

Broken 341

Chapter 341

After leaving Eli and Carlos, I head straight to the kitchens. There are only four people working cleaning up from breakfast and

getting ready for lunch.

“Hello everyone.” I say as I walk in. They are three omegas and Maddie. “Hi Maddie. You work in the kitchens, too?” I ask.

“Yes, Luna. May I introduce you to Camila, Eleanor, and Abigail. They all go by their nicknames like me, so you can call them

Cammy, Ellie and Abby.”

“Hello ladies, it’s nice to meet you. I’m Grace.” I say.

They all incline their heads and quietly say hello. I look at Maddie and I can see that this behavior is not unexpected. Well, they

aren’t here because they were treated well at their last pack, and the only way they will learn that I’m different is to work with me,

side by side.

Okay.” I say, clapping my hands together. I notice immediately that the three omegas jump at the sound. “First. This is a safe

place. No one here will hurt you. Not me and not Alpha Eli. Okay?” I wait until all three look at me and nod their heads.

“Good. Second, you are woefully understaffed in this kitchen. We need more helpers and I plan to get you some. But before we

do that, I need to know what you can do, and what you are good at. I want to make sure that we put the right people into the right

positions. It won’t help us to put someone who can’t boil water in the kitchens.” I say, eliciting a laugh from everyone.

“So, Maddie, let’s start with you. What do you do in the kitchens and what are you good at? I’d also like to know what you used

to do and what you want to do.” I started with Maddie intentionally. She isn’t as skittish as the omegas, and this will help them

realize I don’t have any ulterior motives.

“Well, Luna, I only started in the kitchens because I was bringing in the food from the garden. I stayed when I realized they

needed help. I usually clean the vegetables and prepare it for whatever is being cooked, if they know what they need. And, if I

have a choice, I’d like to continue to work in the garden. I like working with my hands.” She says, shrugging.

I nod, looking at the other three. “Cammy, how about you?”

She is picking at her clothes, looking at the floor. “I used to help cook in my last pack.”

“That’s great. What do you know how to cook?”

“I can cook stews, soups and any kind of meat.”

“That’s wonderful, you’re hired.” I smile at her, earning a small smile in return.

I turn to Eleanor. “How about you Ellie?”

“I don’t know how to cook. I’ve just been searching for what we need or finding replacements when we didn’t have what Cammy

wanted for the meal.”

“Perfect, you’re hired as a stock person.”

“And last, but certainly not least”, I turn to Abigail. “How about you, Abby?”

“I do what everyone else tells me to do.”

“A sous chef! You’re hired.” I tell her, smiling.

She smiles softly back at me. “So, first, I need to make something to eat for Eli and Carlos. What do we have?”

While I mix up peppers and mushrooms with some sausage left over from a wild pig that was caught, I continue to talk to the

girls.

“Who makes meal plans?” They all look at each other, then at me before shrugging.

“I usually just figure something out based on what has come in or what we have.” Cammy says.

“And what were you thinking for lunch?” I ask.

I see Maddie from the corner of my eye. She’s washing vegetables but paying attention to our interaction.

Cammy looks at Abby. "We haven't decided yet. We're still cleaning up from breakfast."

"Right, so first, do you know anyone that wants to work in the kitchens?"

Their eyes go wide. "Yes. There are many that want to help but don't know where to go. Beta is very busy and doesn't have time

to assign everyone to a position."

I pour scrambled eggs over the omelet innards I've cooked, letting the eggs bubble and cover the vegetables and sausage.

"Abby, do you know who might be willing to assist?"

"Yes Luna."

I turn to face her, giving her a smile. My mouth is starting to hurt with all this smiling, but I want them to feel comfortable around

me.

"Good, go get them. Anyone that wants to work, bring them here. I'm going to do a mass interview today and give people

something to do to help in the pack." Abby runs off to go get helpers..

"Now, Ellie. What do we have in stock that can use for lunch and dinner today?" I ask as I finish up the omelets and begin plating

them for Eli and Carlos.

"Oh, well, I'm not sure yet." Abby says, opening the refrigerator.

"We have some ham left over from the wild pig and some large pieces of pork." I walk over and look at what we have. It's not

enough to feed everyone as we should, but it's enough to feed everyone something.

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"Do we have bread?"

"Yes." Abby says before turning to me, guessing what I'm going to say. "And cheese and lettuce. But no mayonnaise or mustard."

She grimaces at me. "We can't afford it yet." So, the whole pack knows how poor we are. I guess that's a good thing. It manages

expectations.

I'm about to direct us to start lunch preparations when I hear loud footsteps running into the kitchen. Two young girls stop

suddenly when they see me.

"Luna." They say in unison and bow their heads.

"We heard you needed helpers." One says.

"We're here to help." The other says..

"That's wonderful. We need all the help we can get." I tell them. They smile and look at each other before back at me.

"So, who wants to take this to your Alpha and Beta?" I ask.

The first girl steps up. "I will."

We grab a tray and while we are putting the food on the tray, the second girl pours them each a drink.

"They are in the Beta's office. Off you go." I tell her before turning to the second girl.

"What's your name?" I ask and that is how the rest of my morning goes.

We get set up to make ham and cheese sandwiches for lunch. There are not chips, but we do have lots of potatoes, so I have

them cut them into thin slices and we bake them until they are crisp, making homemade potato chips.

More helpers come in and I begin to assign them to their duties. I have Cammy working on slow cooked pulled pork for tonight

and have some others using what we have to make something similar to a barbeque sauce.

