

Broken 371

Chapter 0371

When we arrive back at our pack, I know Grace is exhausted. It's been a grueling couple of days for her. I was able to complete

our application to make our pack official, I applied for us to participate in the Tournament of the Moon Goddess, we set a date for

the first mate gathering with Rik and Liam's packs and I told Liam that I'd have numbers for him in a couple of days for those that

want to work for hi

All in all, it was a very productive weekend.

When we get to the packhouse, Carlos is waiting for us, Amber's baby in his arms. "Alpha, Luna. Welcome home." He says. We

shift and put on some clothes before walking into the packhouse.

"Carlos, nice mark you're sporting." I say, referencing his new mate mark.

He smiles sheepishly. "Thank you, Alpha."

"Congratulations." Grace says to him, coming up beside me.

"Uh, I know you both probably want to go clean up and check in on everything that's happened while you were gone, but before

you go, Amber and I would like to share something with you."

Amber comes walking up and she has her own, strangely designed mate mark. I raise I brow, looking at her. "You were able to

mark Amber?" I ask Carlos.

He looks at her and I can see his embarrassment. "I wasn't able to restrain myself, and even though I don't have a wolf, it seems

to have worked. We both felt the mate bond snap into place." He says, pulling Amber into his side and hugging her close.

"I'm very happy for both of you. Is that what you wanted to share with us?" I ask, ready to get caught up before dinner. I have a

lot to announce to the pack.

"Actually, we wanted to introduce you to our daughter. Amber and I wanted to give her a name that meant something to both of

us, something that we both feel we have now. So, may I introduce you to our daughter, Hope.”

Grace steps forward, putting her finger in Hope’s hand, letting her grasp her finger as she leans down and kisses her forehead.

“Welcome to Safe Haven, Hope.” She says quietly.

Carlos looks at me over Grace’s head. I smile at him. “Spread the word, I have some announcements to make at dinner. Anyone

that can, should attend tonight.”

“Yes, Alpha!” Carlos says excitedly.

Grace reaches out and touches Amber’s arm. “A beautiful name for a beautiful girl.”

“Thank you, Luna.”

“Now,” Grace says turning to me. “I’d better check to make sure we’re set to feed everyone for dinner tonight.”

“I’ll join you, Luna.” Amber says before taking Hope from Carlos and following Grace into the kitchen.

Carlos falls into step beside me. “So, it’s done?” He asks as we begin walking to his office.

“The application is complete and submitted. It’ll be a couple of days before we get confirmation.” I’m about to walk into his office,

when he stops me.

“Alpha.” I turn as he opens the door to the office next to his. I stop in the doorway and see that in my absence, it’s been set up.

“You tasked our Gamma with finding offices for all of us. He took it a step further and set them up. This is your office.” He says,

sweeping his arm in a gesture for me to precede him into the office.

I walk in and see that there is a desk with a chair, some bookcases, a small round table and two chairs.

“Where did you get the

furniture?” I ask, astonished that there is any at all.

“Jeremy, that’s the carpenter that is making Hope’s crib, had some that were in various states of disrepair. He’s taking the pieces

that are still good and creating new pieces of furniture. We started with yours and Luna’s. Noah’s furniture is in process and then

we’ll set up offices for Amber and Sirona, although Sirona is expecting to spend most of her time at the pack hospital.”

At that moment, Noah walks in. "Alpha! Welcome back. What do you think?"

Chapter 0372

"I think I'm impressed with your ability to get an office set up for me so quickly. Nice job."

He looks around, as if assessing the space. "It's not much, but we can add to it as more furniture becomes available. We've let

the pack members know that if they have any spare furniture or anything that they don't want, to let Jeremy know. He's created

his own provisional workspace just outside the packhouse."

"Since you're both here, close the door and have a seat. I'll update you the events of the weekend. A lot has happened and will

continue to happen. And I'd like to hear about how training went this weekend, as well." Carlos smiles at that and Noah snorts,

so I know there's a story there.

After filling them in on the application for the pack, the upcoming tournament and the date for the mate gathering, I tell them

about Liam and Rik's loan for the construction of the pack as well as Liam's ability and willingness to hire our pack members to

rebuild our pack and pay our pack members.

"That's....well, it's incredible. I never would have expected that." Carlos says, Noah nodding in agreement.

"It means we will be able to get this pack up to a livable standard before the tournament. How many of us will he hire?"

