

Broken 381

Chapter 381

When I think of fae royalty, King Ailduin is exactly what I'd expect. He is tall, at least 7 feet, his hair is white, even lighter than

Angel's, but not gray, just very white. His skin is pale but seems to glow giving him the look of someone in excellent health. And

he walks with such elegance it's almost as if he's floating

His son, Aolis, is a smaller version of Ailduin. When I say small, I mean at 10 years old, he's already over 5 feet tall, much taller

than a normal human his age. Eli and I stand up to greet him. I'm not sure if I'm supposed to bow or curtsy, so I follow the

example of the others and just shake his hand.

"Guardian. It is good to meet you. May I have your name?" He says, holding my hand as he speaks to me. His touch has a

strange warmth to it. It's more than body heat, it feels more like a relaxing heat. I instantly feel calm.

Maia pushes forward. "King Ailduin. I remember you, although most of my memories are vague. I am Maia and my human is

Grace."

"Maia, Grace, it is good to meet you both. Cara mentioned that you have memories of Clint reading your Guardian line's

chronicles, but we have brought them just in case you decide you'd like to look them over while we are together this weekend."

Over dinner, Ailduin tells me of our Guardian line, descending from Aloysius and that our Guardian has increased strength and

the ability to mind link from long distances. We discuss Cara's abilities and how they seem to have been passed down from her

parents. And while she has them, they should be stronger at the source, namely me.

"We weren't able to get a complete assessment of Donovan's power due to Clint's paralysis. This weekend I would like to test

your powers and I also hear you have a new power that I'd like to witness and test if you are agreeable."

"Yes. Anything you can teach me about my Guardian strengths would be helpful. I didn't get Maia until I was 18, and she came to

me with her Guardian spirit, so we've not really had a chance to explore our power too much."

"And, as long as everyone is comfortable, I'd like to see if we can continue the training we started with Clint and Donovan and

have you draw from the other Guardians power to boost your own."

He turns to Eli. "After we have tested your mate's powers, I'd like to test yours as well."

"Finally!" Liam says, rubbing his hands together. Eli just laughs at him.

"We'd better include Trevor as well. You know he loves testing his strength against the Guardians." Cara says to Rik, who nods

his agreement.

We finish dinner and make plans to meet first thing in the morning. As we relax outside, watching Rik's wolves running in the

forest, I can't help but notice that Aolis makes a point to be near Cara. She doesn't seem to mind, but I notice that Liam watches

him too. I had also noticed that Liam made a point to ensure that Ailduin didn't hug Angel too long when they arrived. She was

the only one he hugged, and Liam got tense, but didn't say anything. There are definitely some odd dynamics between the

Guardians and the fae.

Liam and Angel tell us about a strange visit they had from a supernatural. "King Urien came and pledged his loyalty to Angel and

Cara." Liam tells Ailduin.

"The vampire king?" Ailduin asks. Both Rik and Liam nod.

"We'll make a note, but I would expect that if vampire royalty are coming to pledge their fealty to the Guardians, the other

supernaturals won't be far behind. Keep me informed and we can continue to document who and when the supernaturals swear

their allegiance to you."

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He turns and looks at Eli and I. "You two should expect to start hearing from some supernaturals as well. Word of your

awakening and placement in a newly formed pack will spread quickly, Grace.'

I nod, not entirely sure what to expect if other supernaturals come to our borders.

The next morning, as we are getting ready, I notice new clothes in my bag.

“What is this?” I ask, turning to Eli, holding the clothes in my hands.

He walks up to me. “Just a little something I know you need and will help you with your training.”

I wrap my arms around his neck. I love how

he is always thinking of sweet little ways to show me how much he loves me. “Thank you.” I tell him, kissing him and pressing

myself against him.

“Don’t start something you can’t finish, little Alpha.” He says kissing my nose

“Later, then.” I promise.

“Later.”

When we’re ready, we head out to the training field and I note that several of Rik’s warriors stay behind to watch.

I walk over to where Rik has set up a seat for Cara. I have never seen someone that is supposed to be on bedrest spend so

much time out of bed. “What’s going on over there?” I ask, watching the group of warriors as they glance around and look like

they are passing money back and forth.”

“Oh, that’s Dean. He’s our resident bookie. They’re making bets on today.”

“Bets about what?”

“Hey Dean.” Cara calls out to him. He comes trotting over.

“What are today’s bets?” She asks him.

