

Broken 251

Chapter 251

I continue to be amazed at Alessia's power. I'm not sure if she always had these gifts, but they just keep manifesting. My little

mate is the most amazing woman I've ever met. The Moon Goddess really blessed me when she mated me to her.

I spend the rest of the day preparing for Angel's Luna ceremony. My Alpha ceremony was not a happy occasion, and it wasn't a

celebration. I intend to change that for Angel. The entire pack and many of Rik and Cara's pack have been invited.

I met with Olivia this morning to make sure that she had enough help to prepare and feed nearly 1000 werewolves tonight. Since

Dustin is out of commission, working with Sarah, I have Jackson get the music, dance floor and lighting set up.

While Angel is with Clint, I take the time to go out back and see that the warriors are setting up a stage and the lighting and

speakers for the music are being set up around the back of the packhouse.

I take a moment to breathe in the fresh air and enjoy that fact that Angel will officially be a member of my pack and the pack's

Luna in a few hours. The relief I had when I realized that she had taken over the planning and preparations of the kitchen and

meals was almost overwhelming. I've been alone, doing everything, or almost everything for so long, that I didn't even realize

how much of a weight it was on me.

"Alpha." Dustin says as his hand lands on my shoulder.

I turn and look at my Beta. "Dustin. What are you doing here? I thought you'd be with Sarah."

"She's taking a nap, and I wanted to see if I could help while she's sleeping."

I look around at the preparations, squinting. "The flowers haven't arrived yet. I'll

"I'm on it." He says and pulls out his phone.

While he calls the florist, I look around again. Everything seems to be coming together. I'm not sure if the pack just hasn't had a

reason to celebrate in a long time, or if it's Angel that is bringing everyone out to assist. I'm hoping it's the latter. It's important for

the pack to have a Luna that they admire and respect.

"Flowers will be here in 15 minutes. What else?" Dustin asks.

"Actually, it looks like everything else is done, or getting done." I say, feeling unneeded for the first time in, well, ever.

"Good. Do you have the ceremonial knife and chalice?"

I snap my fingers. "Let's go find them, I think they're in the safe."

After getting the last items for tonight, I begin working on other things that have been needing my attention. Dustin and I work for

another hour before we hear Sarah moving around above us. "I need..."

'Go. I know she's your first priority." I smirk at him. "Does all that stuff that I told you make sense now?" referencing our previous

conversation about mates.

"It's really bizarre, the mate bond, isn't it?"

"Yeah, it is, but so amazing."

"Do you...do you think she'll ever feel it, being human?" He asks me.

I look at him for a moment, before giving him my honest answer. "I think she already does. I'm not sure if all humans feel it or if it

is related to her being exposed for so long to the leeches, but either way, I think she feels it."

"Thanks Alpha."

At some point, I realize that Angel has returned from training. She doesn't seek me out, so I'm hoping that she is getting more

comfortable in the packhouse and with the pack members. I know if she needs me, she'll come find me, so I continue to make

contingency plans in case something happens to me during the battle with the vampires.

When I'm done, I head upstairs to our room. I find her showering and I lean in the doorway, enjoying the view of my sweet little

mate. Her body has filled out from when she first got here. You can't count her ribs and her hip bones aren't protruding like the

used to. She still needs to gain some weight, but that will come with time and she's already putting on muscle, helping her to fill out just a bit more.

Chapter 252

"Liam? Were you going to join me?" My little angel asks me.

"I'm just enjoying the view." I say.

She pulls her head out from under the water and looks at me, cocking an eyebrow. "What's on your mind, big guy?"

"I have something for you when you're done."

I walk back into our bedroom, noticing that the scent in the room has changed.

Her scent is now mixed with mine.

I can't wait until this vampire business is done. I'm hoping Angel will want to start trying for a pup right away. We haven't really

had a chance to talk about it, but we're not exactly being careful either.

When she walks out in only a towel, I growl softly. "You are the most beautiful woman I have ever seen in my life." I say, walking

to her and wrapping my arms around her.

"You're only saying that because I'm practically naked."

"Nope." I kiss the top of her head before pulling back and looking at her. "But I may be saying it because I'm ridiculously, stupidly

in love with you. You, Angel, are the best thing that has ever happened to me, and I can't tell you how happy it makes me that

you will officially become my Luna tonight." I tell her.

I see tears shimmering in her eyes and I kiss them away. "None of that. Unlike my ceremony, tonight is a celebration, a happy

event. This pack has needed a Luna like you for a very long time. We have a lot to celebrate."

I release her and walk to the closet. "And, since I want to make sure my Luna is dressed as she should be for her induction into

this pack and her new role, I got you something." I say, walking out with a garment bag in hand.

My sweet Angel starts bouncing in her excitement, clapping her hands. "Can I see it?" She asks.

“Absolutely, but no putting it on until after your hair is done. Which reminds me, we only have a few minutes before Tina arrives. I

asked her if she would do your hair and make up for you. I hope you don’t mind.”

