

## Broken 471

### Chapter 471

"I'll meet you somewhere and we can go." I say.

I watch as Donovan shifts back to Clint. As soon as he shifts, he stands, hands on his hips. "I'm not hiding from your parents Lily.

I'm an adult and you are almost 18. I have no problem speaking to your parents, but I won't sneak around behind their backs like

I'm some randy teenager. They should be proud that I want to date their daughter."

"It's not the dating part that he's worried about, I'm sure. It's you trying to get into my pants that he's concerned about." I mind

link, still in Andra's form. I'm taking full advantage of being in her body to take a good long look at Clint's body. He's solid muscle,

lean and muscular with broad shoulders and a deep V going to his waist. His adonis belt draws my eyes directly to his penis

which, even hanging between his legs, looks big.

"Can you please shift back so we can talk. I'm serious about this Lily. I'm not sneaking around behind your parents' back. I don't

care who knows that I want to date you or who sees us. I'm not going to hide you or us from anyone."

I shift back, standing up, and it's my turn to put my hands on my hips. "But that's the thing Clint. There is no us. You already told

me you're looking for your mate and I'm not old enough yet to find mine. So, maybe my dad's right, maybe we should forget

Sunday."

He growls, taking my arms in his hands and leaning over me. "No, Lily. Why can't you see that I want more than to just have sex

with you?"

"I don't know Clint. Maybe because you've never done anything else with the females in your life." I regret causing the look of

hurt I instantly see in his eyes, so I decide to leave before I say anything else hurtful. "I've got to go."

I turn and walk to my house. When I grab my clothes, I turn and see him standing at the forest's edge watching me. I walk inside,

closing the door behind me without acknowledging him.

I'm in my room after dinner doing homework when I hear our phone ringing. I hear my father answer the phone and when the

tone of his voice changes, I listen in.

"Of course, Alpha." Silence while my father listens..

"I meant no disrespect." Silence.

"No, of course I won't stand in the way." Silence.

+25 BONUS

"Yes, Alpha." I hear the phone hang up. That was odd.

A moment later, I hear my father walking to my door. He knocks before walking in, not waiting for me to answer. "When were you

going to tell me about your date with Clint Nelson." He snarls at me.

"What?"

"That was Alpha Anders. Apparently, Clint went to him and asked him to intervene, saying that I wouldn't let you go on a date

with Clint. He wants to know why I feel his Guardian isn't good enough for my daughter. So, I'll ask again. When were you going

to tell me that you were going on a date with Clint Nelson?" He's practically yelling when he's done.

"Clint asked me out, yes. Andra and I ran into Donovan while she was training tonight. He helped us train and afterward he

walked us home. I told him you didn't want me dating him and he was angry, but I didn't think he'd go to Alpha Anders."

"Well, he did. So, apparently, you're going out with Clint whether I like it or not. He yells, before turning and slamming my door as

he walked out.

Chapter 472

If Aaron Raines thinks he's going to keep me from my mate, he has another thing coming. He may not know she's my mate, but

every other father in this pack would be thrilled that I wanted to take their daughter out.

I wait until I hear the shower running before grabbing a pair of shorts hidden in the trees for when we shift and going to her front

door. I knock, waiting. When the door opens, it's her father.

“Mr. Raines.” He steps outside, closing the door.

“Clint Nelson. What are you doing here?”

“I wanted to speak to you about dating your daughter.”

“Stay away from my daughter.” He says, turning around and slamming the door in my face. What the...?

As soon as I leave, I go to find Anders. I find him in his room. I don't bother with pleasantries. “I need your help.”

He stands up, seeing that I'm irritated, pacing in his room.

“Whatever you need Clint.” He says, coming to put a hand on my shoulder, trying to calm me down.

“Aaron Raines doesn't want Lily going out with me.” I can see the tips of his lips pulling up as he tries not to laugh at my

situation. I, however, can't find the humor in it. She's my fucking mate and NO ONE will keep me from her.

“Nevermind, I'll figure it out myself.” I snarl, turning to walk out.

He grabs my arm, holding me in place. There is no evidence of a smile now. “I never said I wouldn't help you, Clint. You've

always been my friend first, my brother. I would do anything in my power to help you and this is in my power. Why don't we go

down to dinner and you can fill me in. I'll make a call afterward and straighten this all out.

