

Broken 531

Chapter 531

ive myself to Clint. Maybe I should have waited another couple of weeks to see if he's my mate. But this weekend is perfect. This place is perfect, our time together has been perfect, and he has been perfect. He is everything I have ever wanted in a mate. He's funny, considerate, loving, caring. He is constantly making sure my needs are met, that I'm happy. He hasn't pushed me to do anything that I didn't want to do and it's why I finally decided that

tonight was the night.

I don't think I could have chosen a better time or place to lose my virginity. Clint made it so special. He made me feel like I was precious to him, he made sure it was good for me and goddess was it good! For once. I appreciate his sexual prowess. I got to reap the benefits of that knowledge tonight. Beyond that. he told me he loved me. I'm not sure he realized that he said it, but I heard it, and it made my heart soar.

His head is still beside mine, and our bodies are still joined. I kiss his shoulder and his neck, wishing I was old enough to sink my teeth into his mating spot. He responds by kissing my shoulder and I feel his teeth graze my mating mark, causing my inner walls to contract around him and my body to shiver.

He lifts up, looking at me before leaning in to rub his nose against mine. "How do you feel Lily bud?"

"A bit sore, but good."

“No regrets?”

“No regrets.” I kiss him gently and he responds just as gently, treating me as if I am a treasure.

We hear Anders and Calista return, and Clint slides out of me. Instead of laying flat, he curls up behind

me, wrapping his arms and his body around me. I sigh contentedly as Donovan begins purring. I can feel it in my body as his chest is pressed against my back and it's just as soothing as if I was laying on his

chest. It doesn't take long before I drift off to sleep.

The next morning, I wake up slowly. I feel different and it takes a moment for the events of last night to come back to me. I open my eyes and turn my head to look at Clint behind me. His eyes are open, and he

shifts, laying back so I can turn over.

“How do you feel this morning, Lily bud?”

I stretch, feeling some soreness between my thighs. “A bit sore, but overall, I feel really good.”

I look up at him. “How do you feel?”

“I feel like the luckiest man in the world.”

I smile shyly at him, before tucking my head against his chest. He begins to run his fingers through my hair, massaging my scalp.

“What are we doing today?” I ask.

“Today is a free day. We need to check in with Patrick and make sure that Alpha Mahli is leaving today. but we don't have anything specific planned.” I feel him look down at me. “Is there something you would

like to do today, Lily bud?”

I shrug. “Let's ask Anders and Cali, but I would be fine just walking around, maybe looking at some of the

local shops and just enjoying the area.”

“I think that sounds like a good plan.”

We get up before Anders and Calista, so we begin to make breakfast. Clint takes every opportunity possible to touch me and kiss me. It makes breakfast a slow affair, but since our friends don't seem to be up and moving about yet, we don't care.

e are

Once they finally emerge and we've eaten breakfast, everyone agrees to explore the town that we staying in. We have a great day and when Anders talks to his father and learns that Alpha Mahli has extended his stay, but still plans to leave tomorrow, our flight plans shift to later in the day, but we will still be leaving

tomorrow.

I'm a bit sad to leave here, I've enjoyed our time relaxing, and it has given me time to really enjoy Clint. He's different away from the pack, more calm, more himself."

After a fantastic day where we walked around our town, walked the marina, shopped in a cute art store. with paintings of the local area, and had a final lobster dinner, we finally decide to call it a night.

That night, Clint makes love to me again. It's the only way to describe it. It's not just sex, it's so special that I know I'll never forget this weekend. I wish it would last though. I really hope that he's my mate.

The next morning, we take advantage of our bed and our last bit of time together and we make love again. before showering together. We've packed and received the official notification that Alpha Mahli has left our pack lands.

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On our flight back, after take off, Clint pulls me into his lap and we have a quiet conversation between kissing. I worried that we were making Anders and Calista uncomfortable until I realized that they were in a similar position and weren't paying any more attention to us than we were to them. I guess the

weekend was as good for them as it was for us.

When we finally get back to the packhouse, we check in with Alpha Patrick, thanking him for our

wonderful weekend.

“You all seem very relaxed. I'm glad you were able to enjoy your time away. I'll fill you in later on the events that occurred during your absence.” Alpha Patrick says to us.

Clint walks me to my room and while I know I'll see him soon, I don't want to part from him. I don't want to be in this room alone. I wish I could fast forward time and know that he's my mate so I could move to his room, and we wouldn't have to part.