I let them know that Liam is willing to hire anyone that is interested in working. It's a great opportunity for the pack. I discuss their

thoughts around the

repayment amount from the salaries and we all agree that 50% is fair, especially since everyone will get a home out of it and

right now, they are doing the work for free.

Afterward, I find out that Carlos got some flack at the first training session. Some of the warriors challenged his ability to train

them properly. He shut them up by having the she-wolves he'd been training pair up with the warriors that have basically been

training themselves. In each instance, the she-wolves were victorious in the sparring, forcing their opponent to tap out. After

that, everyone began to train at Carlos's level. Apparently, now there is a lot of grumbling about how sore they are after training.

When we finish, I head to the kitchen, getting Grace before heading upstairs to finally shower before dinner.

"I have them adding a dessert tonight since we have a lot to celebrate. I'm hoping the pack is just as excited as we are. I think

they will be." She tells me and I can

feel her excitement through the bond at our upcoming announcements.

When we get downstairs, we sit at the head table with Carlos, Amber, Noah and Sirona, our ranked members who will be official

in the next week, if all goes well. As the pack comes in, I wait until the omegas have served the food and have seated

themselves before starting. The news traveled, so everyone is expecting an announcement. I stand, taking Grace's hand and

having her join me.

"Attention everyone! It's good to be home." I say and everyone claps and laughs. "As you all know, your Luna and I went to the

Canyon Ridge Pack over the weekend. There were many things that needed to be addressed and I have several

announcements for you. First, I am proud to announce that your Luna has tapped into her Guardian memories as well as her

strength and power." The entire room breaks out into applause. I look at Grace proudly and see her cheeks are slightly pink.

She didn't know I was going to praise her publicly. But, as is evident from the applause, the pack understands the value of

having her, a strong Guardian, as our Luna. When the applause dies down, I begin again. "Second, our first mate gathering will

be at the Shadow Falls Pack in three weeks' time. Every unmated male and female of age is welcome to attend. All mate

pairings will be welcome at either pack, so when you find your mate, you can choose which pack you will live in." Another round

of applause and cheering.

Chapter 0373

"Next, I have applied for this pack to become official. Alphas Rik, Liam and Anders supported our claim, and we should know in

the next couple of days if the application was approved." The room erupts in loud cheering and foot stomping. "Once the

application is approved, we will have an official ceremony naming all of your ranked pack members and when everyone has

pledged their loyalty to us and this pack, we will have a pack link." More cheers.

I wait for the cheering to die down again. "I had to choose a name for our pack. Your Luna and I chose together, and we hope

that you all agree, that while it isn't traditional, it is exactly what our pack is. Our pack's name will be Safe Haven." There is a

moment of utter silence before the room erupts into applause, howls and cheers.

I smile. "I'm guessing that means you all agree." I say and receive several

chuckles.

"My next announcement is related to our pack becoming official. While I was away, I also applied for our new pack to participate

in the Tournament of the Moon Goddess this year. The tournament will take place in three months' time. If you are interested in

participating, Carlos and I will be having additional training sessions to get pack members ready to participate." There is a lot of

chatter and quiet discussion at this announcement.

"I know that this might be scary for some of you. Most of you here ran from your previous pack. But remember, we will have an

official pack and you will be part of that pack. Your previous Alpha or ranked members cannot take you from our pack." I say but

stop as I hear Grace growl beside me.

“And if they try, they will have to go through me.” Grace snarls with Maia overlaying in her voice. “We do not live in fear. And you

do not have to cower away from those that have mistreated you in the past. So, do not let that be a factor in your choice to

participate in the tournament.”

I can see that this has significantly impacted the pack members, but I still have possibly the most important announcement left.

“Finally,” and I receive a lot of laughter since this ‘announcement’ has gone on for nearly 30 minutes.

“Alpha Liam and Alpha Rik

have offered to loan this pack the money needed to rebuild our homes and buildings. Alpha Liam owns his own company, and

that company has a construction business. He is willing to hire as many of our pack members as would like to work. He will pay

us for rebuilding our pack. The repayment of the loan will come from the salaries that are you paid

to build. Carlos, Noah and I have agreed that 50% of the salaries of everyone who works will go back into the loan. The rest

belongs to you. It may sound like a lot of money taken from your pay, but remember, right now, you are not getting paid anything

to rebuild, and it will take a lot longer to finish everything that needs to be done in this pack. Also, when the construction is

complete, everyone will have their own home. Also, anyone who wants to continue working for Alpha Liam will have the

opportunity to apply after our work here is complete.”