She walks up to me, taking my face in both hands. “Liam Holstin, you are the most amazing man I’ve ever met in my life, and

that is saying something because my father was pretty amazing. Thank you. Now show me this dress!!”

She squeals the last part.

I hang it on the door before unzipping the bag and pulling the dress out. It’s an A-line, V-neck floor length chiffon dress the color

of red wine. It has a beaded strip around the waist and matching silver heels. “It’s stunning.” She says, running her fingers down

the dress.

“I’m glad you like it. I thought it would look good with your hair color and even though it doesn’t have sleeves, I don’t think you

need to hide your arms any longer.”

She walks to me, grabbing me by my shirt, pulling me to her for a scorching kiss. “Thank you, Liam, I love it.”

There’s a knock on the door. “That would be Tina.” I tell her and kiss her once more before going to answer the door.

Tina is standing there with a large bag of goddess only knows what. “This is my queue to leave. Angel, I’ll see you on stage.” I

wink at my girl on the way out.

Cooper

Author

Next up, the Luna ceremony!

Chapter 253

“Okay, that man is seriously smoking hot!” Tina says as she walks in. “And you, my Luna, are a lucky woman.”

“Yes I am.” I tell her.

“And so am I.” She says, looking at me with a glint in her eyes.

‘Why is she looking at us like that?’ Alessia asks.

‘I don’t know, but it can’t be good.’ I reply.

“I’ve been dying to get my hands on your hair since you came into the salon and I couldn’t believe my luck when Alpha Liam

called. I cancelled all my appointments for the rest of the afternoon so I could spend hours getting you ready. You, my dear Luna,

are going to be the most gorgeous Luna in the history of Lunas!” Tina says excitedly.

Her increasing level of excitement is a direct correlation to my increasing level of anxiety. What in the world is she planning to do

to me? I have visions of Effie Trinket in my head.

In the end, I have to admit, it was much better than I thought. Having Tina work her magic on my hair was very relaxing. When

she was done, I looked amazing. I still looked like me, but better, enhanced. “Wow!” I said, looking in the mirror.

She smiled a brilliant smile, clapping her hands. “You like it?”

“It’s gorgeous.” She had taken my hair and pulled the back up into a high ponytail then covered it with curls so you couldn’t tell it

was in a ponytail at all. Then she left long ringlets down my back, with some long bangs in the front. The sides were held up with

a silver clip that matched my shoes.

“Okay Luna, so I hope you don’t think this is too forward, but word on the street is that you showed up at our pack with nothing

but the clothes on your back.” I nod at her, not sure where this is going. “And, we all know our Alpha barely has a moment to do

anything, so I know he hasn’t really taken the time you need to go shopping.” I nodded again.

“So,” she draws out the word, digging into her bag. “I brought you some undergarments meant to turn our Alpha to a puddle of

mush at your feet.”

She pulls out a bra and panty set. It’s black lace, the panties are thong, which I’ve never worn and the bra is so lacey that I know

it won’t last longer than the one night. Liam will rip that off me in no time.

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“Thank you Tina. That was very thoughtful.”

“Oh, it’s not just from me, Luna. So many of us are happy that Alpha Liam finally found his mate. He’s wanted to find you for so

long, and we’ve already seen a difference in him. He’s a great Alpha and he deserves to be happy, so this is from the entire

salon.”

I stand and hug Tina. “I’ll be sure to come by and thank everyone. Now, can you help me into my dress. I think it’s almost time.”

I only wore the new panties, as the sleeves on the dress and the lower back didn’t allow for a bra. When I’m dressed, Tina leans

in and gives me a hug. “I’m so happy for both of you.” She says. She steps back, takes one last look at me, then turns to go.

“See you down there.”

I take a moment to collect myself, taking deep breaths. This is what I want, to be by Liam’s side for as long as he is Alpha. The

thought calms me and I take one more deep breath, before heading downstairs.

I haven’t been outside yet, so when I walk out the back door, I’m shocked at the transition. It’s been transformed into something

spectacular. Standing by the door is Dustin, Sarah at his side.

“Luna. I’m here to announce you to our Alpha and escort you to the stage.”

“Thank you, Dustin.” I lean around him and look at Sarah. “What about you Sarah?”

She looks shyly at Dustin. “Dustin said I could walk with you both until we get to our seats, then I will sit down and wait for him to

join me.”

“Perfect!” I tell her. It’s not traditional for anyone other than the Luna and their escort to walk through the pack, but I wouldn’t be

here if it weren’t for Sarah, so I’m happy to have her with me during this momentous occasion.

“Alpha’s ready for you. Are you ready Luna?” He asks, putting his arm out for me to take.

“Yes.”

He gives his other arm to Sarah before turning back to me. “Alpha is going to swallow his tongue when he sees you.” He says

and winks at me.

I’m not sure if he timed it that way, or if it just worked out, but my smile is brilliant as the pack members part and all I can see in

front of me is Liam, waiting for me on the stage. Everything around me fades away, every person, every sound is gone. It’s just

me and Liam, like it was always meant to be and

always will be.

