

Broken 421

Chapter 421

After dinner, Eli and I went up to our room. "Baby, what do you need to prepare for your battle with your father?"

I turn and look at him, confused. "What do you mean? There's no way he's going to defeat me.

He walks over, pulling my hips against his, putting his forehead on mine. "Grace, every Alpha there saw what you can do. There

is no way your father is going to fight fair. He's lost before the battle begins. So, what do you think he would do?"

I understand what he means. If my father intends to fight me for the pack, he knows he can't beat me outright. "What do you think he will do?"

"Well, I think we need to make sure that the battle is as fair as possible. We're going to bring some of our pack members with us. But I also want to talk to Alpha Anders. He's an elder and if he's there, it would mean that any cheating would immediately disqualify your father from the challenge."

"Do you think Alpha Anders would be willing to come with us?"

"All we can do is ask." Eli says.

The next day, I speak to Cara and Angel and they are happy to have our next training session with King Ailduin at our pack. "It

will give us a chance to take a look at your new shops!" Cara says excitedly.

"Well, if you come next weekend for the mate gathering, you can take a look at our new clothing store. Anna makes clothes to

order, as well as some that she is making to sell off the rack. But Lily could have her own, one-of-a-kind outfit, handmade by a

seamstress." I tell her excitedly. I had walked the new 'main street' yesterday and can see that it is coming together beautifully.

One of our kitchen omegas opened a coffee and pastry shop, and there are three other stores that are nearing completion.

“Richie, too!” Angel says excitedly.

“Yes, Richie, too.” I laugh.

“We could come early to shop, stay for dinner then head back. Then the following weekend, we would be back to pick up our

baby clothes.”

Afterward, I called King Ailduin. I talked to him about having the next training session in our pack.”

There’s something else I

wanted to speak to you about Ailduin.” When I tell him about Tula, he says there may be something he can do, but he’ll need to

see her injury when he’s here.

I met with Summer to make sure we have enough space for our new pack members, but now we’re also going to be hosting

another pack for our mate gathering. Thankfully, there are many rooms that have emptied out with the completion of the homes.

We decide to put Alpha

Christopher and his daughter on our floor and any other ranked members will have to be divided

between the Beta and Gamma floors.

Several pack members approached Eli and I to volunteer to take in the new pack members until

they can get their homes built. With everyone working together, I think it can be done.

Eli spoke to Alpha Anders and he agreed to join us for the challenge. He agreed that it was likely. that my father would try to

cheat and having an elder would ensure that things were fair.

The week went by quickly. There is still so much to do, and building homes is exhausting work. Eli and I were back to working

long hours and falling into bed seconds before our eyes closed.

I

The night before the challenge, Eli insisted that I stop work early. “You need your rest. I know you don’t need to practice to defeat

your father, but you still need some rest. You’re not a machine, baby.” He ordered dinner in our room, so we had some quiet,

alone time.

“How are you feeling about tomorrow?” He asks me, watching me intently.

I shrug. "I guess I have mixed feelings about it. On one hand, he's my father and I wish I wasn't in a position where this challenge had to happen. On the other, he did this to himself. He did this by banishing me, hurting my mother and taking another mate. Every time I begin to feel sorry for him, I remember my mother, clutching her chest, rolling on the floor in pain. Or I remember that last moment, when she seemed to realize something was wrong, right before her heart stopped. When I remember that, I realize, there is no one else that can do this. That pack is my right. If he had been the kind of father he should have been, he would have passed the pack, to me. But he isn't that person, and I'm not the person I used to be. If he doesn't submit, I will kill him."

"Can you live with that?" Eli asks me softly.

"Yes, I can now. I wouldn't have always been able to say that. But, when I take the anger and hurt away, I still see a man who has abused his position as Alpha, who abused the mate bond given to him by the Moon Goddess and who abused the privilege of being a father."

"No matter what happens tomorrow, I'll be there for you." Eli tells me before pulling me into his lap. I curl up against him and just let him hold me while I think about tomorrow.

The next morning. Anders shows up early. "Alpha Anders. Thank you for taking time to come with us today."

"Of course. Luna. It's my pleasure and I think we can both agree, it's much needed."

"Yes, unfortunately. And please, call me Grace."

"Only if you call me Anders."

By 7am, our caravan is on its way to my father's pack. It's nearly 3 hours to get to his pack lands. As we drive through what used

to be my home, I can't believe the change. The homes that once were fresh and vibrant looking with blooming flowers and

plants, now look nearly dilapidated. Paint is peeling on the outside of the houses, the streets are cracked with potholes, the grass

is unkempt and overgrown.

As we turn to down the road to the pack house, the difference is startling. The pack house is sparkling on the outside. green

lawns with flowering plants all around the entrance and driveway. Eli looks at me and shakes his head.

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When we park and exit our vehicles, we are greeted by my father's mate. She is clutching my half-brother to her chest and has

a fading bruise on her cheekbone. I'm familiar with the look of a woman's face after my father's beatings. I saw it on my mother's

face for over a year.

I walk up to her, carefully taking in my surroundings. There should be others here, if not in greeting, at least as a show of force.

Where is everyone?

"Luna. I'm sorry, I didn't get your name last week."

