

## Broken 181

### Chapter 181

Dustin is seriously pushing my buttons. He knows that I'm feeling possessive of my unmarked mate. Deep down, I know he won't

do anything, but it's still hard to keep that in mind when he's antagonizing me. 'He touches our mate and I'll kill him.' Cyran

snarls.

My wolf, who has already fallen head over heels in love and is wrapped around the finger of that little slip of a girl. My wolf, who

is the most fierce and savage beast I have ever met on the battle field, is a puddle of sloppy adoration for our

mate.

'How many times do I have to say it, she's perfect.'

'And you're ridiculous. I'm surprised you didn't roll over and ask her to rub your stomach.'" I retort back to him. Although, I have to

admit, he got more out of her in a few minutes than I have in several interactions.

'She likes me better. And if she wants to rub my tummyh

for her.' I roll my eyes.

be glad to roll over

Her fear of the vampire prince, Keenan she called him, is profound. Her grip on Cyran was painful, but he didn't care, he was

glad to be able to take care of our mate. And she didn't resist. If anything, she was receptive to his attentions and happy to have him

sleep with her, guarding her all night.

I'd be lying if I said I didn't enjoy it as much as Cyran. Being surrounded by her scent, hearing her heartbeat and watching her

sleep peacefully because we were near, had my heart soaring. I hope one day she'll look to me, the man, not just

wolf for that kind of comfort.

my

I'm unhappy that I have to go into the city. But it can't be put off any longer.

There are a couple of individuals that I need to screen before we can set them up to work for the company. I could send Dustin,

but it's my job.

She should be okay as long as she stays in bed. Both Dustin and Dr. Phillips have been told to call me if anything happens.

I bring Angel a spare phone with my Spotify playlist on it. I have no idea what kind of music she likes, but I'll find out and create a

playlist for her. I grabbed several books from the library in the packhouse. Again, I'll figure out what she likes and make sure we

have it here for her. I show her how to listen to the

playlist and then help her figure out the speaker so she can listen before I head

out.

I'm gone longer than expected. It's been a long day and both Cyran and I have been anxious being away from Angel this long. I

called Dustin several times to check in and he reported that she had been eating, drinking and resting as required. He said she

was standing on her own now and had been able to get herself to the bathroom. I'm surprised, she hadn't seemed that strong

this morning, but maybe getting some food in her system was making a difference.

It's nearly dinner time when I finally get back to the packhouse. When I walk in, several pack members greet me and want to talk.

I'm polite but quickly find a reason to remove myself from them, wanting to lay eyes on my mate.

I swiftly jog up the stairs, walking directly to her room. When I open the door, she's not on the couch or the bed. I start to panic

before I see her sitting by the window looking out.

"Did you want to go outside?" I ask. I can see her jump, I startled her and as she turns, I suck in air. Her eyes. They are shining

golden behind the gray, making the color of Angel's eyes turn to an olive color. It's gone almost immediately, but I saw it. I know

exactly what it means. She's a Guardian.

My heart starts racing. Not only did the Moon Goddess literally drop my mate at my doorstep, she also mated me with a

Guardian, the strongest, most fierce of all werewolves. I'm overwhelmed by this, but also confused. How can this small, timid girl

be a Guardian?

I see her looking at me and she looks scared. Scared for me to know what she is? I'm not sure, so I pull myself together. "I can

take you outside if you'd like to go

out."

"No, I'm ok, thank you. How was your day?" She asks and I walk into her room, moving closer to her. Her scent in my nose like a

balm after a day without it.

"My day was good. I was worried about you. I didn't like being away from you for so long." I tell her honestly, but my mind is

spinning. She's a Guardian, I'm almost positive. There is one way for me to know for sure.

## Chapter 182

"Dustin said you checked on me several times. That's very nice of you, unnecessary. I'm feeling better."

"So I see. You're able to stand and walk on your own now?"

She nods. "Only short distances, but yes,

I'm able to walk."

but

"That's wonderful news. Have you eaten dinner?" She shakes her head, no.

"I'll ask them to bring up two trays, and I'll eat with you, is that okay?"

"I was going to lay down for a bit first. Maybe after that?" She says.

Perfect. "That sounds good. I'll go get a shower and see what's for dinner." I watch as she walks back to her bed. She's a bit

wobbly but she's able to do it. I help her get up into the bed and tuck her in before heading to my room.

I grab my phone dialing a number I haven't called in over six months. She answer

on the second ring.

“Liam.”

“Hey Cara. I need your help.”

“Of course, anything within my control, you know that.”

“I need you to come to my packhouse. Can you do that?”

“When?”

“Now?”

“I’ll see you in forty–five minutes.”

“Thank you, Cara.”