As I'm unpacking my clothes, I find one of his shirts. At first, I plan to keep it, then I realize I can use this as an excuse to see him more quickly. I grab the shirt and rush upstairs to his room.

As I walk up to his door, I see it is open and I hear a female voice. My stomach clenches and my heart stops. Please don't let this be what it sounds like. I walk up to the door and see Clint, his hands are on Anna's hips, she has her arms

wrapped around his neck and they are kissing.

I feel like I'm going to throw up. It was all a lie, every bit of it. This whole time, he was using me, and I gave him exactly what he wanted. I must make a noise as my hand comes to my mouth, trying to keep

whatever is planning to come up, in.

Clint rips away from Anna. “Oh, hey Lily.” Anna says to me. But my eyes never leave Clint's. He looks

horrified at being caught.

I turn on my heel and rush downstairs.

“LILY! I hear him call, but I don't stop. I race to my room, locking the door behind me and barely make it

to the bathroom before everything in my stomach comes back up.

One night earlier: Beta Terrance

I'm laying in bed with a surprisingly willing she—wolf. I don't remember her name, but she was happy to do everything that I wanted to do. Not everyone can handle my-tastes. But she took everything I gave her like a champ. She might have some bruises and I can guarantee that she'll be sore in every orifice of her body. I'm not gentle, but she didn't seem to care.

I'm not a monster though, and she's laying on my chest as I rub her back, wondering if there is anything else I want to do to this she—wolf before I have to leave tomorrow. I'm here at the Canyon Ridge pack with

my Alpha, Alpha Mahli. He came with the intention of bringing our future Luna

home. Her father is very willing for my Alpha to mate with his daughter, whether or not his daughter agrees. We had planned to bring her home with us, knowing that she will turn 18 in a month or so. Then we can make sure that she is ready and available for him to mark and mate on her birthday.

However, she isn't here. It made Alpha Mahli angry when he learned that she had

gone away. I had asked around but had not found out anything helpful. I had also thought that there was a Guardian in this pack, but I have yet to see him. Maybe my compliant she—wolf knows where he is.

“I thought you had a Guardian in your pack.” I say.

“Mmmm, they went away for the weekend.”

“Where did they go?” I ask, not making an issue of the plural pronoun.

She shrugs in my arms. “I don’t know.”

“Do you know when they will be back?”

“I’m not sure, but it has to be soon, they are still in school.”

Am I hearing this correctly? My Alphas intended mate is a Guardian? No wonder Alpha Patrick got her out of here before we arrived.

1 roll over, kissing the she-wolf. “More?” She whimpers. Oh yes, there will be much more.

And once I tell my Alpha that his intended is a Guardian, he will reward me greatly!

Why did Lily find Clint kissing Anna?? Alpha Mahli planned to take Lily? And now they know she’s a Guardian,

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After returning from the best weekend of my life. I drop Lily at her room. I hate leaving her. After just one weekend. I don't want to be separated from her. I know we will be meeting on the roof soon, but I want to shower with her, go to bed together in an actual bed, not one made up of blankets that I've gathered.

I'm not paying attention as I head up to my room, my mind still on my perfect weekend with my perfect mate. It's not until I'm at my door, unlocking it, that I catch the scent of perfume. I turn, seeing Anna

stepping out of the shadows.

"Anna, what are you doing up here?"

"Can we talk?"

"Is everything alright?" I ask her.

"Can we speak, privately?" She says and moves past me into my room. She may want to speak privately. but I'm not closing the door to my room. I don't want her getting any ideas.

I follow her into my room. "What's going on, Anna?"

She's turned away from me, so I can't see her face. I walk over to my bed, putting my bag on it. I hope this won't take long. I'm desperate to get back to my mate.

When I turn back to Anna, she has moved much closer to me. I take a step back.

"Anna, what did you

need?"

"I need you, Clint." She says then throws her arms around my neck and presses her lips to mine. I put my

hands on her hips, intending to push her away when I hear a sound that makes my heart skip a beat. Please, goddess, no.

When I look up and see Lily, her hand over her mouth, I know exactly what she's thinking, it's written all

over her face. Anna's casual hello only makes it worse.

"LILY! I call as she spins on her heel and runs from me.