"Luna Grace. I'm Paisley. I am no longer Luna of this pack. I rejected my mate after last weekend."

I lower my voice, putting a hand on her arm gently. "Are you alright?"

She nods, tears in her eyes. "Please believe me, I didn't know." She whispers with a shaky voice.

"I know. As I said last week, you are welcome to come with us to our pack. Alpha Eli and I w accept you."

I turn, lifting my arm

toward Eli so he would know to come join us.

"As my Luna said last week, you are more than welcome in our pack." Eli assures her.

"What is my brother's name?" I ask, looking at the toddler sleeping in his mother's arms.

Her smile is genuine. "This is Levi." I pat his back before looking around.

"Where is everyone?"

Her smile drops. "They are out back waiting for you." Her voice drops. "Please be careful He knows he can't defeat you one-on-

one."

"Don't worry, we've brought witnesses and an elder." I point to Anders and her eyes widen.

"This way, and please excuse the mess."

"Mess' is not the word I would have used. While the outside of the packhouse is pristine, the inside is in shambles. It looked like

someone had taken a sledgehammer to it.

“Alpha Edgar was on edge after your meeting last week and then, after 1, well, now he’s not exactly thinking clearly.”

We walk through the dark packhouse to the back. I can see that the entire pack has been called to watch the fight. They are

standing around and the anxiety in the air is palpable.

“Finally, the unworthy brat arrives to try and take what is mine.” I hear my father’s voice, dripping with contempt, as I step

outside. I can see him swinging swords around as if practicing for a

sword fight. When he looks at me, his eyes look wild. I don’t know which was more devastating. realizing that I’m alive and a

Guardian or being rejected by his mate. Regardless, my father looks.

like he’s gone mad.

Eli steps up on one side of me, and Anders on the other. “Alpha Edgar. You are aware that

weapons are not allowed during a challenge. You may battle as a human or a wolf, but weapons will immediately disqualify you.”

Anders says.

My father’s lip curls in a snarl as he turns his gaze from Anders to me. “You brought an elder.”

“I didn’t trust that you would fight fair, Alpha. It’s not like you haven’t hidden the horrible things that you’ve done in your past from

the pack.”

My focus had been on my father since I stepped outside, but as I look around the pack, I can see that they are all shocked to see

that I’m still alive. I don’t know what my father told them about me leaving the pack, but he must not have told them that it was

me that was challenging him today.

As I look, my heart breaks for my old pack members. They all look disheveled and in disarray. They are dirty, their clothes look

old and tattered and they look like they haven’t been fed properly

in a while.

“Today, I come to take back what is rightfully mine, father. As the true heir to the Laurel River

Pack, I challenge you, Edgar Winters, to a duel for the right to lead this pack.”

I step forward as my father tosses his swords aside. I have come dressed to fight, in a sports bra and leggings. I choose to fight

barefoot, in case I need to shift. My father looks like a human

soldier. He’s covered in padding and clothing, which will make it difficult for him to shift.

My p

ack follows behind me, closing the circle around my father and me. I take a deep breath and wait for him. I don’t expect that it

will take long, and I’m not disappointed. He rushes at me, swinging his arms. The clothing he’s wearing is limiting his range of

motion and I easily sidestep, swinging a punch around to his back which sends him stumbling to the ground.

I turn, waiting for him to get up. He’s heaving, like we’ve been fighting for hours. He pulls off the top layer of clothing, giving

himself more freedom of movement. “You always were a bitch, just like your whore of a mother.”

He comes at me again, this time he aims for my face. I block his punch, throwing an uppercut of my own and knocking his head

back with a snap. He stumbles backward but doesn’t fall. “The only whore around here, is you, Alpha.”

He snarls at me, spit flying from his mouth as he comes at me again. He looks rabid and crazed, his eyes wide, his pupils dilated

almost to black. This time he swings his leg out, trying to knock me to the ground. I jump over his leg, swinging my own around

and kicking him in his head.

+15 BONDS

I stand back, letting him get back up. He wipes his face with his hand, before spitting blood on the ground.

“You can’t have what is mine.” He snarls, flying at me again. This time, he pulls a knife from somewhere inside his pants,

stabbing me in my stomach. “Die bitch.” He says and I can smell his rancid breath he’s so close. I hear Eli yelling from behind

me.

I grab him, so he can't step back. "I'm a Guardian. I'm immune to wolfsbane and resistant to silver, you poor excuse for an

Alpha."

I take my hand, punching it into his chest. Maia's claws extend and wrap around his heart, and I know her eyes are glowing in

mine. I can feel his heart beating in my hand and his eyes widen as he realizes he's about to die.

"Do you feel that, Alpha? That feeling that someone is about to rip your heart from your chest? That's the feeling my mother had

every day for years, you son of a bitch."

I rip my father's heart out of his chest, letting him fall to the ground at my feet.

Wow! Grace finally got revenge on her father.

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My heart stops when I see Alpha Edgar stab Grace with a knife. I know she's strong, but a knife wound is still serious. We could

all tell that he had lost it. He looks and is acting like a crazed wolf. Even if we weren't here for the challenge, he'd have to be put

down. He's a liability.