“Liam, I hope you know that even after everything, I still count you as one of my closest friends.”

I smile. Of course she does, she’s amazing like that. “See you soon.”

I shower and head downstairs after poking my head back in on Angel. Her eyes are closed, and her breathing is heavy.

I check on the options for dinner, ordering something for three now, knowing Cara may also be hungry. Right on time, I hear a

knock at the front door of the packhouse. I open the door to her smiling face.

“Hello Liam.”

“Hey Cara. Come in.”

She steps past me into the foyer then turns opening her arms in invitation. I pull her into a hug. I had expected it to hurt, to feel

the pain of the loss that I felt months ago. But there is none of that. There is only the familiar feeling of the care that I always had

for this woman. She feels like family, not like a lost love.

I sniff her hair and realize her scent is different. I take her by the shoulders and push her back, smiling down at her.

“Congratulations?” I ask, unsure if I’m supposed to know.

Her smile brightens the room. “Thank you! We’ve only just told the pack. My scent started changing and we didn’t really have a

choice.” She tells me, all bubbly energy.

“Is it a boy or a girl?” I ask.

“We don’t know yet, but Rik is certain it’s a girl. He says she has my honey smell.”

I smile down at her. “I’ll take his word for it.”

Height wise, she’s not much taller than Angel, but in size, she’s a good two sizes larger, and Cara is ripped. She trains four hours

a day every day. I once had the opportunity to train with her and it kicked my ass. To know that even ripped. she’s so much

bigger than Angel, gives me hope that my girl will fill out.

“So, what is this about Liam? How can I help you?”

“I want you to meet someone. She came into my borders a couple of weeks ago, on her death bed. She’d been held hostage by

vampires and will take some time to recover, so just know that going in.”

“Okay.” She draws out the word as we begin heading upstairs. “But why am I here?”

“She’s special Cara. I need to know if you get any feelings from her. I don’t know, maybe your Guardian senses will tell you

something that I can’t figure out.”

She grabs hold of my arm and pulls me to a stop just as we reach the Alpha floor. “She’s your mate, isn’t she Liam?”

I turn to her. “She is, but she doesn’t know it yet. She’s very weak and her wolf is just slowly returning. She hasn’t recognized the

mate bond.”

“Alright, so what am I looking for?” She asks me as we get closer to Angel’s door.

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“I’d rather not say anything until after you’ve met her. If I’m wrong, I don’t want to taint your interaction with her.”

When we walk in, I intentionally stand in front of Cara, not letting Angel see her at first. Angel is awake and sitting up in bed.

“Hey Angel, I brought someone to see you. This is my friend Cara.”

I move out of the way and let Cara come in. The minute she sees Cara, Angel’s eyes flash to gold.

“Artemis.” She whispers.

I look at Cara and see Artemis shining in her eyes. “Mother.”

Cooper

Author

in Cara again?

### Chapter 183

After Liam leaves, I try listening to some of his music. It's all very angry and loud. I only try a few before I give up. I don't know

how to find songs and I don't want to do something I'm not supposed to do, so I set it aside and turn to the books. I read for a

while before getting tired and moving to the bed to lay down. Dustin comes in while I am trying to get on the bed, and he helps

me up.

"You know I'm going to be in trouble if something happens to you on my watch, right?" He asks me.

"Sorry, I was just getting tired and was ready to lay down."

I sleep for a while then Dustin brings me food. I am starting to feel stronger, so I make sure to eat as much as I can. They are still

giving me more food than I used to get in a week at the vampire coven, but maybe once Alessia is back to full strength, this won't

seem like a huge amount of food.

After lunch, I hear some noises outside and I go to sit by the window. I watch as the warriors train in one area behind the

packhouse and mothers and pups play around the pool and playground that is in another area of the grounds. Everyone seems

so happy. Maybe Liam is a good alpha as he has said he is. Although, I thought Alpha Peter was a good alpha, but mom and

dad thought that me being a Guardian would change that.

'I think Liam is a good Alpha, and I like Cyran. It was nice having him sleep with us last night.'

'Alessia! How are you feeling?'

'Stronger every day. I'll have us back at full strength again soon.'

"Alessia, we need to leave here before Liam and Cyran realize what we are. I don't want us forced into a mate bond."

She's quiet for a long time. 'I don't think they would force us. I want to stay.'

"What? Alessia, I don't think that's a good idea."

'Let's see what happens, okay? Let's not rush it. Didn't Liam tell you there's a bounty on our heads? It feels safer here than it

would be running from vampires and hunters with nowhere to go."

She has a point. I'm still thinking about this when I hear the door open. I turn without thinking and see Liam standing there. I see

him stop when he notices Alessia in my eyes. I immediately pull her back.