Chapter 254

We make our way up the path made by the pack members, many of whom I have yet to meet. Dustin stops to set Sarah down in

a seat in the front before continuing our trek to the stage. We climb the steps and he walks me to Liam.

Liam takes my hands in his, smiling down at me, his eyes full of love. Still holding my hands, he pulls me to a table at the front of

the stage, before turning to address the crowd.

“Welcome Shadow Falls Pack members and Canyon Ridge Pack guests. I am

thankful that you have all come to witness the induction of this amazing woman into our pack and as the Luna of Shadow Falls.” I

turn to look out at the crowd and see Clint, Rik, Cara, Anders and Calista all—in the front row next to Dustin and Sarah. Clint

smiles at me and winks. Cara gives me a small wave.

“As you all know, I have waited a very long time to find my mate.” Liam says as he turns to face me again. “Never, in all my

imagining could I have dreamed that the Moon Goddess would bless me with such an amazing woman. She is kind and loving,

yet fierce, protective and strong. She is a Luna worthy of this pack, and I couldn’t be prouder to make her my Luna today.”

As the pack members cheer, he mouths to me, “Ready?”

I nod. I’ve never been more ready for anything in my life.

He takes the ceremonial knife and slices his palm. He then takes the chalice and lets his blood drip into the cup. He extends his

hand, palm up for me. I put my hand in his and he quickly slices my palm before putting it over the chalice to drip in, mixing with

his.

When he's done, he takes my hand and licks the wound, sealing it, his eyes never leaving mine.

"Angel, repeat after me. I, Angel Bennis Holstin, do solemnly swear to uphold the charter of this pack, putting the needs of the

pack before myself, protecting those who need my protection and providing the love and care that the pack needs from me, their

Luna."

I repeat the words Liam has given me and then he takes the chalice, first taking a sip, and putting it to my lips so that I can also

sip our combined blood. As soon as I do, I can feel the pack link open up and hundreds of pack member voices are in my head.

Alessia pushes forward and takes control of the noise in our head, managing it quickly.

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Liam is watching me and smiles when he realizes that I have easily managed to assimilate over 800 voices in less than a minute.

"As Alpha of Shadow Falls Pack, I give you your Luna, Angel Holstin."

The crowd cheers, and Liam pulls me in for a fierce and passionate kiss. The cheers turn to howls and wolf whistles.

Afterward, Liam leads me around, saying hello to pack members and our friends from Canyon Ridge. I see Rik and Cara

dancing, as well as Anders and Calista. I'm not sure if Liam knows how to dance, but I've never had the opportunity. Just as I'm

thinking it, Liam takes my hand and pulls me to the dance floor.

He wraps his arms around me and starts swaying to the music. "I needed a moment with my Luna without anyone else. Does

that make me selfish?"

"If it does, then I guess I'm selfish as well because I love having a moment alone with you."

We dance and eat and continue to accept congratulations from our pack members. When I take a break to use the bathroom, I

find Luna Calista getting food.

“Luna Calista.” I approach her.

my

“Oh sweetheart.” She says and takes my face in her hands, kissing both of cheeks. “Anders and I couldn’t be happier for you and

Liam. You’re perfect for each other.’

“Thank you Luna.”

“Oh, none of that. Call me Calista.”

I smile at her. “Thank you, Calista.” I begin wringing my hands and look away trying to get my courage.

She takes my hands and waits for me to look at her. “What is it hun? You can tell me anything, it will stay between us.”

“It’s not that. It’s just, well, Clint suggested that I speak with you and I was wondering...” I stopped not knowing how to ask her.

“You were wondering...?”

“Would you be willing to help me learn how to be a Luna?”

“I would be honored.”

Chapter 255

My Angel is the most beautiful woman in the world. When she steps outside for her Luna ceremony and I see her for the first

time, I feel like my heart is going to stop. Everything disappears and it’s just the two of us. She is everything. Everything I’ve ever

wanted and everything I never thought that I would have.

When she says the words that will make her my Luna and then drinks our blood, I wait to see if our large pack will overwhelm

her. It’s an incredible amount of noise to take on 800 voices inside your head at once. It takes my perfect mate no time at all to

assimilate all the voices and she’s officially part of the pack.

I walk her around, showing her off really. I want the pack to meet her and get to know her, but I’m so proud that I feel like a

peacock flashing its feathers every time I introduce her. Finally, when I can't take it any longer, I pull her on to the dance floor. I

just need a minute to myself with my sweet angel. The night has been everything that an induction ceremony should be. It has

been a true celebration with laughing, dancing and general happiness among the pack.

When Angel heads to the bathroom, I go to the bar to get a drink. Rik joins me almost immediately. "You look happy Liam. I'm not

sure I've ever seen you look happy."

"I am happy Rik. I know we have a shit storm coming, but right now, tonight, life is perfect. I have my perfect mate, my pack's

perfect Luna and my full

heart is so I feel like it might burst."

"Cheers, my brother! To perfect mates and being mated to perfect Guardians."

