

Broken 351

Chapter 351

"We'll need lighter food for the injured. You should begin making that turkey soup you! inentioned. Those recovering will need it

and anything else you can think of that might help them to recover more easily.

"Yes Luna." She says just as Carlos and Noah return with supplies.

"You must be Grace." A deep, unfamiliar voice says from behind me. I spin around to see a man standing beside one of the

women I sent to guard the packhouse.

"Luna, this is..."

I recognize him. I don't know how, but I recognize this man. "Liam." I finish for her.

His answering smile is like the sun breaking through a cloudy day. "It's nice to finally meet you." He says, looking around.

"Although I wish it were under better circumstances. Angel and I heard your call for help. I am here to assist, and I have brought

some warriors and my doctor as well. Angel wanted to come, but she's pregnant and I didn't know what we were going to be

walking into."

I shake my head. "Liam, thank you." As I stare, he raises an eyebrow at me. "Are you go

going to tell your Amazonian squad that it's okay for my pack members to come in?" He asks dryly.

"Of course, let them in." I tell my pack member.

"Where's Eli?" Liam asks, coming in and beginning his own assessment of our injured.

"Here. He's been hit three times." Liam comes over and looks at him, nodding.

"Get the bullets out and the arrow and he'll be fine. My guess is that he'll be up and walking around before tomorrow morning."

I turn to look at him. "How do you know that?"

He smiles at me. "Gifts of being mated to a Guardian."

He looks at me for a moment. "You've been avoiding us, Grace. It's time Maial came to meet her sisters. You don't know what it

means to them and will mean to you until she gets her memories back. But it's time. We're family. Maia just needs to remember

that."

Liam takes a scalpel and begins cutting into Eli's shoulder before taking forceps.

and reaching in to pull the bullet out. He drops it on the floor beside him.

"Angel has an immunity to silver and therefore, now, so do I. I don't think you have that Guardian gift, but it looks like you are

resistant to wolfsbane." He says nodding to my leg. "If so, Eli will have it now as well. That will help his healing." The moment

Liam's doctor enters the room, Noah's head shoots up. "Mate!"

Her head lifts in the same way, looking at Noah in awe. "Mate."

"Well, fuck, I just lost my best doctor." Liam says, working on the other bullet in Eli's thigh.

The adrenaline is wearing off and having Liam here feels surreal, so my response is not appropriate for the situation. "Yeah, Eli

said we have a lot of unmated pack members and wants to set up pack gatherings between the three packs." I tell

him.

"Great idea. Rik and I have done something similar, but we've pretty much cleared out all of our mated pairs."

"I'm bummed about losing Dr. Phillips. She's great, but we have another doctor. It sounds like you need her here anyway."

He moves to start cutting the arrow out of Eli's thigh. "I'm guessing this was hunters?" He says, looking at me.

"Yes. We had a woman and her baby come to our borders asking for refuge." I look up to see Carlos. He hasn't stopped working

on the injured. "She was

running from the hunters, and they must have chased her here. She's mated to our Beta." I say, nodding at Carlos.

Liam glances over, lifting his nose in the air. "He smells like an Alpha to me." He says, before tilting his head. "But, no wolf?"

I can see Carlos flinch, having heard Liam. "He's a great Beta, wolf or no." I say defensively.

“Never said he wasn’t, I just said he’s got Alpha blood.” He says as he pulls the arrow from Eli’s thigh, dropping it to the floor.

“Okay, you’re next.” He says, standing up.

“What?”

He arches his eyebrow at me. “You’re a Guardian, but the arrow still needs to come out. I’m not a

He arches his eyebl so I’ll only work on you and Eli since whatever I

screw up, I know your body can heal.”

He kneels down in front of me, looking at my thigh, before taking the scalpel and slicing a cut beneath the arrowhead. I hiss as

he pulls it out, blood dripping downll my thigh.

“Liam, get the fuck away from my mate.” Eli’s exhausted and pained voice says.

“Eli!” I say and drop to the floor beside him, laying over him and letting the stress of the day go. I didn’t realize how scared I was

that I might lose him. As my tears begin to fall, his arms wrap around me, his scent enveloping me. “I’m here, baby.”

Did you like getting to see Liam again? Time for Maia to meet her

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I come awake slowly, my body aching and the sounds of chaos all around me. When I open my eyes, I’m not thrilled to see Liam

on his knees in front of my mate. I can’t see what he’s doing, but I can see that she’s only in a t-shirt that’s barely covering

anything.

I feel better the moment Grace is in my arms, even if she is crying. I look up and see Liam. He’s making a point of showing me

the arrow he just pulled out of Grace’s leg.

“What are you doing here?” I ask, giving my mate a moment to collect herself as I rub her back.

“Maia sent up a howl for help. Angel and I heard it, and I am here answering that call. My warriors are outside helping yours

patrol until we can get a handle on things and Rik should be here any minute.” He says just as another howl goes up, letting us

know someone is at the borders.

Liam turns his head to listen. “I’m guessing that’s him now, sure.”

As he turns to go, I stop him. “Liam, thank you.”

but I’ll go make

“We’re all family now. We need to get Grace and Maia on board with that. I’m still learning what that means, but I do know that in

this family, we help each other when they need it.”