I turn and look at the omegas. “I also confirmed that anyone that may not be strong enough to help with the actual construction

can also be hired to do things like painting, trimming, adding gutters, things like that. So, everyone is eligible to participate if you

would like. Please think about it and let me, Beta Carlos or Gamma Noah know if you would like to participate. I told Alpha Liam I

would have a list for him by Wednesday. Any questions?”

I answer a couple of questions, but mostly everyone looks like I did at first, overwhelmed and needing to take time to think about

everything that I've told

them.

Grace and I sit back down and begin eating, listening to the happy chatter go on around us.

It looks like Safe Haven will become an official pack soon

Chapter 0374

The announcements went as well as expected over dinner. Afterward, I took a much-needed soak, mentally thanking Cara for

the muscle soak. The rest of the week became a whirlwind.

I began training with Eli and Carlos in the morning and again in the afternoon. Afternoons are now three hours of training, the

first two are required for warriors in the pack and the last hour is for those that want to participate in the tournament. We found

out that the packs can only take their top 20 individuals, so our members will have to battle for their right to represent our pack.

Eli and I are both pleasantly surprised at the number of individuals that are vying for those positions. It seems our pack members

are proud of their pack, officially named Safe Haven.

That's right. On Tuesday after we returned to our pack, Eli received a verbal notification from Alpha Anders that our pack was

approved. We are official. Then on Wednesday, Eli informed Liam that 250 of our nearly 300 pack members want to be hired to

rebuild our pack. I was stunned by the numbers. Basically, everyone that isn't a pup will be helping at some level to rebuild. Eli

wasn't surprised at all. "Our people come from nothing Grace, the same as you and I. They left their packs with only the clothes

on their backs in many instances. They understand the value of creating something for themselves and if they can make money

for their family or future family in the process? Well, it's the best opportunity that they've ever been given."

Liam said he would bring his job superintendent over on Friday afternoon, since he and Angel will be staying for our ranked

member ceremony on Saturday.. We've also invited Rik, Cara, Anders and Calista to participate and witness our pack becoming

official since they have helped us to make it happen.

We sent another group out hunting for meat in preparation for the festivities on Saturday. The packhouse is bustling with the

anticipation of having three visiting Alphas and Lunas. Summer has been making sure that the rooms are cleaned and cleared,

with fresh linens. Autumn and Amber are working to create new work schedules starting on Monday since nearly every omega

working in the kitchens and packhouse requested to assist at some level with the rebuilding effort.

Our hunters caught three wild hogs, allowing us to plan for a large barbeque with pork butts, loins and ribs. Because we have so

many potatoes, we'll be making potato salad and since I had purchased pounds of macaroni when I went shopping a week ago,

we have what we need to make a macaroni salad. We'll

round that out with some baked beans, cooked slow with some bacon slices from the hogs and some freshly made rolls.

On Friday morning, I'm approached by a couple of my pack members as I am finalizing everything for Saturday. As one woman

approaches, everyone in the kitchen goes quiet.

"Luna." I turn, looking at her, as my eyes take in the room. Everyone has stopped what they are doing to watch our interaction.

My name is Anna, I am Jeremy's mate."

"Anna, it's nice to meet you." I say, having no idea what is going on or why everyone is watching us.

"Luna, you may not know this, but I was a seamstress in my previous pack and we were able to find a sewing machine that my

husband and I have restored.

“That’s wonderful. I know many people here need new clothes and as a pack we still don’t have the money to pay for store

bought clothes. Your skills will be very helpful to the pack members.”

“Yes, well, that brings me to the reason I wanted to speak with you. Me and most of the females in this pack really appreciate

what you and Alpha Eli are doing to give us a place to live where we can be happy and are treated with respect. And, we know

that you don’t have the money to purchase a gown for your Luna ceremony.”

“That’s correct, but that’s okay. It’s about creating the pack, not about what I am wearing that’s important.”

She smiles at me, looking around the room. “Well, we disagree Luna. We wanted our Luna to stand in front of our neighboring

packs’ Alphas and Lunas dressed as you should be for your inauguration. So, we all pitched in and found material that I have

used to create a gown for you. I hope you don’t mind that Summer went to your room to get your measurements, but we wanted

to surprise you with a gift from us, your pack, for your inauguration.”