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I wait to see what he will do but he continues as if he didn't see anything Maybe he didn't or maybe he doesn't know what a

Guardian's eyes look like.

When he asks about dinner, I realize that I've been up for a while and I'm tired, so I want to rest first. He seems fine with that, so

I lay down and fall asleep.

Not long after I wake, I hear Liam in the hallway, talking to someone, a female. I can feel Alessia standing up in my head.

'Alessia, calm down, what's wrong with you?'

She doesn't answer. When Liam walks in, I don't see anyone until he moves.

Alessia's response is instantaneous. She pushes forward. "Artemis."

What I don't expect is the response from Cara, or actually, it's Artemis that is responding. "Mother."

Mother? What? The next thing I know, Artemis has pushed across the room and is hugging me, or Alessia.

'Alessia, what's going on?'

'Artemis is my pup.'

Cara/Artemis is sobbing in my arms. I awkwardly pat her back and take control.

"Can someone maybe help me understand what is going on?" I ask.

Cara steps back, wiping her eyes. "I'm so sorry. Liam didn't prepare me. I had no idea that I was going to finally see you.

“Why is Alessia saying that Artemis is her pup? I’ve never had any pups.”

Cara squeezes my hand. “It’s a long story. Can I sit? You have no idea how long people have been looking for you. I’ll explain

what I can tonight but there is so much you should know.” She wipes her eyes and Liam brings over two chairs and some

tissues.

Cara sits and Liam sits beside her, waiting.

When she has pulled herself together, she looks at Liam and scowls. “You really should have warned me.” She scolds him.

“I wasn’t one hundred percent sure. But I knew you’d know. I just wasn’t expecting Alessia to come out like that.” He turns to me.

“Someone’s been keeping secrets.”

I look down, not knowing how to answer. He’s right, that’s exactly what I’ve been doing.

Cara reaches over and takes my hand. “You can trust Liam. He’s not like other Alphas. He would never force you. And if you

can’t trust Liam yet, trust me and trust Artemis. We’ve known Liam for a long time. I know he would never force you into a mate

bond that you didn’t want.”

Liam turns to me. “Is that what you think? That I would force you?”

I shrug.

“Wait. Is that why your family left your pack? Did the Alpha try to force you into a mate bond? You were only a child then.” By the

end he was growling out the words.

Cara turns to him. “It has become a common practice for Alphas to force Guardians into mate bonds. They obviously bring

strength to the pack and the only Alpha known in history that didn’t force a mate bond with themselves or their heirs was

Anders.” She turns to me. “Alpha Anders is my mate’s father.”



Liam looks at her incredulously. "I wish I could say that no self-respecting Alpha would force a mate bond for power, but it makes

sense. Having the strongest pack in the country, I don't need the power. But a smaller pack, a weaker pack, would definitely

benefit from having a Guardian."

Cara turns back to me. "So, now that we've established that you can trust Liam, let's get back to your question. Alessia, you

know you're a Guardian, correct?"

"Yes." She answers, pushing forward.

"Do you know that you are from the Guardian line that started with Bellona?"

She asks.

"Yes." Alessia responds. "I have some memories from my previous lives. The most important is that you, Artemis, are my

daughter. You were born of Donovan and Andra. You were the first Guardian to ever be born."

"Wait, can we back up?" Liam asks. "You were Lily Nelson's wolf before you were Angel's wolf?"

It's Cara that answers. "Yes and no. It's a bit confusing but the way King Ailduin explained it to us, the Guardian spirit

reincarnates when the human and wolf pass away. The wolf is the one that finds their mate and the humans, of course, have the

human side of love. So, the mate bond, such as with Andra and Donovan, ends when one of the bonded pair dies. The Guardian

spirit, however, has memory of her previous lives. Not full memories, but some. That is why the Fae began chronicling the

Guardians' histories." She stops and a huge smile spreads across her face. "I can't wait to tell Ailduin we've found you! He's

been looking for you for over thirteen years!"

Liam growls softly. "Why would a Fae King care about a wolf Guardian?"

Cara turns back to him. "One hundred years ago, Ailduin was mated to the wolf who carried Bellona's Guardian line. Her Alpha

refused to release her and forced the mate bond on her. While he was never able to be with his mate, he has kept close watch

on her Guardian line, feeling a connection to it."

A knock came at the door and Dustin came in pushing a cart of food. He stops short when he sees Cara.

“Luna? I didn’t know you were here. It’s good to see you.”

Cara hops up to greet Dustin. “So formal, Beta. Call me Cara like you used to. It’s good to see you.”

“You as well.” He says, but it doesn’t sound like he means it. His eyes are tracking between Cara, Liam and myself.

Liam gets up and grabs a tray, bringing it to me. “Here, you can eat while we talk. You are obviously getting stronger quickly, but I

still want to see you eat more.”