As the first group of patrols come in, I have some omegas take the plates out to the tables, serving the group. There is a moment

of surprise before they settle in and begin to eat. We continue this process through the next rotations.

I make a couple sandwiches for Eli and Carlos, making sure to grab one for myself, since I skipped breakfast, choosing to feed

Carlos my helping of food instead. I wasn't confident that he'd eaten.

As I send an omega to take the food to Eli and Carlos, I stop to take inventory of how things are going. There is a lot of happy

chatter and excitement. Omegas, in general, are used to being mistreated and unappreciated in packs. However, in my

experience, they are the backbone of every pack. Without them, the packs would fail apart. They work hard and they appreciate

having a job. It makes them feel needed and an integral part of the pack, which they are. But they also thrive. when they are

acknowledged for their hard work, just like everyone else.

I am standing in the pantry that is so poorly stocked that it's hardly worth calling it a pantry, when the kitchen goes quiet.

I turn and see Eli and Carlos holding the tray and empty plates that I sent up to them. Both of their mouths are open slightly and

their eyes are wide. I quickly look around and see that every omega's eyes are now on the floor. These poor people are so used

to being mistreated by their leaders.

"Alpha. Beta." I say, stepping out of the pantry and walking toward them. "What a surprise to see you."

Eli steps up to me. "Grace. What is going on?" I can hear the awe in his voice, but I also know that his words are causing

concern with the omegas. They don't know how to interpret his question. I need to guide this conversation so he understands

that he must tread lightly.

"Your omegas have stepped up and are working to make sure that your pack members are fed not only lunch, but also dinner.

Aren't you proud of them, Alpha?" I say, hoping he'll catch on.

He looks at me for a moment before reaching out to kiss my forehead. "I don't know that I've ever been prouder of my pack

members." He says, walking into the kitchen.

"Tell me, what do we have here?" He asks, pointing to some food preparation.

An omega looks at me and I nod encouragingly at her. "Well, Alpha, we have a lot of potatoes that were harvested recently. For

lunch we made homemade potato chips and for dinner, we're going to make roasted rosemary potatoes with rosemary from our

garden."

He looks at her, touching her shoulder gently, ignoring the way she flinches and smiles at her. "That sounds delicious." He says.

In true omega fashion, they all want their Alpha's approval, so many start talking at once. Eli is incredible. He takes time to go to each one, listening to what they are doing and giving them approval and praise for their hard work. Carlos jumps in as well and adds some extra comments and praise.

The overall mood returns to one that is relaxed and happy as Eli returns to my side.

"Have I mentioned how amazing you are?" He says quietly.

I look up at him. "All I did was organize the people in our pack. They are the amazing ones."

Luna Grace for the win!

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The difference in the kitchen from this morning to now is almost unrecognizable. When Carlos and I walk in, I don't know what to

say. Thankfully, my unbelievable mate cues me in that I need to help our omegas feel comfortable and positive about their work.

I make sure to go to each one and listen to what they are doing and praise them for their hard work. In my experience, omegas

look to their ranked members, but specifically their Alphas, for praise and reinforcement that they are doing well. Knowing that

every one of them is here because they were mistreated, I want to set a new standard that, as their Alpha, they are very much

appreciated.

When I'm done, I walk back over to Grace. "I need to do some work on scheduling patrols. I just wanted to check on you and see

how things were going, but I apparently am not needed here." I tell Grace with a smile. I still can't believe the transformation in

the kitchen. And based on some of the warrior's faces, they are also surprised that they are being served like they would be in a

normal pack.

I pull Grace into me, holding her close. "What do you have planned for the rest of the day, baby?"

"I need to make a food plan and figure out what food we have and what we need. Then I want to start on the packhouse and

begin to inventory our supplies, rooms and find some workers who want to be a part of the packhouse cleaning crew. I have a

couple already from this morning, but we'll need more than that." "Do you need anything from me?" I ask her, not sure that she

does at this point. "We need more meat. The pig that they caught a couple days ago will be gone after dinner tonight. Is it

possible to send some wolves out this afternoon to hunt some more meat for the pack?" She asks.

I look at Carlos. "Who do you have that usually goes out to hunt?"

"I usually go with the lead warriors that aren't on duty." He says.

"Perhaps you and I should go instead. What do you think?" I ask him.

His answering smile is all the answer I need.

"We'll be back with more food shortly." I kiss Grace, leaving her to her work, knowing she has it all in hand.

When Carlos and I walk out, there are several warriors coming in from their patrol. One steps up to us before we pass.

"Beta Carlos, Alpha Eli, may I have a word?"

"Noah. What can we do for you?" Carlos asks.

"I noticed that the kitchen is being staffed better today, but that also means we will need additional food. I just came off shift and

was wondering when you might be going out to hunt again. I'd like to join you.

I look at Carlos to get his read on Noah. I'm not getting any discontent from him, but Noah addressed him, so I decide to let

Carlos answer.

"We're heading out now, Noah. You're welcome to join us." Carlos tells him.

He falls in line with us, and we begin heading to the forest again.

"I saw that you caught a wild pig before. What other game do you hunt in these woods?" I ask as we continue walking.

It's Noah that responds. "The wild pigs are plentiful and have become nuisance animals, so it's good to hunt those. Also, there

are plenty of deer in the forest. Besides that, there are duck, rabbits, turkey and bear in this area. We haven't caught a bear as of

yet, but that would definitely help feed the pack. We do periodically send the older pups out to fish as well."

"I take it you're one of the primary hunters for the pack?" I ask, wondering if he is one of my contenders tomorrow.