He looks at his sheet. “There’s a bet on who will win between Alpha Liam and Alpha Eli. Currently, odds are in Alpha Liam’s

favor. There’s a bet about whether Trevor can withstand Luna Grace’s aura and for how long. Those odds are in Luna Grace’s

favor, although not as much as I’d expect since she’s a Guardian. He stops, looking up at me. “No offense, Luna, but you are an

unknown.”

He looks down at his pad again. “There’s a bet on whether or not Luna Grace an

Alpha Eli can mind link to their pack from here. Odds in favor of no. And here's bet on who will win it Alpha Rik and Alpha Liam

spar, odds on Alpha Rik." He looks up. "Anything else Lunas? Want to place a bet?"

I shake my head. When he jogs back to the group, I look at Cara. "I think your pack has a gambling problem." I say, only half

joking.

She laughs. "It's a fun way for them to blow eam. Dean knows that if things

get out of hand with someone that he needs to let Rik know, and he handles it privately. It doesn't happen often, but it does on

occasion."

Ailduin calls me over. "Okay, let's start with your aura. You know how to manipulate your aura, correct?"

"Yes, Liam helped me find the strength in my aura." I tell him.

"Excellent." He turns to Rik. "Who will be our test subject today?"

"Hey Trevor." He calls and Trevor comes jogging up and huge smile on his face. He stops in front of us.

"So, I get to take on another Guardian." He starts hopping back and forth on the balls of his feet like he can't wait for me to push

him around with my aura. The people in this pack are a bit crazy.

Ailduin tells me to push my aura out, trying to control it until I feel Trevor start to push against it. Then to continue to add strength

until I force him to his knees. I look at Trevor.

"You're okay with this?" I ask him. Who volunteers for this?

"Are you kidding? A chance to test my strength against a Guardian. I'd do that all day every day. Let's see what you've got Luna."

He says, cracking his neck then standing back before giving me the 'come on' gesture with this hands.

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"Okay. I'm sorry in advance if I hurt you." I tell him.

I close my eyes and reach inside myself, pulling on my Alpha aura. Maia pushes. her aura into mine, adding it, boosting it with

hers. I follow Ailduin's instructions and slowly push my aura toward Trevor. I notice that Ailduin takes a couple steps back as my aura pushes out.

When it gets to Trevor, I hear him grunt, and feel him pushing back on my aura. "Okay Grace. Can you put any more power into your aura." I open my eyes and look at Ailduin.

"I'm barely using any strength. I'm concentrating so I don't hurt Trevor."

"That's good. You have control. Slowly add power to your aura." He says and I turn to watch Trevor, not wanting to blast him

back. As I slowly push my aura, I can see sweat start beading on his forehead, trickling down his face. He grits his teeth and lifts

his neck in submission.

"Really, this isn't any power?" He manages to ask through his clenched teeth.

"Not much." I say. "Do you want me to stop?"

"No, keep going."

I push more power but the moment he drops to his knees, I pull my aura back. He stays on his knees for a moment, panting, before standing up.

"What would happen if you threw your aura at me?" He asks me before looking at Ailduin. I also turn to Ailduin. I've never done

that before.

Ailduin looks thoughtful before looking back at me. "If I had to guess, I'd say that it would be something like what I was told

happened with Cara when Clint died. I'm guessing the ability to send a power surge came from this Guardian line. So, most

likely, she would throw you across the training field."

"Let's see." His eyes light up, a smile on his face.

"I'm not sure I'm comfortable taking out Rik's Lead Warrior and my recent pack member's mate. I'm not sure I have enough

control not to hurt you."

“Alright, half power then. I’d love to see just how strong you are.

you are.” He says.

“I can see why you’re Rik’s Lead Warrior. You have no fear and no self- preservation. I need to talk to Maddison while I’m here.” I

tell him.

He laughs me off. “Half power, Luna. I trust you not to kill me.”

I turn and look at the others. Rik and Cara just shrug. I look at Ailduin.

“The only way we will know how strong you are is if we test it.”

I turn back to Trevor. ‘Maia, don’t let me kill him.’

‘Half power.’ She says, coming forward to help me control it.

“Ready?” I ask Trevor. When he nods, I push out my power.

Trevor goes flying across the training field, almost hitting a tree at the forest line. He was thrown nearly 300 feet, or the distance

of a football field. But he wasn’t the only one. Since I can’t direct my aura, Ailduin, Rik, Liam, Eli and Rik’s warriors were also

thrown backward several hundred feet. Behind me I see Angel with her arms out, protecting her and Cara from my blast.

I watch as they all stand up, no one injured badly. They are all looking at me in astonishment.

“Damn.”

Grace at half power? Pretty awesome!