Cara grabs a tray of food and I notice Dustin sniffing the air around her. “Luna? Is there something you want to share?”

She gives him a huge smile. “Well, I’m sure Rik won’t mind, since it’s obvious in my smell anyway. We’re expecting our first

Alpha heir in about five months.”

“Congratulations!” He says and hugs her. “Please tell Rik we’re very happy for the both of you.” He looks at Liam as he says this,

but Liam is focused on me.

“You’re not eating.” He says to me softly. I quickly pick up my utensils and begin eating. He smiles before turning to grab the last

tray of food.

When Dustin leaves, and Cara and Liam have returned to their seats, Cara begins again.

“I don’t want to overwhelm you, and there is so much to talk about. Dad is going to be over the moon to see you.” She looks

thoughtful for a second. “Alessia, when do you think you’d be strong enough to come over for dinner at our pack?”

She asks.

Before I can answer, Liam jumps in. “She was on her death bed less than two weeks ago Cara. She’s not ready for dinner

parties.”

Cara shakes her head at him. “No matter what she’s been through, she’s a Guardian. AND, she has the Guardian line with

advanced healing. I learned that from Ailduin too. So, she'll be back to full strength much more quickly than you'd expect." She

turns back to me. "So, Alessia? How long do you think?"

Alessia thinks about it for a moment. 'Are you okay with me answering in front of the Alpha?' She asks me.

'He already knows we're a Guardian and your daughter, that's so weird to say, trusts him.'"

"I will be strong enough for light exercise starting tomorrow. I won't be strong enough to shift for a couple more days."

Cara is nodding her head. "That's how it was with Artemis and I when we were healing. So, tomorrow is Thursday. Rik, Anders

and I always have dinner with Dad on Thursdays. You should come and we can surprise him. He will be so excited that we've

finally found you."

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I look at Liam. "If you think you will be strong enough, I think it would be good for you to meet the other Guardian. It may also

help you to get your strength back." He looks at Cara. "And I need to talk to all of you anyway. It is possible. that there is a war

coming, and I will need your help."

Chapter 185

Well, that's two questions answered. Alessia is definitely a Guardian and because she's a Guardian, her parents ran away from

the pack rather than risk having her forced into a mate bond.

As thankful as I am for some answers, and as excited as I can see that Cara is, Angel is still recovering. She needs her rest.

"Okay, we'll come by tomorrow for dinner, but I think that's enough for tonight. Angel still needs to rest and get stronger."

"Yes, of course." Cara says. "But, before I go, I need to know. Have you been on the run this entire time? Liam mentioned

something about vampires."

I look at Angel. It's her story to tell. "I was held prisoner by vampires." She says. quietly.

Cara's enthusiasm immediately ends. "What?" She looks between us. "What do you mean 'held prisoner'." She uses her fingers

to make air quotes as she says held prisoner.

"A vampire prince kept me prisoner as his personal blood bag for seven years."

Cara gasps, her hand going to her mouth. "But you're a werewolf. Vampires hate the taste of werewolves."

Angel shrugs. "The one who caught me, his name was Sebastian, called met something like 'custos regni' when he tasted my

blood."

I watch as Cara goes pale. "Cara, what is it?"

She turns to look at me. "Do you know Eatin?" She asks.

I shake my head. "No."

"Custos Regni, it means 'Guardian of the Realm'. It means," her hands going instinctively to her stomach, protecting her unborn

baby, "that they know of us and we, as Guardians, must taste good to them."

"Not just good, I think maybe he became addicted to my blood." Angel says. "He wouldn't let anyone else feed on me. No one

was allowed to touch me except once when another vampire royal visited. And no one was allowed to taint me. His word. But I'm

thankful for it, because it meant none of them ever raped me like they did to everyone else in that hellish place."

I can't help the snarl that rips from my mouth. He's lucky he didn't rape my mate, but he'll still pay for what he did to her.

"I need to go." Cara says looking like she's going to vomit up her dinner. "I need to try to get ahold of Ailduin before you come by

tomorrow." She turns to me. And if those bloodsuckers think they can come and take Angel, they'll have one hell of a fight on

their hands. We will stand beside you. We would have anyway, but there's no way Rik and Anders will put either Dad or I at risk. I

just hope Rik doesn't try to put me on some kind of lockdown because of it." She shakes her head as she stands.

She leans over, hugging Angel again. "It was so good to finally meet you. I'm so happy that we found you. You will be safe here. I

promise." She turns and looks at me as if confirming what she said. I nod.

"I'll walk you out."

We walk to her car in silence. When we get there, she turns. "She doesn't know you're her mate yet." It's a statement, not a

question.

"It doesn't seem so, I'm hoping Alessia will recognize Cyran when she's stronger."