And this is why Anders will make a good Alpha. Unlike me, that can go off all hot-headed, he keeps his wits about him and

thinks things through, strategizing the best way to handle something.

I nod. “Thanks man.”

He puts his arm around my shoulders, leading me out of his room. “That's what we do, right? We help each other.”

+25 BONUS

Over dinner, I explain everything to Anders. He whistles appreciatively. “I can help you with her dad, but you need to/

things out with Lily. Are you sure you want me to intervene? It might cause more problems between you and her.”

“I'll figure that out, but yes, please do this for me.”

“Okay, just know I won’t interfere if Lily kicks your ass for this.” He says and we walk back up to his room.

He dials the phone, and I can hear when Aaron answers.

“Aaron, this is Alpha Anders. How are you this evening?”

I hear Aaron respond, before Anders continues.

“I’m wondering if you can help me with something.” He says. Nice. Get him to agree to comply before telling him what it is you

want from him.

“I understand you don’t want your daughter seeing my Guardian. Is that correct?”

I snort when Aaron says he meant no disrespect.

“So, you won’t stand in the way of Clint taking Lily out this Sunday as planned?”

I breathe a sigh of relief when I hear him say he won’t stand in the way, not that he would go against Anders, but he could as

Lily’s father.

“If you have any concerns about my Guardian seeing your daughter, please bring them to me or my father, we will be happy to

mediate a discussion to resolve any issues.”

When he hangs up, he looks at me. “You should consider telling him that you are. Lily’s mate. It may change his mind about

you.”

I’m shaking my head before he finishes. “I don’t want anyone knowing before she does. There’s no way her parents won’t act

differently and she’s smart enough to figure it out.”

That night, I go online and order a guitar. I have an idea for something special for Lily, but it will take some time, especially since

I don’t know how to play the guitar. At all.

The next morning, we pick up Lily and Calista outside Calista’s house. When I step out of the car to open the door for Lily, I see

her father standing at the window of their house, watching me. I nod my head at him, but he turns and walks away without

acknowledging me. Whatever, it’s his daughter that needs to like me. I can work on the parents later.

However, I realize quickly that Anders was right. Lily is furious with me. She barely speaks to me on the car ride to school and when I follow her to her locker, she pulls me into a hallway before lashing out.

“How dare you! How dare you go to Anders and have him call my father.”

I cross my arms over my chest. “I told you I wasn’t going to sneak around, Lily.”

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## Chapter 474

I probably shouldn't have laughed so much at Clint. But here he is, this Guardian of Alphas, looking like a big tomato. He did

seem very sincere when he said he wanted my forgiveness. I'm finding it harder and harder to resist him. Yesterday at training, I

thought we would train together again, but my father pulled me in as his training partner and Clint didn't fight it. Then afterward,

my father forbid me from letting Andra train.

This morning, however, my father couldn't find a way to keep me away from driving with Clint and Anders without making it

obvious to our future Alpha that he was trying to keep me away from Clint. Something is off with my dad. I'm not sure what's

going on, but his response to me seeing Clint is excessive and not in line with other times that I've been asked out on dates.

Even more strange, my father is going to visit another Alpha over the weekend and he's insisting that I go. I told him I had plans

Friday night, so we're going Saturday and coming back early on Sunday.

I don't see Clint the rest of the day. I'm guessing he went home to shower and change. When I get to training, I see him. He's

talking to Alpha Patrick, whose lips are twitching. Clint is still a shade of red that makes it look like he's got the world's worst sun

burn. My dad calls me over at the same moment that Alpha Patrick looks up and sees me. "Lily, you're with Clint today."

I look at my dad and see him grinding his teeth, but there's nothing he can do about it and it's not like anything is going to

happen on the training field. I turn and walk over to Clint. He's watching my father's reaction and his fists are clenched and his

eyes are narrowed.

"Clint." I say, putting my hand on his arm. I wait until he looks at me. "Ready for an ass whooping?" I say, hoping it will pull him

out of his anger at my father's

resistance to him.

He laughs outright. "Let's go Lily bud."