I can feel my eyes burning and my throat constricting from the sudden flood of emotions I am feeling. As I stand there trying to

get my emotions under control, another woman comes up carrying a beautiful rose gold dress with a V-neck, flared sleeves that

will come to my elbows and a slit that will come up to mid- thigh. It’s beautiful and the sequins which adorn the entire dress make

it feel elegant in its simplicity.

“I don’t know what to say.” I whisper as I reach out to touch the gown. “It’s beautiful. I love it. Thank you all. Thank you all so

much.” I say, and I fight hard,

but a single tear escapes as the women all start to come up and hug me.

“Grace?” Eli walks in, concern etched in his voice. He must have felt my emotional turmoil.

“Eli. Look what the pack has gifted me for our ceremony tomorrow night.” I point to the dress, watching as a proud smile spreads

across his face. He walks to me, wrapping his arm around my waist and kissing the side of my head.

“This is beautiful. Thank you all for doing this for your Luna. It’s very generous.”

They all look at each other before turning back to us. “We were able to create dresses for Beta Amber and Gamma Sirona as

well, but we wanted to give Luna hers before Alpha Liam arrives and we lost our chance. We’re all very proud to become

members of this pack.”

“Would you like me to hang it in your closet, Luna?” Summer asks me.

“No, thank you, I’ll take it.” I reach out, holding the dress up before turning to face the room again. “I cannot tell you all what this

means to me. Thank you.”

I take the dress to my room, careful to hang it so the bottom doesn’t touch the floor. As I step back, looking at what must have

cost my pack members every last penny they have, my heart is so full I feel like it might explode.

Next up, ranked member ceremonies!

Chapter 0375

I’m so proud of my pack. The gift that they are giving their ranked females speaks volumes about their feelings toward our pack.

It’s a good thing and reinforces what we are doing here, creating this place for those that have nowhere else to go.

Liam, Angel and Liam’s foreman, Perry, arrive just before lunch. Grace and I meet them out front as they arrive and lead them to

a table on the back patio we had set up for lunch. Noah and Sirona join us.

“Dr. Phillips, how have you settled in?” Liam asks her.

“Sirona please, Alpha. And very well. It’s very exciting what we are planning to create here. I’m glad to be a part of it.” She tells

him.

“If you decide you want to come back to the easy life, our pack is always open to you.” He says and Angel smacks him with the

back of her hand. He rubs his chest, pretending she hit him hard, as he smiles down at her.

“What are your plans, Sirona?” Angel asks her and she launches into her ideas of how to rebuild the pack hospital. Perry is

paying attention and making notes on his clipboard.

After lunch, Noah and I take Perry and Liam on a tour of the pack lands and the buildings that need to be built. We start with the

pack hospital, and I can see the wheels turning in Perry’s head. From there, we go around to the houses that are in various

stages of completion, the ones that are being torn down for refurbishment and the areas where we are keeping the reusable

materials.

Perry walks up to the materials, lifting some of the pieces and looking them over with a critical eye.

“You’ve done a great job

here. These are good materials and if we use them, it will reduce the overall cost of rebuilding, lowering the materials we will

need to buy.” He says, nodding his head, making a note on his clipboard as we walk along.

When we’re done, we meet Carlos in his office and sit down to discuss the plan. We get an anticipated cost, which makes my

stomach twist into a knot.

“I know a lot, but remember, you’re rebuilding an entire pack. If

it sounds like you break it down into a price per house, including the pack hospital and the packhouse, it’s really not that much.

You and your pack members will more than be able to repay that loan through this process.” Liam says to me.

“Okay, so what’s the plan?” I ask.

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It’s Perry that answers my question. “We’ll start on Monday. I’d like to have two crews, one for demolition and one for rebuilding.

Once the demolition is complete, we'll put that crew on rebuilding as well. We'll focus on the houses that are in process first, get

those knocked out quickly and then begin building the others." He stops, looking over his notes.

"I do have one other suggestion, if you don't mind me saying." He says, looking up at me.

"Of course."

He looks down at his notes again. "Other than the pack hospital and packhouse, you haven't allotted any space or time for

building other structures, such as restaurants, clothing stores, florists, anything that your pack would want or need to run a

business on pack lands. It may not be something that you've thought of, but I'd suggest talking to your pack and seeing if any of

them have skills that would warrant a storefront. You're not so far from Canyon Ridge or Shadow Falls that those packs wouldn't

come to shop here or bring their mates and kids for a meal. Just a thought."