She grasps my wrist. "I knew Rik was my mate before Artemis confirmed it. Be there for her, be someone that makes her feel

safe and even if it takes Alessia time, Angel will feel it."

I lean down and kiss her on top of her head. "I'm working on it."

She slides into the driver's seat. "Anything I need to know about Eli before I leave?"

"He says he's sorry and willing to pay penance for what he did to you, but he's still denying that he killed my mother."

She frowns, looking at me. "Why is he denying it?"

I shrug. "I have no idea, but I won't stop until he gives me what I want."

She smiles up at me. "I'm glad you found your mate. She'll keep you grounded."

I close her door and watch her drive off before heading back to my mate.

When I get back upstairs, she's fallen asleep. I decide to use this time to get some work done. I head to my office on the first

floor. I find Dustin behind my desk when I walk in.

"So, Cara? How was that?" He jumps right in as he moves out of my chair.

"Surprisingly good." I reply, taking a seat.

"Really? No hard feelings, no lingering love interest."

I look at him. He hasn't met his mate yet, so he doesn't know what it's like. "No. I don't know how to describe it, but it's as if she's

not good enough anymore. Like she could never be to me what Angel is. The mate bond is a strange thing. I never realized how

strong the pull to your mate would be. It's exciting and scary all at once." I stop and look at him. "Does that make any sense?"

"I

"Not even a little, but I trust your judgement. Maybe some day I'll get lucky enough to stumble across my mate and I'll

understand."

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## Chapter 186

"I hope you do. She's worth waiting for, I'll tell you that."

We get to work, going through things that have been sitting, waiting for me. Dustin is an efficient Beta who can stand in as Alpha

when I'm away, but he's made sure to leave information on decisions he made while I was out of pocket. It feels good to get

caught up and to know that the pack is still running smoothly. I also fill him in on the updates to the company and new employees

I hired while I was in town.

We're about to stop and have a drink when I hear it. Angel's blood curdling

scream. I'm through the door and up the three flights of stairs in a second, flying into her room. When she looks at me, I see the

haunted look in her eyes. I take a step toward her, and she moves to get away from me. Dammit.

'Shift. She isn't afraid of me.' Cyran says. I don't think twice. I shift, ripping my clothes to shreds in the process, and Cyran jumps

on the bed. She immediately grabs hold of him in her death grip and he lays down on her like we did last night. Dustin mind links

me. "Do you need anything Alpha?"

"No, she had another nightmare. Just keep everyone off my floor."

"You know you're going to have to tell them something soon. The rumor mill is going wild."

I know it is. I've had a female tucked up on my floor for nearly two weeks for the first time in my life and no one has seen her.

And now, Cara has been here and that will only enflame the rumor mill further.

Angel is shaking so hard I'm surprised I can't hear her bones rattling together. Even with all his fur and muscle, I can feel her

bones jutting into Cyran's body as he lays on her. He begins purring like he did last night. The sound reverberating through his

body into hers, relaxing her. It takes time again, but slowly the shaking subsides and her death grip on his face and neck

releases. Her breathing evens out and I hear her say "I'm sorry" like she did last night.

She has nothing to be sorry for. I can only imagine the terror she witnessed for all those years. I'm angry that I didn't look for her.

I know it's not a rational thought. I never would have searched a vampire coven for my mate. But I still feel like I let her down. I'm

her mate, the one that is supposed to protect her, keep her safe and I didn't do that.

While we lay there, listening to our mate's heart rate slow, feeling her body relax,

I think back to what Cara said. The vampires knew about the Guardians. They also seemed to know that they liked the taste of

their blood. Hopefully, somewhere in King Ailduin's chronicles, there is something that will give us more information. about that.

The last thing I want is every vampire in the country after my mate.

Cyran begins licking her face again. 'I don't like when mate cries.'

"It's okay Cyran. I'm okay." She tells him, beginning to stroke his fur. I admit, I like the feeling of her fingers running through his

fur as much as he does. I really hope that one day she runs her hands over my body like this.

Cyran gently woofs at her. It worked last night to get her talking. I'm hoping it works again. I want to know what's going on in that

head of hers.

"It was another nightmare." She stops and Cyran nuzzles her with his nose. She laughs softly but continues. "There was another

girl there, in the coven with me. The vampire I mentioned earlier, Sebastian, who brought me to the prince, he was rewarded with

his choice of 'fresh food', that's what they called the humans that were brought in each day. She was the only other person that

they didn't kill. Sebastian didn't share her, but he did rape her every day. At some point we made eye contact and we had these

words that we would mouth to each other every night. It was way of letting the other person know that they weren't alone

I

and that someone there cared about them."