When he leaves, I move to sit up. Grace sits back, wiping her eyes hurriedly before helping me to sit.

“I’m sorry. I just...” She

starts to say.

“Shhh, a lot happened all at once and based on what I’m seeing, you did a great job at taking charge and getting everything

handled.”

I’m taking inventory of the injured as I sit up. It doesn’t appear that any of our pack died, but many will be out recovering for a

while.

Grace stands to go assist, now that I’m awake. “You stay put.” She orders me and I can’t help but smirk. She’s such an Alpha

female. I love it.

I see Liam come back in with Rik right behind him. “You’re Rik.” Grace says, walking over to him. I can see she’s confused about

how she knows him.

“You must be Grace. It’s nice to finally meet you. I was hoping it would be under better circumstances.”

Rik extends his hand to

her.

After they shake, he looks around. “Liam says you were attacked by hunters.” He

tira

sees me and begins to head over. Grace falls into step beside him. "Yes, thirty- eight of them." She says.

"How do you know how many there were?" I ask her.

She stops, looking at me, frowning. "I could smell them."

Rik turns to look at her. "You could smell them individually?"

She stops, thinking. "I could smell them, and it was like I could almost see them, could sense how many there were. I don't know

how to describe it. I guess Maia could be wrong and that's not how many there were."

Rik smiles at her before looking at me. "I would never bet against a Guardian. My pack did it once but never again. If you say

there were 38, then there were 38." He

says.

Grace looks at him like he's crazy. He just smiles at her. "Gifts of being á Guardian.'

"I thought the gifts were being mated to a Guardian." She says looking at Liam. "The Guardian has the gifts," he says. "Then

when you complete the bond with your fated mate, you share them." He turns to me. "Didn't you feel the rush of power when she

marked you?"

I know I must look shocked. "Is that what that was?"

"Gifts of being mated to a Guardian." Rik and Liam say in unison. It's weird seeing them so in sync.

"And, you must realize that it's her Guardian healing that has you awake before any other wolf in here. I'm guessing you were

injured more than some of these that look like they were knocked out with wolfsbane. Yet, you're awake and they're still out." I

look around and realize Rik's right. I am the only one that has come to after the fight.

"You got that from Grace." Liam adds. "I'd really love to have a go at you now. I can't imagine how strong you are, being mated to

the strongest Guardian."

Grace is snarling before he finishes. He raises his hands in a placating gesture. "Not to hurt him Grace, just to see how strong

he really is. Your Guardian spirit is the strongest one. Or was, Angel's pretty strong and Cara's show of power during the vampire

war was scary. Impressive, but scary. Which is why we need to get together. You need to learn about your gifts and find out how

you can work with Angel and Cara to strengthen yours. Once you tap into Donovan's memories, you'll understand a lot more

about who and what you are."

"Cara." Grace whispers, her eyes going out of focus. Both Rik and Liam's head whip to her face.

"Do you remember Artemis?" Rik asks softly.

"My...daughter?" Grace says her brows furrowing in confusion.

"Daughter?" I ask, confused as well. I thought Artemis was Cara's wolf.

"There is much for us to discuss, but now isn't the right time and I'd like to have our mates present. They can answer many of

your questions." Liam says.

Rik's doctor, Dr. Harris comes over. "Alphas, Luna." He says bowing his head to each of us. "All of the wolves have had the

bullets and arrows removed. Is there not a better place to put them so they can rest?" He asks, looking at me.

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I turn to Grace. "Do any of them need on-going medical attention?" She asks the doctor.

"Most of them won't need medical attention, but I would suggest having someone close by when they wake up. They will be sore

and will need food and water to help them get stronger. There are a few, however, that will need on going medical attention. Am I

correct that your pack hospital is not operational?"

"That's correct." I say, trying to push myself up. I immediately feel two hands on my shoulders, one is Grace's and one is Rik's.

"We're here to help you brother. Let yourself heal. Liam, Grace and I can handle this." Rik says.

"Brother?" I ask. After everything that happened, I really didn't expect Rik to ever truly forgive me.

"You're mated to a Guardian. Regardless of our past, you're family now. And I have very strong feelings about family." He says.

"Yeah, he does." Liam says behind him. "You'd better get used to it, But I'll tell you, it's weird."

Rik stands, shaking his head before turning back to me. "I think you should take the doctor's orders and get some food and rest."

"I'll rest when my pack is settled." I say.

"Spoken like a true Alpha." Rik says, putting his hand out to help me up. "But I would suggest perhaps finding a seat and

supervising while you rest and eat."

When I stand, I'm unsteady on my feet and Grace is immediately at my side, pulling my arm over her shoulders. She helps me to

walk to a table, pulling up a chair. She then calls to Cammy to prepare a bowl of soup and some water.

As I eat, I watch Grace organize the injured to be placed back in their rooms if they live here in the packhouse or to be taken

home if they have one. If they have mates, their mates are assigned to stay the night with them. If they don't, she gets omegas to

volunteer to watch over them, letting them know to contact her if anything happens or if they need help.

One of Rik's warriors walks in to give an update on the border patrols when I watch his nose lift in the air. "Mate!" He says

excitedly, looking around. I watch as Maddison, the one from the garden, looks up with the same dazed, excited

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look on her face. "Mate." She says back.