We move away from the rest of the group again and he takes a defensive stance. Let's see what you remember from the other

day."

I get into position. "You know, I'm having a hard time taking you seriously when you look like you forgot to put sunscreen on

before laying at the beach all day."

"You'll be taking me seriously when you're face down in the dirt." He says, giving me the 'come on' gesture with his fingers.

He pushes me harder today and his punches are stronger. But I hold my own and

we go the full two hours again, pouring in sweat by the time we're done. He's careful not to get too close when he takes me

down, so we don't have any more knee-meeting-groin issues.



Afterward, I see my father waiting for me and I know he's going to forbid me from training Andra again. I sigh, about to walk

toward him when Clint grabs my hand and pulls me to the forest. "What are you doing?" I ask him.

"Time for Andra to get her training." He says. But I know he's making sure my father can't keep us apart. The whole thing is

bizarre. Any parent would be thrilled to have a Guardian giving their child individualized training. Any parent but mine. My

mother's not a warrior, and she won't go against my father anyway, so she's no help.

When we get to the forest, we strip and shift. Once again, Andra is excited to see Donovan and he seems just as excited to see

her. He runs her for over an hour, pushing her speed and her dexterity over the rocky terrain of the pack lands. When we're

done, he walks us back to our clothes where we change before he turns to walk me home.

"So, you're still going out with Lucas tomorrow night?" He asks me.

"Um, yeah." I guess I am, I haven't exactly had a moment to talk to Lucas since Tuesday.

"Where's he taking you?" He asks.

"I'm not sure." I say, because I have no idea. I'm not really looking forward to this date. But I guess I better ask him tomorrow, so

I know how to dress.

"And you're still going out with Calista on Saturday night?"

"Actually, no. My dad wants me to go with him to the Blue River Pack, so we're leaving Saturday and coming back in time for our

date on Sunday, since dad told Alpha Anders he'd allow it."

I watch Clint's brows furrow. "The Blue River Pack? Why there?"

I shrug. "No idea, but he wants me to go."

Clint is quiet longer than normal. I stop and turn to him. "What is it?"

"Alpha Mahli is looking for a mate." He says, looking at me with concern in his eyes, but I laugh it off.

"I'm not old enough to find my mate. My birthday isn't for almost two more months." I tell him.

"Right." He says, but I can tell he's not convinced. "But you'll be home for our date?"

“That’s what my father said.”

“Is your mother going too?”

“I don’t think so. My father said he has some business with the Alpha.”

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Chapter 475

When we get near my house, we stop. “Lily, I want you to promise me something.” He’s gotten very serious.

“Okkkkaaay.” I drag out the word because he’s being dramatic.

“If anything happens, if anything feels funny this weekend, I want you to call me. Do you have my number?” He asks.

“Is this your way of getting my phone number, Clint?” I ask him, putting a hand on my hip.

“I have your number, Lily.” He says, a ghost of a smile on his face. “But do you have mine?”

“No, I don’t.”

“I’ll text you tonight. Put my number in your phone. This weekend, if something happens, call me and I’ll come get you.”

“You’re serious?” I say, frowning.

“I’m very serious.”

“Okay Clint.” I say, shaking my head.

“Now, get inside before your father comes out to get you.”

I jog up to my door, turning around to look at him before stepping inside. This time I wave at him before closing the door.

After dinner, I’m in my room doing my homework when my phone pings.

Unknown: Lily, this is Clint. Save my number in your phone.

Me: Okay, dad.

Unknown: Are you into the Daddy kink?

Me: Don’t you have enough girls into your Big Daddy kink?

Casanova: None of them are you.

Me: There's a reason for that.

Casanova: And what is that reason?

Me: Self-respect. Restraint. Taste.

Casanova: Ohhh, taste. Tell me more.

Me:

Casanova: See you tomorrow, beautiful. Sweet dreams.

Me: 'Night, Clint.

The next morning, I get ready and head to training. I'm paired up with one of the other female warriors. She's good. It's nice to

practice with a female because her strengths are different from the male warriors and how I spar with her is

different because of it.