I turn back to Anna, snarling ferociously. "Don't ever come near me again. Don't touch me, don't even

look at me. If you do, I won't be responsible for what Donovan does to you." I let him push forward to

show her I'm not joking. If she has ruined my relationship with Lily, I may hurt her. I race out of my room, leaving Anna to find her way out. When I get to Lily's room, I knock. When she doesn't answer, I try the doorknob, but it's locked.

I hear Calvin's throat clearing behind me, but I'm not in the mood. "I need to speak to Lily."

“It's after hours and you just spent the weekend with her. She'll be here tomorrow.”

I snarl, stomping past him and rush back to my room. I'll go through her window if that's what it takes.

+15 BONUS

When I return to my room, Anna is gone. I crawl out my window and down to Lily's. When I get there, she has locked her window and closed the blinds.

I knock on her window. “Lily, please. It wasn't what you think. I swear, Lily. Please, talk to me.”

I can hear her crying softly behind the window. “Lily, please talk to me.”

I stand at her window for two hours, pleading with her to open up and talk to me. She never responds to me. If I didn't hear her crying, I wouldn't even think she was in there.

“If that she-wolf ruined our chances with our mate, I will kill her.” Donovan snarls in my head. I'm right there with him.

I return to my room, grabbing the blankets that I had washed while we were gone. They don't even smell like her anymore. I have nothing that smells like her. I can only hope that she will come to the roof. If she would just let me explain, hear me out, I know I could make her understand.

I go up to the roof and drop off the blankets. Then, just in case, I make my way

back to her window. She's still crying and it breaks my heart. "Lily, I'll be on the roof. Please, just let me explain. I know it looked bad, but I can explain everything. Please, just hear me out."

When I get no response, I head back to the roof. I sit there all night, waiting, hoping that she will join me. As the sun starts to rise, I realize she isn't coming. I'm hoping she fell asleep and will see things differently this morning.

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I head back to my room, getting ready for training. I race down the stairs, hoping to catch her on her way down. When I get to her hallway. I can smell her scent strongly and I realize she's already left her room. I start to head downstairs, intending to find her when I get a mind link from Patrick.

"Clint, come see me in my office."

As I head to his office, and based on her scent, I realize Lily was already here this morning. I don't know if this is a good thing or a bad thing. I knock, walking in without waiting for a response. I was hoping Lily would still be here, but she's not. Her scent, however, still lingers and it both helps calm me and hurts that I missed even one night with her.

Anders is standing, looking out his window. "Clint. What did you do?"

"What do you mean?"

all of

He turns around and looks at me, disappointment written all over his face. "After

seeing how happy you were last night, specifically smelling your scent all over Lily, imagine my surprise when I see her at my door first thing this morning. She looked like she didn't sleep at all last night and her eyes are red rimmed from crying. I don't have to tell you that I'm not a fan of men who make women cry. So, I'll ask again, what did you do?"

I rub my hands over my face. "I didn't do anything. But she saw something that she misinterpreted."

He just raises his eyebrow at me.

"Anna was waiting for me when I returned. She said she needed to talk and walked into my room, uninvited. She threw herself into my arms and kissed me. It

was at that moment that Lily walked in. She saw us kissing, Anna's arms around my neck and now she thinks that I left her and immediately ran into

another woman's arms."

He rubs his hand over his jaw, watching me. "Well, this is really bad timing and now I'm in a bind, Clint.

You see, Lily has asked me to take you off her guard duty."

I growl at that. "You didn't agree?"

I

“Of course, I agreed. I told you I would treat her like my daughter and if someone hurts her, intentionally.

or unintentionally, I will act.”

“I'll watch her from afar.”

He's shaking his head before I finish. “That's not enough.” He pauses, growling himself. “Alpha Mahli showed up here this weekend with his Beta and several warriors.”

My hands clench into fists. “He was planning to take Lily.” It's a statement, not a question.

“I have to believe that was his intention. Why else would he show up with so many fighters when he was

+15 BONUS

coming for a friendly visit.” He stresses friendly, both of us knowing that's not what this was.

“You can't take me off her guard duty. You know I'm the best person to watch and protect her.”

“Yes, I do. But I won't go against her wishes. You need to figure out how to fix this

and you need to do it quickly. She did agree to continue afternoon training with you. I would advise you not to use that time to try to convince her that she needs

to give you another chance. If she tells me she's done training with you, I'll pull you from that, too."