"Well, that's two." Grace says as she walks over to take my empty bowl.

"Two?" I ask.

"Noab met his mate, too." She says, pointing to where he is helping a doctor work on a patient. I can see from here how

enamored he is already. Thankfully, his mate seems to be just as happy. Maybe finding his mate will make him more willing to be

my Gamma.

"What about Carlos and Amber?" I ask.

"You're right, I forgot about them. I guess that's three. Liam likes your idea about having pack get together. Obviously, there is a

need. I'll be sad to lose Maddie, she's a good worker and a strong pack member. But we're getting a doctor from Liam's pack, so that's good."

I watch as all the injured are moved to their rooms, or their houses with either their mates, or those that volunteered to watch

over them. Bowls of soup are set aside or sent home for the injured. A total of 22 wolves were injured but only two were injured

severely. Rik offered to take them to his pack hospital to have medical supervision until they healed.

"Liam and I will leave some of our warriors here to help with your patrols overnight. They can send us a pack link if you're

attacked again, and we can get here much quicker. I'd also like to request that you allow my Lead Warrior, Trevor, to stay so he

can get to know his mate." He nods his head at the man speaking to Maddison.

"Maddison." I tell him. "And of course. I'm happy to have some of our pack members finding their mates."

"Liam mentioned you wanting to have pack gatherings. It's a good idea, something we should discuss. Soon." He says

meaningfully.

"I have several things to discuss with you and Liam. I'd like to get together this weekend if everything settles down here after this

battle."

"We're going to head out. Call me tomorrow and let me know how things are going. I hope we can see you and your mate this

weekend." He says, before walking over to Trevor, letting him know he can stay. I watch as Maddison's face lights up like

Christmas before taking Trevor's hand and walking away. I'd bet money they will be fully marked and mated by tomorrow

morning.

"Let's go, old man. Time to get you into bed." My little mate says, coming up behind me.

I stand, wrapping my arm around her. "Haven't we had this conversation before, Little Alpha. I'm not old."

“Well then, when you’re healthy, you can show me just how young you are.” She says, leading me up to our room where I curl up around her, letting her scent of cherry blossoms lull me to sleep.

And another old friend, Rik! Looks like we’ll be seeing Angel and Cara soon, too.

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When I wake the next morning, I leave Eli sleeping in bed and I head downstairs. to check on the injured and find out how many

awoke overnight. No one came looking for me, so I’m hopeful that everyone is either still resting quietly or has awakened.

When I get to the kitchen, I see several omegas that volunteered to stay with the injured overnight. I find out that all but five of

the injured are awake. Many ate some soup when they woke and are now getting ready to come down to join the pack in the

dining room for breakfast. I’m about to go check on the ones that

groom for breakfast. I’m about to go haven’t woken yet when Noah and Dr. Phillips walk in, both looking sleepy but happy with

fresh mate marks on their necks.

I smile at them. “Good morning. It looks like you both had a good night last night.” I say, smiling at them. Being newly mated

myself, I understand the feeling perfectly. I reach my hand out to Dr. Phillips as she blushes softly. “I’m Grace and you must be

Dr. Phillips.”

She shakes my hand. “Please, call me Sirona, Luna. It’s a pleasure to meet you. Noah has told me what you and Alpha Eli are

trying to do with this pack. I would be thrilled to be a part of something so exciting.”

I look at Noah, smiling. “She’s perfect!” I say, already knowing his response.

“Yes, she is.” He says, kissing the side of her head.

“I know you two probably don’t want to be separated so quickly, but could I possibly steal you away Sirona. There are five of our

pack members that have not yet awakened, and I'd like to check on them."

"Of course, let me grab my bag." She says before running back upstairs.

Noah watches her until she turns and walks out of his sight. He turns to me, and I can't help the pleased smirk on my face.

"Luna, is Alpha awake yet? I have an answer for him."

"Do you? And is this answer going to make your Alpha and Luna happy, Noah?" I ask teasing him.

He smiles brightly. "I believe it will, Luna."

"Good, then you can join me in Carlos's office." Eli says coming up behind me.

I turn, rushing to him. "You should have woken me, baby." He says softly. He's still limping a bit, but he wraps his arms around

me.

+15 BONGE

"You were still sleeping and I wanted to check on everyone. Sirona, that's Dr. Phillips and I are going to see the five that haven't

yet woken up. Most of the rest have come down for breakfast. You and Noah should join them after you talk. Don't overdo it,

Alpha." I tell him as Sirona comes down with her bag. "We'll meet you in the dining room when we're done."

By the time we check on the warriors that are still unconscious, two have woken. For the other three, I rotate the person sitting

with them, letting the person who watched them overnight get some sleep.

"We're very excited to have you in our pack, Sirona. I know it's probably a lot for someone who has been in a well-run, happy

pack to take on, but we plan to make this place a home for everyone that needs one."

"Honestly, being a doctor, I've never run from a challenge. I actually prefer it, so this is perfect for me. And I hear that the pack

hospital is still in ruins which gives me a chance to rebuild it the way I want it rebuilt." She turns and looks at me. That is, if you

and Alpha agree."