It's a good thought and one I had not considered. It's been so long since either Grace or I have lived in a pack that we didn't think

about having a place for our pack members to work on the pack lands, but it's how many other packs sustain themselves.

"I'll speak to the pack about it. Thank you, Perry."

Chapter 0376

After we finished, he said his goodbyes and left, promising to arrive first thing Monday morning.

We go in search of our mates, finding them outside, watching some of the pups running around the garden. I see Jeremy

working on another structure not far from the garden.

"How did it go?" Grace asks as Liam pulls Angel into a hug.

"It's good. Perry had some other ideas, and ways we can save money, but he'll be back on Monday to get started." I push my

chin in the direction of Jeremy. "What's Jeremy building now? I thought he would be focusing on furniture or Hope's crib."

"Actually, while we were gone, Amber found a place that sells egg-laying hens. Autumn had a great idea about having our own

hens of various ages and Amber searched for a place that has them. This way, we can have egg layers and allow some to

mature so that we can start our own chicken coop. Then, eventually, we'll have our own supply of eggs and chicken, making us

more independently sustainable. But, before we can pick up the hens, we need a hen house. That's where Jeremy comes in. He

said he had what he needed to build it and it wouldn't take more than a day."

I look at my mate in wonder. "Hens?"

She smirks. "And maybe a rooster as well. We just needed to find a place away from where most people shift. Noah is taking

Autumn and I on Sunday afternoon. to get them."

"You continue to amaze me, baby."

Rik and Cara arrive before dinner, and I introduce them to our pack. Anders and Calista will arrive tomorrow morning. Anders will

be presiding over our ceremonies.

Nearly my entire pack comes up to thank Liam and Rik for loaning us the money to rebuild. They talk about their plans, and I

take the opportunity to find out some of the storefronts that my pack would like to have. Since Noah will be taking the lead

working with Perry during construction, I'll give him my ideas of where we can put a 'main street' with rows of shops on either

side.

Over

dinner, Angel, Cara and Amber talk about)

and pups. Amber

didn't really have a chance to enjoy her pregnancy, since she was in captivity, but

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she still seems to enjoy the conversation and is able to relate to the 'pregnancy hormones'. Whatever that means. When I look at

Grace, I can see and feel a little sadness in her. We haven't had an opportunity to talk about having pups. We also haven't had

the money for condoms, so that conversation needs to happen sooner rather than later. If she wants to wait, maybe Sirona has

some ideas for birth control options.

Later that night, when I'm curled around my mate, I ask her. "We've never had the pup conversation, baby. What are your

thoughts? Do you want them?"

She's quiet for a moment. "I do. I didn't think I would, not with the direction my life was going. But with this life, with you, I

definitely do." She turns in my arms, putting her hand on my face. "But, would you be disappointed if I said I wanted to wait a bit?

I'm young, so there's no rush. But we have so much to do here, and I want to participate in the tournament, which I wouldn't be

able to do if I was pregnant. So, maybe we can start working on a pup after that?"

I rub my nose against my mate's. "I think that's a great idea. I definitely want to have pups with you, but now doesn't feel like the

right time. Would you be

comfortable talking to Sirona to see if we have any options for birth control, at least until I can make some money to afford

condoms?"

She chuckles, turning back around, pressing herself into me. Goddess, I love this

Woman.

"I'll talk to her this weekend."

Chapter 0377

The day of our inauguration ceremony starts exactly as I expected it to, chaotic. People are bustling around everywhere. Luna

Calista and Alpha Anders arrive after breakfast. With them, they brought suits for the guys. I guess they heard about our dresses

but knew the guys didn't have anything to wear. While his pants fit fine, the shirt and jacket were very snug on my mate. I called

Anna to see if she could think of anything and she was able to find seams that she would let out so that the clothes fit Eli better.

My hair was a simple affair. Since it's short, I just slicked it to my head. With the dress, it gave the hairstyle an elegant feel. A

stage had been set up on the lawns. behind the packhouse. Chairs for everyone were set out with the front row being reserved

for Rik, Cara, Liam, Angel and Calista. Anders will be on stage with us, presiding over the event.