When Grace pulls his heart from his chest, I run up to her, pulling the knife from her stomach. I expect her to fall, but instead, she

turns around to face the pack. As much as I want to take care of my mate, I know she needs to do this. I step back, staying close

in case she needs me.

"Does anyone here contest my rank as your new Alpha?" She asks in a voice that rings with strength and power, making me

even more proud of her. You'd never know she's bleeding and was just stabbed in the stomach. She raises her father's heart, still

in her hand, before crushing it and tossing it to the ground.

No one speaks, but everyone in the Laurel River Pack bends the knee, showing their necks in submission to my mate. "Anyone

that does not wish to follow me and my mate may leave. But these lands no longer belong to Laurel River. The council has

traded these lands for an extension to our existing pack. Anyone who chooses to become part of the Safe Haven Pack will be

provided transportation to your new pack and given lodging and food until you can get on your feet.”

I’m thankful we brought Noah and Sirona with us, leaving Carlos and Amber to run the pack in our absence. When Grace

finishes her speech, I scoop her up, unable to wait to look after her any longer. I take her to Sirona, who immediately begins

cleaning the wound.

“You did great baby. I’m so proud of you.” I tell her.

“These people are hungry and don’t seem to have sufficient housing or clothing. As usual, Alpha, we have our work cut out for

us.” She says, as Sirona finishes looking her over.

“Well, Luna, you are already healing. It’s a good thing you have that immunity, or that could have been a lot worse.”

“Let’s go around and talk to people. Sirona, I want you to come along as well, in case anyone needs medical treatment.” Grace

says, before turning to me. “How many can we take back today?”

I look back at our vans. “Forty to fifty. We’ll have to triage and take the ones that most need assistance, the elderly and those

with young pups.”

We spend the rest of the day deciding who will go to Safe Haven today. Several pack members are malnourished. The omegas

seem the most impacted, which is not uncommon. We load up the ones that need medical attention first and send them back

with Sirona. The second and third vans take groups of elderly that look frail and starved and young pups that need food and

baby

supplies. I send Noah and Anders back with those vans. Anders was here to assist with the

challenge and while I appreciate his assistance, he has his own work to do.

Grace and I plan to stay overnight in order to allow a couple more individuals to go to our pack. with the expectation that our

teams will be sending the vans back again tomorrow. After getting everyone settled for the night or sent back to Safe Haven, we

set out to see what is still

salvageable from the packhouse.

The kitchen has been demolished. The refrigerator and freezers ruined causing food to spoil. I send out some of our warriors to

hunt and they bring back a couple of deer. We start a fire and with the help of some pack members, we're able to at least have

some meat for dinner. Grace and I wait until the pack has eaten their fill before eating. They need it more than we do. Tomorrow

when our vans arrive, they will be bringing food and clothing for our new pack members.

That night, we go through the Alpha's room and offices. We find stashes of money, hordes of food that we prepare to set out

tomorrow and the files of the pack members. All of that will have to come back with us to go through as we have time.

"There must be over \$100,000 stuffed in different places. What was he doing? Why wouldn't he use this to help his pack? It

makes no sense."

"Baby, your father wasn't himself. I don't know how long he was this way, or if he always was. but at least now, we can correct his

wrongs."

It's early morning before I find some bedding that I lay on the floor and try to create a place for us to rest for a few hours. "Grace,

come lay down. We need some sleep before another long day tomorrow."

Grace comes and curls up against me, laying her head on my chest. "Is there anything here that you want to take with us?" I ask

her, rubbing her shoulders and back.

"No. There is nothing here for me. Nothing of my mother or me."

She sighs heavily. "Will we always be working this hard? Always taking on so much at one time? It feels like the mountain we are

climbing is never-ending."

I kiss the top of her head. “No, I don’t think so. We’ve overcome so much already. Look at what we’ve done, baby. We’ve created

a new pack. Our pack members are happy and healthy which hasn’t always been their life. We are building homes and

businesses so our pack can thrive. We’re helping our pack members find their mates, so they can start families and have the

lives they’ve always wanted. Does it sometimes look different than what I expected? Definitely. I would never have thought

sprites would be a part of my life or my pack. Did I expect that we would acquire a second pack within months of confirming our

own pack? No, but here we are.”

I pull her chin up so she’s looking at me. “But we can do anything together. We ARE doing all of

this together. We aren’t just making a better life for ourselves, we’re making a better life for our pack, and our future pups. It’s

hard now, but it will be so worth it in the end. And with you by my

side, I know we can never fail.”

I kiss her nose as she smiles up at me. “How did you get to be so smart?”

I smirk down at her. “Well, according to my beautiful mate, I’m old. And, with age, comes knowledge.”

And my sweet mate bursts out laughing just as I’d hoped she would.

Do you love these moments between Grace and Eli as much as I do?

Chapter 424

The next morning, I wake up stiff and sore. Not only did I get stabbed yesterday, but we only got a few hours of sleep with a

couple of blankets to soften the hard floor. Thankfully, my mate let me curl up against him to stay warm. His scent and the mate

bond helping me to heal overnight.