I laugh. "I don't know the first thing about supernatural medicine and I'm sure Eli doesn't either, so it's all yours. Whatever you

want or need, let us know. It may be slow getting there, but we will get there. We also have two medical students here, so you

won't be completely alone. You'll have to assess their skill set for yourself, but at least you'll have some help."

We walk into the dining room, and I see Amber sitting with Eli, Noah and Carlos. As I watch, Eli and Noah's noses go up in the

air before they both rise out of their seats and turn toward us. Eli pulls me into an embrace before pulling out a chair for me.

"Have something to eat, Grace. Give me an update on our injured."

Sirona and I update everyone on the status of our pack members. "I called Alpha Rik this morning. The two that he took to his

pack are still unconscious." Carlos says. I watch as Amber looks at him, but doesn't say anything, looking back down at her

plate. I'm not sure if she's quiet or if there is something more going on here.

"Amber, how did you settle in last night? I apologize for not coming back to check on you and your baby."

"Oh, you have a baby?" Sirona asks. "How old?"

"She's just one month old." She says quietly, looking at Carlos through her lashes. Okay, so that has yet to be resolved. "And

thank you Luna, I did settle in, and we were able to sleep some."

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Eli looks past me at Amber. "Is there someone we should call, someone that may be looking for you so we can let them know

you're safe."

She shakes her head. "No, thank you Alpha, but there is no one."

I can feel Eli's confusion through the bond. How does this woman have a brand new baby if there is no one.

"The baby is a hybrid.' Maia says.

'A hybrid?' I ask. "You mean part wolf, part human?"

'I don't think so. Part wolf, yes. But, I'm not sure what the other part is.'

"Amber, do you have everything you need for your baby? What is her name, by the way?"

“Oh, I haven’t named her yet. I....”

I can see tears welling in her eyes. “It’s okay.” I say reaching out placing my hand over hers. I can see Carlos’s hand twitching,

wanting to hold her hand like I am. I sigh internally. I was hoping he would find someone, and it would be great. This seems like it

might be a struggle. I just hope it’s one they can overcome.

“Do you want to come around with me today? I have some things that I need to finish taking care of and I could show you around

at the same time.” I ask her. “That would be great. I want to work, I want to be useful, so anything that you need for me to do, I’d

be happy to do.”

Eli puts his hand on my back, rubbing gently. “Well, we have a lot of work that needs to be done. There’s no shortage of that.” I

say laughing.

“We’re glad to have you here, Amber. Grace is whipping everything into shape and I’m sure she can find something that will suit

your needs. But please, take whatever time you need to rest and recover.”

“I’m good Alpha. I want to work.” She says.

“You’re injured? From the attack yesterday?” Sirona asks her.

“No, before. I was held captive by the hunters, but I escaped and found this place, thankfully.” She says with the briefest of

smiles.

“Have you been checked, medically?” Sirona asks, going into doctor mode.

“Someone,” she looks at Carlos, “checked me yesterday.”

Carlos is watching her intently. “Dr. Phillips is a real doctor. You should let her check you over.” He tells her softly,

“Okay.” She agrees.

“Okay! Then after breakfast, I have my first assignment.” She turns to Noah. “What will you be doing today, my love?” She asks

him.

He looks at Eli questioningly.

“That reminds me.” Eli says standing up. “Attention everyone.” He says and the room goes quiet. “I have asked Noah to be our

pack’s Gamma and he has agreed. When

we have our ranked member ceremonies, he will be included as the pack’s Gamma and his mate, Sirona Phillips, will be

included as our Gamma female. She is a doctor from the Shadow Falls Pack and we are very happy to have her join our pack

now.”

Cheers go up and people begin to come to the table congratulating Noah and Sirona. I watch as Amber quietly slips away.

Carlos pretends not to notice, but I see him watching her out of the corner of my eye. When he turns back, he sees me watching

him. I raise my eyebrow at him, but he just shakes his head.

“I have one more announcement. Our own Maddison Gray found her mate yesterday as well. Trevor is the Lead Warrior with the

Canyon Ridge Pack, so while we are gaining a doctor, we are losing one of our best gardeners. Thankfully, we have a strong

alliance with both packs, and we’ll continue to work together and see members from those packs.”

There’s a lot of congratulations and back slapping for Trevor, and some tears for Maddison, I’m guessing from her garden crew.

Eli raises his hands, and everyone quiets down again. “Yesterday we received a surprise attack from the hunters and while many

were injured, I am happy to announce that no one was killed. Our neighbors answered your Luna’s call for help, reinforcing our

alliance and bond with those packs. However, it did bring to light our pack’s need for more intense warrior training. I will be taking

my mate to the Shadow Falls Pack over the weekend, but starting Monday, you will all be training with me and Carlos. We will

set up training twice daily for all warriors. Every pack member who has a wolf will train at least once a day. Men and women will

train together.” There is a cheer from the women in the room.

“Until then, you will train with Carlos. He is your Beta, and you will give him the respect he and his position deserve. Grace and I

will be leaving tomorrow morning. If you have any questions or concerns, see me before I leave.”

He sits back down, kissing me on the side of my head before we both turn back to our food and finish eating.

