tree by some invisible force. Cayden steps out of the trees and hands me his shirt which I slip over my head. It’s long enough to be a dress. He starts walking toward the man who is groaning on the ground. I grab his arm. “Cayden unmask my scent now.” He looks at me like I’m crazy. “Please just do it and you will understand why”, I say and he

does. As he chants, my mate gets to his feet and shifts into a huge brown bear. Holy sh*t is all I can think as he stalks toward us.

Cayden conjures an energy ball in his hand, but I stop him from throwing it. I start walking toward the bear. “What the hell are you doing mom?” “The goddess has given me another mate. He will not hurt me.” I hope, I say to myself. I stop a few feet from the bear and he starts to sniff the air. He growls but it isn’t in anger. I can see in his eyes that he realizes I’m his mate. He walks toward me and I place my hand on his head. We stay like this for a few minutes before I step back. “Can you shift so we can speak?” He does as I ask and I try not to stare at this beautiful man that is large all over. I turn and Cayden throws him a pair of shorts. Before I can turn back, I’m lifted into strong arms. Tingles erupt all over my skin and he buries his head in the crook of my neck. “What is your name mate?” He pulls back with shock on his face. “Did you just call me mate even knowing why I came here?” I smile and place a hand on his cheek. I hear the cottage door close and I’m grateful that Cayden went inside. “I’m not happy that we met because you were trying to force me to go back to that ba**ard.” “Mine” he growls and I chuckle. “Yes, I am yours. The goddess has chosen to give me a mate despite already having a second chance. That is unheard of in our world and I will not disrespect her by wasting it.” “So will you accept me as your mate?” “Yes, I will, but can you accept that I am part of a pack that I plan to return too.”

I can see he is speaking to his bear. He looks into my eyes and smiles. “My kind very rarely find their fated mate. I would be a fool to throw away such a gift. We will go anywhere you are as long as the pack will have us. My name is Hudson and my bear is Tyson.” “You know my name and my wolf is Sadie.” “May I kiss you Evelyn” he asks so sweetly. I nod and he lifts me and presses his lips to mine. His kiss feels amazing and I melt into him. He pulls back when we are both breathless. “I will protect you and Cayden with my life.” When he includes Cayden, I know he will be nothing like Grant. I take his hand, leading him inside the cottage because we have a lot to talk about. I say a prayer of thanks to the

goddess for bringing me another chance at happiness despite all the chances she has already given me.

A Week Later

Calliope POV

I have taken my rightful place as Alpha of Crescent Moon, but part of me misses the Silver Paw collective. I know the pack needs me, but I had let go of the dream of being Alpha. I miss seeing Carter, Abigale, and Sarah anytime I want to. They visit the pack every day, but it's not the same. A knock on the door brings me out of my thoughts. Anthony and Benson walk in and I motion for them to take a seat. Bradford and Julie have moved back to the pack. Bradford is ready to retire, which is why I called this meeting. "I wanted to speak to you both because I will need a Beta and Gamma. Bradford is retiring so Anthony you will be taking your rightful place. Benson, I would like you to become Gamma instead of returning to head warrior. I know this will be hard for you after Mateo gave you the title, but it is only right as the Beta position is Anthony's by birth." "Alpha, I am honored to be your Gamma and I would never think that I would remain Beta." "I'm glad because I wouldn't want anyone else helping me run the pack. We will have the ceremony tomorrow to announce the two new Betas and the Gamma of the Crescent Moon."

Chapter 98

Chapter 98

32 Respect

Hudson POV

I can't believe that Evelyn is our mate. The irony of the situation is not lost on me. That ba**ard Grant wanted me to bring his mate back and led me right to her. "She is ours", Tyson growls. "Yes, she is". I agree with him. As we sit in the living room of the cottage, I can't help staring at her. I was so happy when she said that she would accept me despite the reason I was here. Cayden tells us about his run in with the witch and by the sounds of it, she is powerful. I have been taught to never trust, so I'm not sure what her motive is to help him. "In my life I have found that everyone has a motive. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's not. The next time you meet with her, I would like to be there with you Cayden." He looks at me like I have grown ten heads. "No offense Hudson, but to use your words, everyone has their motives. So, what is yours for helping me? My mother has already accepted you." I chuckle "I want your mother as my mate. That is definitely true. You are a part of her, which means that I will protect you both. I may not be your father, but you are my mate's pup." He looks into my eyes. I'm sure to determine if he can see any deceit. "If that's the case you won't mind if I read you." I reach out my

hand and he takes it. I'm not worried. The minute I realized that Evelyn was my mate, everything in my world became about her. He pulls back his hand and nods at me. "Thank you, I appreciate the help. I do really believe whatever her motive is will not bring me harm."