Eli and I meet Carlos, Amber, Noah and Sirona on the back patio. Amber's dress is a beautiful teal, floor-length dress with

spaghetti straps and a criss cross pattern in the bodice. Sirona's dress is closer to mine in color but without the sequins. Hers is

a dusty rose, the top collects at her throat with a strap that attaches. around her neck and a satin bow at her waist. The pack has

made sure that we all look amazing for our ceremony.

There is a low murmuring chatter from the pack, the anticipation and excitement in the air are palpable. Eli turns to me, a smug

look on his face.

"Is everyone here, Luna?" He asks me, indicating my ability to count numbers with my smell.

I lift my nose in the air and sniff. "Two hundred and ninety-eight pack members, and six traveling Alphas and Lunas." I tell him

with an answering smirk.

"What just happened?" Sirona asks, looking between me and Eli.

"Gifts of a being a Guardian." Eli says before turning to walk outside.

We walk side by side, in three lines, Eli and I go first, followed by Carlos and Amber and Noah and Sirona bringing up the back.

Everyone goes quiet as we walk to the stage, moving to stand in front of the table that has been set up. Anders walks over to us.

"Ready?" He asks quietly.

"Ready." We all say at once.

He turns to the crowd. "Ladies and gentlemen of Safe Haven. Today we begin a new era for your pack. Today we make Safe

Haven an official pack by inducting

your ranked members into their positions. After your ranked members swear their allegiance and fealty to this pack, each of you

will come forward and commit your loyalty and faithfulness to them and this pack. Is there anyone here today that is unwilling to

officially become a member of Safe Haven?" He asks, his voice ringing out with the power of his Alpha aura.

When no one says anything, he turns back to Eli. "Then let us begin."

"Alpha Eli, step forward. Do you swear by the power and strength that the Moon Goddess has provided to you that you will love,

support and protect the members of your pack, even with your life if necessary?"

Eli turns to our pack. "I, Alpha Eli Gunnar, swear by the power and strength provided to me by the Moon Goddess that I will love,

support and protect you, the members of my pack, even if it means giving my life for you."

Alpha Anders takes his hand, slicing it down the palm and placing it over a chalice, letting Eli's blood drip into the cup. I realize

that someone must have brought the knife and chalice, since Eli and I certainly didn't have anything this fancy for our ceremony.

When he's done, Eli turns to me. As the Alpha, he will preside over the rest of the ceremony.

"Luna Grace, step forward." He says and I take his hand in mine, stepping up to him.

"Do you, Grace Gunnar, swear by the power and strength provided to you by the Moon Goddess that you will love, honor, and

protect the members of our pack even if it means giving your life?"

Chapter 0378

I repeat the words back, giving my oath. Eli then cuts his hand and mine, putting them together. I feel the power of our joined

hands as our blood drips into the chalice. We are no longer ranked members in name only. The ceremony is solidifying our roles

within the pack.

We go through each member, as they swear to love and support the pack, willing to give their lives to protect the pack if needed.

Each time Eli cuts another hand, grasping it with his own, I feel the strength and power of our pack growing. Our mind link has

opened up and now we can all speak to each other, including Carlos. I wasn't sure if it would work for him, without a wolf, but he

is able to mind link as well.

When we are done, Alpha Anders steps back up. "Now it is time for each of you to swear your love and commitment to your

ranked members and your pack. One by one, you will come forward, swearing your allegiance to your ranked members before

sipping from their blood. Once done, you will feel the mind link and you will officially be members of Safe Haven pack.

It takes hours, but gradually, every member comes forward, pledging their loyalty and commitment to the pack. Only the pups

that do not yet have a wolf are excluded from the ceremony. They will officially join the pack when they get their wolf spirit.

As the last person sips from the chalice, opening the last mind link, a cheer goes up. Eli lifts his hands in the air to quiet

everyone. "Members of Safe Haven pack. We will have a pack run before our barbeque. Let us all shift to our wolf form and run

our pack lands together. Anyone that is unable to join the pack run, you can follow Carlos inside and begin the festivities with our

guests from Canyon Ridge and Shadow Falls packs."

We had decided that Carlos was the best choice for ranked member not only because he cannot shift, but Hope is too young to

leave alone. Angel and Cara had offered to help him watch any little ones that would be left while their parents went on the pack

run.