What do you think of Carlos and Amber? And why does Amber not have anyone looking for her?
Updates occur daily.

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“What are your plans for today, Grace?” I ask as we finish our food.

“I want to get the computer set up for the kitchens and packhouse.” She stops, turning to me. “Did you get them out of the car

yesterday, or were you

interrupted.”

“They must still be in the car.” I look up at Noah. “You didn’t get them out, did. you?”

“No, Alpha. After everything happened, it completely slipped my mind. And once I found Sirona,” he pulls his mate closer to him,

kissing her. “Well, after that, my mind was focused on other things.”

Sirona is a blusher. I can tell Noah will enjoy making his mate blush as frequently as possible. From the corner of my eye, I see

Carlos flinch at their show of affection. Time for me to find out what’s going on.

“Carlos, how about you and I go get the computers. Hopefully there wasn’t any food left in the car.” I

I say.

“No, the omegas were helping us unload.” Grace says.

I extend my hand to Grace, helping her to stand, taking any opportunity I can to touch her. I kiss her hand before letting her go.

“I’ll bring your computer to you and then Carlos and I will go set up the computer in his office. Noah, why don’t you start looking

around for offices for the ranked members. Try to keep us as close together as possible. Then, take your mate to the pack

hospital and let her see what she’s up against.”

I turn to her. “It will be a lot of work, I hope you’re ready for that.” I tell her.

“As I told Luna Grace, I don’t mind hard work and I love a challenge.”

I can’t help but smile. “Well, then, you’ve found your mate in the right pack because hard work and a challenge are what we’ve got for you.”

I drop Grace off in the kitchen before Carlos and I make our way out to Noah’s car. It’s unlocked, but I have to pop the trunk to get the computers out.

“So, you want to tell me what’s up with you and your mate?” I ask him and watch as his lips press into a thin line.

He may not want to talk about it, but he needs to, so I wait him out.

Finally, he sighs, and we lean against the car, setting the computer boxes on the ground. “She has a child, but I don’t know what it means that no one is looking for her. I assumed that she was in a relationship with another wolf. I mean, wouldn’t the father want to know where his child is? I know it’s a girl, and some wolves, especially Alphas, feel that girls aren’t worthy of being heirs, but I couldn’t imagine letting a woman who was carrying my child just walk out of my life.”

“Why haven’t you talked to her?”

“It was a little chaotic last night.”

I look at him, raising my eyebrow. “Noah found time to fight against the hunters, help the injured and still mark and mate his

newly found mate. And you’re telling me you didn’t have time for a conversation with yours?”

“Okay, fine. I didn’t know what to say. And....” He stops, running his hand through his hair. “And maybe she doesn’t want a

wolfless mate.” He says quietly.

And there it is, the real issue.

“It didn’t seem like it to me at breakfast. She seemed sad to me, maybe even a bit heartbroken that her mate is ignoring her. She

has no one, and she's going to remain in this pack. You're going to have to talk to her and figure this out. If you decide to reject

her..."

He cuts me off. "I would NEVER reject my mate! I can't believe the Moon Goddess even gave me one. Why would I give that

up??" He practically yells at me.

"Then act like her mate. Or at least, talk to her and find out how she got into this position. She's not just running from hunters,

Carlos."

His brows pinch together. "What do you mean?"

"She's a single mother, with a baby, alone in the world. Do you even know how long she's been with the hunters?"

I can see the moment he understands my meaning. If no one is looking for Amber and she has a baby, maybe her pregnancy

occurred while she was with the hunters. Or maybe the baby's father was killed while she was pregnant. Either way, it means

she's been through a lot..

"You're right. Thank you, Alpha. I'll talk to her."

"Now is good." I say to him as I reach down and pick up one of the computer boxes.

"Now?"

"Yeah, now. No time like the present. I can set up the computer while you take

+15 HONGS

your mate and have a good conversation. Figure things out with her and when you're done, come meet me in your office and

we'll talk about our new training schedule." I say as we walk into the kitchen, and I nod for Carlos to put his computer box on the

counter.

"Here's your computer, Grace." I say, noticing that Amber is helping to clean the breakfast dishes while her baby lays in a

improvised crib nearby. She looks up and immediately looks back down when she sees Carlos, her cheeks turning pink.

I turn and watch him staring at her before he finally looks at Grace. "Luna, might I take Amber and have a word with her?"

Grace looks at me before answering. "Of course. Amber, we've got this. Why don't you go speak with Carlos. Do you want me to watch your baby?"

"No, thank you Luna. I'll take her." She says before drying her hands, picking up her child and following Carlos out of the kitchen.

Grace walks up to me, wrapping her arms around me. "I hope that will be a good conversation." She says, leaning up and kissing my lips softly.

"Me too, but at least there will be a conversation. He's more concerned about being rejected than her having a child. I think she's

more worried about having a child than him not having a wolf."

"What a motley crew our pack is."

"I wouldn't have it any other way, baby." I kiss the corner of her mouth. "Will you be ready to leave tomorrow morning. I have to

speak with Liam and Rik, and they really want you to meet Cara and Angel. You'll like them."