"I'm going to shower and get ready for bed." He heads for the stairs but stops before he takes the first step. "I will be putting a spell on my room so I can't hear anything." Evelyn and I burst out laughing. Once Cayden is gone, I turn to Evelyn. "I don't expect us to mate and mark today. I want you to trust me. I'm sure that is hard after everything that happened with your ex-mate." I can't help the growl that escapes me when I think about him touching Evelyn. A soft hand on my face makes the anger melt away. "Hudson, I meant what I said outside. I am not broken, despite all that Grant did to me. I am

strong and I accept you as my mate. "I, Hudson Michael Ross, accept you, Evelyn Jane Hoffner, as my mate." She smiles and takes my big hand in hers. "I, Evelyn Jane Hoffner, accept you, Hudson Michael Ross, as my mate." I feel the bond start to form and I stand. I scoop her up in my arms. "Are you sure you are ready for this Evelyn?" "Take me to bed and make me yours, Hudson." She doesn't have to say it twice. I take the steps two at a time. She points to a door and when I throw it open, I'm grateful to see a king-sized bed. It will still be small for me, but I will survive.

I set her on her feet and pull the shirt over my head. Her eyes move down my body and when she licks her lips I lose the little bit of control I had. I grab her, picking her up, so she wraps her legs around my waist. I slam my lips down on hers and she opens willingly. My tongue moves around hers as her hands run all over my bare skin. My c**k is straining against my jeans. I grip her a** kneading it as I kiss her. I pull back when we both need to breathe. "Are you fond of these clothes?" She smiles shaking her head. I rip them to shreds without putting her down. Her beautiful breasts are bare and I lift her so I can take her n**ple into my mouth. She moans and it just spurs me on. I roll her other n**ple in my fingers. I can feel her juices on my belly as I continue my assault on her breasts. "Hudson please" she says in a breathy voice. "What do you want, Evelyn" I ask as I lay her down on the bed. "I want you to f**k me. Make me yours" she says. I remove the rest of my clothing and her eyes get big when she gets a look at my c**k. "Don't worry, the goddess knows what she is doing. It will fit." She chuckles and I climb on the bed. "I need to taste you first, Evelyn. Your scent is making me crazy and I need to have your taste on my tongue."

I don't wait for her answer. I position my face at her core and take a long lick. "Oh, goddess you taste so good." She arches her back off the bed and I eat her like she is my last meal. I can feel she is getting close and I insert two fingers stroking her inner walls. "Hudson, I'm going to c*m" she screams out. I add another finger, making sure she is ready for my c**k and bite down gently on her cl*t. She screams out her orgasm and her body convulses. I climb up her body, not giving her time to come down from her orgasm. I press my c**k to her entrance and push forward. She digs her nails into my back and I hope she draws blood. I push until I'm seated to the root. "Oh, my goddess, your c**k is so

big and it feels so good." "It is all yours and you are all mine." "I'm yours" she says and that's it. I start to move, claiming her body as mine. She moans with every thrust and I can feel the pleasure building inside me. I need her to c*m again. I quicken my pace and she screams out. Her walls are squeezing my c**k. I'm losing the battle when I bite down into her marking spot. The orgasm rips through me and I begin to empty my seed deep inside her. I'm shocked when I feel her bite down marking me. I have never had an orgasm that felt this good and I know it's because Evelyn was made to be mine. I will never touch another woman in my life. "That was amazing", she says, and Tyson is strutting in my mind. I can't help the chuckle that escapes me. "Thank you, Evelyn, for accepting me as your mate. I will never let harm come to you as long as I live." I kiss her before I roll off the bed and scoop her up. She squeals "what are you doing?" "I'm going to clean you off so I can make you dirty again." My phone rings in the pocket of my pants on the floor and without looking, I know exactly who it is. I told him that I had a good lead. "Is that him," she asks. "I'm sure it is." She smiles "he can wait, I want you to make me dirty." I smile, life with this woman isn't going to be boring, that is for sure.