I nod, turning to walk out and find my mate. "Oh and Clint, I may treat her like she's my daughter, but I've always thought of you as my son. I hope that I've always treated you that way. And as your father figure. I have a suggestion for you."

"What's that?" I ask.

"She's mad at you, Clint."

Brilliant, because I hadn't figure that out on my own. "Thanks, that's very helpful." I say sarcastically, turning to leave again.

"You misunderstand me."

I stop, turning around.

"She's mad at you. She's not mad at Donovan. If it were my mate, I'd use that to my

advantage.

I nod, leaving his office to find my mate. I'm not in charge of her training in the morning, so maybe I have

a chance to make things right and get back on her protection and guard duty today.

Alpha Mahil knows Lily is a Guardian and Clint is off guard duty. That a recipe for disaster. What do you think Donovan's chances are for making things right with Lily?

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I cried all night. I feel so stupid, I fell for him. I knew better. I knew his reputation, that he's a ladies' man. Cali called it weeks ago. He only wanted me because I was a chase, a conquest. As soon as he caught me.

he moved on to greener pastures.

I ignored him all night, crying myself out. Before the sun rose, I jumped in the shower, dried my eyes and swore that I would not cry another tear for Clint Nelson. I put on my big girl pants and decided to take charge of my life. I would not be a victim of my father or of Clint. I am a Guardian and it's about time I started acting like one.

First things first, I stopped by Alpha Patrick's office and requested that Clint be removed from my guard duty. I refused to tell him why, just stating that I would prefer if he assigned someone else. He didn't say anything about my puffy eyes,

but he hugged me and agreed to pull Clint off my guard duty. I'm not foolish enough to think that Clint won't fight me on this, but I won't budge. I've had enough of his lies and no matter how he spins it, I saw him in the arms of another woman, minutes after he left me.

I head down to training. Beta Calvin is running training today. I find Lucas and ask if he wants to pair. He frowns at me. "I thought you were training with Clint?"

1. up.

"Not today. If you don't want to spar with me, I'll find someone else." I turn, scanning the crowd. I notice several-unmated warriors watching our exchange.

"No, I would love to spar with you, I'm just surprised, that's all."

I know immediately when Clint walks out the back of the packhouse that he's already talked to Alpha

Patrick. He heads straight over to me.

"Lily, can I have a word?"

I don't look at him. "I'm getting ready to start training, Guardian. I'm afraid it will

have to wait.”

I hear him growl. “Lily.”

I ignore him and watch Beta Calvin show us what he wants us to practice today. I

turn to Lucas. effectively turning my back on Clint. “Ready?” I ask Lucas.

I see Lucas looking from me to Clint and back again. I raise my eyebrows at him.

If he's not willing to Spar with me because Clint is here, then he's not worthy of

sparring with a Guardian.

“Ready.” He says hurriedly when he sees me getting aggravated with him.

We begin practicing while Clint stands there watching and fuming.

“Clint.” Beta Calvin calls to him.

He must wave him over because Clint finally leaves. I feel my shoulders relax

and begin sparring for real. It doesn't take long before I'm taking Lucas down

again and again.

“Lily, it looks like you need a challenge, and my son needs a break. How about you come spar with me.”

Warrior Lyle says.

I turn my attention to Warrior Lyle, and he does provide more of a challenge.

When I take him down two times in a row, he changes tactics and forces me to think on my feet. He’s our Lead Warrior for a reason. He’s a good teacher and I’m learning while we spar.

When training is over, I grab my water and turn to walk inside.

“Lily.” Clint is beside me again.

“Guardian. I’m afraid I have to get ready for school. I’ll see you in class.” I turn and start to walk inside.

“LILY RAINES. DON’T YOU DARE FUCKING WALK AWAY FROM ME.” He yells, causing everyone on the field to stop and turn to watch what happens next.

“Please just talk to me.” He says more quietly as I turn to face him.

I stomp over to him and using a flat hand, I punch him in the chest as hard as I

can. He stumbles back a few steps but doesn't fall.

"You want to talk?" I snarl at him.

"Yes, please, just let me explain."