"That's correct Alpha. And I should be honest and let

u know I've put my name in for the Alpha challenge tomorrow. No offense to you at all, but this pack needs a strong leader and I

feel I could be that leader."

"Understood and thank you for your honesty. That's also a quality that an Alpha needs, but many don't have."

"In my opinion, Noah is the strongest contender for your position Alpha." Carlos says.

I turn to Noah. "Then I expect good things from you during our hunt today, Noah."

"Same goes, Alpha." We chuckle as we strip out of our clothes before shifting. I let them lead me to the area where they usually

hunt. Several hours later, we have deer, rabbits and turkeys that we begin to carry back.

'Nice job, Noah. Your wolf is an excellent hunter."

"Thank you, Alpha, but he's not quite as good as yours."

"Louis and I have been hunting our own food for most of our lives." I reply as we continue to toward the packhouse. "If you don't

mind me asking, what brought you to this pack, Noah?"

"Not at all. I know almost everyone here has a story that brought them to this pack. It makes us unique from other packs. My

story isn't terrible. I was the second son of a Beta. My brother took over when the Alpha's son took over as Alpha." I watch as he

shrugs his shoulders, eyes lost in the past.

“I never wanted to be the Beta. I knew that position was meant for my brother. Unfortunately, I was stronger and faster than my brother in most ways and it made him jealous, concerned that I would take his position in the pack. I got tired of fighting with my brother about it, worrying what he would do next to try to undermine me. When he made up rumors about me wanting to take his position and went to the new Alpha with his claim, the Alpha gave me two choices fight of the position or leave the pack. I chose to leave.”

He looks at me and shrugs again. “As I said, I didn’t want the position.”

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“But now you want to be Alpha?” I question. A Beta position is a lot of work, but an Alpha position is even harder if it’s done right.

“I want this pack to thrive. And no offense to you Beta, but with no leader that has a wolf, I’ve felt that the pack has been lacking

a true leader. Too many people are depending on this pack’s survival, too many need this to survive themselves. I don’t believe

that everyone that wants the Alpha position deserves it, so I decided to throw my hand in as well.”

“Caring about your pack members is another great quality for a ranked member, Noah. You seem to have many qualities that

make you a good candidate for Alpha.”

“Thank you, I appreciate that.” He says as we arrive at the back of the packhouse.

We drop the carcasses at the door and I step inside to let Grace know we have food. Carlos and Noah follow me and all three of

us groan at the smells coming from the kitchen. It smells divine.

“Grace.” I call out to her as we walk to the kitchen. I watch as she comes around the side of the kitchen, looking perfectly

mussed. She’s been working while we were gone. Her hair is in disarray and she has something smudged on her cheek. My

need to touch her overwhelms me and I move to her, taking her in my arms.

She takes a whiff. “Phew, you smell like the hunt and death. Does this mean we have more meat?”

“You smell like bleach and fabric softener, so I guess we’re even.” I tell her, stealing another kiss.

“And yes, we caught three bucks, several rabbits and a few turkeys.” I tell her, watching as her eyes light up.

She turns, stepping out of my grasp and claps her hands. The chatter in the kitchen immediately silences.

“Who here knows how to skin and strip a deer carcass?” She asks the room at large. Five hands go up.

“You five, you’re on deer duty.” She turns, looking at Carlos and Noah. “Where are the carcasses usually prepped?”

“I’ll show them.” Carlos says and motions to the five individuals that will begin working on the deer meat.

“Anyone know how to strip a rabbit or turkey?” She asks again and a few more hands go up.

She turns to Noah. “Where can we clean the smaller animals?”

“I know where we can do it, Luna.” One of the

One of the omegas says to her.

“Okay Jesse, you lead the way. Make sure to take whatever knives you will need. When you’re done, bring the meat back here

and we’ll figure out how to store it.” She says.

“Oh and, bring the turkey carcasses back with you. I can use them to make a turkey soup.” Cammy, one of the girls from this

morning says.

“You heard her, we’ll take the turkey carcasses too.”

A chorus of “Yes Luna” follows as they rush to begin their work.

Then my mate turns on me. “You!” She says pointing at me. My smile drops.. Me?” I ask, not sure what she’s about to say.

“And you.” She points to Noah. “What’s your name?”

I see Noah trying hard not to smile at my mate in all her Alpha glory. Luna.”

“Noah,

“Noah, you and Eli need to hit the showers. You both smell and are stinking up my kitchen. Off you both go. Dinner will be ready

in about an hour and a half and we’ll be serving at the tables. Spread the word.”

“Yes Luna” He says, before grinning at her and turning on his heel. I’m right behind him, but I stop and grab Grace from behind,

pulling her into my chest.

“You are sexy as fuck when you are in charge like this.” I whisper in her ear. I immediately smell her arousal and feel her push

her backside against me. She turns and looks at me over her shoulder. “You can show me just how much you like it

tonight.....Alpha.”

I growl low and deep in my chest, letting it reverberate through both of us. “Oh I

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definitely will little mate.”

With that, I join Noah as we begin to head to the stairs in the front of the packhouse. “She is an excellent Luna.” He says.

“That she is.”

Grace is definitely in charge!

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After Eli and Carlos went hunting, I turned to Maddie who had just returned from the garden. “Can you begin to make a list of

items we need to stock the pantry. Eli and Carlos are going back out for meat, but I know we’re lacking in condiments and I’m

sure many other things.”

“Of course, Luna. Happy to help.”

I begin to interview the new omegas that are streaming into the kitchen. Those that had no cooking experience but have some

cleaning experience are now joining us to get assignments in the packhouse.