Two Weeks Later

Calliope POV

After everything that happened, the pack needed something to celebrate. No one was saddened by my father's death, which speaks volumes to how he treated the pack. There are still a few males who share my father's opinion on a female's role in the pack. They can either accept I am the Alpha or leave. We are having the formal ceremony today to make Anthony and Oliver Betas and Benson Gamma. I head downstairs to speak with Janice, the head omega, about the festivities. I hear a male voice and Aurora growls at the way he is speaking. "I will be in your room in ten minutes, omega. Do not make me wait." I turn the corner and the young omega's eyes meet mine. I see fear in

her eyes which just further pisses me off. "What the hell is going on here", I ask and Leonard turns to face me. He is a pack warrior. Loretta takes a step back and he growls. "Nothing is going on, Calliope" he says with a smirk. "I must not have heard you correctly, Lenny, because I am the Alpha of this pack. Which

means you will address me as such or there will be repercussions." I can see he wants to say more but he stays quiet. "Loretta, are you alright?" She starts to shake her head and he laughs. Loretta looks to be in her twenties and Leonard is definitely in his forties. He also has a mate, if I remember correctly.

"I'm not sure what the problem is, Alpha? I am a warrior and she is a female omega." "You think because you're a warrior and she is an omega, that gives you the right to mistreat her." His expression makes me believe that is exactly what he thinks. "Let me make this perfectly clear to you. All members of this pack will be treated with respect. You will not abuse or mistreat any pack member regardless of their gender or rank." He chuckles and I step closer, pushing my aura forward. He has no choice but to drop his gaze. "I know you saw what I am capable of, so I suggest you learn respect, or you will end up just like Mateo." "Yes Alpha" he says. "I will be watching and for your sake, I hope this last time I will have to speak to you about this behavior." He nods before he leaves the kitchen. I watch him leave and when I turn back to Loretta, I'm wrapped in a hug. "Thank you, Alpha. I'm so happy you're in charge now. I know in my heart things will get better." Someone clears their throat and Loretta steps back. "Loretta, you know better than to touch the Alpha." "Janice, she had my permission. I actually came looking for you to see if everything was ready for the celebration today." "Of course, it is Alpha" she says as she comes to stand in front of me. "Thank you for stopping that warrior from taking advantage of Loretta." I nod and head back to my office.

I reach my office and I wonder how many omegas have been subject to this treatment. I link Benson to come to my office and when he walks in, he's smiling. "What are you smiling about?" "You really pissed off that a**hole Lenny. He walked into the barracks sputtering about a woman telling him what to do. When one of the guys asked him what the hell his problem was, he looked at me but wouldn't answer." "That's actually why I called you here." I tell him about what happened in the kitchen. "I want him and any other members that think like him watched." "There aren't too many honestly, but I will make sure the other warriors keep eyes on them." "Are you ready to make this official today?" He smiles "I am and I can't thank you enough for making me the Gamma of this pack Alpha." "Benson, you can call me Calliope unless

we are in a formal setting. Honestly, I should be thanking you. It's because of you that I

am Alpha of the pack. You were a man of honor even when you had an opportunity to have power." "Power isn't everything and doing what's right isn't something you need to thank me for." I stand and we head down to the garden where the stage is set up.

I walk onto the stage and I'm joined by Anthony, Oliver, and Benson. Bradford, Julie, Abigale, Carter, and Sarah are sitting in the front row. I smile before I turn to the men that will become my ranked wolves. "I want to thank the pack for joining us today. This celebration will mark the change in pack leadership." I take the dagger off the table and swipe it down my hand, allowing my blood to flow into the chalice. I step in front of Anthony first. "Anthony Conlon, make your vow to the pack." "I, Anthony Conlon, vow to put the needs of the pack above my own. I pledge my loyalty to Alpha Calliope Robison." He drinks and our connection snaps into place. Oliver steps up and his smile is contagious. "Oliver Shifler, make your vow to the pack." "I, Oliver Shifler Conlon, vow to put the needs of the pack above my own. I pledge my loyalty to Alpha Calliope Robison." He drinks and hands me back the chalice. "Now you can't get rid of me" he links me and I keep my expression even though I want to smile. I nod and Benson steps up next. "Benson Pryer, make your vow to the pack." "I, Benson Pryer, vow to put the packs needs above my own. I pledge my loyalty to Alpha Calliope Robison." He drinks and I set the chalice down on the table. I face the pack. "Crescent Moon welcome your new Betas Anthony and Oliver Conlon and your new Gamma Benson Pryer." The pack breaks into howls and bares their necks.