When we go out to share the food we found last night, I can tell that some of the pack members have left, most notably, my

father's Beta. I'm not upset about losing some members. Anyone who leaves now is saving me from having a battle later in our

pack. If they can't agree to having Ell and I as their Alphas, then they need to find someplace else to live. And my father's Beta

knew what my father was doing to me and my mother all those years ago, and he did nothing. Anyone that can live with that,

won't last in my pack.

As the pack is eating. Noah returns with the caravan, ready to take another group back to our pack. We've already established

the plan for today and as much as possible, the vans will be

making two trips. It will make for a long day, but at least everyone will be fed and sleep in a warm bed tonight.

We start packing up the vans, helping families pack up their belongings. Any furniture that they want will have to wait. Eli ordered

a moving truck, but it won't be here until later today. He and I agreed that we'd take any salvageable furniture or equipment and

hand it off to Jeremy to see what he could do with it.

We send a couple bags of money back with Noah in the first run, his eyebrows raise when he realizes what he was carrying.

"There's more, but let's break it into smaller amounts, just in case something happens."

By 9am, the first group of vans are packed and on their way back to Safe Haven. By noon, the moving truck arrives, and we

begin packing up the furniture from all our new pack members. By 4pm, the vans return. We're still packing the last of the

furniture and Eli and I wait until everyone has found a space in a van and all the furniture is packed up before we find space in

the last van

headed back home.

It's been an exhausting day, and only a few minutes into the drive, I fall asleep. Eli gently shakes me as we pass into our territory.

When we pull up, I see that Carlos and Amber have everything under control. They are directing people to the pack members

that will be housing them temporarily.

“I want to check on the people that came back with Sirona yesterday. I’ll catch up to you later. I still need to check in with Cammy

to make sure we have enough food and don’t need to go shopping tomorrow.”

Eli reaches down and kisses me. “I’ll double check to make sure everyone is settled in the packhouse and there aren’t any issues with the housing arrangements.”

When I arrive at the pack hospital, I can see that there are several rooms still in use. I search for Sirona, finding her talking to

one of the medical students. She looks up when she hears me.

“Luna, welcome back. I wasn’t sure you’d be back tonight.”

“Thank you, it’s good to be home. What’s the status of our wounded.”

She begins taking me room by room. Several are young that are malnourished and dehydrated. They should be released in

another day or two. The same for a couple of elderly that just need a few days with food and fluids to recover. In the last room is

Paisley.

“Your father didn’t accept her rejection, so while she rejected him, his death has made her weak.”

“What about her son?”

“Levi is fine. We’re keeping him close and letting her see him any time she wants. She just can’t hold him for very long. He’s an

active toddler and I wasn’t sure she’d survive the trip back. But she’s strong and she has a will to live.”

Chapter 425

I walk into the room, closing the door behind me. I go sit in the chair beside her bed, taking her hand.

“Hello, Luna.” She says and her voice is hoarse.

“Paisley. I spoke to Gamma Sirona. Is there anything I can do?”

“No. I was hoping that it wouldn’t be this bad, but.

I reach out, touching her arm. “You can take as long as you need. I’ll help you in any way you need. Everyone in the pack will.

That’s the kind of pack this is, we help each other.”

“Thank you, Luna.” She’s quiet for a moment, then looks up at me. “You’ve seen the mate bond on both sides. What you have

with Alpha Eli makes it seem like the mate bond is special, good, what we’re told as pups that it’s supposed to be. What I had

with your father was not that. He wasn’t a bad mate, but he wasn’t a good mate either. But now, knowing what he did to your

mother and to you, I don’t know that I could ever trust the mate bond again.”

“When I met Eli, I didn’t want a mate. I didn’t want to suffer the way I watched my mother suffer for years. It felt like she was

forced to endure a life that she no longer wanted.” I shrug, looking at

her.

“But Eli is different. I don’t think it’s the bond that makes the difference, I think it’s the person. I

know, in my heart, that Eli would never treat me the way my father treated my mother. He has too much respect for me, and I

have that same respect for him. Somewhere along the way. I fell in love with him, not just because of the bond. I fell in love with

the person he is. The things that he believes in are the things that I believe in. that I want in my life. His dreams of a better life

are the same as mine. I think that’s what makes the difference. The bond draws us together, but it’s the person that makes the

bond worthwhile.”

I stand, knowing she needs her rest. “I know you’re hurting, and you have a lot to work through. but don’t completely rule out the

possibility of finding your second chance mate. Who knows, you may find your fated mate. But heal first, focus on your son, and

maybe, like me, it will just happen.

for you.

I reach down and gently hug her. “I’ll be back to check on you tomorrow. And your son is being well taken care of. You just worry

about getting healthy for him.”

When I leave the hospital. I head over to the packhouse kitchens.

“Cammy!”

“Luna.” She looks exhausted.

“I know we’ve added a bunch of people, what do you need?” I ask her.

“More hours in the day?” She says jokingly.

“If only! I think we could all use that.”

“It was a lot at first, but Beta Amber sent some folks out to get food. Gamma Noah had some money, so we were able to stock up and prepare food for everyone.”

“Excellent. It’ll be chaotic for a while, but...”

She shrugs. “We’re kind of used to that around here, right?”