We're about an hour into training when the howl goes up. Rogues have breached the borders. Everyone in training turns and

shifts, heading to where the call came from. From the corner of my eye, I see Alpha Patrick and Beta Calvin come running out of

the packhouse, shifting mid-stride. Clint and Anders are leading the charge. Just as they get to the forest line, rogues start

coming out from everywhere. Our pack is large, but not everyone is a fighter.

Those of us on the training field reach the fight first. I jump in without hesitation. This is what we train for. This is why we

constantly work to be stronger and faster.

The smell of the rogues is disgusting, they smell like rotten food. I have to hold my breath as Andra bites down on the leg of one,

ripping her head back and forth, snapping the leg. Before the rogue can limp away, she clamps her teeth on his throat, tearing it

out then turns to the next rogue.

More of our pack members are coming, but right now we're outnumbered. It takes every bit of training I have to fight. I'm going

after a rogue when another one bites down on Andra's flank, dragging her back. Her surprised yelp cuts off before she turns,

slashing her claws down the face of her attacker, slicing an eye and leaving gaping claw marks on his face. He releases her and

she goes for the kill when the first rogue jumps on her back. He's snapping at her neck and she's dodging but the one she

slashed is getting up and is about to attack her when the weight of the one on her back gets removed.

Andra turns her head and I see Donovan ripping into the wolf, slashing through his stomach before ripping his throat out. He

turns and jumps on the one in front of me, breaking it's back before going back to fight beside Anders. I don't have time to

consider that he left his Alpha to come assist me before I'm back in the fray of the fight.

When more of our pack show up, the rogues retreat, getting run off the pack lands. The howls of the pack are victorious but as I

look around, I see several pack members shifted on the ground. Andra is about to go see if the closest ones are still alive when

Donovan comes bounding back. He sniffs her, licking her leg

before whining and shifting back.

Clint leans down looking at the bite. "Lily, you need to shift and get this cleaned up. Rogues are nasty creatures, and their bites

can get infected." He takes Andra's face in his hands. "You did great little wolf." I can hear Donovan's voice overlaying with his

and see the gold of his eyes in Clint's. "But you need to let Lily shift so the doctors can look at your leg." He leans in, kissing her

head before sitting back.

I shift, hissing as the transition causes pain in the bite wound. As soon as I have shifted, Clint is looking at my leg. The wound is

high on my thigh, and it's deep. Clint calls over one of the pack doctors to look at it.

I hear Alpha Patrick behind me barking orders to check on the injured and unconscious. I hear him call out to his Beta, Gamma,

Anders and Clint among others.

"I have to go. You're in good hands now Lily bud. I'll check on you later."

"Clint." I call as he starts to jog off. He stops and turns to look at me. "Thank you."

He smiles and winks at me before following Alpha Patrick into the packhouse.

Cooper Author

## Chapter 476

I almost lost my shit when I saw Andra pinned to the ground by one wolf with another wolf coming to attack her. My Guardian's

need to protect Anders was overruled by my mate bond's need to protect Andra. Thankfully, I didn't have to choose one over the

other. Anders wasn't in any danger and Lily needed my help.

When we get inside, Patrick tells us that we're going after the rogues. He has trackers hunting them now, but he wants to take

them out. It was a large group that attacked, and Beta Calvin will stay behind to interrogate the rogues that were captured and

find out why they decided to attack us.

Patrick tells us to plan to be gone for the weekend and I'm not thrilled.

Something is off with Aaron taking Lily to the Blue River Pack. I know that Alpha is looking for a mate, and Lily is more than

worthy of being mated to an Alpha. But there's got to be more to it than that. Lily is still underage and wouldn't be able to

recognize her mate. I should know, since I AM her mate.

I asked Anders to look into it for me last night after Lily told me about the trip. I want to know why Aaron is so against me dating

his daughter but has no problem taking her to visit the Alpha of a neighboring pack who is actively seeking a chosen mate. Being

mated to a Guardian is just as prestigious as being mated to an Alpha. And, while I doubt Alpha Mahli would try to forcibly mark

her, if he did, it wouldn't seal a bond since she's underage. But it has me worried, especially now that I won't be around if

something happens.

'If he even tries to steal our mate, I will end him.' Donovan says in my head. And while most mates probably feel that way,

Donovan and I are actually capable of taking an Alpha out.