"Yes. I need to figure out who can run a computer and set it up for me while I'm gone, but that won't take me long. We have our

meals planned, food for the pack and I think everything will be good with Carlos and Noah here while we are gone.

"Good. I'm going to go get my computer set up and start putting all of Carlos's paper into the 21st century."

She laughs as she pulls out of my arms, turning to get back to work. I can't help but smack her perfect ass, loving her startled

gasp and the surprised look on her face. I give her my best smirk before turning and heading to the office.

Chapter 357

I'm glad Eli talked to Carlos. It was obvious that Amber was miserable, and it was because her mate wouldn't speak to her. I

don't know how things will go, but at least there will be a conversation.

As I walk back into the kitchen, I clap my hands. "Okay, who knows how to use a computer." Only one hand goes up, Autumn.

I point to her. "You're hired!"

As I set up the computer, I talk to her about her past experience with a computer. It's not that I can't or won't run the scheduling

of the kitchens and pack house staff, but it's time consuming. It's usually two jobs and I need time to work on other things, so I'm

glad that Autumn has at least some experience.

Not surprisingly, her experience is with the packhouse management, since her sister was a Lead Omega in their previous pack. I

get the computer set up and put together a template of the scheduling roster I want her to use. I set her up to work with her sister

so that they have a rotation of individuals working every day and ensure that everyone has time off as well.

We're just finishing up when Amber and Carlos walk back in, Carlos holding Amber's baby in his arms. "Luna, might we have a

word?" He asks. Amber looks nervous, but Carlos puts his free arm around her, pulling her to him.

I try to hide my smile. "Of course. Maybe we can find a private place in the dining room since we're between meals?" I say and

begin walking to the dining room.

Thankfully, there is no one else in the room, so we sit at a table, and I wait for them to speak.

Carlos looks at Amber, who gives a barely noticeable nod before turning to me. Luna, as you probably guessed, Amber and I

needed to talk about our mate bond. As you know, I don't have a wolf." He says, and Amber's hand curls under his bicep, holding

on to him as she leans into him. He turns, smiling down at her and kissing her forehead.

"Amber doesn't care about that, thankfully." I know my answering smile must be huge as I look at Amber. I knew almost

immediately how amazing Carlos was. I'm glad his mate has realized it too.

"However," he starts, and I see Amber tense. He shifts the baby and wraps his arm around her. "Amber was experimented on

when the hunters had her. They injected her with some male's sperm causing her to get pregnant. When she had

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her baby, they intended to take it and experiment on it. She fought them, trying to save her baby and they beat her. She was

finally able to get her baby and escape. She ran until she found us."

I look at Amber. "You don't know what the father was?" I ask her. Amber's head whips up at my question.

"You mean who, don't you, Luna? Not what." Carlos asks.

I never take my eyes off Amber. "Maia said your baby is a hybrid. So, the father is not a wolf. She can't tell what species the

father is, but she doesn't think he's human."

Tears start streaming down her face. "I don't know." She whispers.

Carlos pulls her into his side, whispering in her ear, trying to calm her.

"Hey." I say gently. "We don't judge, we don't care. I'm only wondering for you and your child's sake. But it doesn't matter. You

and your baby are still a part of this pack, and we will accept her, just like we've accepted you."

She looks up at me with tears in her eyes. "Thank you, Luna. I was afraid to say anything, but Carlos said you and Alpha Eli

would be accepting of her."

"There is too much exclusion in the packs. Here, we accept you for who you are and allow you to be the best you can be. Or

that's our goal at least. We're still working on that part about making things the best they can be." I say smiling at her.

She wipes away her tears, then looks at Carlos before looking back at me. "I really do want to be of help."

Chapter 358

"Do you happen to know anything about working in a kitchen or computers?" I ask her, jokingly.

"Yes, actually. I worked as the scheduler for our kitchen staff before I left my pack." She says. I make a note that she 'left' her

pack, not that she was taken by hunters. Another person mistreated by her pack. There are too many.

“Well, then, I have the perfect job for you, and you are about to make my day.” I tell her. “Ready to get to work?” I ask and stand.

“Yes Luna.”

I introduce Autumn and Cammy to Amber and explain that she will be scheduling the kitchen staff and sharing the computer with

Autumn.

“Luna, what would you like me to do with the rest of my time?” She asks me.

I look at her and back at Autumn who shrugs. “The rest of what time?”

“In my last pack, this didn’t take the full day, what else would you like me to do?”

“You don’t have to work a full day here. Our pack members have time for their lives, families and to enjoy the pack lands. You

don’t have to work every minute you are awake.” I tell her, having had this conversation with some of the omegas already.

“But, if I wanted to do more, what could I do?” She asks, trying to find a way around my expectation for relaxing.

“Well, we just lost one of our gardeners. Do you know anything about gardening? It would be a nice way to get some fresh air for

you and your daughter.”

“I can garden.” She says.

“Okay, I’ll introduce you to Victoria and Ivy and you can find out what they need.”

I leave her in the kitchen with Cammy and Autumn and go looking for Victoria or Ivy. As I’m passing Carlos’s office, I have an

idea. I poke my head into the office and knock on the door jamb.

“Hey, Carlos.” He stands, moving toward me quickly.

“Is everything okay with Amber? With the baby?”