After the pack run, we head inside to the banquet hall. I look around and the omegas are delivering the food to each table. I watch as Loretta sets the food down in front of Leonard and his mate. He never makes eye contact with her and it takes everything in me not to walk over and tell his mate what kind of man she is mated too. I walk over to to my table and take a seat next to my mother. As the dinner goes on, I notice that Leonard is no longer sitting at the table. "Calliope, I have a bad feeling", Aurora says. I stand and walk toward the kitchen. Three women are standing near the window. "Ladies what are you looking at" I ask and they all turn toward me. "Alpha, he is going to kill her", the youngest woman says.

I don't wait for an explanation. I link Anthony and head outside. Loretta is lying on the ground, blood covering her dress. "Get up you worthless b**ch. The Alpha is too busy to help you now." I growl and he turns looking at me with

wide eyes. Anthony and Oliver come to stand next to me. "Take Loretta to the hospital now." They rush toward her as I walk toward Leonard. I can see Oliver wants to stay but he follows my orders. "You have a mate and yet you hurt women. Do you hurt your mate?" "Yes, he does", I hear from behind me. "Shut up Eleanor" he yells at her.

"Eleanor, now is your chance because your mate is going to die." "I, Eleanor Bane, reject you, Leonard Bane, breaking our mate bond." He grabs at his chest and falls to his knees. Eleanor is in pain, but she will survive. I walk until I am standing in front of him. "You will be placed in the cells and tomorrow you will be executed for your crimes against the women of this pack." I punch him hard in the face knocking him out. I turn to face the pack members that have gathered. "Hear me when I say that any man that is caught mistreating a female in this pack will be executed. This is the only warning you will receive." A pin could be heard and I nod at Benson to take Leonard to the cells. I head back inside and my mother wraps me in a hug. "I'm so proud of you, Calliope." "Thank you, mom" I say before we take our seats back at the table. Once the party has ended, I head to the pack hospital to check on Loretta and Eleanor. I'm shocked to find them in the same room. "Alpha" they say and bear their necks to me. "Ladies, how are you both feeling?" Loretta's bruises look almost healed and Eleanor is smiling. "We both will be fine thanks to you", Eleanor says. "I'm glad and I promise that the pack will get better. It may take time, but I won't rest until everyone receives the respect and treatment they deserve." I spend a few more minutes with them before I head to my new room. I refused to take the room my father used. It will be gutted and redone.

Once I'm showered and dressed for bed, I slide under the covers. Aurora has been quiet since we dealt with Leonard. "Why are you so quiet?" "I was thinking that since your father burned so many bridges with other Alphas, maybe we should host an Alpha meeting here." "You're thinking about pack politics" I laugh. "No, I'm thinking about alliances and keeping our pack safe." I still think there is more to her suggestion, but she isn't wrong. I have a lot of fixing to do and holding an Alpha meeting will help mend

some of the damage my father did. "I will speak with the guys tomorrow about setting up a meeting." She seems pleased with herself but I'm too exhausted to press her. I fall asleep and have dreams of a huge black wolf with beautiful brown eyes.

Chapter 99

Chapter 99

33 Too Bad So Sad

Evelyn POV

I wake to a warm body wrapped around mine. The tingles and the dull ache in my core feel amazing. I hate that I have to move to use the bathroom, but I have no choice right now. I try to move his big arm off me, but it isn't happening. I try to slide off the bed, but he just tightens his grip on me. "Hudson, I need to pee." He grunts but makes no move to release me. My face is resting near the fresh mark I gave him last night. I smile before I run my tongue over my mark, causing him to shiver. He pulls back with his eyes dark and lust filled. I slide out of bed before he can stop me. "You're going to pay for that little mate." I laugh as I head into the bathroom. I'm just finishing washing my hands and admiring my new mark when the door opens. Hudson smiles and holds out his hand. His phone is lying in his palm vibrating and d*ckhead is flashing on the screen. I chuckle at the name he has given Grant. He finally swipes to answer it and puts the call on speaker phone. I stay quiet, wanting to hear what he has to say. "Hudson, are you there? What the hell is going on? I've been calling you? Why the f**k aren't you answering my calls?" "I'm here" he says gruffly. "Did you find them? Why the hell didn't you answer the phone last night? I felt a dull pain last night. I think Evelyn was f**king another man. I will kill the ba**ard for touching what's mine."