I pack a bag, sending a quick text to Lily.

Me: Let me know what the doctor says. I'm going out with the group to hunt down the rogues. I won't have my phone at all times,

but I will be checking it when I can. Stay safe and let me know that you are okay this weekend.

Mate: I will. And thanks again for helping me today. Doctor says I should rest for a couple of days and then I'll be back to normal,

so just in time for our date.

Me: Any time. And I'm not sure that I'll be back for our date. I may need to reschedule. But don't tell your father in case we get

back quickly.

I was happy to learn that Lucas was coming with us, which meant that even if she was feeling up to it, my mate wouldn't be

going on a date with him this weekend, or ever if I have anything to say about it.

I grab my bag and meet the rest of the group that will be hunting the rogues out back. We run most of the day, trying to catch up

to our trackers.

By nightfall, we are gaining, but we decide to make camp and rest. Once everything is set up, I walk away from the group to

check in on Lily.

Me: Hey Lily bud. How are you feeling?

Mate: Sore, but I'm healing. How is the hunt going?

Me: Not as quickly as I'd hoped, but we're getting closer.

Mate: Where are you?

Me: Not sure. Somewhere north of the pack lands, in the mountains. What time are you leaving in the morning?

Mate: Early. Dad wants to leave by 6am. He said he wants to have a full day with Alpha Mahli. It's a 3-hour drive, so we'll be

there in time for a late breakfast.

Me: Remember what I told you Lily bud. I don't care if I'm gone, I want to know that you are safe, and everything is okay while

you are away.

Mate: Is that you or Donovan talking?

Me: Both. We worry about both you and Andra, Lily. Get some sleep. I'll text you in the morning before you leave.

Mate: Goodnight Clint. Goodnight Donovan.

'How much longer before she's 18 and knows she's our mate?' Donovan grumbles in my head.

Chapter 477

'Less than two months.'

'Feels like forever.' He says and I agree.

I go back to the group, grabbing some food and searching for Anders. I see him on the phone, standing away from everyone.

When I catch his eye, I don't like the look I see.

When he hangs up, he nods his head wanting me to join him away from the group.

"What's up?" I say, walking over to him.

"Have a seat." He says. That's never good.

"I'll stand. What is it?"

"I found out something about Aaron Raines dealings with Alpha Mahli."

"And?" I ask, getting a bad feeling in my gut.

"Aaron owes Alpha Mahli a lot of money for a gambling debt."

"How much?"

"Over a hundred thousand dollars."

I blow out a breath. "That's not a debt, that's a death wish. He doesn't have the ability to pay that back, does he?"

"No." He says, pausing before completing his thought. "But you and I both know that Alpha Mahli is looking for a mate."

I can't help the snarl that leaves my mouth, Donovan pushing forward and fighting for control. My snarl was loud enough that

several of the warriors have stopped what they are doing and have turned to see what's going on.

"You think Aaron would sell his daughter to get out of gambling debt?" I ask, and if I were speaking to anyone else, they would

have cowered at my furious tone. He does, however, put his hands up in a placating gesture.

“I didn’t say that. We don’t know that it isn’t just a coincidence. But I think we need to pull my father into this.”

“Pull me into what?” Alpha Patrick asks, coming out of the shadows. I hadn’t even heard him approaching.

I begin pacing, trying to burn off my anger and frustration. “Clint.” Anders says, but I don’t stop. Not until Alpha Patrick’s hand

comes down on my shoulder.

“Why don’t you start from the beginning and let’s see what we can do to figure this out.”

I look at this man who has been like a second father to me most of my life. He took me in as a son when my parents died, and he

has never made me feel as though I wasn’t just as much of a son to him as Anders.

I take a deep breath and start at the beginning. I tell him about finding out that Lily is my mate, her father’s strange aversion to

having me date her, her father’s trip to the Blue River Pack this weekend, taking her but not his wife and finish it by telling him

about the gambling debt.

“Alpha Mahli is fair, but merciless when a person doesn’t repay their debt. I find it interesting that Aaron didn’t come to me when

this started getting out of hand. I would have punished him, but I would have paid the debt so that he didn’t end up in this

position. I agree that his actions sound like those of a desperate man. But it’s also possible that he’s merely hoping that Alpha

Mahli will like Lily and want her as a mate.’