I laugh. “Definitely. Eli and I will be talking to the new pack members tomorrow, so hopefully I’ have some additional help for you very quickly.”

“That would be great. And Luna, when things settle down a bit, I’d like to talk to you about something else.”

“I will make time whenever you are ready.” I tell her.

I head up to my room, ready for a shower then a good night’s sleep, in my own bed, with my ma curled up around me.

Poor Paisley!

Chapter 426

After checking in with Carlos that everyone has been assigned a place to stay temporarily, I walk around the packhouse making sure that everyone is getting settled and has everything they need. Once I see that each room is

full and they have bedding and clothing. I head out to walk around the pack.

I stop by all the houses that have volunteered to house the newcomers and check that the new pack members are settled and

there aren't any problems. Most everyone seems to be adjusting and settling in.

When I return to the packhouse. I find my mate already asleep in our bed. I shower off the grime from the last couple of days and

join her, falling quickly to sleep.

The next morning over breakfast, I call a meeting for all the new pack members as well as the ranked members, excluding

Sirona who is still taking care of those in the hospital.

"Good morning, everyone and welcome to Safe Haven Pack. I hope you slept well and have full bellies." There is a lot of low

rumbled agreement. I introduce the ranked members to the new pack.

"As you have seen, our pack is in the process of rebuilding. This means that you have the opportunity to build your own home." I

explain to them the payment and repayment requirements. of building their homes.

"In addition, you will be assigned to a work detail within the pack. If you have a skill set that you feel is marketable, you can let

me or Beta Carlos know and we will get you on the list to have a storefront built on our new Main Street. Otherwise, we have

plenty of work within the pack that needs to be done. Over the next couple of days while you are getting settled in and learning

the boundaries of our pack lands, your ranked members will be meeting with you, assessing your skills and assigning you to your

place in the pack. Any questions?"

I answer some questions about the work they used to do and if they will still be doing that. payment for their work and things like

that. After all the questions are answered. I turn it over to Grace.

"We are happy to have all of you here, and you are welcome, as long as you follow the rules of this pack. You will respect your

ranked members and we will respect you. You can ask anyone here if they are mistreated, and they will tell you that they are not.

That goes for everyone in the pack. This pack is called Safe Haven for a reason. If you have a disagreement with someone, you

either work it out with them, or if you can't, you come to one of your ranked members. Violence is not allowed. Abuse of any kind,

to anyone, is not allowed. If you are found being abusive to anyone

within the pack, you will be punished and given a warning. If it happens again, you will be banished. If you do not think that you

can live under these rules, you are free to leave. However, if you agree to this life, one that you and your pack will build together,

then we will be holding a ceremony tomorrow night for you to swear your allegiance to Safe Haven and officially join our

pack."

"If you have any further questions, feel free to join us up here and we'll be happy to answer your

questions. Otherwise, enjoy the day, please feel free to walk around the pack, see what we are building here and talk to the other

pack members." I tell them before dismissing them.

We had about 150 come back with us. I don't know that all of them will stay, but many have pups

and would be safer in a pack than on their own. Several pack members come up, wanting to start working right away. They

appreciate the ability to build their own homes and make money for the work they do, and they want to get started as soon as

possible. For those that can work in construction, I send them out with Noah to have Perry find work for them. Several are

carpenters,

and I call Jeremy over to assess their skills and see if they can work for him.

While we have taken in many omegas, they are still recovering and will need another day or two before they can begin working.

However, their desire to work and make sure that they show their

worth in the pack is strong so Grace and Amber set them up to meet with Cammy and Summer to

see what they can do. Grace called Anna over as well, so I'm assuming we have some

seamstresses in the new group.

After the first day in the pack, we lost another 30 wolves, most of those were unmated males, but

we lost some older couples that didn't seem too keen on building a life from scratch.

On the second night, we had a pack ceremony, and 105 wolves of age swore their allegiance t
to

our pack. The other 14 had not yet gotten their wolves and would have to wait until they are older. We
had a big celebration with

lots of food and music to celebrate the new pack members joining
our group.

At the end of the night, I reminded everyone that we would be having a mate gathering this weekend
and that several packs

would be joining us as well as the sprites that are looking for
mates.

The new pack members were as fascinated with the sprites as everyone else when they first saw them,
as it was impossible to

miss Leilani and Lolana walking around with Alexander, or Tula perched on Thomas's shoulder.

I asked Alexander about his mate mark. I noticed that while he had marked the twins, he didn't have a
mark on his neck. He told

me that the sprites mark differently. Because their mate is so important to them, they mark them over
their heart. He had pulled

off his shirt and shown me the two interlocking circles on his chest, above his heart, one for each mate.
They glow with the same

light that seems to shine from the sprites. Alexander said they shared their light and now they can feel
his emotions just as he

can feel theirs. He told me the circle represents their undying love. since it has no end, no boundaries.
I'm not a huge fan of the

sprites, but even I have to admit that their love for their mate is admirable.

As the day and the festivities wind down, I pull my mate into my lap and just take a moment to enjoy the
peace of the evening,

the happiness of the pack and the love I have for my own mate.

Safe Haven continues to grow!