She stops, tears falling down her face again. "Prince Keenan killed her in my dream. I fought him and he killed her because of it.

I watched while they tore her to pieces in front of me." Her tears have turned into sobs and Cyran is whining, trying to comfort

her. I need be able to speak to her, so I make a decision and Cyran agrees.

I shift back while laying on top of her. I immediately move my weight from her, pulling the blanket that's not covering her over

myself then pulling her into my side, wrapping both arms around her.

I hold her while she sobs and I know the instant she realizes that I've shifted. Her whole body tenses.

"What are you doing?" She asks.

"Shhh, I just want to be able to talk to you."

## Chapter 187

Watching the vampires rip Sarah apart in front of me had been awful. I couldn't shake the vision of it, the red of Prince Keenan's

eyes as he stared at me. I knew it was a dream, but the sounds, the smell, watching it happen, it was overwhelming, and I hope,

once again, that Sarah got away.

It takes me some time to come back to my senses, to my current situation. I'm in Liam's pack, I'm in my room, I'm in the large

bed that I've been sleeping in, I'm in Liam's arms.

Wait, what??!! I immediately go rigid. When did he shift back? Why did he shift back?



Liam said he wants to talk. He's stroking my hair with one hand and his other hand is on my hip, wrapped around me from

behind, holding me against him. It doesn't feel forced, it feels comforting, safe. My hand is on his bare chest, a chest that is very

muscular. Rather than feel the repulsion that I used to feel with the prince, I want to run my hand over his muscles. I want to see

if his body will shiver at my touch that way that Cyran's does when I'm running my fingers through his fur.

"What do you want to talk about?"

"I don't want to upset you more, so if you don't want to talk about it, just tell me. But, I want to know about the other girl you

mentioned."

and

I tell him about Sarah, about how we created our own little support group and how she told me to run when the hunters came.

He's quiet while I'm talking doesn't say anything when I'm done. I look up at him. He's looking at the ceiling, a thoughtful look on

his face.

"What is it?" I ask him.

He looks down at me and back up at the ceiling before answering. "When we found out about the bounty on your head, there

was a bounty on another girl too. At the time, I was concerned about you, so I didn't think much of it, but now I'm wondering if it's

this girl, Sarah."

I sit up and prop myself on my elbow so I can look at his face more clearly. "It had to be her. We were the only two that survived

more than a day or two. There wouldn't be anyone else that they cared about." The tears start to well up again. Do...do you think

they found her?"

He looks at me, cupping my cheek in his hand and wiping the tears from my

cheeks. "I don't know. Do you know anything at all about her? Where she's from? Where she was going?" I'm shaking my head

before he finishes asking.

"I thought she would be safe with the hunters. I was more worried about me and what they would do if they found out about me. I

didn't even think about her. I should have thought about her." I'm getting myself worked up again. Why didn't it occur to me that

she would be in as much danger as I am?

"Shhhh. Hey, look at me. Tell me everything you know about her. What she looks like, her height, anything at all that may help

me to find her, and I'll put out feelers for her. I can also check to see if the bounty is still active. If it is, it means they haven't found

her yet and we may be able to get to her first."

I look at him. "You would do that? For a human? A stranger?"

The look in his eyes is so intense, it's almost painful. "I would do it because she needs help and it's my job as an Alpha to help

those that can't help themselves. But she helped you, helped you when no one else did. Helped you escape and kept your

secret. That alone is reason for me to help her."

## Chapter 188

I reach down and cup his face in my hand. "Thank you."

"Don't thank me yet. You haven't given me much to go on, but I'll do what I can."

I lay my head back down on his chest. He's so warm and the scent of the forest surrounds him, it lulls me back to sleep.

I wake to the sun shining in my room and something pressing against my stomach. I feel warm and well rested. I lift my head

sleepily and it takes a moment to realize where I am. Somehow overnight, I've managed to crawl on top of Liam. My whole body

is laying on his. My head and chest laying on his chest. The thing I feel pressing against my stomach... I jolt, trying to scramble

off of him. Holy crap! I know what's pressing against me and it feels entirely too big!

In my effort to move quickly, I must have woken Liam because he rolls us over, effectively trapping me between him and the

mattress. He is kissing my neck and, oh my goddess, does it feel good. His warm lips are gentle but firm, his tongue licking my

skin, making my body respond in a way I'm unfamiliar with, making Alessia purr in my head.

"Ummm, Liam?"

"Mmmm, yes baby? Are you ready for another round?"

"LIAM!" It comes out louder than I planned, but I need him to focus.

His head jerks up and he looks at me. It takes a moment for recognition to set in and when it does he pushes off of me. "Shit!

Angel, I'm sorry. I was half asleep and..."

