

Broken 541

Chapter 541

I was still with Patrick when Lily mind linked him about going for a walk. It should be me going with her. Patrick told me I needed time to cool off, but it wasn't working, so he took me to the indoor weight room and sparred with me until my murderous intent toward Lucas was gone, leaving me feeling empty.

I went back to my room, taking a shower and trying to practice my guitar. Now, more than ever. I needed

to figure out my grand gesture for Lily. One way or another, I'm going to win her back.

I finally give up and decide to go look for her. I won't get close, but I need to see her. I go out the omega's entrance, not wanting to alert Patrick or Calvin to my plans. I catch her scent, along with Calista's and I

begin to make my way toward them.

I haven't gone far when I hear Andra's howl for help. Donovan immediately forces the shift and we're

running toward Lily. When we get there, I recognize the scents as those lingering in the packhouse from

this weekend. Alpha Mahli and his warriors.

Andra jumps at one of them and I go after the other. I think he's the Alpha, but he

doesn't smell like other

Alphas that I've met. Before I get to him, I feel several sharp pains in Donovan's leg. Immediately, I begin

to feel the effects of the wolfsbane. I turn and see that Andra has multiple darts in her legs and body, but

she doesn't seem phased at all.

I see the group of warriors that were shooting the wolfsbane darts coming our way and they shoot a few more at me. I want to kill this Alpha for coming after my mate, but my vision is blurring. I can't tell exactly

where he is and when Donovan swipes at him, he only gets air.

When the warriors get to us, I see four, but quickly realize I'm seeing double and there are only two. As

Donovan swipes at them, it almost makes the fight easier that there is more than one and I can find at

least one of them to tear into.

I hear Zakai come running into the fight and I'm relieved when I see that Andra looks like she's got a small pack of wolves surrounding her. Zakai begins taking them down and Andra finishes them off. I want Alpha Mahli, but my senses are all

out of whack. I can no longer smell him and my vision is going black.

I see a wolf coming for Donovan and he reaches out to grab it by its throat but instead, Donovan's teeth sink into his stomach and he shakes his head ferociously to rip it out and put the wolf down. As soon as we do, Donovan collapses and everything goes black.

When I come e to, it takes a moment for me to remember what happened and to take in my surroundings. I go to sit up, but a hand comes down on my shoulder. "Don't."

The scent of orange and ginger surrounds me and the voice that calms my soul speaks. I turn my and see my mate standing next to me, a chair behind her. She was watching over me.

"What happened?" I ask, my voice hoarse.

+15 BONUS

"You took a lot of wolfsbane darts and you've been out for over a day."

I frown, that explains why I'm sore. I look at Lily. "You had a lot of darts in you too." I say to her.

She nods but doesn't look at me.

"Lily?"

She shrugs then finally looks at me. Her azure blue eyes connecting with mine and causing me to lose focus on anything else for a moment. "I wasn't affected." It takes a moment before what she says sinks in. "You weren't affected by the

wolfshane?" She shakes her head at me.

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"Do you know why I wasn't affected?" She asks me.

"I don't. I'm not sure it's a Guardian thing. Obviously, I was affected."

She nods again, before stepping away.

"Please don't go, Lily."

She turns and smiles at me over her shoulder. It's a small smile, but it's a smile.

I'll take it.

"I'm just getting you some water. And I need to let the doctor know you're awake."

She brings me a glass of water and turns for the door.

"Will you come back?"

"Yes." She says without looking at me before she walks out.

When she returns, she has the doctor in tow, along with Anders.

"Finally!" He says, walking up to me and clapping me on the shoulder. "You had me worried!"

Lily looks at him. "I told you he took a lot of wolfsbane."

“Yes, but you weren't affected at all.” He says to her, then looks at the doctor.

“Well, is he going to live?”

He asks, looking at me with a smirk on his face.

The doctor is checking all my vitals and looking over the machines hooked to me.

“Yes, our Guardian will live.” He says.

“One of.” I say.

He turns and looks at me, frowning. “What's that?”

“One of our Guardians. Lily is a Guardian too and apparently, she is the only one that is immune to

wolfshane.”

He looks back at Lily and the frown he gives her makes me think he's put out that he doesn't know why

she's immune to wolfshane.

The doctor says I'm recovering well, but he wants me to stay another night.

Anders is happy with the

report and heads out, saying he needs to check on Calista.