I start with kitchen and dining room clean up, adding the community bathrooms on this floor to the list. I find someone that was a

Lead Omega in her previous pack and set her up with a helper to go room by room in the packhouse to find out how many

people are in each room and what supplies they need and cleaning rounds they would like.

As with the pantry, the linens and towel supply are dreadfully low. We'll have to set up a rotation of washing linens and towels so

that we don't run out. I assign another person to begin working on what that rotation will look like. Then we get started on making

sure that all the currently unused towels and linens are clean, as many are just in a pile on the floor.

I have Maddie add cleaning supplies to our list of needed items. We're making good progress and I'm a sweaty but happy mess

when Eli, Carlos and another man I don't recognize come back from their hunt.

Once I get the assignments made for cleaning the fresh animals brought in and take a moment to tease my mate, I send him on

his way.

I pull Cammy and another omega with extensive, but different cooking experience over and begin talking about the meals we can

cook with the meat that we have. We come up with meal plans for the next week and I ensure that the amount of meat that will

be fed to the pack members will increase. We have Maddie add the missing ingredients to her list as we go.

"Luna, if I may," Autumn, the omega with cooking experience says. Her sister, Summer, is the Lead Omega I sent to inventory

the rooms. They are from the same pack and ran together to escape.

"We could get egg-laying hens and build a coop near the packhouse. The women that look after the garden could look after the

hens and young pups always like to collect eggs. If we get them at various ages, then we'd have a consistent flow of

egg layers. And if we decided that we had enough eggs at any point, we could always let the chicks grow and have more of our

own egg layers or decide we want some as meat. It would be another way that we could be self-sufficient."

"Excellent idea." I have Maddie make a note to research this. Without a computer, it may be difficult unless there are some local

hen sellers.

As dinner time gets closer, I have the omegas begin plating food, while others set the tables for dinner. As we are about done, a

couple of women come in carrying small baskets of flowers.

“Hello Luna. I’m Victoria and this is Ivy. We work with Maddie in the garden, and she told us what you are doing here. We’re so

excited to finally have structured mealtimes that we thought it would be nice to have centerpieces for the tables to celebrate, so

we picked some flowers from the forest to put at the tables.”

“They’re perfect. Thank you both.” We place them on the tables, just as the warriors begin coming in. They immediately see the

tables set and stop, looking

at me.

“Have a seat everyone. Tonight, we are having pulled pork, roasted rosemary potatoes and steamed spinach for dinner.”

Everyone looks excited as they sit. I mind link Eli to come join us. There are more people tonight than there were last night. Word

has spread that there is food available or perhaps they just want to see their Alpha and Luna. Either way, we have to set up

additional, makeshift tables to seat everyone.

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I make sure that all the omegas are seated and have food, including the ones that are still working on stripping the carcasses.

Once everyone is eating, I find my place next to Eli. He looks at me with awe and pride.

“In one day, you have managed to make this pack feel like a home. I don’t know how you did it, but as usual, I am amazed and

awed by you, my little mate.”

The mood tonight in the dining room is considerably different than last night. While almost everyone seemed happy to have Eli

back yesterday, there was a sense of anxiety of the unknown. Today there is a peaceful feeling around the room with a lot of

happy chatter and laughter.

Several pack members make a point to come over and thank us, or just say hi, wanting to get to know us better. When they are

done, everyone disperses, going back to their work or to their homes to rest for the evening. Eli goes back upstairs to work on

the patrol schedule, and I make sure everyone is set with their assignments in the kitchen and tomorrow's cooking and cleaning

before heading upstairs to join Eli.

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When I get to our room, he isn't back yet, so I strip, ready to wash the sweat and cleaner of the day off of me. I pull on one of

Eli's t-shirts and crawl into bed, thinking about what needs to happen tomorrow before and after the Alpha challenge.

Just as I'm wondering if Eli is nervous about tomorrow, he walks in. I don't have time to think any more as he makes sure to

show me just how sexy he thought I was earlier, several times.

The next morning, we wake early. I can tell that Eli is already awake. "Are you nervous?" I ask the question I was wondering

about last night.

"Not really, but there's always the chance that I might lose. Carlos said there is only one person he feels is a true contender. That

warrior you met yesterday, Noah."

"He's challenging you?"

"Yes, and his reasons are valid. He has the qualities that a good Alpha should have and he has Beta blood. He's strong. If he

defeats me, I will be okay with him taking over. The others, not so much."

"How many others are there?" I ask, thinking there would only be a couple.

"Five others, including that guy Christopher that we met the first day."

"How many do you think will want to battle to the death?" I ask, as I know this. must be weighing on him. He may not be afraid

that he'll lose but having to kill a pack mate is never easy.

"I can't say for sure, but I'd bet Christopher will."

We get up and get ready for the day. Eli dresses in comfortable clothes, ready for the Alpha battles today. I dress in leggings and

a t-shirt. If we're going to have the battles, then I want to be ready if needed.

Eli must hear my thoughts. He comes up behind me and wraps his arms around my waist, putting his chin on my shoulder.

"You can't interfere today. You know that right?"

"I won't let you die. If we have to leave this pack, so be it, but Maia and I won't stand by and let you die." I tell him.

"It won't come to that, hopefully. But you do have to let me win these battles on my own."

"That's fine if it's a submission only battle. If it's to the death and it looks like you will lose, I won't hesitate to jump in."

"Grace..."