Hudson growls low before he pulls me to him and licks his mark on my neck, causing me to moan. "What the f**k is going on" Grant screams. "Sorry Grant, Hudson is a bit busy f**king my brains out. He will have to call you back." I push the disconnect and Hudson does just that. The phone on the floor vibrates insistently but we could care less. After we shower, I pick the phone up off the floor and walk back into the bedroom. There are a hundred missed calls and I don't know how many missed texts messages. Hudson pulls me onto his lap as we sit on the bed and I dial the contact that says d**khead. The first ring doesn't even finish and Grant is screaming into the phone. "Shut the hell up Grant."

"Evelyn, how could you do that? How could you f**k" I cut him off. "My mate, very easily. Hudson is my goddess given mate, I can't thank you enough for sending him to me." "What are you talking about?" "It seems the goddess wanted to give me a real second chance. Hudson is my mate." "That's not

possible, I was your second chance.” “No, you were a mistake that has been corrected. I am with the man I should have always been with. He told me everything that you have planned for me and my son.” There is silence before I hear things breaking.

“Evelyn, I will have you back in the pack and my bed. You belong to me.” Hudson growls and I rub my hand down his arm. “That will never happen Hudson. I am yours Hudson. Grant the only thing I will be is the one to end you and that ba**ard Octavius. Enjoy what little time you have left in this world.” I end the call and throw the phone onto the bed. Hudson wraps his arms around me and breathes in my scent. “He will never touch you as long as I’m alive.” I pull back and press my lips to his, pouring all the love I have for him into this kiss. My stomach rumbling is loud and Hudson pulls back with a smile. “I think I had better feed you before I take you again. I can’t have you hungry.” He stands with me in his arms and carries me down to the kitchen. “I can walk Hudson.” He ignores me and when we reach the kitchen Cayden is already cooking breakfast. He sets a plate down in front of me and grabs one for Hudson. “Congratulations to you both, but if you hurt my mother, I will turn you into something that bears eat Hudson.” I almost choke on the eggs in my mouth, but Hudson’s laugh fills the room. “You have my permission to turn me into any furry cute woodland creature if I ever hurt Evelyn. I promise you that will never happen.” Cayden nods and joins us. For the first time in a long while I’m happy. I say a prayer of thanks to the goddess and my guardian angel.

Grant POV

I pitch the phone and it smashes off the wall. What the f**k is happening? She can’t have a third mate. “You sent that f**king bear right to her. Now we will never get her back”, Thiago growls. I block him because I cannot deal with him after I heard my mate being defiled by that f**king bear. The pain was dull last night until I had a sharp pain, then it just stopped. He f**king marked her. I will kill that bear for

touching what is mine. I don’t care what mark she has once he’s dead, my mark will be where it has always belonged. I grab the book out of my drawer. I hate working with vampires, but I don’t have a choice when that ba**ard Octavius has made it clear he won’t help me find them. I don’t care who I have to sacrifice to have Evelyn back.

Eli POV

I watch Faith crawl around the floor. It's hard to believe she will be six months old in a few days. I think about Clara every day, but I know I need to keep going for Faith, my family, and the pack. Larisa and my parents have been amazing. They are the only reason I have gotten through all of this. Cayden and Evelyn call to update me on their progress and check on how we are doing. I couldn't believe it when she introduced me to her new mate, Hudson. I could tell she was nervous about the pack accepting her mate, but I assured her that we would welcome him into the pack and our family. I have a meeting this afternoon with a representative from the Crescent Moon. At first, I was adamant I would have no dealings with that pack, but Lily assures me that the new Alpha is nothing like that ba**ard Mateo. An hour later, the twins link me that the Betas from the Crescent Moon have arrived. I link Larisa and walk over to scoop up my little girl. I kiss her face and she giggles. "Daddy has a meeting so you're going to go play with Aunt Larisa." Just as I finish saying it, the door opens. Larisa and Rose smile when they see Faith. "Hey little one, how about we take you for a snack while daddy is busy?" Faith reaches for Larisa and I let her go. Once they leave my office, I take a seat behind my desk. "Silas, after our meeting I think we should go for a run before we get Faith."