“She’s MY mate.” Donovan and I snarl together.

“I understand that. But she doesn’t know that and based on what you just told me, the only ones that do are those standing here

right now.” He motions to the three of us. I nod.

“Alpha Mahli would not take an underaged mate. It would bring too much negativity to his pack, and he must know that I wouldn’t

stand for it. But that doesn’t mean that he isn’t deciding if Lily is worth his time to pursue as a mate. And it doesn’t mean her



father may not try to sway her to take him as her chosen mate.”

Donovan is thrashing around in my head. ‘Do something!’

“Can’t we move her to the packhouse? Move her away from her father until she turns 18 and sees that I’m her mate?”

“I’m an Alpha, but I don’t overextend my power, Clint. Unless Aaron is putting Lily in clear danger or forcing her into a relationship

she doesn’t want, my hands are tied.”

Donovan’s anger is burning so hot that my skin breaks out in fur as I fight to keep him under control.

## Chapter 478

“But,” Patrick puts his hands on my shoulders, “that doesn’t mean that I can’t keep a closer eye on both her and Aaron. And I can

ensure that you continue to train with her every day.”

It’s as good as I’m going to get for now. Unless Lily’s father does something drastic, I’ll have to wait until Lily turns 18.

I take a few more deep breaths and finally pull Donovan back. I’m restless and can’t sleep all night. I just want to be done with

this and get back to check on Lily.

In the morning, I text her. She says she’s still sore but doing better. That’s all I have time for before we head out.

It’s late in the afternoon when we finally catch up to the rogues. Donovan and I are ready to go for the kill, needing something to

burn off our anger. The battle doesn’t take longer than an hour. Unfortunately, we have some injured and most everyone is

exhausted after running all day before the fight, so they decide to pitch their tents and sleep in the forest again.

As soon as possible, I check my phone. I have one text from Lily, sent hours ago.

Mate: Hey Clint. Just checking in.

Me: Hey Lily bud. How are things? What are you doing while your father completes his business with Alpha Mahli?

I wait and wait and wait some more. There is no response.

Anders brings some food over, but I barely touch it. I need to know she's okay.

It's hours later before I finally get a response. When I do, it's not exactly what I was hoping for, but at least I heard from her.

Mate: Hey Clint, sorry it's so late. Uh, this whole trip has been weird. We can talk more when you're back. Will you be back

tomorrow for our date?

Me: Lily, you can call or text me any time of the day or night. I'll always answer. And yes, we will be back tomorrow, but not until

late. Don't tell your dad that, though. Are you still leaving early in the morning to go home?

Mate: Yes, that is the plan. I'm very tired. I going to go to bed. I'll see you

tomorrow.

Me: Okay Lily. I'll check in first thing in the morning and let you know when I'm back home.

Mate: Goodnight Clint.

Me: Goodnight, Lily bud.

That night I barely slept again. I was anxious to get to back to Lily. In the morning, I texted her, but I didn't get a response before

we took off for home.

I pushed our group, forcing them to run faster, even after Patrick and Anders told me I needed to slow down. I didn't care, I

needed to see her.

When we get back to the packhouse, I don't bother shifting until I am at the door to my room. I walk in, dumping my bag upside

down on the bed and grab my phone before walking into the bathroom to turn on the water.

Me: Hey Lily bud. We just got back. Are you home?

I didn't get an answer, but I turned up the volume in case she texted me while I was in the shower. I quickly bathed and washed

the dirt and grime out of my hair and off my body before getting out and checking my phone, just in case I didn't hear it go off.

Nothing.

I wrap the towel around my waist and walk into my room when I hear a frantic knock at my door. I walk over and before I open it,

I can smell her scent of orange and ginger and I'm smiling as I open the door.

The smile on my face drops immediately when I see the look of complete despair on hers.

I pull her into the room, closing the door. "Lily? Are you okay? Did that Alpha hurt you?" I say the last part in growl. Donovan is

threatening to kill the Alpha i he hurt our mate. Her back is to me, and her head is hanging down.