I turn back to Lily when it's just the two of us again. “How is Calista doing? And where was your guard?” I

ask her, knowing that Cali is a safe subject, given that Anders was willing to leave her side.

“Cali was only hit with one dart, so she woke up yesterday. She is due to be released today. Warrior Lyle

+15 BONUS

was hit with three. He woke up earlier today and is staying overnight as well.”

“It was Alpha Mahli, wasn't it?”

“Yes. He found out I was a Guardian.”

“How?”

“I'm not exactly sure. Apparently, the guy I killed was his Beta, Terrance. He

mentioned something about* pillow talk“ and that's how he got the information.”

Who the fuck did this Beta sleep with and get information from? How did they surpass Patrick's Alpha order?

“Did you tell Patrick what he said?”

I

“No. I haven't left your bedside. I was worried that you weren't waking up.”

My heart soars. She was worried about me, even though she probably didn't

want to be and wished that she wasn't worried, she's here.

"Thank you."

"Well, now that you're awake, I can..."

"Please stay."

She turns and looks at me. The pain in her eyes is clear. "Why?" She whispers.

"Because I love you, Lily. What you saw, wasn't what you think. I don't want anyone else but you. No one else could ever turn my head from you. All I wanted was to get Anna out of my room so I could get back to you. I didn't know she was going to kiss me, and I was about to push her away when I heard you. I know it looked bad. I was distracted, thinking about you and our weekend together. I wasn't paying attention to what she was doing. I would never hurt you like that. Please Lily, there will never be anyone else for me, but you."

"You don't know that." She says quietly.

"I do know that."

"How could you possibly know that?"

I didn't want to tell her, not yet. But I need her to realize that I mean every word I'm saying.

"Because Lily Raines. You are my mate."

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His mate? Did he say I'm his mate?

"How do you know?"

"I'm 18. I knew the minute I saw you after my birthday. It was Monday morning, and you were straddling Lucas, defeating him in your sparring match. Donovan almost killed Lucas that day, seeing you like that."

I look at him, not sure if I believe him.

"I turned 18 on a Friday. Anders and I went out all weekend looking for my mate. Little did I know that my little slip of a mate was in our pack but was underage and wouldn't recognize me as her mate for another couple of months."

"So, the only reason you've been giving me attention is because I'm your mate?"

"Yes and no. I was hoping I could get you to fall in love with me before you realized I was your mate. I thought I was doing a good job of it until this mess with Anna happened."

"What about me being a Guardian?" Did he fall in love with me because I'm a Guardian?

He shrugs. "What about it? You hadn't gotten your Guardian spirit when Donovan recognized you as our mate. I don't care that you are a Guardian. But once Andra got her Guardian spirit, I knew I had to train

you, help you to become the strong Guardian you were meant to be.”

That's true. I think back, remembering that first day when he started to show interest in me. Andra hadn't

received her Guardian spirit yet..

He looks at me, honesty shining in his eyes. “Everything I told you about how I feel about the mate bond

was honest. You are my everything, Lily. No one will ever be more important to me than you. The mate

bond made me feel love for you immediately. But I have fallen head over heels in love with you as a

person. Getting to know you has been the most incredible experience of my life. You make me see things

differently. You challenge me in ways I've never been challenged by anyone, except maybe Anders. You calm my mind and my soul, and it keeps my temper at bay. Everything about you draws me in and makes

me want you more.”

I close my eyes, forcing back the tears that want to come. “I'm scared, Clint. I never thought I would

allow someone to hurt me the way that you did. Even if it wasn't intentional, it

hurt more than anything.

ever has, including my father trying to sell me off to Alpha Mahli.”

He nods. “I know, and I'm sorry that I hurt you, Lily bud. That was never my intention. Last weekend was the most amazing, special, memorable time in my life. And it was all because of you. Please don't push

me away. If you don't believe me that we're mates, at least give me a chance to prove to you that I mean what I say. Once you turn 18, you and Andra will know that everything I'm saying is true. Please, just come back to me Lily. Stop pushing me away. I can't take it. I feel like I had everything I've ever wanted

+15 BONUS

in life and then it was snatched away from me in an instant.”

I look at him for a long moment. “Okay, Clint.”

He pats his chest. “Please come lay with me, Lily bud. Donovan's not back yet, so he can't purr in your

ear, but I can at least rub your head.”