"Absolutely, we can run the territory." A knock sounds on the door and one of the guards leads two men into my office. I stand and they bear their necks to me. "Alpha Eli, thank you for meeting with us today. I am Anthony Conlon and this is Oliver Conlon. We are the Betas of the Crescent Moon." "It's very nice to meet you both. Please have a seat." They both sit and I take mine. "I agreed to this meeting because Lily trusts your Alpha but I'm not sure exactly what your Alpha wants from me and my pack." "I'm sure you already know that Alpha Mateo was challenged for the Alpha title by his daughter. She won the

challenge and has taken her rightful place as Alpha of the pack. She is nothing like her father and is trying to right many of his wrongs, including how women were treated in our pack by many male members." "I'm glad to hear that. Had Mateo still been Alpha, you wouldn't be sitting here in my pack having this conversation." They nod and continue "Alpha Calliope is hoping to rebuild the alliances with surrounding packs. Now that she has settled many of the issues that the pack had internally, she feels confident in inviting the other Alphas to meet in the Crescent Moon."

"When will this meeting be held? I have a small pup and I have no intentions of being away from her for a long time." I see sympathy on their faces. "We are sorry for your loss, Alpha. We had heard about your mate." "Thank you, I

appreciate your condolences. My daughter is my priority, but I am still the Alpha of this pack. I am willing to entertain the possibility of an alliance with your pack. I appreciate that Alpha Calliope sent you in person as opposed to sending an invitation. It shows her dedication to her pack and the alliance. You can send me the details of the meeting and I will do my best to be there.”

“Thank you, Alpha Eli. We will let Alpha Calliope know and be in touch.” I shake both their hands before I lead them out of the pack house. I link my men that they will be leaving before I shift into Silas. Our bond has grown if that’s possible. I’m grateful for Silas and Faith. As the wind rushes through our fur, I clear my mind and just enjoy this time with my wolf. We approach the southern border and Silas growls. We catch the scent of vampires. A few moments later, four men step off behind the trees. Silas growls low and I shift. “What business do you have near the Nightfire pack?” The man laughs “it seems that we have stumbled upon the Alpha, men. That’s good because you will get the message directly from me.” “I won’t ask you again.” “Don’t worry mutt. Today is not the day we kill you and your pack. Just know that day is coming and I will take great pleasure in killing you and everyone that you love.” I don’t even give a response before I shift and take off toward them. I will rip them apart for threatening my pack and family. They use their speed and take off into the trees. I will not follow because it may be a trap and I need to be smart about my next move. I link my men to meet me and within seconds I hear paws hitting the ground.

The twins and twenty warriors approach and shift. I tell them about the vampires and their threat. “I want the patrol guard tripled until we figure out what the hell they want and why they were here today.” The other guards shift and begin checking the other borders. “What the hell could they possibly want” Micah says. “I don’t know but they are going to be very sorry they messed with this pack. We will show them no mercy if they try to harm the pack and our family.” They both nod and take off to join the others. I shift running back toward the pack house. I need to hold Faith and know she is alright. I know that I am letting my fear of losing her get to me, but right now, holding her is the only thing that will calm me down.

Chapter 100

Chapter 100

34 New Family

Hudson POV

I follow Cayden into the bar. Evelyn has her hand in mine as we pass the tables. She refused to remain at the cottage when Cayden received a telepathic message from Selma. I still don't completely trust this woman. Cayden notices her first and heads to the table in the corner. She smiles when she sees Evelyn. I don't know what to make of her, but Tyson and I will have no problem ripping her apart if she tries to hurt my family. "Hudson, I would never hurt Evelyn and Cayden. They are as much my family as they are yours." Now I'm truly confused. We all take a seat at the table. Evelyn is studying the woman's face. "Evelyn, are you alright" I link her. Before she can answer, the woman does. "She sees my brother's likeness in me." I growl and Evelyn places her hand on my forearm. "You're Theo's sister, aren't you? You were a child when he died." She smiles and nods. "You're my aunt", Cayden says with a smile. Tyson and I relax a little because she doesn't feel like a threat right now. "Hudson, I promise you that I will never hurt any of you. Theo was important to me and his pups are all I have left of him. She looks at Cayden with sympathy and love in her eyes.