"No!" I interrupt him. "Don't ask me to watch while you die. It's not possible. Maia says it's not something she can control. It's in

our blood, in our soul. It's how the Moon Goddess made us. I won't kill them, but I won't let them kill you either."

He nods. "Okay, let's go start our day."

The mood at breakfast is considerably more somber than it was last night. Everyone is talking in whispers and most of the

discussion is about the challenge. The entire pack will be watching the Alpha challenges today. Whoever wins becomes their

Alpha and could change the entire dynamic of this pack.

After breakfast, as one, we all head outside. Carlos is overseeing the challenges and calls the first contender to face Eli.

I stand back, watching. The contender states that he wants a battle of submission, and the fight begins. It doesn't take long for

Eli to have him down and the contender taps his submission. The second fight goes much the same way, but it takes a bit longer

for Eli to pin this contender, nearly 45 minutes.

The third contender is Christopher. "I want a battle to the death." He states.

"Are you sure that's what you want?" Eli asks him.

Christopher looks cocky as he replies. "Oh yes, and know this, Alpha," he says, sneeringly. "When I kill you, I will take your mate

as my own." He looks at me as he says this, taking his time looking me up and down. I'm glad I didn't eat. My stomach is

churning at his comment. I've had enough of Alphas and wolves thinking they can force their mark on me.

Eli's snarl is feral and menacing, but Christopher doesn't seem to notice, or maybe he doesn't care. Carlos calls the fight to start.

Unlike the first two

challenges, this time, Eli takes the offense. Christopher has infuriated him and he's ready for blood.

I have to admit that Christopher is better than I thought he would be. He's dancing around, not getting in as many punches as Eli,

but he's holding his own.

'He's getting too close to us.'" Maia says in my head, right at the moment that he makes his move. He must have planned it. He

grabs me, putting me in front of him. He has one hand in my hair, the other wrapped around my waist, holding

me in place.

"Or maybe I'll just mark her now, making her MY Guardian." He says, and I can feel his breath on my neck.

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As soon as Christopher said he would take Grace as his mate, Louis and I saw red. Oh yes, this asshole is going to die. No one

is taking my mate from me. No one. He's faster than I expected, able to move at the last minute to avoid my punches. He gets a

few in, but in my furious state, I hardly feel them. We're dancing around and I realize a moment too late what he's planning.

When he grabs Grace, threatening to mark her now, I freeze. I have no idea how remarking a Guardian when their mate is still

alive will work. But I don't care, she's mine and he can't have her. Louis is thrashing around in my head, wanting to rip this guy to

shreds for threatening our mate.

“You’ve invalidated the Alpha challenge by pulling my mate into this.” I tell him. “Your challenge is now forfeit.”

“It doesn’t matter. No one will be able to defeat me once I’m mated to a

Guardian.” He says and I’m about to jump on him when Grace winks at me, her eyes bleeding to solid gold. Maia.

I watch, stunned, as she turns in his arms, her hand punching through his chest. I’m not sure, but it looks like she takes his heart

in her hand. The look of shock on Christopher’s face is priceless and I hear a collective gasp from the pack.

“No one forces their mark on me.” Maia says, before ripping his heart out of his chest. His shocked expression remains on his

face as his dead body drops to the ground. I look back up and see Maia turn to the crowd.

“Anyone else think they can use me against my mate?” She says, crushing Christopher’s heart in her hand before tossing it to

the ground.

You could hear a pin drop it’s so quiet, but every pack member begins to adamantly shake their head, no.

I walk over to her, taking her in my arms. “Are you okay, love? Did he hurt you? Maia turns to me. She hasn’t given control back

to Grace yet. “Only you and Louis get to sink your canines into me,”

I smile down at her, kissing her passionately. Whether she meant it or not, she just claimed me in front of our pack again.

Goddess, I love this woman.

“And no one but you and Grace can sink your canines into me.” I tell her before kissing her nose. “Now give Grace back control

so we can continue the Alpha challenge.”

When her eyes go back to their normal milk chocolate color, I turn to Carlos. “Let’s continue.”

Carlos looks like he wants to protest but changes his mind. “You two,” he says, pointing to Christopher’s friends. “Get his body

out of here.” They don’t object. but they give Grace a wide berth.

Carlos looks at his sheet. "Next up, Noah." This isn't the fight I want to have right after Christopher's death. My mind isn't

completely in this fight, but the sooner we finish this, the sooner this pack can get back to normal.

Noah steps forward. "I would never risk weakening our pack by challenging Alpha Eli to the death. His death would most likely

cause the death of our Guardian, Luna Grace." He turns and looks at the pack. "Every one of you has seen what these two have

done for the pack in less than 48 hours. Can you imagine what they will do with years as our Alpha and Luna." He turns back to

me. "It is because of this, and because I believe that you are worthy of being our Alpha, that I withdraw my petition to battle you

for the position of Alpha." He says before stepping back.

"However, if I may Alpha, I would like to spar with you at some point in the future." He says, grinning at me.

"Deal." I say, smiling, before turning back to Carlos.

The next two contestants for Alpha both rescind their challenges, and the battles are over. I am officially the pack's Alpha again.

I stand in front of the pack, pulling Grace to my side.

"You all know that we have much work to do to rebuild this pack. I have some ideas for how we can bring in some money for the

pack and I will be speaking with the Alphas of our neighboring packs, Alpha Rik and Alpha Liam to discuss. this, as well as how

we can make this an official pack. Once that is completed, I will be scheduling an official Alpha, Luna and Beta ceremony so that

everyone of you can pledge your loyalty to this pack and we can begin using a pack mind link."

I stop as a cheer goes up around the group.