“You're supposed to be getting rest, Clint.”

“I have never slept as well as I do when you are laying on my chest, Lily. Please.”

He pats his chest.

again.

I slowly walk back to his bed. I shift the tubes that he has attached to him and crawl into bed beside him. As soon as I lay down on his chest, I feel his body relax. Andra immediately starts to purr, and I hear Clint as he starts to drift off to sleep. "Thank you, Lily bud. I love you."

Chapter 544

I watched Clint for a while after he fell asleep, but eventually, I feel asleep as well. I was exhausted, having stayed awake worrying about him, Cali and Lyle. While he is sleeping. Cali pokes her head in, smiling immediately at me laying on Clint's chest. I start to get up, but she shoos me back down. She comes over and hugs me, smiling at our closeness.

"We'll have to talk later, but I wanted you to know they are releasing me. Shali is back and I'm feeling stronger every minute." She whispers before looking at Clint. "How is he?"

"Weak, but he woke up. Donovan isn't back yet, but hopefully soon." I tell her quietly.

She hugs me again before moving to leave. Anders is waiting by the door for her, watching. He nods at me, smiling before wrapping his arm around Cali and guiding her out of Clint's room.

When Clint wakes up, I let him know that I'm going to check on Lyle and get him some food. I order the food first, before going to check on Warrior Lyle. He is in this hospital because he was protecting me.

When I walk in, Lucas is there along with a woman that I am guessing is Warrior Lyle's mate.

"How are you doing. Warrior Lyle?" I ask him.

"I'm doing fine Lily. I'm glad to see that you are well. I was worried that the Alpha might have gotten you, but my mate told me you and Clint were able to hold them off until Anders and the other warriors arrived."

"Yes, I'm sorry that you were injured protecting me."

He smiles a fatherly smile at me. "Nonsense, that's my job."

"If you need anything at all..."

"Don't worry, Guardian. Lucas and I will look after my mate. You look after Clint. I understand he hasn't

woken yet?" She asks.

"He did finally wake up a couple hours ago before falling back to sleep. I've just come from ordering him

food and I'm going to go back and check on him now."

"Lily." Warrior Lyle stops me as I start to turn around. "I understand the wolfsbane darts didn't affect

you."

“The wolfsbane didn’t. However, my backside is still pretty bruised from all the darts that Andra took,

trying to take her down.”

“That's impressive, Guardian. I thought Clint would be the most impressive Guardian I'd ever meet, but

you may just surpass him in my book.”

I laugh. “Clint is pretty impressive in his own right. I don’t know why I wasn’t affected by the wolfsbane,

+15 BONUS

and neither does he, but maybe we'll be able to figure it out.”

As I turn to leave. Lucas stands up, following me into the hall. “Listen Lily, I don’t want to get between whatever you and Clint have going on. If it looks like the two of you are going to get back together, I'll understand if you want to cancel our date tomorrow night.”

“Thanks Lucas. I don’t know what is going to happen between us, but I think it would be better if I let it run its course before I start dating other people.”

“I understand.”

I start to turn around but turn back as he reaches for the door to his father's

room. "I think you're going to make a great Lead Warrior, Lucas."

He looks back at me, smiling. "Yeah, what other pack can say that their Lead Warrior trained against, not one, but two Guardians. I may not be able to defeat you, but every time I spar with either of you, I come out stronger for it."

I nod and head back to Clint's room. When I arrive, I can smell the food. I walk in and see Alpha Patrick has taken up a seat beside Clint.

"Lily, come sit down. We need to talk about the events that happened with Alpha Mahli."

This is the first time they realize that Andra is immune to wolfsbane, and it seems that everyone is beginning to identify Lily and Andra as Guardians.

Chapter 545

I hate it when Lily walks out of my room. A part of me worries that she wouldn't come back. I laid all my cards on the table. I have to hope that it's enough for her to give me a chance to prove that she's the only

woman for me.

Not long after she leaves. Alpha Patrick comes in.

"Clint, I was happy to hear that you awakened earlier today."

“Good afternoon, Patrick. It was good to wake up and have Lily at my side.”

“She didn’t leave you. She’s the one that carried you from the battlefield to the hospital.”

That’s news to me. I know she’s strong but I’m nearly a foot taller than her. “How did she manage that?”