"I wish I could have met Clara." "She was amazing and her daughter is going to be just as amazing as her mother" Cayden says. "Selma, do you know what happened to Theo?" Evelyn takes my hand in hers, letting me know she just wants answers. I know she loves me and I want her to have peace about Theo's death. "My uncle killed him." I growl "why would your uncle kill your brother, his own nephew?" "My uncle is an old school warlock who believes in keeping the witch and warlock bloodline pure. He was angry with Theo for accepting Evelyn and for creating children with her. That ba**ard has no idea that I have the power to read minds. I have seen his past and what he plans for the future." She reaches out and places her hand on Cayden's. "I will never let him hurt you. He will meet a very nasty end if I have anything to say about it. I'm just waiting for the right time. He is strong and the coven is

loyal to him." "I will help you end him" Cayden says and Evelyn stiffens. "Breathe love, we won't let anything happen to Cayden", I say through our link, even though I know she can hear our conversation. She smiles at me "I'm so happy that you are Evelyn's second chance mate. I can tell that you love her as much as Theo did."

"Actually, he is my third chance mate." She looks at Evelyn confused. "I have never heard of anyone being given a third mate." "I am her goddess given mate" I say with irritation in my voice. "Hudson" Evelyn says and Selma laughs. "It's alright, I'm used to werebears. What I mean is, are you sure that

Grant was truly your second chance mate?" Evelyn looks a bit panicked and I pull her onto my lap. She breaths in my scent before she turns back to Selma. "I felt the bond. I never questioned anything about our mating. I felt the tingles and the pull to Grant." "Was he a member of your pack, Evelyn?" "No, he was a visiting Alpha. My father was our pack's Alpha, but honestly, he was very angry with me for choosing Theo. I didn't feel like his daughter after that. He wanted me to pick an Alpha wolf to mate with so they could take over our pack. He didn't believe women could be Alphas." I growl, what the hell is wrong with these men? Women bring life into this world, yet they can't see their worth in leadership of their packs. "I totally agree Hudson" Selma says and winks at me. "Evelyn, I'm going to do a little snooping in my uncle's mind to see if there is anything there about your mating with Grant." Evelyn nods and I hold her tighter. "Now, I called you here because I have located that witch, Lydia." Cayden growls this time. "She will be meeting me here in a weeks time. She is hell bent on revenge after you killed her mate, Cayden. She isn't very smart, which will work to our advantage. I have offered my services", Selma says with a laugh.

Days Before The Alpha Meeting

Eli POV

"Eli, you have to trust the pack. Micah and Mason are very capable Betas. It is important to have allies, especially with the recent vampire attacks", my father says. I know he is right, but I cannot leave the pack to attend a meeting. I don't doubt the pack's abilities, but I need to be here for Faith. Micah and

Mason have taken their roles very seriously and I have no doubt they could handle things while I'm gone, but I have to protect my pup. "Dad, I can't leave Faith with everything that is going on." I see sympathy and understanding in his eyes. "Maybe you should reach out to Calliope and ask her if she would come here to meet with you about an alliance. Be honest with her about your reason for not attending the meeting. Most of the other packs that are attending are already aligned with the Nightfire. Based on what Lily said, she is nothing like her father and an amazing leader for her pack." "I would definitely feel more comfortable about meeting her here until we find out why the vampires keep attacking." "No one has been injured and that speaks volumes to the training the warriors are receiving." I smile because it makes me happy that my dad thinks I'm doing a good job as Alpha. "I'm going to leave you to your phone call. Besides, I want to go steal Faith from your mother for a little while. It's the only way I get to hold her." I laugh and he leaves the office.

I dial the Crescent Moon pack. "This is Beta Anthony. How can I help you" he says. "Beta, this is Alpha Eli of the Nightfire Pack. I was wondering if Alpha Calliope is available." "Actually, she is down in the cells. I will have her call you back as soon as she returns to the office." I disconnect the call and pick up my cell phone placing it in my pocket. My parents have Faith in the pack garden, so I head downstairs. When I reach the bottom of the stairs, a group of people are coming out of the dining room. "Alpha" I hear as I head for the door. I turn to see Susan walking toward me. "What can I help with Susan?" "I just wanted to see how you were doing?" "I'm good, thank you for your concern." "Alpha, we were friends once. I care about you and I just wanted to make sure you're alright." "I am fine, have a good day, Susan." I make my way to the garden and Faith is crawling around. My father notices me and I smile. The phone rings in my pocket and I swipe to connect the call. I place the phone to my ear and take a seat on the bench to watch my family while I take the call. "Alpha Eli" I say. "Hello Alpha, this is Alpha Calliope of the Crescent Moon. My Beta said you were trying to reach me. I hope you still plan on attending the Alpha meeting." "Actually, that's why I'm calling. I'm having some issues with vampire attacks and with my pup being so young, I don't feel comfortable leaving my pack. I was wondering if you would be willing to meet with me here to discuss an alliance."