"No. How about I give you that honesty you so desperately want from me." I lean

into him, getting in his face. "Here's the honest truth. You are exactly who I

thought you were. I lost sight of that, but you reminded me in the blindingly

honest way that only you could do. So, go ahead," I smack my hand on his chest

again, pushing him back. "Put another notch on your bedpost. But don't expect

me to come crawling back to you." I punch him again. "I'm not like your other

conquests." Punch. "I don't fucking need you, Clint Nelson." Punch. "I don't want

you." Punch. "So leave me the fuck alone." Punch.

"No." He snarls at me.

"No?" I ask, narrowing my eyes at him.

"No. I won't leave you alone and you will listen to me."

“Wrong. I'm done listening to your lies. Save them for Anna.”

I turn to walk away again, but he grabs my arm and spins me around. I don't

even think, my other arm comes up and smacks him across the face, the force

knocking him sideways, but he still doesn't fall.

“Don't you fucking touch me.” I snarl at him, Andra coming forward.

“Just give me five minutes, Lily.”

“I've given you more time than you deserve Clint. The only time you will get from

me is during afternoon

training. Don't make me regret agreeing to continue that.”

0 +15 BONUS

I turn on my heel and walk away.

Inside, I grab my breakfast, and head to my room. On my way, I pass Lucas.

“Lucas, can I get a ride to school today?”

“Uh, sure.”

“Good, I'll meet you back down here in 45 minutes?”

“Yeah, sure.” He looks like a deer in headlights, but at least I have someone

other than Anders to take me school.

I mind link Cali, telling her I got a different ride to school and asking her if we can

eat at the today instead of with Anders and Clint.

She agrees but only after I promise to tell her what's going on.

e track field

After getting ready for school, I grab my bag and walk downstairs. Anders and

Clint are waiting for me. I'm riding with Lucas today.” I say and turn to him. His

eyes are wide, but he doesn't say anything turning and gesturing for me to

precede him out the door.

I hear Clint snarl behind me, but I just ignore him.

When I get to school, I thank Lucas and head to my locker. I'm just closing the

door when Cali comes up beside me and pulls me into a hug. “I don't know what

happened, but I'm here for you.” She says quietly in my ear.

I wrap my arms around my dearest friend. "Thank you."

Do you think Lily is justified in feeling hurt that she found Clint in another woman's arms after their weekend together? And it looks like she's finally ready to show her strength as a Guardian.

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"What happened?" Anders says as we watch Lily walk out the door with Lucas. I can't believe that douchebag is taking my mate to school. I can't believe any of this is happening. Donovan is pacing angrily in my head, and I want to hit something or someone so bad my fists are twitching.

Anders hand comes down on my shoulder, forcing my attention to him. "What happened?" He asks slowly, forcing me to focus on him.

I take a deep breath and we walk out to his car. I wait until I'm inside before telling him about the events of the night before. He whistles low. "That's a fucking mess, Clint."

"No fucking kidding. Anders. Why do you think I'm about ready to explode?"

"What are you going to do?"

"I don't know. She won't even speak to me. She has agreed to train with me in the afternoons and your dad recommended that I not say anything about this and focus on training. After this morning. I think he's right."

“My father usually is.” Anders says, as we pull up to Calista’s house. She doesn't seem surprised that Lily isn't with us today. Anders hops out and opens the door for her, kissing her before she gets in. My heart feels like it's breaking. That should have been how my morning went with my mate.

“I'll move to the back.” I say and switch places with Calista. I don't want to talk, I need to think, which is practically impossible with Donovan snarling at me and my stupidity, as he calls it.

“What would you call it?” He asks me.

“I didn't do anything stupid. Maybe I was distracted and not paying attention to the signs, but I never wanted to kiss Anna. You know I don't want anyone other than Lily.”

“We're following Patrick's advice and I'm running training today.”

“Fine. I'll do anything as long as we get to spend some time with our mate.”

In Chemistry, I try to engage Lily in conversation about anything. She only speaks about our project. Her demeanor is so cold, it's like I'm no one to her, like this weekend never happened. She refuses to look at me and answers my questions with the least amount of words possible.

In Literature she completely ignores me, and I'm so distracted I can't answer a single question asked of me. In complete contrast, Lily has every answer to every question. I'd be utterly impressed if I wasn't so devastated.

At lunch, neither Lily nor Calista is anywhere to be found. “Okay, you need to fix

this. Your issues with your mate are now impacting my time with mine." Anders says to me.

"I'm open to suggestions," I tell him.

+15 BONUS

"I wish I had words of wisdom for you, my friend. I guess I would go with my

dad's suggestion. Use.