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I am stunned at the power that Grace just pushed out. And according to her, it was only half her power. She literally knocked all

three Alphas, a fae king and a group of warriors on their collective asses.

Cara starts clapping. “Nice job, Grace!”

Rik jogs over to Trevor who is limping but not injured badly.

I walk with Ailduin and Liam back over to my mate. “Are you okay?” She asks me, her eyes looking over my body for injuries.

“I’m fine. But, wow, baby. I had no idea you were that strong.”

“I told you, it’s a LOT of power that I can feel now.”

As Trevor limps closer she goes to him. “Are you alright? Did I hurt you?” She asks him, concern etching her voice.

“I’m good, Luna. I asked for it and wow, that was something else.”

“Maia? That was only half of your power?” Ailduin directs his question to Maia, rather than Grace.

“Yes. I pushed my power into Grace’s Alpha aura and then helped her hold it back.”

“Impressive. I will have to come up with another way to test your strength, since your full strength would cause injury to the pack.”

“I think I’m done for now.”

“Are you fatigued from pushing your aura?” Ailduin asks her, his brows furrowing.

I walk over and put my arms around her. “No, she’s concerned about hurting Rik and Cara’s pack. Can we switch gears to

something else for now?” I answer for my mate. I can feel through the bond that she feels guilty for hurting Trevor, even though it

wasn’t bad, and he is already healing.

“Of course. I want to test your strength as well.” Ailduin says and I walk Grace to a chair, helping her to sit her, before kissing her

forehead and walking back.

“Well, I can tell you, I can’t do what she just did.” I say.

Ailduin chuckles. “No, I wouldn’t expect that you could. But that doesn’t mean that you’re not stronger than you used to be. Have

you tested your strength?”

Not specifically I train like the other Alphas, but I can’t say I’ve tested my strength other than during the obstacle course we did a

couple weeks ago.

I’m not as knowledgeable about the gifts of being mated to a Guardian. Based on what I’ve learned from Rik and Liam, you gain

some of your Guardian’s abilities. I’d like to see if that’s true for you. I believe Liam has agreed to spar with you today?” He asks,

looking at Liam.

'Hell yeah!' He says, hopping up and coming over.

"You letting me get some payback?" I ask, as I take a defensive stance.

"No way, you'll have to fight for it." He says, before coming at me.

I quickly realize that I'm faster than I used to be. I've fought against Alphas before, and I always struggled to hold my own. Now,

however, it feels like I'm faster than Liam.

I'm also very familiar with how hard Liam punches, having been his punching bag for six months. But now, his hits don't seem so

powerful, and my own punches are making an impact.

After about 30 minutes, Ailduin calls us to stop.

Whew. Were you always this strong?" Liam asks me, holding his ribs. I got some good hits in.

"I don't think so. I know I wasn't this fast, and I also know that your punches feel weaker than before. Unless you're getting old." I

say, lightly punching him in the

arm.

"Who are you calling old, old man. You're older than me." He says, punching back.

If someone had asked me a year ago if I'd be sparring with Liam Holstin in the back of Rik Forte's packhouse, joking with both

Alphas, I would have laughed in their face. And yet, here I am.

"How about you, Rik. Are you going to give the old man a go?" Liam says tauntingly to Rik.

"I don't know if the old man can take a young stud like me." He says, walking over. "But, if he's game, so am I.

I'm not as experienced with Rik's fists as I am with Liam's, but I have some memory of our fight when I was trying to kidnap Cara.

It's the same as before, even though Rik is nearly 13 years younger than me, I'm skipping in and out of his reach, getting my

punches in. He lands his share on me, but they don't feel

nearly as powerful as I remember.

When Ailduin calls us to stop, I give the same feedback. I feel faster and Rik's hits feel weaker than I remember.

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We stop for lunch, and I take the opportunity to pull my mate into my lap. I haven't had time to really spend with her lately with

everything going on in our pack, but while we are here, I'm going to take full advantage.

"Really, Eli?" She asks, giving me an exasperated look. I just smile, kiss her nose and pull her plate over so she can eat while

sitting in my lap.

Angel snickers from her position in Liam's lap. "Told you you're butt would never sit in a seat." Liam whispers something in her

ear that I choose not to hear, but no one can ignore the astonishing shade of pink Angel's cheeks get or the smug smirk on

Liam's face.

After lunch, Ailduin wants to test our ability to mind link. He says we both should have the ability to mind link farther than is

normal. He has us walk back outside, not that it's necessary, but it's where we've been 'training' with our Guardian gifts.

He starts with Grace. "I would like you to try to contact someone in your pack. Think of a person that you are close with and

reach out like you normally would."