"I completely understand. I would feel the same way. I am more than happy to meet with you at your pack." "I truly appreciate that you're willing to come here, Alpha Calliope. I look forward to meeting with you. Lily speaks very highly of you and your wolf." "I will be there in two days if that works for you, Alpha Eli." "Yes, that is perfect. I will let my men know to expect you. Please feel free to bring your ranked wolves." "We will see you soon" she says and the call disconnects. I put my phone back into my pocket and sit on the ground near my daughter. She crawls to me and I put her on my lap, kissing her head. "How did your phone call go, Eli" my father asks. "Alpha Calliope will be here in two days to meet about an alliance." My father nods and we spend some time just playing with Faith. I love these moments when I'm not in Alpha mode. I'm just a dad. It doesn't last long when I get a frantic link from Larisa. "Eli, I need you and Aunt Lily near the lake." I link my aunt to head to the lake. After I tell my parents what's going on, I shift into Silas. As we approach the lake, I see Rose lying on the ground. Silas sweeps his head in every direction looking for danger, but I can't scent anything out of place. "Eli, she is shifting but something is wrong" my aunt says. Larisa looks panicked. I shift and walk over lifting her into my arms and she is shaking.

“Rose listen to my voice. I’m going to speak to your wolf as the Alpha. Don’t fight what’s happening. You are a member of the Nightfire pack and I am your Alpha. It is time to come forward. You have been blessed with an amazing human and she will be your counterpart.” Rose screams and I lay her down on the ground. This is one time my aunt can’t help her. She has no wolf. I bend keeping my eye contact with her. “Larisa shift, so her wolf is surrounded by her kind.” Larisa does what I ask. “I will shift with you. Relax Rose and let it happen.” Her bones begin to crack and fur sprouts from her skin. Her wolf is a beautiful blonde color with emerald green eyes. I place my hand on her forehead and her wolf bears her neck to me. We shift and before we take off, I turn to my aunt. “Thank you, Eli” she says and Silas rubs his head on her side. We take off through the trees. We run for an hour before we head back to the pack house. Neal and Lily are waiting for us to return. My uncle walks over and hugs his pup. “Rose, picture yourself in your human form and you will shift back”, Neal says. Rose shifts and she is smiling until she turns to me. I can see fear on her face. “Rose, what’s wrong?” She doesn’t answer

before she takes off toward the pack house. I look at everyone confused. My aunt walks over and places her hand on my cheek. “I will find out what that was all about Eli. I can’t thank you enough for helping my pup through her first shift.” My uncle thanks me too, before they leave to find Rose.

Two Days Later

Calliope POV

I arrive at the pack with Oliver. He insisted that he accompany me even though I told him it wasn’t necessary. He is lucky I love him like a brother, or I would have kicked his a** for being so protective of me. I can handle myself. We approach the gate and two guards step out to approach us. “Alpha Calliope” the guard says, confirming who I am. “Yes, Alpha Eli is expecting me. This is one of my Betas, Oliver.” They nod and open the gate. We follow them to the pack house. I smile when I see Lily and Pheobe waiting for us. They both wrap me in a hug. “It’s good to see you again. How is the protection spell holding up” Lily asks. “She hasn’t been seen since my father’s death.” “That’s good but I don’t think she will give up that easily.” “I promise you that I will let you know the minute she is seen in the territory.” She smirks, she made me promise the last time we spoke that I would call her the second the witch was spotted. “I’ll take you to Eli’s office” Pheobe says. Oliver and I walk behind her. The pack house is beautiful and the pack members seem happy. We reach a long hallway and Aurora is acting strangely. We come to stand in front of a large wooden door when the scent of honeysuckle invades my nose.

“Aurora”, I say before the door opens on the hottest man I have ever seen. His eyes darken when he sees me. “Mate”, Aurora says. “Mate”, I say, and his eyes turn back to their beautiful chocolate brown color. “No, my mate is dead” he says.