Donovan."

"Yeah, that's what I'm going to do for training. Donovan will train Andra. At least I'll get to spend some time with her."

Anders looks thoughtful for a moment. "You know, if that goes well, maybe have Donovan go see her tonight."

"What do you mean?"

He turns and looks at me. "I mean, shift and have Donovan go to her room. Maybe she'll let him in. Don't shift back, let him spend the time with her, but you can be there with them. It may help. You need to do something, my brother, because you seem like you're about to snap."

"I am." I say quietly, forcing the lump in my throat back. "It's a good idea. I'll try it."

"Good. I'll think of some other ideas if that doesn't work. You know I'm here for you."

I look at my friend and for the first time, I see him as the Alpha he will become in a very short amount of time. "You're going to be an amazing Alpha, do you know that?"

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He chuckles, shaking his head at me.

"I'm serious. Most of the time I don't see you as my Alpha, I see you as my friend, my brother. But you will be one hell of an Alpha and our pack will flourish because they have you."

"Thanks man. That means a lot coming from you."

History class is the same as Literature. Lily ignores me and I can do nothing but stare at her longingly, like a lost puppy, which is exactly how I feel. I had a taste of perfection and having it ripped away from me so quickly and easily has left me feeling lost and adrift.

I'm thankful that, after school I have two and half hours of training time with Lily and Andra. I drop off my

things and head outside, shifting immediately. Donovan sits and waits for Lily.

I see Lily before she sees me. She's looking around, hesitantly. She doesn't want to train with me, I can

tell by her demeanor. Donovan was right, this will make her feel more comfortable.

When she sees Donovan, I see the first smile I've seen in over a day on her face.

“Donovan, what are your

doing?” She comes over and takes his face in her hands, kissing his furry head.

He licks her face, and I

can't help but sigh as the tension around my heart eases at her closeness.

“Gross Donovan!” She says, wiping her face and laughing. It's such a beautiful sound. How can I miss

something so much that I've only been without for such a short time?

“So, you and Andra are training today?”

He woofs at her. “Okay, give me a minute.”

I

There's no one around, so her going behind the tree to strip and shift is specifically so I won't see her. It

makes me sad again, but at least we get some time with her and Andra this afternoon.

“Again, I'm the one they like. You're a dick that screwed things up with our mate.

Donovan snaps at me.

Donovan pushes Andra hard. She's getting stronger. I could tell when Lily was punching me this morning. In the past, it wouldn't have phased me, but today,

she kept knocking me back. There were a

couple of times where it was everything I could do to stay on my feet.

When he finishes their training, Donovan drops his front legs down, leaving his hindquarters in the air, his

tail wagging. He woofs at Andra before jumping at her and returning to his crouch. It only takes Andra a second to realize that he wants to play, and she takes off.

Through Donovan's eyes, I watch them play, him nipping at her heels. They play for nearly an hour before

I see Lily pull Andra back. She heads to the tree where she left her clothes and shifts, changing before

she comes out.

She walks over to Donovan and kisses him on his head. "Thanks Donovan. That was a great workout

+15 BONUS

and Andra enjoyed the run."

She turns and heads inside and Donovan runs to where our clothes are stashed.

I shift and pull my

clothes on before heading in to get dinner. When I arrive, I see that Lily is in line, getting food to eat in her

room, I'm guessing. However, next to her is Lucas and as I walk closer, I can hear that he is asking her

out on another fucking date.

Every good feeling that I had from the last three hours with my mate evaporates and I snarl as I walk up

to them.

“No, she will not be going on a date with you.”

Do you think Donovan can break through Lily's hurt and get Clint back in her good graces?

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After leaving Clint, I decide to grab food and head to my room. Cali said she would join me tonight so we can talk some more. I filled her in on everything that happened this weekend and then finding Clint and Anna wrapped in each other's arms. Cali, being the amazing friend that she is, is surrounding me in her armor and supporting me in my decision to ignore Clint.

Lucas walks up behind me as I'm getting my food. “Hey Lily. So, now that I know that you and Clint aren't together—you aren't together, right?”

I look at him over my shoulder, adding more food to my plate.

“We are definitely NOT together.”

“Then, I would love to take you on that date that we never got a chance to go on.”

The last thing I want to do is go on a date with Lucas and I'm about to say something like that to him, when Clint walks up, acting like he still has a say in my life.