"Cheers." I say and we both drink.

We turn and I see Angel talking to Luna Calista. I can't imagine what they would be talking about, but it doesn't matter, as long

as my sweet mate is happy. Clint and Anders come over to join us and we begin talking about nothing and everything. I guess

this is what it feels like to have a family, to know that you will always be surrounded by those that love and care about you. It's a

good feeling. For the first time since my mother died, I feel like I belong. I feel like the weight of being an Alpha isn't so heavy

that it's suffocating. I finally feel like my shoulders are large enough to carry it all and I'm strong enough to balance all the

responsibilities without breaking under the pressure of it all.

I know my Angel has a lot to do with this feeling, but it also comes from the men in front of me. I have somehow become part of

their family, a group of people made from a bond different from blood or genetics. It almost makes our bond

stronger, because it has been forged with intent and determination.

Cara comes over to Rik and they say goodnight. They are staying in our packhouse tonight along with all the Canyon Ridge

Pack members. Angel and Calista finally join us and I pull Angel into my arms and kiss her hair, holding her against me.

“Are you okay Liam?” She asks me.

I lean in speaking softly in her ear. “My sweet Luna, I have never been better in my life. You are amazing and I can’t say enough

how happy I am that you are mine.”

Pack members begin to say their goodbyes and it’s early in the morning when I finally pull Angel up to our room.

When we get there, I help her take her hair down, brushing it out. I gently push her hair over her shoulder and unzip her dress.

When I do, I’m not surprised to see that she isn’t wearing a bra, but I am surprised to see a lacy black thong.

I lean in, kissing the back of her neck. “What is this?” I say, in a low voice, running my fingers underneath the thong from top to

bottom.

“Oh that?” She says and I can hear the smile in her voice. “It was a gift from Tina. and the others at the salon.”

“Remind me to send them a bonus.” I say. I hold her dress as she steps out of it and lay it over a chair before turning back to her.

She has turned to face me in her black thong and silver heels. Her hair is falling in fat curls down her back and her beauty is so

startling that it takes my breath.

away.

“What did I ever do to deserve an incredible, beautiful woman like you?” I ask her.

“Liam.” She says softly, closing the distance between us and wrapping her arms around my neck. “What is it?”

I put my forehead against hers. “I never thought my life would be like this. I never ...I never thought I could be this happy.” I stop,

overwhelmed by my feelings for this amazing woman.

She brings her lips to mine, pouring her strength and love into me. When she pulls back, her fingers run through my hair. “I love

you Liam Holstin.” She says, her eyes intent on mine.

“I love you Angel Holstin.” She smiles at her new name.

I begin walking her over to our bed. I pick her up and lay her gently on the bed.

I’ve never been a gentle lover. I did my best that first night with Angel, knowing she needed me to be as gentle as possible, but it

was a lot of effort for me.

Tonight, I intend to make sweet, gentle love to my mate and nothing about that seems difficult at all. I want to cherish and

worship her, take my time and enjoy every moment.

I take her mouth in a deep kiss, pouring my love for her into the kiss. Her response is instant. She wraps herself around me and

begins pulling at my shirt. I stop, standing up and watching her as I slowly unbutton my shirt.

“Liam.” Her voice is breathy, needy.

“Tonight, my little angel, I’m going to take my time with you.” Her sweet smile is my response and I finish undressing before

kissing my way down first one, then her other leg, removing her shoes, then sliding her panties off. Her eyes never leave me as I

slowly kiss my way back up her body and lay over top of her, taking her mouth again.

As I start kissing my way down her neck, I whisper, “I love you Angel” over and over.

Her fingers slide into my hair, her nails gently scraping against my scalp, causing goosebumps to raise on my skin.

When I finally slide inside her, it’s slow and gentle. I lay above her, resting my weight on my arms, watching her as I slowly slide

in and out of her. The intimacy, the connection, is so intense, it’s like nothing I’ve ever felt before.

I gently caress her face with my fingers as tears roll down her cheeks. I lean down, kissing them away.

“Liam, I love you so

much.”

My throat is so constricted, my voice is choked when I respond. “You are the best thing that ever happened to me Angel. I love

you more than I can ever say.”

When we are both on the edge of release, I lean in kissing her, holding her face in my hands, as we come undone together.

Chapter 256

Every night with Liam is amazing, but last night was the most passionate night. we've ever shared. I don't know why his slow,

gentle lovemaking felt so intense at an emotional level, but if my heart hadn't belonged to him before, it definitely. does now.

Because of the Luna ceremony last night, training was called off this morning. So instead, I have a plan to get started on the

bunkers and safe rooms. I head down. to the kitchen to grab breakfast. When I get there, the woman from yesterday, her name

is Amy, is there waiting for me with her young son.

"Luna, I brought a helper. This is my friend Chloe. She is pregnant and will be staying in the bunkers too."

"The more the merrier." I say. "So, do either of you know where the bunkers and safe rooms are?" I ask.

They do, and as we are about to head out, Dustin and Sarah enter.