Chapter 427

By the end of the week, everyone seemed to have settled into their new roles. All of the omegas were medically cleared and

positions within the pack were found for them. I met with Cammy after the Lead Omega in the kitchen at my father's pack asked

if she could split shifts with her.

"Cammy, I wanted to talk to you about Melinda's request to split shifts. I don't want you to feel like I'm undermining you or your

role, but I was thinking that it would be good for you to have

more time in your day." I say when we meet in my office.

"Actually Luna, I had wanted to talk with you about something else and this is the perfect time. I know that many people in the

pack are getting the opportunity to open a business and I wanted to

talk to you about the possibility of me doing that as well."

"What kind of business are you thinking of starting, Cammy?"

"Well, Luna, I've always wanted to open my own diner. I'm good at managing the kitchens and I know how to schedule staff. I've

been playing around with some new menu ideas, but I would

need someone to help me manage the business side of things."

"Cammy. I think that's a great idea! Everyone loves the food you make now, and I just know you would do well with a diner."

"Really?"

"Absolutely! What do you need to get started? Do you have someone that can help you run the business?"

"Well, no. I wasn't sure you would agree to me opening the diner, but now I'll have to find someone to help me. Unless you have any ideas?"

I look at her a moment, thinking. It's been months. In the beginning. I kept in touch with Benny at least weekly, but things had

gotten so hectic, that I hadn't spoken to him in way too long. When I last spoke to him, he was thinking of selling his diner and

retiring. So, he might be willing to come out of retirement and move to the pack lands. I'd have to talk to Eli about it. It would

mean we'd have to tell him about us, but Benny is an older, single man. He has no family and he doesn't have anything to lose

by moving here. He's never been one to gossip or tell someone's secrets, so it shouldn't be a problem.

"I may have someone that can help you with that, but I need to talk to a few people first. How about, for now, we go see Alpha Eli

and put your name on the list of a storefront. That will give you some time to start planning and give me time to see if the person

I have in mind will work out."

We walk to Eli's office and he's just as encouraging about her opening a diner as I am. He puts her on the list, telling her it will be

about 3 months before her diner could be completed. When she leaves. I bring up my thought about Benny.

"Call him. See if he's agreeable. If he's willing to move here, we'll deal with how to tell him."

"Thank you, Alpha." I say, winking at him before sashaying my hips out his door, eliciting a low rumbling growl from my mate.

"Later, Little Alpha." He mind links me, before sending me an explicit image of what he plans to do to me. It's so specific that heat

goes straight to my core, causing my panties to go damp.

"Keep it up, Alpha and the entire packhouse will know that you're turning me on." I reply through the mind link.

"Come back in here and I'll take care of that for you." He growls through the mind link. It's been too long and he's got my body

aching, so I turn, walking back into his office and locking the door. I thank the goddess for dresses when he has me up against

the wall and is sliding inside me less

than a minute later.

Twenty minutes later, I'm feeling much more relaxed as I call Benny.

"Hello."

"Hey Benny, it's Grace."

"Grace! I've been worrying about you. How are you?"

"I'm good. Things have been crazy. How's retirement?"

"Boring as shit! I don't know why I ever thought I wanted to retire."

I smile. I knew he'd hate it. He's too use to being a busybody.

"Well, what would you say to coming out of retirement?"

"I'm listening."

—

"Well, I have a friend that is thinking of opening a diner. She's got the food part down but doesn't know anything about running a business. I thought maybe, if you were bored—

"When do you want me there? And where is there?"

I talk to Benny for a few more minutes before agreeing to meet with him in a couple of weeks.

Later than night, Alpha Christopher arrives with his daughter and several other pack members for the mate gathering tomorrow. Eli and I meet them out front of the packhouse.

"Alpha Christopher, it's nice to see you again." I say warmly as he gets out of his car. He looks around before coming over,

bringing his daughter with him.

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Chapter 428

"Alpha Eli, Luna Grace, allow me to introduce my daughter, Anastasia."

We spend the evening getting to know Anastasia and spending time with Alpha Christopher. He is interested in what we've been

doing with the pack and Eli gives him a tour. Anastasia is very sweet, but not what I'd expect from an Alpha female. She's very

proper, what you might consider genteel. Or maybe, that's how most Alpha females are, and I'm the one that doesn't fit the mold.

Either way, she's very nice and I hope she finds her mate this weekend.

The next morning. I check in with Cammy and Melinda. They will make sure that we have enough food for the nearly 400

unmated pack members and sprites that will be here this evening. I'm finishing my review of the food and drink menu when I

hear the front door of the packhouse open.

“Hello? Grace? Your sisters are here and ready to shop!” I hear Cara and Angel singing as they come in the door. I head out to

meet them, rushing over to my sisters and having a group hug.

“Let me grab my bag and we can head out. Oh but, I still don’t know how to drive, so one of you has to drive, unless you want to

walk?”

“Let’s walk, I want to see what you have going on in the pack.” Cara says.

“Yeah, Liam says you’ve got all sorts of buildings going up, not just homes.” Angel adds.