"Your Luna is already making changes within the packhouse, and I believe everyone has seen some of those changes in the

meals that have been prepared since yesterday." Another cheer.

"If anyone is still looking for a work assignment, please let me, Luna Grace, or Beta Carlos know. We will find a place for you.

Finally, I know many of you have

either not found your mate or have lost your mate whether through death or rejection. When I speak to Alpha Rik and Alpha

Liam, I will be discussing having inter-pack gatherings so you can try to find your mates among our neighboring packs." I stop,

as more cheering occurs.

"You are always welcome to come talk to your ranked members. You do not need to fear mistreatment in this pack. We are a

sanctuary for all those that need a safe place. If you have any concerns or questions, I want you to feel safe and welcome in

coming to the three of us." I open my arms to include Carlos and Grace.

"Okay, everyone. Back to work!" I dismiss them. I send Grace inside to shower. Several individuals come up to congratulate me,

many want to talk about the patrol schedules that I've been working on.

I send Carlos in to take care of his duties and I tell the group to meet me in the dining hall in 15 minutes and we can go over the

schedules. As I head in to shower, I see Noah.

"Hey, Noah."

"Alpha." He says, showing me his neck in submission.

I put a hand on his shoulder. "Have you ever considered becoming a Gamma?"

He looks at me, startled. "I hadn't ever given it any thought."

"Well, I need one, and I'd like it to be you. So, think about it and let me know." I tell him before walking off, leaving him looking

stunned.

Chapter 348

After showering, I get dressed and realize, I have no idea if anyone in the pack. even has a car. I need to go to the store to get all

the items that Maddie has on her list. I also have no idea what is around here other than the small town that Eli and I came into

when we got off at the last bus stop.

Thankfully, Eli comes in as I'm finishing up. "Do you know if any of the pack members have a car?" I ask him.

"I know Carlos does and some of the others, why? Going somewhere?" He asks while taking off his clothes. I take a moment to

enjoy his muscular body. Any injuries he sustained this morning look like they've already healed.

"Grace. If you keep looking at me like that, neither of us will get to the work we need to do today."

"It's not my fault that you look so good naked." I say stepping up to him and running my hands over his chest and down his

abdominals, feeling each square of this 8-pack as I go. I smile as my hands are smacked by his very happy member coming

quickly to attention.

I look at him through my lashes and I'm about to get on my knees and take him in my mouth, when he spins me around, pushing

me against the wall, pulling my pants down to my ankles. I step out of one leg, arching back, pushing against him. I barely have

a moment to brace myself before he lines himself up at my entrance and thrusts inside me. I moan in pleasure. I really do love

this position.

He has one hand on my hip, the other around my throat as he pounds into me relentlessly. We both climax quickly, both needing

this release after the stress of this morning.

He's leaning against me as we catch our breath, holding me against the wall.

"That was very naughty, Little Alpha." He says as he steps back and smacks my ass hard. I jump at the contact, turning and

looking at him over my shoulder. His eyes are smoldering, even after our release. Oh, this man is just encouraging me.

"Well, I guess I'll have to be naughty more often then." I say before pushing away from the wall, taking my time bending over to

get my pants. His answering growl is the only hint I get, before he's inside me, holding me down in my bent over position while

he takes me again. Goddess, this is a good position, too.

This time, just as the pressure is building to orgasm, I feel his hand come down hard on my ass and it's all I need to push me

over the edge, screaming his name.

When I stand, the blood rushes out of my head. I'm dizzy and I lean back against him, letting him hold me up. "There's more

where that came from, Little Alpha. But for now, get dressed. We have work to do and a pack to clean up."

I finish getting dressed. "Go see Carlos, he'll know who has a car in the pack."

I kiss him goodbye and head out to find Carlos. When I do, I find Noah in his office as well. They look like they are in the middle

of a heavy conversation.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt. I was wondering if there is someone in the pack who might have a car and could drive me to

the nearest town."

Noah stands up. "I can drive you, Luna. Where are we going?"

"Thank you, Noah. We're going to get food and supplies for the packhouse."

Carlos looks at me. "Luna, we don't really have money for that."

"The pack doesn't, but I do." I turn to Noah. "So you'll also be acting as guard to make sure I don't get robbed by any humans."

I can see Noah fighting his smile, but Carlos snorts. "Yeah, because you need to be protected. If anything, I should ask you to

protect our future Gamma here." Carlos says, gesturing to Noah.

"Carlos." Noah says, exasperated, before turning to me. "I haven't decided yet, Luna. Alpha just asked me a little while ago."

"You seem like a smart man, Noah. I'm sure you'll make the right choice." I say meaningfully. Eli, once again, has made an

excellent choice in a ranked member.

"Yes, Luna." He says, looking embarrassed. "When did you want to leave?"

"As soon as you're ready."

"Let me get my keys and I'll meet you at the front door."

I grab my purse and money and head downstairs to wait for Noah. Eli comes around the corner. "Hey, you distracted me earlier.

Where are you going?"

Noah walks up as we're talking. "Noah is taking me to get some needed food and supplies for the pack."

"Baby, we don't have money for that." He says, stepping up to me, pulling me against him.

"The pack doesn't have the money for that, we do." I tell him, including him in case others are listening in.

"You mean you have the money for that. I don't want you spending your money on the pack."

I turn, looking at Noah. "Can you give us a minute?" I ask him.

"Sure, I'll just go see what's cooking for dinner." He says, walking toward the kitchen.

I turn, stepping out of his grip and put my hands on my hips, narrowing my eyes. "Am I or am I not the Luna of this pack?" I ask

him, daring him to deny it.