When she does, she says she can't hear anyone.

"Let Maia put her Guardian strength behind it." Ailduin says. "Like she said she did with your Alpha aura, let her strength push

your mind link."

Grace closes her eyes and I can see her concentration. She stands there for a minute before she gasps and her eyes fly open.

"They're having lasagna for dinner tonight." She turns to me. "I could hear Cammy and she could hear me."

"That's amazing!" I look at Ailduin.

"Excellent. Now, Eli, you try."

"But, I don't have a Guardian spirit to push behind my mind link."

"No, but Louis should be able to give you his strength. You need to be able to tap into the gifts that you have been given through

the mate bond." He tells me.

'Louis? What do you think?'

'We can try. I'm not sure what strength I can give you, but I'll push what I have toward your mind link. Let's try to speak to Carlos

first and if that doesn't work, try Noah."

I close my eyes, like Grace did and focus my thoughts on Carlos. I begin to feel a whisper of his mind before it shuts off.

'Let's try Noah.'

I push my mind out, this time looking for Noah. His mind is easier to find, probably because he has a wolf. When I find him, his

response is startled. "Alpha, are you back?"

"No, we're practicing long-distance mind linking. We're still in Canyon Ridge."

"You're still....whoa, that's impressive."

"Anything I need to know?"

"Sirona got a shipment of medical supplies."

I chuckle through the link. "Don't be surprised if I reach out again. Not sure what else this Fae King wants us to do. By the way, I

could almost reach Carlos, but not quite. Is he near you?"

"No, Alpha. He's actually out running patrols."

"Thanks Noah." I say before disengaging and looking at Grace. "Sirona got a shipment of medical supplies." I tell her smiling.

"So, it worked?" Ailduin asks.

"Yes and no. I tried mind linking Carlos first. He has no wolf, but he can still mind link. Noah said he's out running patrols and I

could just feel his mind but couldn't connect."

"Good, then that will be our next test. Grace, I want you to try to reach out to Carlos."

She does and is able to reach him, fairly easily. "He's running patrols." She says, confirming what Noah told me.

Okay, now, I want you to hold hands. Grace, I want Maia to push her strength toward Louis. Eli, I want you to try to reach

Carlos." Ailduin instructs us.

I take Grace's hand and I focus on my mind link, while Louis focuses on Maia. We try several times, before I break into a sweat

and start to get a headache before

we stop.

"It may not be possible, but I wanted to try it. I know you can boost each other's Guardian gifts, but we haven't tried boosting

your mates' gifts." Ailduin says.

"I think that's enough for today. Tomorrow, I'd like to work on boosting the Guardians' gifts before we leave. Aolis and I will spend

the rest of the evening documenting our findings today." He says before taking Aolis and walking back inside.

What do you think of Grace's abilities?

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Eli and I went to our room early. This weekend, while taxing emotionally, has been good for us. It's the most time we've been

able to spend together in weeks and when we return to our pack, we'll have to get right back to long, tiring days.

I keep my promise from earlier and finish what I started. It feels good to reconnect with my mate, to be able to shut out the world

and let it just be him and me for a couple of hours.

The next morning, we both wake feeling refreshed and reconnected. We join everyone downstairs for breakfast before starting to

work on pooling our

Guardian strengths.

Rik wasn't happy about having Cara participate, so Ailduin had me and Angel work together.

"Angel, since you've done this with Cara, let's see if you can direct Grace's power as well."

Angel walks up to me, taking my hand. "Ready?"

I nod, looking at Rik's warriors that volunteered to be part of our experiment. Ailduin tells us to start with half of the warriors being

protected by Angel and the other half getting my aura.

“I want you to push out like you did with Trevor to start. Let Angel feel your aura, let her manipulate it then push it out slowly like

you did before.”

I do, and it’s a strange feeling letting Angel control my aura, almost like it’s being molded like clay. Ailduin has us move around,

picking and choosing

individuals here and there to be protected, working Angel’s gift at the same time as mine.

When he calls for a break, he paces while we go sit in our mates’ laps.

“We’ve been using one Guardian’s strengths to manipulate another and that has worked well. But I’d like to see if a Guardian can

pull a gift from another Guardian.” He says, making us all look at each other in confusion.

“What do you mean Ailduin?” Rik asks.

He turns to Liam and Angel. “You have my gift of being able to detect a lie. Both of you have it, correct?” They nod.

He turns to me and Eli. “I’d like to see i then detect a lie.”

Grace can pull on that strength and can

I look at Angel “You know when someone is lying?”