So, we walk around the pack, I show them the hospital, the homes that have been built as we walk to Main Street. They start in

the market, buying bags of food. Then we go into Jeremy’s store where he has a couple of items on display, showing what he

and his employees can build. They both put in orders for desks and chairs, even knowing that it will be a couple of months before

he can get to it. Angel puts in an order for a crib as well.

“Won’t Richie be too old for a crib by the time it’s done?” I ask her.

“Richie will be, but this little one won’t.” She says, rubbing her stomach.

Cara and I squeal and hug her again. “Congratulations!”

“Thank you!”

“It was when Liam carried you into the forest at the tournament, wasn’t it?” Cara asks, narrowing her eyes at her.

She just shrugs. “It was definitely at the tournament, but I don’t know if it was that time or not. Either way, we’re pretty certain this

one is going to be a girl.”

“How do you know?” I ask.

“Liam could smell Richie almost immediately. He can’t get a good scent on this little one. We think it’s because she has a scent

similar to mine.” She explains. Maia agrees, but she can smell the increased scent of raspberries. Definitely a girl.

We start walking next door to

Anna's clothing store. "Well, that's good. Maybe this one will look remotely like you. If you hadn't birthed Richie, no were his

mom." Caral

cave

says.

ne would believe..

"I know! But I love having a little version of Liam. I'll be thrilled if my little girl is happy and healthy. I don't care who she looks

like." She says as we walk into the store.

Immediately, Cara and Angel are entranced with the items that Anna has been able to put together and place on her racks.

Having several new employees has definitely helped her inventory. After putting in orders for their children, a couple outfits for

Angel's newest baby and an outfit for each of them, the three of us head back to the packhouse.

We meet up with Rik, Liam, Eli, Alpha Christopher and Anastasia for dinner. The area behind the packhouse has been decorated

for the mate gathering and there is music, lights and areas for people to meet, talk and eat. There are several sprites in

attendance and some quickly obvious

mate matches.

As Eli expected, Anastasia's presence has caused quite a stir, but as the night goes on, it doesn't appear that her mate is here.

She's gracious and kind, but you can tell she's disappointed.

"Well, it was worth a shot, and it looks like some of my other pack members found their mates tonight, so it's not a total loss."

Alpha Christopher says as the evening begins to die down. Mates have gone off to get to know each other or to complete their

mate bond. Some sprites seem to have found wolf mates as well.

"Alpha Christopher, you and Anastasia are welcome to come to all our events. We will be moving them around to the different

packs and you never know if her mate hasn't reached adulthood yet, or maybe couldn't make it to tonight's event." I tell him.

He smiles kindly. "Thank you." I'm not sure if he'll take us up on the offer or not. He seems as disappointed as his daughter.

We say goodnight and Eli and I head up to bed.

Chapter 429

The week after the mate gathering, we continue our crazy work schedule but also prepare to have King Ailduin and Prince Aolis

in our pack for the next training session. There are some adjustment issues that either I or Grace have addressed. Some pack

members didn't think we were serious about punishing them for being verbally aggressive to other pack members. It's a good

thing a couple of the cells had been cleaned out. It gave me a chance to give those individuals a night to think about their

choices and whether or not they want to continue in this pack.

Grace had pulled some of the new pack members in to assist with the cleaning and restocking of the bunkers and safe rooms.

Now that we have more members and many are omegas that would not be required to fight in a battle, we will need as much

space as this pack has available in the

event of another hunter attack.

Liam and Rik talked to different supernatural beings and everyone has heard the rumblings of the hunters taking supernaturals either to kill or experiment on. Anders is heading a group who is looking to see if any of the hunter

compounds can be found. We were hoping after the tournament and the strength shown by the Guardians that they would

retreat and back off, but it seems as

though they may have turned their attention to other supernaturals.

The sprites have been diligent in monitoring the forest. Now that our pack has expanded, their watch is also increasing. It helps that a couple have mated in the other two packs, so expanding their little community to include our new land as well as Rik's and Liam's pack was not a problem for them.

Grace has planned a special meal for Ailduin and Aolis when they arrive. The elves, like the sprites are vegetarian. While they do not condemn us for being meat eaters, they feel that all life is sacred, especially the life in

the forest. Therefore, they choose not to eat the animals of the

forest. We have made an effort to not have any meals with deer or rabbits while they are here.

On the day of their arrival, Rik, Cara, Liam and Angel arrive at lunch time. Ailduin and Aolis are scheduled to arrive mid-

afternoon. Our nursery and children's home are completed and we are able to drop the babies off in the nursery.

As we all sit to eat, Liam jumps in immediately. "I know the training was limited before because both Cara and Angel were

pregnant. But now that Angel is pregnant again." he stops to kiss the side of her head, "and after the effect on all of them after

the pull of power at the tournament. I'm not sure I'm comfortable practicing the power transfer that was planned. At least not with

Angel. I'm not willing to put her or my child at risk."

"Let's see what Ailduin has in mind for training this time. Liam. It's possible that he has other ideas for our training. But if not, I

can push my power rather than having Grace or Cara pull it.

That way I control it." Angel says.

"And there's no reason Grace can't practice with me. She has already pulled my power without really having any training. Once

Ailduin guides her, I think she'll have better control of how much. she pulls, so she'll know when it's too much." Cara adds.