"It's okay." I feel like I'm about to die of embarrassment. He sits up and runs his fingers through his hair. It's curly and his hands

do nothing to tame the wildness. It suits him, gives him an almost dangerous sexiness.

He turns his head to look at me. "Are you okay, I didn't hurt you, did I?"

"No. I'm okay."

He nods his head then stands. I don't think he realizes that he's completely naked. And oh my, I didn't see the front, but if his

backside is any indication, this man is walking perfection. My fingers twitch, wanting to reach out and touch

him.

He turns and sees me staring at him. His look changes and he smirks down at me. "See something you like little angel?"

Yep, sure do, lots and lots that I like. "I'm just going to go get a shower." I say instead.

"Good idea. I had planned to take you shopping today but since we're going to the Canyon Ridge Pack for dinner, I don't want

you to overdo it, so I think we'll stay around here. I can show you around the pack lands instead."

"Okay." I'm looking anywhere but at him. He has every right to be proud of his body, it is gorgeous. But I don't know where to look

and when I do, I end up staring, so I'm just trying not to look at him.

As I stand, he comes around the bed. He stops in front of me and kisses the top of my head. Okay, it was super easy to glance

down and not get caught, except the minute I do, I see exactly what was pressing into my stomach. And I was right, it's HUGE!

I'm sure my eyes are as wide as saucers as I look back up at him. And, yep, he knew I was looking because the smirk is back.

"I'll meet you back in here in 20 minutes and I'll have food brought up." He raises an eyebrow at me as I stand there still stunned.

"Unless you need my help?" He offers. A little yip escapes my mouth as I rush to get to the bathroom alone. I hear him chuckling

as he leaves

the room.

## Chapter 189

My sweet little mate is o

top of me, riding me like a fallen angel. I love the devilish look on her face as she sets her own pace, forcing me to take what

she's giving me. Her scent envelops me and I've never felt such ecstasy in my life. My mate, my everything, is here, giving

herself to me.

I moan as she rolls off me, rolling over on top of her, burying my face in her neck as I kiss her, lick her. I can't get enough of her

sweetness, a sweetness that I've never had in my life and I never want to let go of..

"Ummm, Liam?" Oh, the sound of my name coming from those sweet lips. I'm so hard I may burst before I can slide back inside

her.

"Mmmm, yes baby? Are you ready for another round?" I'm definitely ready for another round.

"LIAM!"

It's the urgency,

mixed with a bit of fear that has me pulling out of my half dream state. I whip my head up and reality comes crashing down

around me. I've got my mate pinned down on the bed, her eyes are wide in surprise and just a bit of lust.

I practically fly off her. Holy shit! Did I do something in my sleep? Did I hurt her. Oh goddess, did I force something on her without

realizing?

I'm able to breathe again when she says she's okay. Just a dream. A fucking fantastic dream, my dick is still so hard it hurts. I

need to get out of here and take care of this. Being in this room, her scent surrounding me, isn't helping me to

calm down.

I stand up and turn to make sure she's okay. I don't think she realizes that she's licking her lips while she's checking out my ass.

I know I look great naked. I have a high expectation for my warriors to train hard daily and I lead by example. Being an Alpha is

just the cherry on top. Good genes and lots of exercise guarantees that my body is ripped.

I can't help but tease her a little about seeing something she likes. It's obvious in my head. When I see her looking everywhere

but at me, I have to tease her just a bit more. So I walk over, careful not to touch her. I'm not sure I could control myself if I do

anything other than kiss the top of her head, my need to feel her is so strong.

she likes the way I look and Cyran is practically preening. She likes. It's obvious

My dick is still standing at full attention and given our height difference, it's

practically hitting her rib cage. I knew she'd look and I'm hoping my size doesn't scare her. She was made for me and while I

may have my own trepidation about how the hell we'll ever fit together physically, I'm trusting the Moon Goddess.

As a parting tease, I ask her if she needs any help in the shower and that gets her moving. I'm chuckling as I return to my room,

my heart lighter than it's been since....since I don't know when. And, I don't remember a time that I slept as well as I did last

night with my little mate.

I hop in the shower, taking a moment to relive my dream from this morning, and that's all it takes before I find my release. Fuck, I

hope she realizes I'm her mate soon. I know we have to work through some of the shit she's witnessed with the blood-suckers,

but I at least want to know she can feel the mate bond.

I'm excited about showing her the pack territory. I know exactly where I'm going to take her. I join her for breakfast. She's

dressed in her little kid clothes, but she's made sure that her arms and legs are covered. She's obviously self-conscious of the

scars on her body.

When we're done, I ask her if she's ready to go outside and her answering smile makes my heart soar. I hope I can make her

smile like that every day. I'm not exactly a happy-go-lucky kind of guy, but I'll work on it if it makes her smile like that.