"Clint." She says in a whisper. "I need your help."

She turns and when she looks at me, I gasp in shock.

## Chapter 479

When I realized I'd gotten out of my date with Lucas because he was going on the hunt for the rogues, I decided to stay in and

relax. The bite mark on my leg was sore and the doctor said it would take a day or two to heal completely.

I have to admit, Clint texting me and checking on me is really sweet. I had a restless night's sleep, my leg causing me pain every

time I turn over, but I smile at my text from Clint in the morning. I didn't realize he could be this sweet, it's nice.

'Yes, it is.' My sleepy wolf says, yawning and stretching in my head.

I get ready, grab my overnight bag and meet my father downstairs. We grab some coffee before heading out. Since it's a long

drive, I close my eyes and sleep for the first couple of hours before waking up and watching the changing landscape.

When we get to the pack borders, my father gives our names, and we are allowed entrance. He seems to know exactly where he

is going and we pull up to a lavish packhouse, bustling with activity. I step out of the car as a man, clearly the Alpha, steps out of

the packhouse. As I watch, he looks me over from head to toe, before turning to my father.

'That was creepy.' Andra says in my head. I couldn't agree more. He didn't even say hello.

My father comes around to get me, guiding me over to Alpha Mahli. "Alpha, it's good to see you again. This is my daughter Lily,

the one I told you about."

I look at my father. I'm his only daughter, so who else would he be talking about.

Alpha Mahli extends his hand and I reach to shake it, but instead he pulls it to his lips, kissing the back of my hand for a full

minute too long. He never takes his eyes off me, watching my reaction. I smile at him, but it's forced.

"It's nice to meet you." I say. There is something creepy about him. I'm beginning to see why he hasn't found his mate, or

perhaps she chose to reject him. Either way, I don't like the vibe I'm getting from this Alpha.

"My omegas will take your bags." He says and two individuals scurry forward, taking our things. "I have a private breakfast being

laid out for the three of us."

Inside the packhouse, it's decorated with dark wood and red and black furniture. There's nothing light or airy about the space. It

feels suffocating and dingy, and what I would expect a vampire's coven to look like.

He takes us upstairs to a private room that overlooks the forest, or it would, if the blinds weren't closed. I can just barely see out

of them, but they cut the light in the room down considerably. For all the people that I saw moving around outside the packhouse,

the inside is deathly quiet.

The omegas setting up the room for breakfast don't say a word. There is a dark tablecloth on the table that is muting any sound

of the plates being placed on the table. I look at my father, but he doesn't seem to be disturbed by the décor.

We sit and the omegas serve us before leaving the room.

"So Lily, your father tells me you'll be 18 soon."

I look at my father who gestures for me to answer. "Yes, that's correct."

"In just a couple of months?"

"Yes, my birthday is in May."

"Ahhh, Lily of the Valley. Is that where your name comes from?" He asks me.

I look at my father again, who is shoveling food into his mouth like he's never eaten before. "I don't actually know. Dad, is that

where my name comes from?"

His head pops up when I address him as if he hasn't been paying attention. "No idea, your mother named you. I think she likes

lilies." Ohhhhhkay.

"And are you in school still Lily?" Alpha Mahli continues with his questions.

"Yes, I'm a senior in high school, I'll finish soon after my birthday."

"Are you smart?" He asks. Not, 'do you get good grades?' which is what most people ask. It's an odd question.

"I like to think I am."

"Good, I like a smart woman."

I look down at my plate, and take a bite of food, not sure how to respond to that.

"Your father tells me you are a strong warrior."

"Yes. I am training for the warrior battles in June. I'm hoping to defeat most of the warriors in my pack."

"Strong and intelligent. Excellent qualities in a mate, wouldn't you agree?"

An uncomfortable feeling begins to settle in my stomach. 'Andra, you don't think he's considering taking us a mate, do you.'

'I'm beginning to think so. Thank the goddess we're not old enough yet. I really

hope he's not our mate. He's creepy."

I'm still deciding how to respond when my father puts down his fork and stands. "Well, I have to get to that business we

discussed Alpha. I'll let the two of you continue to get to know each other."

"Wait, dad." I say and start to get up.