"Luna, do you have a minute?" Dustin asks me.

I tell Amy and Chloe I'll meet them at the bunker and walk over to Dustin. "Hey, what's up?"

"Luna, Alpha hasn't had a chance to set Sarah up with work yet, and she's uncomfortable staying here without helping. I was

wondering if you had something you thought she could do to assist around the packhouse?"

I look from Dustin to Sarah. "Sarah, you know you don't have to work. You can just take a couple of days to relax."

She's shaking her head before I finish. "No, I don't want to be dead weight. I can help. Plus, it's better than sitting around and just

thinking about what happened yesterday."

"Okay, well, how do you feel about cleaning and stocking?" I ask her with mock cheerfulness.

"Sounds like fun." She replies with mock enthusiasm..

"Then you're with me." I say as we both laugh. She says goodbye to Dustin and we head to the bunkers to meet up with the

other ladies.

When we get there, I introduce them and we look around. "Well, we certainly have our work cut out for us, don't we?" I ask.

"We haven't used the bunkers in years." Chloe says, looking at Amy.

"Probably not since Luna Estella died." Amy says nodding.

We begin pulling out old furniture, dividing up the areas to clean.

"So, Sarah, you're human." It's a statement, not a question from Amy.

"Yes." She says, looking at me.

"How did you meet our Luna?" Chloe asks her.

I look at Sarah, not sure if she wants them to know. She looks at me as she replies. "We were prisoners in the coven at the same

time."

Both women suck in a breath. Chloe takes a step toward her, tears in her eyes. "Can I hug you?" She asks.

When Sarah nods, she comes over and begins crying on her shoulder. Sarah looks at me questioningly but wraps her arms

around her and pats her back

awkwardly. I just shrug.

It's Amy that speaks up. "Chloe, you're freaking her out, stop blubbering."

'Sorry. It must be the hormones." Chloe says, sniffing. "But seriously, I can see why our Beta is taken with you. I don't know how

you survived in that awful place."

Sarah shrugs. What can we say, you do what you have to do to survive.

About an hour later we've made good progress. The room is clean and we've started making a list of supplies that will be needed

to stock the bunker. I'm going through the in-room pantry, calling out items when Dustin walks in.

"Good morning, Beta." Amy and Chloe sing out in unison.

I turn to see Dustin walking toward Sarah. "Good morning, ladies. How is everyone this morning?" He asks, but he's only looking

at Sarah.

She blushes slightly as he comes up to her, standing a bit too close. Sarah doesn't seem to mind. If anything, her shoulders relax

a little. "Hi Dustin." She says quietly.

He leans in and tries to subtly sniff her. Unfortunately for him, he's in a room with nosey women.

"What does she smell like Beta?" Amy asks.

His

eyes go wide and he looks like he's been caught with his hand in the cookie jar. Sarah looks appalled.

Chapter 257

"Were you sniffing me?" He starts shaking his head really fast. "Because I'm sure I stink. I need another shower."

"You don't stink. You smell great." He says and a dopey, lovesick smile spreads across his face.

I see Amy and Chloe smirking, looking at each other. They are enjoying making their Beta uncomfortable. It's probably a rare

occurrence.

"So, what great smell does she have Beta?" Chloe picks up the line of questioning. "Strawberries." He says reverently and their

smiles could light up the room.

"Amy?" Chloe says, turning to her friend and I see the devilish twinkle in her eye. "Do you remember that time that Beta Dustin

went around and stole all the strawberries out of the fruit bowls that were set out for that important Alpha meeting we had here?"

Amy is nodding her head vigorously. "I definitely do. I believe that was the day that we all realized that no one gets in between

our Beta and his strawberries." Dustin looks like he wants the earth to swallow him whole, poor Sarah looks totally confused and

it's all I can do to keep from laughing out loud.

"Well, I just came to see if you were okay Sarah. If you're good, I've got work to do for Liam." Dustin says in a rush to leave.

“Okay, bye Dustin.” She says. He looks at her for a moment, before leaning in and kissing her forehead then turning on his heel

and leaving.

As soon as he’s gone, Amy and Chloe burst into laughter. Sarah looks from them to me. “What?”

That’s all it takes for me to lose it as well, and I’m laughing. “It’s a werewolf thing, Sarah.”

She frowns, so I walk over to her, hugging her. “A good werewolf thing or a bad werewolf thing?” she asks.

“GOOD!” We all say.

By lunch time, we’re all ready for a break. We head upstairs to grab some lunch and I run into Luna Calista.

“Calista. I didn’t know you wanted to start today.” I tell her.

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“Of course, no time like the present, although it looks like you’ve already been working on something.”

I’m filthy from cleaning and stocking food. “We’re cleaning out the bunkers in preparation for the battle. I was just about to go get

a shower then have some lunch. If you haven’t eaten yet, would you join me?” I ask her.

“I’d be delighted. Anders here was going to try to find Liam and talk to him. Do you know where he is?” She asks.

“He’s right here.” Liam says, walking into the room. “Alpha Anders. Luna Calista. I thought you’d be heading home today.”