"Grace, that's not the....."

"Is it as much my responsibility as yours to make sure this pack is happy and healthy?" I interrupt him.

"Grace..."

"You don't get to have it both ways Eli. Either we are a team and share

everything, or we don't. You need to check your male ego and accept that this is what is best for the pack."

I watch as he grinds his teeth together, looking away from me, battling with himself. I get it, he's the Alpha. It's his job to provide

for the pack. And he will, I have no doubt. But right now, I can help, and I need him to accept that.

"Fine, but I'll pay you back."

"Wrong. This is for the pack, and we aren't keeping score." I step up to him and take his face in my hands. "I knew what I was

getting into when I agreed to be your mate."

"You mean when you sank your canines into my neck when you were jealous and angry?" He asks, but the frustration is

lessening.

"I already knew I wanted you. But this," I sweep my arm around showing I mean what we are building together. "This is exciting.

We really have a chance to do something good here, something special. Please don't let your ego get in the way of that." I say,

putting my forehead against his. "I know you can provide for this pack. You just need time to get there. I have the ability to make

things better for the pack now. Let's do this together, like we agreed."

"Goddess, I love you." He kisses me, slow and deep. "Someday, when all this is done, I'm taking you somewhere special."

"Deal!"

I step back. "Noah, you ready?" I call out. "Coming Luna." He says, before we head out.

Chapter 349

First, I can't provide for Grace, now she's providing for the pack because I can't. I have to be the most incompetent Alpha on the

planet. Thankfully, she has faith in me, but it means that I need to speak to Rik and Liam sooner rather than later. Now that the

Alpha challenge is done, I will call and set up a time to meet with them.

I go to the dining hall and meet with the new individuals that want to be put into the patrol rotation. I pulled one of the patrol

leaders into the meetings so he could discuss the current structure of the patrols. I realize I need to run patrols with the team so

I can see how it flows and where our weaknesses are in the borders. I would have already done it but mating with Grace took

precedence and being newly mated, it's hard being away from her for long periods of time.

We're nearly done when I hear a howl go up. The patrol leader lifts his head, listening. "There's someone at the border, Alpha.

Would you like to go see who it is?"

"Yes, let's go."

We take off, headed in the direction of the howl. "How do you know it's not an attack?" I ask, since we're jogging at a steady

pace, rather than shifting.

“Different howls. It will be great when we have a pack link. We’ve learned to communicate in wolf form, but it’s much easier with a link.”

When we jog up, I see a woman, and what looks like a baby in her arms, kneeling on the ground. One of the patrols is squatting

down next to her. “Alpha. This is Amber and her child.”

She looks up at me. “You’re the Alpha here?” Her face is bruised, and I can smell blood on her.

“Yes.” I say, walking closer and bending down in front of her. “You’re safe now.”

She throws herself into my arms and sobs. I hold her until she gathers herself.

“Can you walk?” I ask her.

“Yes.”

I keep my arm around her and guide her back to the packhouse. “How old is your child?”

“She’s just a month old.”

“Who did this to you?” I ask as the packhouse comes into view.

She looks at me. “Hunters. They’ve been getting bolder. I was lucky to get away, but they may have tracked me here. I’m sorry.”

I turn and look at Daniel, the Patrol Leader, and he takes off to alert the patrols.

We walk into the back of the packhouse, and I hear an angry growl. I look up and see Grace, Maia shining bright in her eyes at

me touching another she-wolf. I watch as her nose goes up and she smells the same blood that I did. Her eyes go back to

brown, and she rushes over.

“What happened?” She asks.

“Amber was running from hunters and came here for safety.” I tell her, thankful that she was able to take in the situation quickly

and not misinterpret what was happening.

“Summer? Where do we have an empty room?” She asks, just as Amber lifts her nose in the air.

“Mate.” She says quietly. I look up and see Carlos standing absolutely still, looking at Amber.

Grace looks behind her and then back at Amber. "Okay, let's put you in one of the empty rooms on the Beta floor." She says

looking me with wide eyes.

"Summer, what is ready on the Beta floor?"

A young woman grabs a pad of paper sitting on the counter. "Uh, the one right next door to Beta Carlos's room."

"Amber, come with me." She says before turning to me. "Do we have a pack doctor?"

I look at Carlos. He's still in a trance looking at his mate. "Carlos, do we have a pack doctor?"

That snaps him out of it. "You're hurt." He says before taking in the baby. "And you have a child." He says quietly. I watch as the

hope in him deflates.

It's my incredible mate that steps in. "How about we get her settled and seen by a doctor before we jump into other discussions,

okay Carlos?" She says as she guides Amber to the stairs.

"Of course. We don't have a doctor, but we have someone with some medical training."

"Get them for us." Grace tells him.

"Cammy, can you make a plate of food and give it to Eli or Carlos to bring up?"

"yes Luna."

"Eli, can you help Noah unload the car? I got two computers, one for you and Carlos to share for now and one for me to use for

the packhouse supply tracking and shift scheduling."

I'm about to take the plate of food upstairs, when the howl goes up. This one I recognize immediately. Danger.

I turn and shift as I jump out

the door. I feel Noah shift right behind me. I hear another howl go up, before it is abruptly cut off. I head in that direction and when I

get there, I see that there are 30-40 hunters with arrows and guns, firing at my pack members.

Louis snarls ferociously. How dare they come here and attack my pack. I can see multiple pack members laying on the ground,

some in mid-transition, so I know the hunters are using silver. I hear the bullets whizzing by my head, but I jump into the fight

without hesitation, noticing that Noah does the same.