“Yes, it tastes...” She’s cut off by Ailduin.

“Don’t tell her. Let’s see if she can figure it out on her own.

When we’ve rested, Angel and I stand back up. This time we face each other and hold hands.

I look at Ailduin. “Okay, what do I do?”

“Well, I’m not exactly sure. This is uncharted territory, but I want you to feel like you want to tell if someone is lying. Have Maia

reach out to Alessia.” He looks at Angel.

“Alessia, you will try to push your gift to Maia.”

Both wolves are forward as we begin. I close my eyes, trying to focus on finding at lie.

“My name is Ailduin.” Nothing

“I am a Fae King.” Nothing.

“I rejected my mate.” I get a funny taste in my mouth, my mouth screwing up. I open my eyes and Angel is looking at me.

“Is that....metal?” I ask as Angel’s face breaks into a huge smile.

“YES! Lies taste metallic.”

“It’s gross.”

“Now that you know what you are looking for, let’s continue.”

We do this a few more times and the taste gets stronger each time I taste it.

“Before we switch, I’d like to see if you can pull from Liam as well.” Ailduin says.

Liam switches positions with Angel, holding both my hands. I hear Eli grumbling behind me. “Shh, you know I love you, Eli.” I tell

him before closing my eyes.

Maia reaches out to Cyran. I tilt my head. “Is that the Alpha in you that feels different than Angel?”

I open my eyes and see Liam, his eyebrow raised. “I have no idea.”

“What does it feel like?” Ailduin asks.

I close my eyes again. “Angel’s is....softer, lighter. Liam’s is darker, harder. I’m not sure I’m explaining it well, but it’s different.

Cyran is very powerful.”

+15 BONGS

I hear Louis growling behind me. “You’re still the only wolf for me, Louis.” I tell him before I feel Eli’s hands on my hips. I turn

looking at him over my shoulder, but his eyes are on Liam.

“I have my own mate, Eli. I’m not trying to take yours.” Eli doesn’t move.

I shake my head and close my eyes again, pulling on Cyran’s strength.

“My name is Rik Forte.” Nothing.

“I am Alpha of Canyon Ridge Pack.” Nothing.

“Trevor is my Gamma.” Metal.

“Yep, that worked.” I say, smacking my tongue around in my mouth and trying to remove the taste.

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“It really does taste terrible.” Eli says behind me.

All of our heads turn to look at him.

“You can taste it, too?” Ailduin says, looking intently at Eli.

“Yeah. Grace is right, it’s gross.

I look back at Ailduin. “What does it mean?”

He’s looking at us and I can almost see the steam coming out of his ears his brain is working so hard.

“Let’s try something else. Angel.” He motions for her to come back over.

“I want you to try to mind link your pack, using Maia’s abilities. Liam, I want you to touch Angel while she’s pulling from Grace.

Once Angel says she can link, I want you to try as well.”

I feel Alessia reach out, pulling from Maia’s strength before Angel’s eyes go unfocused. “I’ve connected to Sarah. She says

Dustin is with her.” She says.

I watch as Liam’s eyes go unfocused and a moment later, a smile spreads across his face. “Dustin says we have terrible timing.

He turns looking at the group. “We couldn’t do this with Cara.” He says before looking back at me. “It must be your power.”

It worked. Cara hops up. “I want to try.”

“I don’t think that’s a good idea, Cara. We don’t know how it might impact your or our little Peanut.” Rik says, coming up behind

her.

Cara looks at Angel. “Do you feel tired at all?”

“No, it was more tiring when Maia was pulling from Alessia. But, Alessia pulling from Maia almost energized me.’

Cara turns to Rik. "We're trying it. If I start to feel fatigued, well, any more than I already do, I'll stop."

Rik lips press into a thin line, but he walks up to Cara, wrapping his arms around her. "I'm holding on to you, just in case."

Cara smiles, then wiggles back against him before reaching out to me. I take her hands and look at Ailduin. "What do you want us to try?"

"Do you have any pack members away from the pack?" He asks Cara.

"We do. We have a couple visiting family in a pack that's in the next state over, several hours drive from here." Cara replies.

"Let's try. Don't overexert yourself, we don't want to hurt your child, but I'd like to see if Artemis can pull from Maia's strength."

When I take Cara's hands, the connection between our wolves is instantaneous,

"Whoa." I say, startled by how easy it is to connect.

"We are family." Maia tells me out loud. "I will always be able to connect to my child, just as Alessia will." I turn and see that

Alessia has pushed forward again.

"Always." She agrees.

"See what I mean? It's weird." I hear Liam whisper to Eli.