“We will be staying until tomorrow, if that’s okay.” Anders says. “King Ailduin is coming tomorrow, and I know we have plans for

you and Angel to meet him. Until then, I thought I could be of some help to you, Liam.’

Calista pulls me aside. “Go get showered sweetheart, we have our own work to do while the men do their thing.”

Before I can leave, Liam pulls me into his chest. “You look like you’ve been busy Luna.”

“Mhmm, we’re getting the bunkers cleaned out and we’ve started a supply list. Oh and I learned about our Beta’s fascination

with strawberries.”

“It’s renowned. Did you hear about the Alpha meeting?” He says and I start laughing again.

“I did.” I lean in to whisper in his ear. “Apparently Sarah smells like strawberries.”

Liam's bark of laughter has everyone in the room going still. They all turn to see their Alpha laughing out loud for the first time in

his life. Anders and Calista share a knowing look while I laugh along with my mate.

"I can't wait to give him hell about that." Liam says.

I reach up on my toes and kiss him. "Gotta run Alpha, got Luna stuff to do."

As I walk away, I feel his eyes follow me up the stairs until I turn the corner to our room.

Chapter 258

As I watch my mate walk away, my heart feeling light as a feather, Anders steps up to me.

"The Moon Goddess always gets it right, doesn't she?"

"I don't know about always, but she definitely got it right with me."

When I can no longer see her, I turn to Anders. "What kind of help were you thinking of Anders?"

We start to walking toward my office. "Well, Rik put me in charge of strengthening the weak spots on our borders. I thought, while

I was here, that I could do the same for yours. If you can spare me some of your pack members, we can go out, assess what

needs to be done and put up barriers or traps, depending on the weakness."

"That would be amazing! I have some ideas, but I haven't had a chance to get to it yet."

"Then let me take that off your plate." He claps his hand on my shoulder. "You're not alone any more Liam."

"I'm beginning to realize that. Thank you, Anders. Do you want to have lunch before you head out? We can eat together and I

can go over my thoughts."

Just as I say it, there is a knock at my office door. I look up and see Amelia and Charlotte carrying trays of food. "Alphas, Luna

Angel and Luna Calista said you both need to eat. Luna Angel thought you'd want to talk to us Alpha Liam, so she asked us to

bring your trays."

"Come in girls. Luna Angel is correct. Have you met Alpha Anders?" I ask them as I take a tray from one and Anders takes a tray

from the other.

They shake their heads looking at Anders. "Anders, these are my pack members Amelia and Charlotte. Amelia, Charlotte," I

point to each one as I say their names, "this is Alpha Anders, the former Alpha of Canyon Ridge Pack."

"Hello pups. It's always nice to meet members of our allied packs."

"Have a seat girls." I tell them, coming around my desk and pulling up a chair in front of them. "How did you settle in last night

with Samantha and her mate?"

up."

Their faces light up. "We each have our own bed!"

"Yeah, and we could have had our own rooms but we wanted to stay together."

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"And they made us our favorite food, but we couldn't decide which one we wanted."

"So they made them all for us. Pizza and tacos and hamburgers."

They are talking so fast that they are just going back and forth with the story, as

one takes a breath, the other continues. It's obvious that they are happy and

excited to be with Samantha.

"Can I see your cheek, Charlotte?" I ask her. She wouldn't let me get close enough to her yesterday to really look at it.

She comes and stands in front of me, pulling her hair aside so I can see. Samantha said it was an ugly bruise, but nothing was

broken. She put some stuff on it and it looks a lot better today."

I gently poke around the bruise. Samantha is right, nothing is broken. "So, does this mean you girls want to stay with

Samantha?"

"Yes Alpha." They both say.

"Good to hear." Samantha says from my doorway. They hop up and run over to her, hugging her. I stand and walk to her. "How

about you? Is there anything that you need from me?"

“No Alpha, my mate and I are financially stable and can provide everything the girls need but thank you.” She looks down at

them. “Girls, are you done speaking with Alpha Liam?”

They turn and look at me. “I’m good. Just remember, if you ever need anything, you can always come to me.”

They nod and Samantha guides them out of my office “Okay girls, let’s go get you some new clothes.”

I turn and see Anders watching attentively. “What was that about?”

“Angel caught my Lead Omega who was also their guardian abusing them yesterday. To say that she showed her unhappiness

would be the understatement of the millennia. I’ve never seen such power.” Which reminded me of something else. “Have you

ever known a werewolf that could direct their aura?” I ask him.

His eyebrows shoot up into the air. “Direct their aura? You mean like send it in one direction but not another?”

I tell him about how Angel protected the girls while bringing my pack members to their knees. He whistles appreciatively. “I’ve

never heard of that. I don’t remember seeing Lily do that either, but then, I wasn’t there when she died. She

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may have done that when she was protecting Cali and Rik, I don’t know.”

“I’ll ask Ailduin tomorrow when we see him.”