His immediate dismissal of Lucas has my hackles going up. I turn and put myself between Clint and Lucas.

“You don't have a say in who I do and don't go out with Clint.”

“Lily, don't do this.”

“Oh, it's okay for you, but not for me.” I put my food down and step into his space.

“Do you really want to do this right here, right now? I doubt Alpha Patrick would

be happy if we got into it in his dining hall.”

“No, Alpha Patrick would not. Clint, my office. Now.” Alpha Patrick says, coming up behind us.

I watch as he grits his teeth and clenches his fists, but he turns to follow Alpha Patrick. I'm feeling petty.

so I turn to Lucas before Clint leaves the room. “I would love to go out with you Lucas.”

Clint's answering snarl let's me know my shot hit its mark.

Lucas is watching Clint leave. He looks nervous. "Uh, great. Friday night work for you?"

*Sounds perfect. Oh and, can I get a ride to school again tomorrow morning?"

His focus finally comes back to me. "Sure."

"Thank you."

I grab my plate of food and the one I made for Cali before heading up to my room. I've just laid everything

out when there is a knock at my door. I know before I open it that it's Cali.

We eat dinner and then I really want to get out of my room. "Do you want to go for a walk?"

+15 BONUS

"Can you just go for a walk?" She asks. me.

"No, but I can find out who my guard is and see if they are busy."

I mind link Alpha Patrick, hoping he's not still talking to Clint. "Excuse me, Alpha Patrick."

"Yes, Lily, is everything okay."

"Yes. Alpha. I was wondering who I should contact if I wanted to go walking

around the pack lands. Or is

it okay if I walk with Cali?"

"Warrior Lyle is coming off shift in 15 minutes. He will be your guard for the night. Unless you want to go now, and I can have Beta Calvin accompany you."

"No, that's okay, I'll link Warrior Lyle and have him meet us when he's ready. Thank you, Alpha."

I mind link Warrior Lyle and he agrees to meet us in 30 minutes. After confirming that he's not too tired for guard duty, we agree to meet behind the packhouse. When Cali and I show up, Warrior Lyle is waiting for us. "Good evening, ladies. Where are we headed. tonight?"

"Good evening, Warrior." We both say. "We wanted to walk to the lake and just relax for a bit."

"Sounds nice." He says and we walk to the lake.

Cali and I sit down at the edge of the lake. Lyle gives us some space, moving away from us and checking the area.

Chapter 539

"I feel so stupid. Cali. You called it weeks ago, but Clint was being so nice. I wanted to believe him."

"I don't know, Lily. I feel like Clint was really into you. He seemed serious when we were all together. He's

been more attentive to you than I've ever seen him."

"Then why was he kissing Anna as soon as we got back?" I say and my voice breaks. I force the tears back. I told myself I wouldn't cry any more tears for Clint, and I won't.

"I don't know Lits. Maybe you should hear him out. Honestly, I wouldn't think he'd put so much effort into talking to you if he didn't care."

"I fell for him Cali. I let myself fall hard."

"Yeah, I know." She wraps her arm around me as we look out over the lake. "It's not always easy

is it?"

I realize I've been drowning in my own pity party and haven't really talked to Cali about this weekend. I

turn to her. "Why isn't it always easy?"

She shrugs. "Oh, you know."

I sit up straighter. I'm not the only one that needs a friend right now. "Apparently, I don't. Why don't you

lay it out for me."

She looks at me, before turning back to the water. "You know their reputations, Clint's and Anders*. We

know they weren't little angels waiting for their mates. But it never occurred to me that my problems

wouldn't come from Anders, but from his previous relationships."

"What do you mean?" I ask her.

"Well, you know how I've been spending more time in the packhouse?" I nod.

"I've just been hearing more and more she-wolves talking about their time with Anders, how big he is, how good he is in bed.

why is he bothering with a wet blanket like me." I snarl at that last part.

"Any man would be lucky to have you, Calista." I tell her.

She smiles. "That's what Anders says. But it doesn't make it any easier to deal with all the rumors and

discussions that I overhear. Most of the time, I don't think it's accidental, like they make it seem. I feel

like it's intentional to make me feel insignificant."

I start to laugh. "Cali, my dearest friend in the whole wide world, don't you realize that if they are trying to make you feel insignificant, it's because you are a threat

to them?"