I watch for a moment, seeing that some parents are dropping their pups off before turning back to Eli. He has stripped and is

ready to shift. I join him and we jump to the front of our pack, shifting mid-air. He howls up at the sky and the pack's answering

howls reverberate through the ground. Louis takes off, Maia right behind him.

There are a lot of happy howls and yips as we make our way around the pack

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lands. When we return, the smell of food makes my mouth water. I had been so busy and also nervous for tonight that I hadn't

eaten much today. When we shift and change back into our formal attire, the sun has set and the twinkling lights. that are

decorating the outdoor patio and seating area are lit up, giving the place a delicate, romantic feel.

As our pack members walk inside, chatting happily amongst each other, I pull Eli to a stop.

"Look at that, Eli. Look at what you have done, what you have created." I tell him, my heart full of pride for my mate. I know that

pride is shining in my eyes as I look up at him. He created this, built something from nothing. I want him to take a moment to truly

appreciate what he has done.

He wraps his arms around me. "We did this Grace. I couldn't make this work until I found you. You have brought the heart and

soul that this pack has needed. I am so proud to have you as my mate and my Luna."

We turn, looking inside the glass doors, watching the laughter and happiness of our new pack.

Now the pack is official, let the rebuilding begin!

Updates occur daily.

Chapter 0379

On Sunday, our friends left after breakfast. Angel and Cara were excited about the garden and wanted to purchase some of the

fruits and vegetables when they are harvested. It's another way the pack can make some money and Victoria and Ivy are already

making plans to expand the garden. They were part of the group that wanted a store on our new 'main street', although they

want theirs to be mostly an open-air market environment.

Grace, Amber and Noah picked up some egg-laying hens. They seem to like their new living arrangements. It will take a few

days for them to adjust, but we've assigned some of the older pups to watch out for them, feed them and let them graze in a

fenced in area every day. We started with 30 hens, we'll see how many eggs they can produce, but I think that Grace is already

working on a plan for bring in more for the pack. If we produce an excess, we can sell the extras in the market.

On Monday, Perry shows up with a crew and we get started with the morning shift. We had to divide everyone into shifts so that

we can continue to manage the pack, run patrols and basically not shut down the operation of the pack. So, Carlos and I spent

Sunday afternoon revising teams into 6-hour shifts for both construction and pack work. If they choose to work more in

construction, they can. All of the ranked members are pulling patrol duties. Carlos insisted he be included in the rotation and

while he can't shift, he still manages to keep up with the other wolves patrolling and his eye for things that are out of place and

his instincts as an Alpha have come in handy more than once.

In addition, we're still managing 5 hours of training each day. I've assigned Carlos to train the pack members that can't shift,

whether they are too young, too old or pregnant. He is working with them on learning to throw knives and shoot arrows. Ever

since our attack by hunters, we want to be ready and ensure that the pack feels confident in their ability to fight off anyone that

comes into our territory. Noah and I run the morning training with most of the other pack members and Carlos joins me in the

afternoon for warrior and tournament training.

To say it's a lot and I fall into bed exhausted every day would be an understatement. Some days it's all I can do to pull my mate

against me before I fall asleep.

Over the next two weeks, the pack, with Perry and his crews' oversight, demolish the rest of the homes that could not be saved.

Five houses that were in various states of rebuilding are completed except for things like painting and trims. After

getting my first paycheck from Liam, I was able to buy several different colors of paint for the houses, letting the pack members

decide on their own internal and

external colors. Some pack members chose to buy their own and make their homes feel more personal or eclectic. The general

attitude of hap“?

and

excitement that started with our inaugural ceremonies has continued, even though most of the pack feels as exhausted as I do.

a large group of workers over to the

Once the destruction is complete, Perry working closely with Perry to

pack hospital. Sirona has been there every

make sure that the hospital is set up in a way that is conducive to treating multiple types of injuries, long-term issues, childbirth,

you name it, Sirona is thinking about it.

I’m looking over our financials getting ready for our trip back to Canyon Ridge to meet King Ailduin, the Fae King, who is

chronicling the Guardians lives and has been for a couple of centuries. Yes, centuries. He’s over two hundred years old.

Liam was right about paying back the loan. He’s waiting to order supplies until we need them, and it allows the pack to repay the

loan almost immediately. I’m feeling much better about this process, especially since more and more pack members have ideas

for buildings they want to build.