We finished eating and I talked to Anders about my ideas for strengthening my borders’ weaknesses. He had some other ideas

but said he wanted to see the areas first before making a final decision. I called five warriors to go with him and he

set off.

I took the rest of the early afternoon to clear pack work off my plate. When it was time for training, I went to find Angel. I found

her and Luna Calista deep in conversation, Angel taking what looked like a book of notes.

“What’s all this?” I asked her, coming up and kissing the top of her head, looking at what she was writing. When I see what it is, I

stand back up and look between them, waiting for Angel to answer.

I see her shift uncomfortably, looking down at her paper. Luna Calista reaches over and takes her hand, smiling at her and giving

her a nod.

Angel takes a deep breath and looks up at me. "I want to be the best Luna I can possibly be for you Liam. I don't want you to

ever regret taking me as your mate and Luna of this pack, so Calista agreed to help teach me how to be a Luna."

I pull Angel to her feet, cupping her cheek. "There is nothing in this world that will ever make me regret taking you as my mate

and the Luna of this pack. I'm happy that you want to learn to be a good Luna, but don't do it for me. Do it for you and the pack. I

love you no matter what."

"I told you." Calista says.

"It's just....you're so good at being an Alpha. Everyone says so, and I have no idea how to be a Luna. I don't want you to think

that the Moon Goddess gave you a bum mate."

I lean forward and kiss her forehead. "Do you know, that just a few short hours ago, Alpha Anders and I were talking about how

right the Moon Goddess got it, mating me with you. Never doubt that I believe that with all my heart. Luna stuff will come with

time. I've been an Alpha my entire life. I was born into this. You're just getting into it, and you've already taken so much off my

plate that my job as an Alpha is easier."

"Really?"

"Really. Now enough of this talk. Meet with Luna Calista, or whoever you want, but no more about not being a good enough mate

for me. You're mine and that will never change."

"Okay Liam."

"Good. Now are you ready for training? You have some warrior butt to kick."

I showered quickly so I wouldn't make Calista wait. When I found her in the kitchen, she was talking to Amelia and Charlotte.

After checking in with them and Samantha, who was also with them, I sent them with food for Liam and Anders, knowing that

Liam would want to check in with them as well.

Calista and I grabbed some food and I also grabbed a note pad and pen before finding a quiet place for us to eat and talk.

"Based on what I'm seeing, it looks like you already know how to be a Luna, Angel. So, what is it that you need from me?"

"I want to know how to do it right, so that I can be the Luna that Liam wants and needs for his pack."

She smiles kindly at me. "Sweetheart, you already are.

I'm shaking my head before she finishes. "I'm just helping him out, I don't know what I should be doing every day."

"But that's what being a Luna is all about, helping your Alpha and helping the pack. You know the responsibility of being an Alpha

is huge. A good Alpha takes that responsibility very seriously and Liam is a good Alpha. He is responsible for over 800 pack

members, but who looks after him? Who helps him carry the weight of looking after the pack?"

I'm thinking about what she says when she continues. "Do you know, I've known Liam almost his entire life. And today, when you

whispered in his ear, it was the first time I've ever heard him laugh out loud. Based on the reaction of the pack members nearby,

I'd say they also have never heard him laugh. That's what being a good Luna is all about. You make your Alpha stronger by

being his strength."

"I'd still like to know what a Luna does on a day-to-day basis."

"Of course. Every Luna is different, but I can tell you what I did. I'm sure Cara runs her pack differently, and that's okay, but it will

give you a starting point. For the next couple of hours, I take copious notes on everything Calista tells me about what and how

she did things in her pack. There is so much, it's a wonder that she ever accomplished anything. The list is becoming

overwhelming and I'm wondering if I'm really the person for this job, when Liam joins us.

After talking with Liam, I feel better and I say my goodbyes to Calista and get changed for training.

Liam and I arrive and there are about the same number of warriors today as yesterday. Rik has brought Clint and Cara and they

are lingering in the front. Cara looks ready to take on the entire group, bouncing on her toes. Clint looks calm and collected, but

there is a glint in his eyes, one that says he's also ready to take on the group.

"Ready to kick some butt?" I say walking up to my fellow Guardians.

I see Rik grinding his teeth together and I know that Cara won whatever battle they had about her training today.

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Liam speaks quietly to Rik, who nods, before getting in front of the group. Warriors. Today we're going to try a different approach

to the beginning of training. One thing we know is that vampires are fast. Faster than most werewolves can see. So, today, I'm

going to have you line up in battle lines." The group shifts around giving themselves some space in between each other and

preparing to take a defensive stance.

"Cara and Angel, if you would pick a side and line up in attack mode." Cara takes right and I go left, facing the group.

"The goal for today is touch the Guardian." I turn to look at Cara and we share a competitive smile. We know how fast we are,

much faster than a normal werewolf. We're both ready to turn up the speed.

As Liam finishes explaining that we will be whipping through the lines, taking all 500 warriors down as they try to catch us or at

least block us, Cara and I take our attack stances.

"On my mark," He shouts out and Clint shoots off a gun.