“Yes, but I wanted to ask you something. You said there was someone in the pack.

that can make furniture. Perhaps you can ask them if they can make a crib for the baby? Or maybe we can find one and

refurbish it?”

He blinks at me. "I didn't even think about that. I'll get on it. Thank you, Luna."

I wink at my mate, leaving him smiling before I go out to the gardens and find Maddison and Victoria.

"Maddison, I'm surprised to see you here." I say, walking into the garden.

"Luna. I wanted to come visit the garden one more time. Trevor and I are leaving with you and Alpha Eli tomorrow. I don't know

when I might be back." She stops. and looks around. "I've put so much time and energy into this garden. I'm going to miss it."

"I'm sure Alpha Rik and Luna Cara would love to use your skills in their pack. Or you could always create your own personal

garden wherever you and Trevor end up living." I suggest.

"Yes, I hope so. And I hope I'll be able to come back and visit?" She asks.

"Any time." I say, taking her hands. "Now, Victoria, I have a replacement gardener for you. Her name is Amber. She's the one

that came to us yesterday. She's mated to Beta Carlos and will be running the schedule for the kitchens, but she wanted another

job, so I told her you and Ivy could talk to her about helping in the gardens."

"That would be great, Luna. Having the Beta female helping with our food supply and knowing what food we need as well as

what we have growing will be great for the pack." Victoria says.

"I agree. Find me during one of the meals today and I'll introduce you. Then you can work together to find a time to come out and

show her around."

I turn to head back to the packhouse. "Maddison, I'll see you in the morning. And congratulations. From what I hear, Trevor is a

catch." I tell her smiling. "That he is, Luna. That he is." She says, smiling brightly.

Chapter 359

The rest of the day goes by, and I'm exhausted by the time I head back to our room. Carlos found the carpenter and asked him

to build a crib. Apparently, the carpenter was so excited he said he'd build him a bassinet as well. I was happy to see him being

more affectionate with Amber at dinner and watched as Grace. introduced her to Victoria, getting her set up to see the gardens

while we are away.

When I get to our room, I see that Grace has packed a bag. I begin looking for my backpack before spotting it on the bed,

looking like it's already packed. "Did you pack my bag as well?" I ask her.

"I did, I hope that's okay. You looked tired at dinner, and I wanted you to be able to come up and relax. You're still recovering

from yesterday. Why don't you go take a shower while I finish up." She says, pulling some clothes out of the closet.

I walk up behind her and wrap my arms around her. "Why don't you join me in the shower and then we can curl up and go to

sleep." I tell her.

"Why Alpha, are you trying to get me naked and wet?" She asks, coyly. I growl, deep in my chest, pushing against her.

"I am now." I say, pulling her into the bathroom. "We did discuss trying new positions and seeing which ones are your favorite. I'd

be remiss if we didn't at least try shower sex." I tell her, before stripping off her clothes.

Later, I'm curled up around my naked mate in bed, enjoying her warmth. "We'll have to do that again soon, Alpha." She says

sleepily.

"Grace." I saw warningly. She knows what calling me Alpha does to me.

She chuckles, her body shaking in my arms. "Goodnight Eli." It's quiet for a moment. "I love you." She says softly.

"I love you too my little Alpha." I tell her and we both drift off to sleep. The next morning, we wake up early. As we head down to

grab breakfast, I call Rik and let him know we'll be leaving shortly. We're running since it's faster to get to his pack lands through

the canyon instead of driving around it. And since neither Grace nor I have a car or know how to drive, we aren't taking anyone

away from the pack that may need to be here to help cover for those that are still recovering from the hunter attack.

At breakfast, we meet up with Trevor and Maddison. She will have to come back for her things, but Trevor will bring her in his

car. When we're ready, we all go out to the forest and strip, collecting our clothes before shifting and grabbing our

bags. The run is nearly two hours, but as we begin to run through the canyon, Maia stops short, looking around.

Louis turns around and Trevor's wolf stops, turning to walk back to Maia. I shift, looking at her. "Maia, what is it?"

Trevor shifts and turns, looking around. "This is where Clint died." He says softly.

I go to Maia, getting down on my knees and running my hands through her fur as she sniffs the ground. "Baby, are you okay?" I

ask her.

She lifts her head and lets out a mournful howl that is heartbreaking to hear. I can hear the answering howls of wolves from both

packs as they echo around the

canyon.

I hold her face and put my forehead against her furry head. "I'm here. Anything you need baby. Take your time."

"She remembers the fight." Grace says through the mind link. "She remembers Clint and Donovan dying here after being drained

by a vampire. She remembers the pain."

As she looks around, remembering, I hear large paws pushing through the ground, headed our way. I stand up, looking in the

direction of the sound and I see what looks like Cyran, Liam's wolf, carrying Angel.

up to

When they get close, Cyran slows down. Angel crawls off his back, her grey eyes turning olive when her wolf pushes forward.

"Sister." She says and walks Maia, leaning down and hugging her. "I've looked forward to meeting you. Alessia would love to

meet you in her wolf form, but we're expecting, so I can't shift right now." She tells Maia.