On the Friday we are going back to Canyon Ridge, Grace and I are checking to make sure everything is set. We’ll be gone

through the weekend again. We used the money Grace got from working for Liam to purchase food for the pack. It’s been great

to finally feed everyone the amount of food that they need, especially when we are working everyone so hard. Our hunters are

still going out to catch wild game, but we can supplement that with other food now too, making it last longer. Grace's hens have

started laying eggs as well, so eggs with breakfast is now a daily occurrence. I've also noticed that Cammy is using some of the

fruit that has been harvested and is making jams and jellies.

Sirona is using her money to supply the pack hospital with medical supplies and Amber has used hers to buy material that Anna

used to sew her, Hope and Carlo some much needed clothes. Overall, it feels that the pack is really starting to come together.

Chapter 0380

When I get to our room, I see Grace has already packed our bags. I love the sweet little ways my mate shows me that she loves

and cares for me. Neither of us have had a lot of time, so it's the little things, like packing my bag, that we do to show each other

how much we love each other.

I have a gift for my mate as well. I used some of my money to get her some clothes to train in. She's been wearing her shorts

and t-shirts but they aren't going to last long with the grueling workouts we are having and now, going back for Guardian

training, I expect it will only get worse.

I take the clothes I had Summer secretly wash for me and quickly put them into Grace's bag. I took the opportunity to get myself

some much-needed clothing as well. Rik, Liam and Anders have been very generous in providing the things that we've needed

to this point, such as the knife and chalice and the clothing for me, Carlos and Noah for our pack inauguration. But it's time for us

to become independent and begin taking care of ourselves financially.

As I'm checking my bag to make sure I have everything I need, Grace comes in. She walks up behind me, wrapping her arms

around me.

“Are you about ready?” She asks me.

“Yes, because apparently my mate loves me and packed my things for me. I say, turning in her arms and wrapping mine around

her.

“How are you feeling about this trip?” I ask. We haven’t really had a chance to discuss this, or much of anything lately.

“Only a little nervous. Angel and Cara seem very comfortable with King Ailduin and Maia has some memories of him from

Donovan, something about testing our strengths. If he can help me tap into our Guardian strength even more, it’ll be worth it.”

We grab our bags and walk downstairs, saying our goodbyes to everyone before shifting and running the two hours to Rik’s pack

lands. When we get there, Trevor and Maddison are there waiting for us, and they escort us to the packhouse.

I’m a bit surprised to see Cara and how much her stomach has grown in just two weeks. She’s about a month away from having

her pup, and it already looks pretty uncomfortable to me.

“Good afternoon.” She says from her chair. “Angel and Liam just arrived and are

getting settled. You are in the same room as last time, so feel free to drop off your bags, get settled and join us back here. Rik

will be back in a moment and Ailduin and Aolis are due to arrive around dinner time.”

We f get settled and join everyone on the back porch. The girls immediately begin talking about the mate gathering which is

scheduled for next weekend at Angel and Liam’s pack. I know some of our unmated pack members are excited to have this

chance to meet their mates, while others have indicated that they would like to stay and work, planning to join in the next

gathering.

“How many people should we plan for next weekend?” Angel asks Grace. She turns to look at me. “I believe there are about 50,

right?” I nod.

Angel frowns. "Only fifty? I thought you had more than 100 unmated wolves." "We do, but some want to continue to work on their

homes. I'll speak to them again and let you know if that number changes, but if not, for the second event we will have different

folks joining. Also, my omegas wanted me to clarify that they are welcome at this event. I told them everyone was, but they will

feel better if I confirm that with you."

"I have no intention of excluding anyone. Everyone is welcome. It's a mate gathering. I'm hoping all of our members find their

mates, no matter their status in the pack."

"That will increase our numbers, but I'm not sure by how many. The omegas didn't want to agree until they knew for sure that

they were welcome."

"I think we have about 75 members going, right Rik?" Cara asks.

"About that. And we know that our pack members and yours, Angel, already have had the opportunity to meet their mates and

haven't found them, unless you have any wolves that have recently turned 18?" Rik asks.

"We have a few, but mostly it will be the individuals that didn't find their mates in your pack. I'm excited to have fresh blood." She

says, rubbing her hands and we all laugh. "We'll have about 75 from our pack as well, so if you only send 50, that still puts us at

200 for the event. That's a good turnout and if you send more, even better.

Rik stands up. "Ailduin and Aolis are here. I'll go meet them and bring them back here."