"It definitely is." Eli agrees.

"Cara, I want you to concentrate. I know you have the ability to mind link long distances, but with Maia's help, Artemis should be

able to mind link your pack distances, members, even though the distance extends past your reach."

Cara, like Angel, focuses on my face. I feel it when Artemis pulls Maia's strength and Cara inhales sharply. Rik is instantly on

alert. "Cara, do we need to stop?"

"No, Angel is right. Maia's strength is almost...invigorating. I feel great."

I watch as she focuses on her task and then her eyes go unfocused. It takes a few minutes, but suddenly she speaks. "I have

them, both of them."

Ailduin looks at Rik. "Your turn Rik. Have Kai pull from Artemis and see if can also link your pack members."

you

Rik's eyes go unfocused. It takes him a bit longer, but suddenly his face lights up with a smile. "I've got them."

We drop our hands and take a moment to appreciate the significance of what just happened.

"I believe we have underestimated the strength of Aloysius' line. Or perhaps, as with Bellona's line, it has strengthened with a

reincarnation." Ailduin says.

"This has been most enlightening. Aolis and I have much to chronicle. I want to go back and look through my books, but I don't

believe that the Guardians have ever worked together like this. I believe the more you practice, the stronger you will become,

individually and together. I would like to come back in two weeks'

+15 BONOS

time to practice and test some more. But in the meantime, you can practice together or with your mates to see if you can boost

your Guardian strengths."

We all agree to meet back here in two weeks' time. Hopefully, Cara won't deliver early, and she can also participate in the

training. We say our goodbyes and head back to our packs.

The Guardians are getting stronger

Chapter 388

When we arrived home, we were greeted with howls and yips of happiness from the pack. We found out quickly that more

people had come to our borders seeking shelter. One group required Sirona's medical attention due to their significant injuries.

Not only had they run from their pack to avoid the persecution of an unjust Alpha, but they had been attacked by rogues.

Noah told us that she had them in a portion of the pack hospital that has been rebuilt. It wasn't ideal, since the hospital was still

under construction, but it gave her the ability to treat them and keep the family of four together.

Eli and I went to see the two other groups that had arrived, two adult sisters and a young boy and his sister. They had lost their

parents after being banished and just happened to find us. Cammy and Summer made sure they had food and rooms in the packhouse.

“We need to build an children’s home.” Amber tells me. “They won’t be the only children that come to us without parents. We

have the space to keep them on our floor for now, but eventually, we won’t have enough rooms.”

She’s right. Orphaned werewolf children are often mistreated in their packs or kicked out if they are considered to have no value

to the pack. I will need to speak to Eli about rebuilding part of the packhouse as a place for the orphaned children. to live while

we find them homes, or they are adopted.

Once I have checked on the ones staying in the packhouse, ensure that they have everything they need and reassure them that

they are welcome, Eli and I head to the hospital.

When we arrive, we see that the parents are in bad shape. They must have been protecting their children, who are mostly

unharmd, just some scrapes and bruises. Sirona has them all staying in one room to help keep the children calm. She has set

up her own cot in the room next door to make herself available as needed.

“I have the students rotating to help me, but they need 24–hour care at the moment.” Sirona tells us before we go in. “I’m not

sure if I can save the father’s leg. The laceration is deep, and he lost a lot of blood before they got here. His wolf is weak and

hasn’t healed the leg yet. If he doesn’t in the next day or so, I’ll have to remove it.”

“The mother has nasty claw marks down her face. It’s likely she will lose an eye. Her wolf is also weak and unable to heal her.

I’m doing what I can, but I can only

+15 BONOS

do so much.” She says before walking us into the room..

The children look up from where they are sitting next to their parents. “Children, I want you to meet Alpha Eli and Luna Grace.

The children look terrified. Sirona crouches down on her heels, getting at eye level with them. "Do you remember what I told you

about the Alpha and Luna of this pack?"

They nod, looking from her to us and back again. I walk up and crouch down beside her. "What are your names?" I ask them.

"Alfred and Allie, Luna." The boy, who is older than his sister, says.

"And how old are you, Alfred and Allie?" I ask.

"I'm seven and my sister is four." Alfred says.

"We're going to do everything we can to help your parents. You are welcome in our pack." I assure them.

I stand and Eli and I move to the parents. The father is unconscious, but the mother is looking at us with her one eye open,

terrified.

"Alpha. Luna. We didn't mean..." Her words are muffled, and I can tell it's hard for her to talk. I immediately put my hand on her

arm, noticing her flinch.