"We'll be careful. If we need to take lots of breaks this weekend, we will." Grace adds.

After lunch, we have the nursery staff bring the children out back to play, while we help watch over them waiting for Ailduin.

“The pack has really come together.” Rik says to me as we sit in the shade watching our mates playing with the little ones.

“It’s not done yet, but it feels like it’s really coming together. I have plans for an expansion into the new land we acquired. Several

new pack members have asked about building their homes and wanting to create a second market village where they can have

stores closer to their homes.” I turn to Liam. “Perry has been great, by the way. He’s a fantastic general contractor. He has a

good head for how to make things come together and good ideas for ways to structure the groups of buildings that I wouldn’t

have thought of.”

“He’s one of my best. And I hear you have quite a few people who are very skilled in your pack. I’d like to have him speak to

them about continuing on with my company if you agree.”

We talk a little longer about the on-going development plans for the pack before we see Ailduin and Aolis walk through the trees.

I’m not exactly sure how they travel to get here, but each time I have seen them arrive, it’s been on foot.

Chapter 430

They are surrounded by sprites and I can hear the twittering and chittering of excitement from here.

Grace and I stand, ready to welcome the fae royalty. The others join us as well as Alexander, the twins, Thomas and Tula.

“King Alduin, Prince Aolis. Welcome to Safe Haven Pack. You are most welcome here.” I say. Leilani, Lolana and Alexander all

kneel as the rest of the sprites join them on the ground. Tula tugs on Thomas until he too drops down, putting her on the ground

so she can kneel before her

king.

“Alexander, what are you doing? He’s not your king.” I ask through the mind link.

“Leilani and Lolana give you and Luna the same respect that I do. Therefore, I am giving their leader the same respect that they

do.” As I watch, Thomas does as well

*Please rise my children.” Ailduin says and in a gesture that would look ridiculous on anyone other than him, he spreads his

arms wide, his palms facing up. It’s a majestic gesture that only a king could pull off.

The sprites love for their king is obvious. They are very excited to see him and Aolis, but they are more quiet and respectful than

usual I wonder how long that will last.

Ailduin steps forward, looking from Alexander to Lelani and Lolana. “And I see we have some of our sprites that have mated with a werewolf.”

“Yes. King Ailduin.”

“He is our mate.”

“We love him.”

“And he loves us.”

Ailduin looks at Alexander. “You will take good care of my children, yes?”

Alexander wraps an arm around each of his mates. “They are my mates. I would give my life for them.” Lelani and Lolana swoon at this statement.

“I’m glad to hear it. Now, I heard that another of my children was injured and needed my healing power. Where is she?” He looks

around before looking at Grace.

I watch as Grace goes over to Tula and Thomas. “Tula, let King Ailduin see your injury.”

Tula’s head is down, as if she is embarrassed and can’t look at Ailduin. Thomas begins speaking. quietly to her as Ailduin

approaches them.

“Tula.” He says gently.

She looks up at him. “King Ailduin.” And she bows her head.

“May I see your injury?” She nods her head and Thomas reaches his hands out. She jumps into his hands, turning her back to Ailduin.

“Hunters pulled her wing off, King Ailduin.” Thomas tells him.

He holds his hand over her back, closing his eyes. I watch as he takes a couple of deep breaths. before his hands starts to glow.

As soon as the glowing light touches Tula, she sucks in a breath, her head snapping up to look at Thomas.

“Tula?” He asks, ready to pull her away if she’s in pain. In an instant, everyone can see her wing beginning to regrow. Grace

comes over to me, wrapping her arms around my waist. I can feel her awe and her happiness for Tula through our bond as I feel

her tears dampening my shirt as I hold

her.

The sprites all quietly ‘ohhh’ and ‘awww’ as if any noise will break Ailduin’s concentration and cause Tula’s wing to stop growing.

The twins are leaning against Alexander, glowing tears running down their cheeks as they watch their friend as she’s healed in

front of all of us.

When he’s done, he steps back. Tula stands in Thomas’s hand, testing her new wing, flapping it gently before a huge smile

spreads across her face and she lifts herself off his hands.

“Tula!” Thomas’s voice is full of love, happiness and awe at his little mate.

She turns to Ailduin. “Thank you, King Ailduin.” She says, before dipping to kiss his cheek. She turns and looks at Thomas. “I’m healed! I’m whole!”

“My sweet girl. I’m so happy for you, but you know I loved you anyway.”

“But Thomas, don’t you see? Now we can complete the mate bond! I can be like Leilani and Lolana! I can be a true mate to you.” She says before flying to him and wrapping her arms around his neck.

As we watch, her body stretches and shifts. She goes from being 1/2 a foot tall to nearly 5 feet tall.

She’s still incredibly short compared to Thomas who is over 6 feet. But now, at least, she can have her human form.

He swings her around, holding her close before kissing her passionately. I clear my throat. knowing my wolves tend to forget

themselves when they are with the sprites. "Perhaps you want

to take Tula someplace more private, Thomas?" I say meaningfully.

He pulls away from her before looking around. "Oh, right." He starts to walk off before turning back. "Thank you, King Ailduin.

Thank you so much!" He says before practically running to his room in the packhouse.