Her reaction of my pack members. When we walk downstairs, I didn't anticipate the reaction of my pack members. It's late morning

so there are quite a few folks in the packhouse. Most stop and stare, finally getting a first look at the woman I've been hiding on

the alpha floor for two weeks. Several she-wolves come up, saying hello to me as a way to get closer to her and assess the

likelihood that Angel will be their next Luna.

I make introductions as pack member after pack member comes up to us as we attempt to walk outside. Angel is shy but polite

to everyone. I can see that many of the pack members are dismissing her as their future Luna. Everyone expects that my mate,

fated or chosen, will be strong and fierce. Hell, I did too, but that's not what my Angel is. At least, not at the moment. I'll be

interested to see who she is once she's healthy and Alessia is at full strength.

+15 BONDS

## Chapter 190

When we get outside, I begin pointing out different areas around the packhouse. The training grounds, which I'm hoping to get

her on early next week, the playground for the pups, the pool for everyone with outdoor kitchen and grilling area for pack events.

I point out some of the trails where pack members let their wolves run. When we reach the forest, I turn to her.

"I want to take you someplace, but it's a bit far. Would you be willing to ride on Cyran? You're small and it won't be any problem

for him to carry you.

She looks uncertain at first but then agrees. Cyran is prancing around in my head, ready to show our mate how strong and fast

he is. His desire to impress her is a bit over the top.

'She's a Guardian. She may not be at full strength, but only a strong Alpha would be mated to such a strong wolf. I want her to

know that we are deserving of her."

I begin to undress and Angel turns away, but not before I see her cheeks turning pink. When I'm done, I shift and Cyran grabs

my clothes before strutting, yes. strutting, over to Angel. He slides his head under her arm, giving her our clothes and rubbing

himself against her.

She turns and gives him her beautiful smile. "Hi Cyran. Are you sure you don't mind carrying me?"

He lays down on the ground to make it easier for her to climb on, and she crawls. onto his back. As soon as she is set, he stands

and takes off. Her startled yip is quickly replaced by laughter and it's music to my ears.

Cyran is careful but continues his quick pace until we come up to the waterfalls that my pack is named after. He finds a place to

stop and lays down to let Angel slide off his back. When she does, I begin to shift back. She turns again and holds.

clothes over her shoulder so I can get them without her looking at me.

my

When I'm dressed, I walk up and stand beside her.

“The waterfall is gorgeous.” She says.

I take her hand and walk toward the edge of the lake. “It’s where my pack got its , the Shadow Falls Pack. I step into the water,

turning to take both her

hands. “Do you swim?” I ask her.

“It’s been a really long time, since I was a kid.”

“The water is cooler now that it’s fall, but in the spring and summer, this place is

full of pack members swimming and enjoying the cool water.” I tell her and begin walking around the lake toward the waterfall.

When we get to the waterfall, I help her climb up to the top. When we reach the crest, I hear her gasp. From here, you can see

the cliff’s edge that drops into the canyon below. I point to an area across the canyon. “Over there is the Canyon Ridge Pack,

that’s Cara and Rik’s pack. We share a border which is helpful as allies. We can help protect each other’s territories.”

In the distance, I see patrols running the borders. I point them out to Angel. “And there are my border patrols. The borders are

monitored 24/7.” I point to where Rik’s pack patrols are running. “And those over there are the Canyon Ridge patrols. They also

run non-stop, patrolling their borders.”

I turn to her. “I wanted you to see this, so you’d know that you are safe here. No one will get to you. I won’t allow it. And I

guarantee that once Cara is home and tells Rik about the vampires, his patrols will double like mine have.”

“You doubled your patrols?” She asks me.

I nod. “I told you, you are under my protection. I have no intention of letting any vampires into my territory. No one will hurt you

here.” I can see the wheels turning in her mind. How I wish I could hear her thoughts. Once we’re mated, I’ll be able to, but for

now, I have to hope she’ll open up to me.

“What’s going on in that pretty head of yours?” I ask her.



Her blush at my simple compliment is surprising, but maybe it shouldn't be. She hasn't really had an opportunity to be around

males who would appreciate her beauty and compliment her on it.

"You increased your security for me?" She asks.

"Yes,"

me."

"But you barely know me.

"True, but I know you were mistreated by vampires. We know that they want you and are willing to pay a lot of money to get you

back. I don't want you to feel unsafe here. It's been a long time since you've had a place where you could just relax and be

yourself. I want this pack to be that place for you." I can tell she's thinking this over, but she doesn't say anything.

"We should head back. I'm guessing you want to shower before we head out to dinner, and it's a half-hour drive to Canyon

Ridge." I help her climb back down the waterfall before shifting back to Cyran and running with her back to the packhouse.