"You and your family are welcome here. Our pack is made up of those that have fled other packs or are in need of a safe place.

Our pack is named Safe Haven for that reason. Our doctor, Gamma Sirona, will look after you until you are well enough to leave

the hospital. Once you are stronger, we will talk about you and your family staying here in our pack."

Eli steps up to her. "Everything my mate says is the truth. Rest easy, let your wolf heal. Your children are safe here. I give you my

word as an Alpha, even though I'm afraid you won't trust it. No harm will come to you or your family while you are in our pack."

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I watch a single tear slip down her face before she closes her eyes, and she whispers a muffled thank you. Eli puts a hand on

her shoulder. "We'll be back again tomorrow to check on you. Until then, rest and get your strength back."

When we get back to the packhouse, I stop in the kitchen to check on how things have gone while we were away. I notice

several omegas looking at me and looking

away.

“Is there something you want to ask me?” I say to the room at large.

It’s Cammy that responds. “We were wondering, Luna, if you happened to ask if omegas were welcome at the pack gathering.”

“Oh yes. I did, and as I said, everyone is welcome. Luna Angel was quite excited to have more attendees, so you need not

worry.” I say and while I expect that to cause them to relax, it doesn’t.

“Is there something else?” I ask.

“Well, it’s just, it’s just that....” Cammy begins, stammering her response.

“We’re all terrified to go to another pack without one of the ranked members there.” Summer finishes for her and I look around to

see everyone nodding their heads.

“You’re afraid they might mistreat you, or worse, not let you leave?” Eli asks, coming up behind me.

Again, everyone nods their heads. I look at Eli before turning back.

“Well, we can’t have that. I guess I’ll be accompanying you to the pack gathering next weekend.” The change in their demeanor

is instant and their happiness at being able to possibly find their mates finally becomes apparent.

Over the next week, Joel and Peyton, the parents in the hospital recover slowly. Joel ended up losing his leg, but Peyton was

able to keep her eye. She’ll always have scars on her face, but they will fade. Peyton and her children were able to move to the

packhouse by the end of the week. As houses are being completed, we have more rooms available.

Peyton had worked in the kitchens as the person responsible for smoking and curing meat in her previous pack. Eli immediately

found out what she needed to set up a smoke house for smoking and curing meat. This way, we can send out pack members to

hunt for food more often and we will have a way to store it

1/2

other than filling the freezers.

The news spread that I would be going to Shadow Falls for the mate gathering. and 30 omegas agreed to go, bringing our

numbers to 80 for the gathering. Angel was thrilled that we would have more people coming and that I would be joining them.

She suggested we take the time to practice boosting our gifts.

Eli stayed behind to continue helping with the rebuilding effort while I led our pack to Shadow Falls. It was my first time in their

pack, and I loved it. The falls are beautiful and the view from the top is amazing.

I count our first mate gathering a success as 26 pairs, or 52 wolves found their mates. Fifteen of those wolves are omegas from

our pack. Of the remaining eleven, six are warriors and the other five are workers, one is a worker in the garden. She is mated to

a warrior in the Canyon Ridge pack and has decided to move there where she and Maddison can begin building a garden for their

new pack. Surprisingly, the warriors chose to stay in our pack, having the opportunity to build their own home and create a new

life for themselves and their families. Thankfully, their mates agreed.

Not surprisingly, the omegas are reluctant to leave our pack. That was not a problem for most of them, but there were five that

are mated to warriors who have achieved some status in their pack and want to stay there. In addition, most of our pack's

workers are mated to warriors and the same issue applies.

Rik, Cara, Liam, Angel, Eli and I have a meeting and we agree that the newly found mates can spend a week together in each

pack before making a final decision.

I insist that the newly mated pairs hear from both Alpha Rik and Alpha Liam that they will not be forced to stay in the pack if they

choose not to stay. I also remind them that Eli and I will be going back to Canyon Ridge in a week, and we will bring them back

to our pack with us at that time, if they choose to return with us. That settles their concerns, and they agree to spend the first

week in their mates packs.

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Grace returned from the pack gathering with an additional 16 pack members. Six of those are warriors and the other ten are

omegas. Carlos finds a place for the warriors and begins training them, assessing their strengths and weaknesses. It's an

adjustment for them at first, our pack being so young and needing so much work. But eventually, they appreciate being needed

and begin to enjoy building a life with their mate literally from the ground up.

Grace easily found places for the omegas, especially as our pack is growing. They were excited to be able to build their own

houses and if they have a skill, they have the ability to expand that into a business if they choose.