Maia begins to shift, and I reach into my bag, grabbing a shirt, shoving it over her head the moment she shifts. As shifters, we

may be used to nudity, but I don't want my mate naked around other Alphas.

Grace stands, looking at Angel, Maia still glowing in her eyes. "Alessia?"

Angel's smile is breathtaking. "You remember me?" She says, taking Grace's

hands.

"Yes." Grace says, laughing while tears trek down her face. "Yes, I remember you."

As they embrace, I hear large paws coming from a different direction. Kai, Rik's wolf, runs up carrying Cara. He gently lays

down, letting Cara slide off him before he hurriedly shifts and picks her up. "I told you I'd pull out the big guns if you couldn't get

her to come see us." Rik tells me. I guess Cara is 'the big gun'.

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However, when Grace turns, Maia's gold takes over her eyes and her voice, when she speaks, is deep. "Artemis." She says,

moving toward Cara, whose emerald eyes are now rimmed with gold.

"I'd call you father, but that's not accurate. You are still my parent, yes?" The deeper voice of Artemis asks Maia.

Grace walks to Cara, wrapping her arms around her, holding her close even though she's still in Rik's arms.

"Yes, you are mine." Maia replies.

When she releases her, Grace turns and looks at me, swaying a bit. I immediately step up to her, holding her. "Baby?"

"I remember. Everything.

"Come." Rik says, nodding his head in the direction of his pack. "This must be overwhelming for you Grace, and I don't want my

mate overdoing it in her condition. We can walk back to the packhouse."

He turns and begins walking with Cara still in his arms. I lean down grabbing our bags then sweep Grace's legs out from under

her, picking her up.

"Eli, put me down." Her voice is weak, I have no intention of putting her down.

I kiss her nose. "You're had another big shock, baby. I'll carry you. Just relax and let Maia's memories return. I'm sure it's a lot to

take in."

Trevor shifts back to his wolf and he and Maddison take off ahead of us. Liam and Angel fall into step beside us. Angel reaches

out holding Grace's hand in hers as we walk. Rik slows down and falls into step on my other side, allowing Cara to reach out and

hold Grace's other hand.

"We're so glad to have you back." Cara says, a sad smile on her face.

What do you think of getting to spend some time with Cara and Angel?

Chapter 360

The memories that come when I see the place where Clint and Donovan died is nothing compared to the flood of memories that

start when I see Angel and Alessia. But the dam breaks when I see Cara and Artemis. I don't know what it is about her, maybe

because Artemis is the daughter of my Guardian spirit, but everything comes flooding back. It's overwhelming and while I was

embarrassed to have Eli carrying me, I'm not sure I could have walked on my own.

When we reach the pack lands, the difference in this pack and my pack with Eli is apparent. But, I can also see the difference in

this pack and my father's pack. Where my father needed to be the most intimidating wolf in the pack, Rik seems to lead with love

and patience. Pack members of all ages run up to him, surrounding us and walking with us back to the packhouse. There is no

fear or intimidation as they ask him and Cara questions and are asked questions in return. Both Cara and Rik seem to know

every pack member by name and know their lives enough to ask them questions as we walk.

Eli and I are introduced and when it becomes overwhelming, Rik and Cara tell them that we'll be introduced at dinner tonight.

When we arrive at the

packhouse, a young woman who looks to be as pregnant as Cara is standing at the back door of the packhouse.

“Welcome to Canyon Ridge.” She says, smiling at me and Eli. She steps back, motioning for us to enter. “I’m Lacey, the pack’s

Beta female. If you’ll follow me, I’ll show you your room and you can get settled. We have lunch scheduled in an hour on the

patio. Does that give you enough time to get settled and shower if you’d like?” She asks as she guides us through the packhouse

and up the stairs.

“That will be great.” I tell her. “Thank you.”

She shows us to our room and when she leaves, Eli sets me down and I look around. “Will our packhouse look like this one

day?” I ask him.

He comes up behind me and wraps his arms around me. “Our packhouse will look whatever way you want it to, baby. It will just

take some time.”

I turn around, my arms snaking around his neck. “You are a good man, Eli Gunnar.” I say, meaning it from deep within my heart.

He leans his head down against mine. “I haven’t always felt that way, but when you say it, I believe it. And I want to make sure

that you always feel that way about me.”

I step out of his embrace, taking his hand. “Come on, let’s get showered and changed so we can eat. I’m starved.”

When we’ve freshened up, we head downstairs to find Rik and Cara. Cara is already seated at the table, Rik hovering near her.

She pats the seat next to her, wanting me to sit beside her.

“I can’t tell you how much it means to me that you are here. Losing dad was... She stops, her voice breaking. Rik is right there,

his hands on her shoulders.

“Little Guardian, if it’s too much for you...”

She cuts him off, taking his hand. “No, it’s good to know that some part of them survived. It’s just still painful for me. Angel has

been amazing and having her and Alessia has helped. And, of course, Rik has been amazing.” She says gazing up at him with

love in her eyes. "But now that you're here, it's like our family is back together."

She smiles through her tears, and I can see that Rik wants nothing more than to whisk his mate away and comfort her, but he

doesn't. Maybe she needs this just as much as she needs his comfort. "You'll have to excuse me. Pregnancy hormones." She

says, laughing through her tears.