Cara and I are off like bullets shot from the gun. It's obvious to us that the front line thought they would have the advantage,

since they could see us before we started to move. They did not, they were down before they even knew what hit

them.

About a third of the way through the lines, I see Cara smirking at me and I know what she's thinking. The competition isn't

between us and the warriors, it's between her and me. We both kick up our speed, taking warriors down even faster than we

were before, trying to beat the other one and knock them down the

fastest.

When the entire group is on the ground, she and I stop, looking at each other as we burst out laughing.

We tied, but it was a fun

competition.

The rest of the training session, Liam and Rik put warrior after warrior up

against me and Clint. I'm happy that Rik decided to let Clint spar. It's a bit odd, but it's good for the warriors to figure out ways to

work around obstacles, such as his wheelchair.

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While Rik and Liam assist the warriors sparring with us, Cara and Chase walk around and give the other warriors feedback.

Overall, it's a good training session and we head back to the packhouse feeling good.

We have dinner with Dustin and Sarah before heading to our room. We pack for the weekend away at Canyon Ridge before

heading off to sleep.

The next day we meet up with Anders and Calista at breakfast. Anders updates Liam on the security measures he put into place

in our border's weaknesses and the traps that have been laid. After breakfast, we say goodbye to Dustin and Sarah and we're on

our way. Anders and Calista leave at the same time and we all arrive at the Canyon Ridge packhouse together.

As we walk into the packhouse I smell him. Immediately a rush of memories comes back to me. My pace increases and as I walk

into the main hall, he's there. "Ailduin."

He looks up and smiles at me. "Guardian." He walks forward and reaches out to take my hands but is stopped by Liam's snarl and his arm ripping me back to him.

Everything around Ailduin suddenly goes dark, as if he is conjuring a storm. The air thickens and his eyes go nearly black. I can

feel Liam and Cyran responding as if they are preparing to fight.

I turn quickly, standing in front of Liam. "Liam. I remember Ailduin. It's okay."

"You're MY mate."

"She's not your mate if she doesn't choose to be." Ailduin says behind me.

I can feel Rik, Cara and Clint moving closer. I turn, standing in front of Liam.

"Liam is my fated mate. I did choose him, it's not like it was with Jinelle, Ailduin. Please, calm down."

Ailduin doesn't back down and I can feel Liam's need to push me behind him. I push my aura out, hard and fast toward Ailduin.

"Ailduin! Do not make me choose between you, because it will be him. This is not like it was before. Stand down."

I can see the moment my aura hits him. He blinks and his eyes focus back on me. "My apologies Guardian. I did not mean to offend you."

"What about me? Did you mean to offend me?" Liam snaps from behind me.

"Liam."

I see Ailduin's jaw clench. "I do not have good experiences with Alphas and their interactions with Guardians." He tells Liam. "In

my experience, Guardians are forced into a mate bond they do not want or choose."

I take a step forward and put my hand on Ailduin's arm, ignoring Liam's growl of displeasure behind me. "It is not like that this

time Ailduin. You have my word as a Guardian."

"What is your name now Guardian?" Ailduin asks me.

"I am Alessia. My human is Angel. It is good to see you again."

“It is good to finally meet you. I was very happy when Cara told me that you’d been found. I’ve been searching for you since

Lily’s death. I thought I’d found you once, then you disappeared.” He looks around, only now realizing that he is surrounded by

werewolves that were ready to jump in if he attacked Liam.

“Cara didn’t go into detail, but I understand that there is a story there. I’d like to chronical your life while I am here Alessia. It’s

been nearly 100 years since the story of Bellona’s line has been recorded. Anything you may remember during that time would

be helpful.”

“Of course Ailduin. I would be happy to meet with you. I’d like to catch up with you as well.” Again, I reached out to touch his arm.

Again Liam growled and again I ignored him. “You do know that Jinelle never stopped loving you, right?” I watch his throat work,

trying to swallow the lump that formed and his jaw clench. “Thank you for that. I never stopped loving her either.”

“Okay, can we move on now.” This from Liam.

I turn to him, putting my hand on his cheek, waiting for him to look at me. “My feelings for Ailduin are no different than my

feelings for Clint. The Guardian spirit does not reincarnate with the human, Liam. It reincarnates as a wolf spirit but not with the

feelings of the previous wolf. While I have the memories of Jinelle and Lily, and their wolves, it does not change my feelings for

you. You are my mate, and that will not change until we die.”

He takes me by my hips, pulling me against him. “Does he know that?” He asks me as if Ailduin isn’t standing right there.

“As the Guardian’s lead chronicler for over a century, I’m quite sure he understands how the Guardian spirit works. Right,

Ailduin?”

“Angel is correct. My feelings for this Guardian line are driven by my history with

Jinelle and her wolf but I am well aware that the mate bond from that time died. with my mate. My feelings for your mate, Liam,

are familial, not as a lover.”

Liam doesn't take his eyes off me. “You and me, Liam.”

He finally relaxes and leans his forehead against mine. “You and me Angel.”