She frowns. "What do you mean?"

"I mean, if they weren't worried about Anders giving you so much attention, they wouldn't think twice

about you. If they are really making sure you overhear their "private" conversations, I use my fingers to

+15 BONUS

make air quotes, "then they feel you are a real threat to becoming our Luna."

I pull my friend into a hug. "And Cali? They are right. There is no one in this pack that would make a better Luna, than you!"

She hugs me back. "Thanks Lils."

I pull back, looking at her, suddenly realizing that the forest around us has gone too quiet. The hair on my arms goes up and Andra comes forward.

"Lily, what is it?" Just as she asks, a dart shoots into her leg.

In an instant, I pull it out. "Run, Cali!" I shout as Andra pushes forward and a dart shoots into my leg.

I pull out the dart and Andra forces our shift, just as five wolves step out on the other side of the lake. Shali, Calista's wolf, shifts but I can tell she won't get far. I can smell the wolfsbane. While my leg feels sore, I am not feeling any effects

from the wolfsbane.

I smell him before I see him, Alpha Mahli. He steps out behind his warriors.

“Darling. It's time for you to come home.” He says to me, beginning to walk around the lake toward me.

Chapter 540

I snarl at him, backing up to Calista's now limp body. Shali having been forced to shift back because of the wolfsbane. I won't allow anyone to hurt my friend.

Warrior Lyle is nowhere around. I'm hoping he's just knocked out somewhere and not dead.

Andra lifts her head and sends up the howl for help.

“Oh, my beautiful mate. They won't make it in time. I don't want your friend. I only want you, my future

Luna.”

Another man steps up beside Alpha Mahli as four more darts get shot into my legs. Andra's snarl is feral as she reaches around and pulls the darts out with her mouth.

“I told you, Alpha. I told you she's a Guardian. Imagine how strong our pack will be when you take her as our Luna.” The stranger says to Alpha Mahli.

“You're so right Terrance. It's amazing what you can learn over pillow talk. I will have to find a way to reward you for this important information.” He says, his eyes never leaving Andra.

“Why isn’t she feeling the effects of the wolfshane?” Terrance asks.

“A good question.” He turns to his warriors. “Again.” He says and six more darts get shot into me.

Andra’s answering snarl is echoed by another feral snarl, one we know well

Donovan.

Just as Donovan enters the area where I am standing off against Alpha Mahli and Terrance, Andra jumps to attack Terrance. He’s obviously expecting the attack and he jumps, shifting mid-air and turns to fight. The problem for him is that he doesn’t want to kill me. I, however, have no such restraint

I feel more darts going into Andra’s hindquarters and when I quickly look at Donovan, I can see that he has several in his leg too. The warriors have shifted and are on their way around the lake. But this pack has never fought a Guardian, much less two. Donovan is fierce, even though I can tell the wolfsbane is impacting him. And me? I have no intention of becoming Alpha Mahli’s Luna, today or any day.

I take advantage of the time that it takes the warriors to get to us and rip Terrance’s wolf’s throat out Alpha Mahli is not fighter but Donovan, while still on his feet, is obviously feeling the effects of the

wolfshane.

I turn, putting myself between the warriors and Calista’s prone body. As they attack, I take them down,

one by one. Donovan is able to take on two at a time, but he's not at full strength. Andra is and we're taking on five at once when I see Zakai, Anders* wolf, come barreling into the fight.

He quickly takes out three warriors, giving me the chance to take out two more. The last one makes the mistake of going for Donovan who grabs him, mid-air by

the stomach, and practically rips the wolf in half before he crumbles to the ground and succumbs to the effects of the wolfsbane.

+15 BONUS

Anders shifts quickly and runs to Cali. I shift as well. "She's okay, she was hit with a wolfsbane dart." I

tell Anders. He picks her up before turning to me.

"Can you deal with Clint? I need to get Calista to the pack hospital."

"Yes, I'll take care of it.

The rest of our warriors are racing after Alpha Mahli. He left his warriors to die while he ran off like the

coward he is.

Donovan has shifted back to Clint and when I walk over to him, I check his pulse.

Once I realize that he is

okay except for being knocked out, I grab his arms, turning and pulling him onto my back wrapping his

arms around my neck to keep him up before I begin the slow walk back to the packhouse.

Alpha Mahli made his move. And Andra is immune to wolfsbane.