“Have you looked at your feet?” He asks, raising an eyebrow.

I pull the sheets off and see that, indeed, my feet look like they’ve been drug through the mud. I chuckle before pulling the sheets back over me and shrugging. I don’t care. I’d get shot with wolfsbane every day if that’s what it takes for Lily to stop pushing me away.

“Have you spoken to her yet?” I ask Patrick.

“Not yet she’s been busy watching over you, and I’ve been busy trying to figure out how Alpha Mahli figured out that she’s a Guardian. I’ve been interviewing Aaron but even under Alpha command, he says

he didn’t say anything.

I’m shaking my head. “That’s not how it came across to Lily. When she gets back, you need to talk to

her.”

My food is delivered and it’s not five minutes later that Lily comes back into the

room. I hadn't realized that the tightness in my chest had returned when she left, but it immediately eases when I see her and

smell her scent.

Patrick asks Lily to come and talk to him. She looks at me and rather than pulling up a chair, she comes

and sits beside me on the bed. I reach out and take her hand, needing her touch. Lily confirms that Terrance was Alpha Mahli's Beta then proceeds to tell Patrick about their conversation by the lake. I can see Patrick processing this information and his eyes go unfocused as he mind links

someone.

"I might know who it was, but I don't know how they did it. It's not someone that would go against an

Alpha order or be able to override my command. I'll have to talk to her."

"I'd like to be there." Says Lily.

I frown at that. "Why?"

+15 BONUS

She turns and looks at me. "I've always had an uncanny ability to tell if people are lying. I'd like to see if I believe this she—wolf when she explains how it happened."

Patrick looks from Lily to me and back again. "In light of recent events. I'm not sure that's a good idea."

I sit up, focusing on Patrick. "Why not?"

He looks at me for a long moment. "Well, if it's the she—wolf I think it is. Lily," he looks back at her. "you won't be objective."

"Who do you think it is?" I ask. There's only one she-wolf I can think of that he's referring to.

He holds my gaze. "Anna."

I start to pull h

to pull back the blankets. "I'm coming too."

I can feel Lily tense next to me before standing up. I turn all my focus on her.

"She almost ruined everything between us. I won't have you in a room with her when she could say anything that might impact the tenuous connection we've just re-established. If you're going to be in a room with her, I'm going to be there, too."

I turn to Patrick. "Give me 30 minutes and I'll be ready."

"Clint, you need your rest. You were unconscious less than 12 hours ago." Lily says to me.

I take her face in my hands. "I don't care if I were on my death bed. I'm not letting her get between us again. She's already proven herself untrustworthy and the timing of her telling Alpha Mahli's Beta about you and then causing a huge rift between us is too coincidental."

"The doctor hasn't released you yet, Clint." Patrick says.

"As if that's ever mattered. You and I both know I heal fast." I say, not even looking at him as I begin to search the room for clothes or something I can put on.

"Don't I have any clothes here?"

"Clint. I don't think this is a good idea."

I stop and look at Lily. "If you're going. I'm going. I only just got you to agree to talk to me again. These last few days have been the worst time of my life, equal to the time I lost my parents. I'm not willing to go through that again, Lily. I told you, you're my mate. You are my future, my everything. Anna is nothing to me and I won't have her coming between us again."

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She turns and looks at Patrick, but he is looking at me. "Are you sure you're strong enough?" He asks.

"I'll be fine."

He nods, then stands. "I'll have someone send you some clothes. Get a shower

and be in my office in one hour. And for goddess's sake, wash your feet."

I snort at that as he leaves, I start to walk on shaky legs toward the shower in the room. Lily immediately moves and pulls one of my arms over her shoulder, helping me. "Clint, I really don't think this is a good idea. You've barely woken up, you haven't eaten in at least two days."

"Lily, what is it going to take for you to realize that nothing is more important to me, than you. Not my health, which will be fine, not food, not sleep. Nothing, not one thing is more important than you. And if

Anna is sabotaging us or hurting you, she will answer to me."

Lily leans me against the sink as she turns on the shower, letting it warm. "Am I going to have to worry

about you falling over in the shower?"

"I'll manage." A week ago, I'd be inviting her to join me, but now, I'm just glad she hasn't left.

I pull off my hospital gown and go to stand under the shower spray. It feels incredible. I lean both hands against the wall and let the water wash over my back, watching as the dirt and sweat on my body begins

to wash away.