"Stay here honey, keep the Alpha company. I've told him all about you." He says, leaning down as if he were going to hug me,

but instead whispers in my ear. "And don't embarrass me."

## Chapter 480

I turn and look at Alpha Mahli and try to swallow the food around the lump in my throat. I definitely have a bad feeling about this.

After breakfast, Alpha Mahli gives me a tour of the packhouse, including his personal bedroom. Gross. It's just as dark as the

rest of the packhouse. I also realize that he has put me on the Alpha floor across from his room. Yeah, I'll be locking my door

tonight.

Then, he gives me a tour of the pack lands. I realize that he's taking every opportunity to touch me possible, finding reasons to

put his hand on my back to guide me, or sliding his hand across my back when he goes to point at something. The hairs on the back on my neck are standing on end and all I want to do is get away from this guy.

I do find out that he's been an Alpha for nearly 15 years and his fated mate died. I try to consider that maybe that's why he's so

awkward and why he likes the dark, but I can't reconcile it in my mind.

Finally, he drops me off at my room, telling me he needs to do some work and that dinner will be in two hours. I wait until I hear

his footsteps walk away before locking the door. The first thing I do is open the blinds, letting sunshine in. Then I find my bag and

grab my phone. I send Clint a text, hoping that I'll hear back, but doubting that it will happen. I know they are out hunting and

fighting rogues. I feel like I need a tether to my real life to combat the eerie feeling I have about what's happening here.

When I don't get a response, I decide to take a shower and lay down for a while. I doze off and am awakened to the sounds a

metal scraping on metal. I turn and see that Alpha Mahli has used a key to unlock my door and is walking into the

room.

"You've slept the afternoon away, Lily. It's time to get up and come have dinner." He starts walking over to me and I quickly hop

off the bed.

"Oh, I'm so sorry. Let me brush my hair and I'll be ready to go." I say, darting toward the ensuite bathroom.

"Actually, I bought you a dress to wear for dinner. Your father gave me your size. I'd like you to wear it tonight. I have something

special planned."

“Will my father be joining us?” I ask, hoping the answer is yes.

“No, his.....business, is keeping him busy tonight.” By the way he says ‘business’

I get the feeling that it’s not business at all. But, if it’s not, I don’t know why we’d be here.

“Okay, where is the dress?”

He goes to the closet and pulls out a red satin dress with black lace overlay. It’s strapless and the black lace falls farther than the

satin which looks like it will barely cover my backside. Honestly, it looks more like sexy lingerie than something that I would wear

to dinner. And if I was choosing my own lingerie, this wouldn’t be my color scheme. It matches the tawdry décor of the

packhouse.

“I think it will go beautifully with your brown hair.” He says, handing me the dress while sliding his fingers through my hair. My

body shivers in revulsion at his touch, but his smile and the darkening of his eyes leads me to believe he thinks I like his touch.

“I’ll wait here while you put it on.” He says, stepping back. I’m not sure if he thinks I’m going to strip in front of him, but no, that’s

not happening. I walk into the bathroom and firmly shut the door, listening to make sure he isn’t going to come in.

I quickly change into the dress and I’m just getting myself adjusted in the top when he opens the door without knocking.

He looks me up and down. “Beautiful. And there are these.” He hands me a pair of what must be 5 inch red and black stiletto

platform heels. I lean down and put them on my feet. When I stand, I’m nearly as tall as he is.

He takes my hand and walks me outside to a waiting limousine. After helping me inside, he climbs in behind me, making sure he

is sitting next to me.

“As you may have guessed Lily, I am a wealthy Alpha. I am in the business of making money.”

“What business is that?” I ask, truly wondering what this man does to support his pack. While I don’t care for the decorating, the

packhouse building itself along with every other house I see on the pack lands are opulent. It reminds me of that line from Shrek,

'Do you think he's compensating for something?' I have to quickly get ahold of myself, so I don't snicker out loud.

"The business of luck and dreams." He says. Whatever that means.

We arrive at an expensive looking restaurant, and the valet assists us out of the limo. Alpha Mahli takes my arm and guides me

inside.

"Alpha." The maître d' bows his head. "We have your table set up and ready for you."