The ten pack members that went to spend time with their mates chose to stay in those packs. Once they realized that Rik, Cara,

Liam and Angel are good leaders, they were more comfortable staying. It helps that they were evenly divided between the packs

and therefore have some friendly faces around them.

Over the next month, we continue to build. Once Joel left the hospital, Perry and Sirona were able to get the building finished

and Sirona is working on the final touches. She now has two more individuals we acquired through the mate gathering that have

requested to learn medicine. She's got them working to help her build out the rest of the hospital while they are in school.

With the continued housing development, more and more space has opened up in the packhouse, so Perry assigned some

members of his team to look over the first-floor rooms, previously assigned to omegas to begin development of a nursery and a

children's home for those children who have lost their parents. In addition, he assigned some members to begin development of

the main street. shops, starting with the open-air market.

We quickly realized that 30 egg-laying hens would not be sufficient, so Grace has purchased another 150 hens. She also got a

rooster this time and the hens who will produce baby chickens were separated from the egg-laying hens. This way, we can

ensure that the rooster only fertilizes the eggs that are meant to develop.

After the first group of mates found each other, we had a ceremony initiating them into our pack along with the new members

that came to us for sanctuary. As more and more people come to our borders, Grace and I decided to have a monthly ceremony,

at least for now.

Our next trip to Canyon Ridge allowed Grace to really showcase her strengths and that she and Maia could share that power

with her Guardian sisters. Their ability to boost each other's power is getting stronger. Grace is careful not to pull too

much from Cara and Angel, so she doesn't impact their pregnancies. But I wonder what will happen after they have their babies.

It will be interesting to see how her strength impacts her ability to draw on theirs.

Grace and I had been practicing with Maia pushing her power to Louis. And, while we were in Canyon Ridge, I tried to mind link

Carlos again. This time, I was able to do it. We then reached out to find the patrols and while they were even farther

away, I was able to reach them.

While we were in Canyon Ridge, Grace checked on our previous pack members. and found them flourishing. She suggested that

some of them come to the next mate gathering to share their experiences with those that may find their mates, so they know it is

safe to move to another pack if they choose.

Two weeks after that, we again arrived at Canyon Ridge to train. However, baby Lily had other ideas. Cara's delivery was

difficult, and it was good that we were there. Angel was able to provide her healing to both Cara and baby Lily and afterward,

Grace had Angel pull from her strength to regain her own.

Grace and I had talked about the strange connection between the fae royalty and the Guardians. But, as it turns out, Aolis

recognized Lily as his mate, which explains his odd draw to Cara. He seems too young to recognize his mate, but it's obviously

different for the fae than it is for wolves. Angel explained that Ailduin was mated to a Guardian nearly a century ago, but his mate

was taken from him. So, it's not surprising that Aolis is mated to the daughter of a Guardian.

The sadness that Cara had before having Lily seems to evaporate when she holds her daughter in her arms. I think Rik is just

relieved that he didn't lose his mate or daughter during the delivery. I'm not sure what happened with Aolis, Angel and Liam

wouldn't say, but he had some involvement in helping with the delivery process as well. We were with Ailduin when Aolis

returned from the hospital. They had a strange mental communication between them, and they left soon afterward.

We're about a month away from the Tournament of the Moon Goddess. I've chosen the first 10 individuals who will participate.

Grace and I will be involved as the strongest members of the pack. Carlos, even though he doesn't have a wolf, is very strong

and wants to participate. I'm still assessing Amber, but she is showing her strength and is a contender to participate as well.

Several other warriors have shown themselves to stand out and are in the top 10, including one of Rik's previous pack members.

He is looking forward to showing up his friends in his previous pack. Noah wanted to participate, but Sirona told him she would

need to stay behind to finish the hospital and to be available in case any other people came to our pack needing medical

attention. So, he will stay behind and run the pack while we are away.

Liam and Angel had agreed to have two mate gatherings and the second was scheduled a week before Angel was due to

deliver. An additional 25 mate pairs found each other, and we reshuffled the packs again. Grace and I have agreed to host the

next mate gathering after the Tournament of the Moon Goddess. As our pack is coming together, we will be proud to have others

come to see what we have accomplished.

As I'm finishing up some pack paperwork and about to go looking for my mate, I get a mind link.

"Alpha. We have some.....creatures at the border. They are asking to see Luna Grace." Carlos says.

"They specifically asked to see Grace, not me?"

“Yes, Alpha.”

“We’ll be right there.”

I turn the corner and see my mate is looking for me. “Did you hear that?”

“Yes. Let’s go see who wants to speak with me.” She says as we take off at a jog to where our visitors are waiting.