I feel a bullet hit my shoulder as Louis' claws rake down the body of a hunter, eviscerating him where he stands. As an arrow

laced with wolfsbane hits my flank, I grab the arm of another hunter aiming an arrow at a pack member and I rip his arm from his

body. The wolfsbane is slowing my movements and pack members are being taken out at an alarming rate, but those of us still

standing continue to tear into the hunters.

Maia comes flying out of nowhere. She takes an arrow to her flank, but it barely phases her. I take another bullet to the thigh, the

silver burning a hole into my body that Louis can't heal.

Maia begins cutting down the hunters, ripping heads from bodies, slicing

through flesh and bone. Grace may have never learned to fight, but it's in Maia's Guardian soul. Her skill and lethality are

extraordinary.

I continue to fight, feeling my strength wane as the wolfsbane and silver try to force me to shift back. As I look around, I see

many of our pack members are lying unconscious, forced to shift due to their injuries. Many aren't healing and I can't tell how

many are dead and how many are injured, needing medical attention so they don't die.

Thankfully there weren't more hunters. The problem is their weapons. Without those, there wouldn't have even been a fight. As

Maia takes out the last of the hunters, I limp to her, making sure she isn't hurt too badly. I can smell the wolfsbane on her and

she's barely using the leg where the arrow punctured.

Louis licks her face and whines at her before surrendering to the darkness.

Carlos found his mate, but she has a child? And, how about Maia showing off her

Chapter 350

I've just gotten Amber into her room when I hear the howl go up. I can tell there's been a breach in the borders. Amber

immediately starts crying, holding and rocking her baby in her arms.

“Shhh, you’ll be safe here.” I tell her. “But I need to go fight.”

As soon as the words are out of my mouth, I feel pain slice through my shoulder. Eli has been hit. A feral snarl leaves my mouth

and Maia takes over, pushing the shift, and rushing out the door past Carlos and another pack member I assume is the doctor.

I race out the back doors of the packhouse, sniffing the air to find out where they are. I can smell them, the hunters, 38 of them.

Their scent is filled with hate and fear. I can hear the bullets and what sounds like arrows whistling through the air.

I feel another shock of pain, this time in my thigh and I know Eli has been hit again. When I get there, pack members are strewn

all over the ground. Eli and what is left of the warriors are outnumbered. They are fighting hard, but it’s difficult to get to the

hunters to kill them.

Maia pushes harder and jumps into the fray. She doesn’t hesitate in taking the hunters down. They came here to hurt and kill our

pack members and they have hurt our mate. They will not live to see another day.

We barely take notice of the stinging pain in our thigh, but it’s the sharp pain. that comes from our other thigh that let’s me know

that Eli has been hit again.. Maia continues to shred bodies until there are no more hunters standing. She stands, panting,

looking to make sure they are dead when Louis comes up, licking her bloody muzzle and whining, before falling, unconscious.

I immediately shift, grabbing onto Eli, making sure he’s still alive. I lift my head up and howl out a call for help. The hunters may

be dead, but the pack members lay injured and dying on the field of battle. I can’t lose Eli. I won’t.

Pack members come running and I see Carlos among them. “Do we have a pack hospital?” I ask, taking charge quickly.

“No, we’ll need to use the packhouse.” He says, as he starts checking the wolves that lay unconscious on the ground.

“Get the injured to the packhouse. We’ll set up a makeshift emergency room in the dining hall.”

Noah limps over and helps me pick up Eli to carry him back. Others come and

begin carrying our injured back to the packhouse.

When we get there, I lay Eli down, looking him over, "Where is that medical student?" I ask the room at large. Someone hands

me a shirt and I pull it on.

It's Carlos that answers. "I'll get her, but we have another person with medical experience."

"Get both of them here, now." He bolts out of the dining room.

"Noah, find out who is healthy enough to run patrols. Double them until we know that there aren't more hunters coming."

"Yes Luna.

I look around seeing several she-wolves looking for something to do to help. Who here has trained with Carlos?" I ask, knowing

Eli said these she-wolves. would be better trained to fight than the warriors patrolling the borders.

The women look at each other. "All of us." They say.

"Pick the strongest among you and set up a perimeter around the packhouse. If the hunters come back and get past our patrols,

you are our second line of defense." They start to move.

"Ladies." I call their attention back to me. "No one gets through your line." Maia has pushed forward, making my voice deep and

dark.

"Yes Luna."

Carlos returns with a man and a woman. "Luna, these are the medical students I told you about."

I look at them as they take in the carnage of the battle. "We need to triage the injured and we need to treat your Alpha. We need

to get the bullets and arrows out so the wolves can start healing. Eli's been hit three times." I look at him. Two silver bullets and

one arrow."

"Luna, do we have any medical supplies?"

I turn and look at Carlos. He shrugs. "Only what we may have at the pack hospital." He says as Noah comes rushing back in.

“You and Noah go to the pack hospital and get scalpels, forceps, bandages, anything you can find. We’ll have to dig these bullets

out and cut the arrows out.”

They take off to find supplies as the two medical students begin assessing the injured. The woman looks up at me. “Luna, you

will need that arrow removed. from your leg as well.”

I look down, only now realizing one of the injuries I felt earlier was my own and I have an arrow sticking out of my leg. I extend a

claw and slice the arrow down to keep it from catching on anything. “Treat them first. I’m fine.”

“Cammy.” I call out.

“Luna.” She responds from the kitchen, rushing into the room.