I'm shocked when Lily steps in behind me. "Lily, what are you doing?"

“I'm making sure you don't fall and kill yourself, Clint. Behave yourself and don't try anything with me. We're not back to that place yet, but I'm not going to let you die on my watch because you can't stand upright in a shower on your own.”

I feel her soapy hands begin to rub over my back and sides. I can't help the sigh that leaves my lips. I've

heard it said that a mate's touch is healing. It's true. My body feels stronger and I feel better while she's

cleaning me. When it's time for her to wash my hair, I turn, leaning against the wall and bend over so she can more easily reach my head. Her hands on my scalp feel incredible, reminding me our time together. My body instantly responds.

“Whatever you're thinking about, cut it out.”

“It's hard not to think about the best weekend of my life when my mate is naked in front of me and

washing my hair.” I tell her.

Her hands still in my hair for a moment before she directs me back under the shower to rinse it off. She takes extra time cleaning my feet, apologizing for getting them so dirty.

“You carried me to the hospital Lily. I don't care what my feet look like. And I don't think I've actually

+15 BONUS

thanked you for making sure I was treated after the fight. So, thank you.”

When we f

finish, she steps out first and I look at her backside for the first time. “What the fuck?”

I say, reaching out to grab her. Her butt and thighs are covered in bruises. Most of them are faded, but they are there.

She follows my line of sight and shrugs. “I was immune to the wolfsbane, but that doesn’t mean the darts didn’t hurt. You took somewhere around 10. Andra took at least twice that since she wasn’t going down.

I gently run my fingers over her bruises. “Clint.” It’s a plea more than a warning. She wants me to stop. but she’s affected by my touch.

I pull my hand away as I hear my phone ping.

“Will you grab that for me?” I say as she hands me a towel.

She comes back in and holds my phone out to me.

“Who was it?” I ask her, not taking my phone.

“Uh, Patrick, I think.”

“Can you read me what he said?”

She frowns at me. “I don’t know your code.”

“0514.”

She looks up at me, her hands going still.

“Your birthday.” I tell her.

I know what she'll see when she opens my text messages. It's why I asked her to read Patrick's. I see the flicker of her eyes when she sees it. She looks back up at me and I smile at her.

“Open it. You'll see they are my texts to you.”

“You have me listed as “mate” in your phone?” “Ever since the day I realized who you are to me.”

Chapter 547

Clint is making it impossible for me not to fall for him all over again. Everything about what he's saying seems genuine. The fact that he has me listed as his mate in his phone and my birthday is his code is.... well, a bit overwhelming. I can feel my heart giving in.

I close my eyes for a moment, trying to collect myself before opening them and reading Alpha Patrick's

message.

“He

le says

to meet him in his office in a half hour. Beta Calvin is bringing Anna in for an interview.”

I look back up at Clint. “How do you think she got past Alpha Patrick's command?”

He's drying himself off and as he turns, I can see that he also has bruises on his butt and legs. His are not healing as fast as mine, since Donovan is still out because of the wolfshane.

Andra pushes forward and leans down, licking the wounds on his legs and over his muscular butt.

“Lily? What are you doing?” Clint's voice is choked, and his body has gone tense.

He turns and looks at

me, realizing it's Andra that has pushed forward.

“I'm healing my mate. I know Donovan isn't back and I know the bruises are painful. You would do it for

me and Lily.”

He gently brushes the hair from my face as Andra continues to lick his wounds.

While I'm uncomfortable
with this level of intimacy, I do agree that we can help begin his healing process
while Donovan is
unconscious.

“Do you recognize Donovan as your mate?” Clint asks Andra.

to him. That

She finishes licking his wounds and stands in front of him. “No. But I've always
felt a pull

pull has been getting stronger the closer we get to our birthday. I can't speak for
Lily, but I believe you that you and Donovan are our mates.”

“Thank you, Andra. And thank you for healing me.” He takes my face in his hands
and rubs his nose

against mine before kissing it.

“Can you give Lily back control so we can go to this meeting now?”

“Yes, my mate.”

Clint's answering smile lights up the room. “I like hearing you

you say that.”

“Well she may be willing to say it, but I'm not. Not until I know for sure.” I say, taking over control from Andra. I look back down at his legs. They look better already. “Did it help?”

“Yes, and so did having you wash me. What they say about a mate's touch having healing powers is true, even if you don't feel it yet.”

+15 BONUS

I don't respond, but he's wrong. I do feel it. It makes sense why I've had such strong feelings toward him. I tried to push him away and I didn't want to have anything to do with him, but my heart and my head are at odds. My heart and Andra, however, are in complete agreement.

There's only about a month until my birthday. While my body reacts very strongly to his touch, I think I want to restrict any sexual activities until I know for sure that he's my mate. I gave myself to him and almost immediately regretted it. Maybe it wasn't his fault and maybe I misread what I saw, but it has made me rethink giving myself to him before I know that he's my mate.

I help him get dressed and then we head over to the packhouse. He's still a bit weak, but not as weak as he was when he first got out of bed.

When we get to Alpha Patrick's office, we are the first to arrive. Clint pulls two chairs away from the others, and motions for me to sit in one and he sits in the other. It's only a moment before Beta Calvin

walks in with Anna.

She sees the two of us and immediately stiffens. "I did what you asked. I haven't gone near you since you told me to stay away." She turns to Alpha Patrick. "If he says I did, he's lying."

Alpha Patrick raises an eyebrow at her, and she realizes she spoke out of turn.

However, I find her

outburst intriguing. Clint told her to stay away from him? That had to be after I saw them together.

"That is not why you are here, Anna. Have a seat." Alpha Patrick says to her.

She sits down, Beta Calvin sitting beside her. Clint's demeanor hasn't changed.

He's not happy that Anna

and I are in the same room.

I've never been on the receiving end of an Alpha's interrogation. Even for me, it's a bit intimidating. While Alpha Patrick's aura doesn't affect me, I can still feel it.

Anna, on the other hand, is very affected by his

aura. Her neck tilts in submission and he hasn't even asked anything yet.

"I understand you slept with Alpha Mahli's Beta, Terrance last weekend. Is that correct?"

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I watch as her eyes flick to Clint, then back to Alpha Patrick. "What does that have to do." Alpha Patrick's aura pushes out even stronger and she yelps before cutting off her question.

"Answer the question, Anna." He says and his voice is not friendly or kind.

"Yes." She squeaks out.

"Did you receive my Alpha command that no one in the pack was allowed to speak of Lily being a

Guardian to anyone outside of the pack?"

"Yes." This response is much more relaxed. If she did it, she didn't realize she was giving away information about me. It wasn't intentional, or at least, not consciously intentional. I feel Alpha Patrick's

aura subside a bit, but Clint does not relax beside me.

"When you were having sexual relations with Beta Terrance, did the subject of Lily ever come up?"

She shakes her head. "No. I heard he was asking around about her, but no one said anything that I know

of, and he never asked me."

I can feel Clint getting more tense beside me. He doesn't believe her. I reach out and lay my hand on his arm. Going off on Anna isn't going to help and so far, I

believe her. I feel his body relax and he reaches up, taking my hand in his, intertwining our fingers. The action does not go unnoticed by Anna. Clint stares back at her, unflinching. He's making a point. Whether it's to her or me, I'm not sure.

“What did the two of you talk about?”

Anna immediately looks uncomfortable. “Uhhh, well, we didn’t talk a lot. We were busy, you know. I mean, there was, uh, discussion while we were having sex.” She looks around and she's the brightest shade of red I've ever seen. “You don't want me to tell you that do you?”

I watch Alpha Patrick's eyes close for just longer than a blink. Anna is trying his patience. I'm guessing he must feel this way most days. Being an Alpha would be exhausting.

Beta Calvin picks up the interrogation. “Unless that conversation had to do with Lily, no, we don’t want to hear it. Was there any conversation before or after you had sex?” He asks.

“Well, before, no. He was kind of in a hurry, you know? But afterward, he did ask about Clint.”

That gets all of our attention. “What about Clint?” Alpha Patrick asks.

“He said he thought we had a Guardian in our pack but he hadn't seen him. I told him they went away for

the weekend.” She says and she waves her hand in our direction.

Clint snarls at her. Her hand drops immediately.

“Is that what you said? THEY?”

+15 BONUS

I watch as Anna blinks, her mouth moving but nothing coming out. Finally, it dawns on her what she did.

and her eyes go wide and her mouth makes a perfect “O”.

“I—I didn’t mean to.” She turns to Alpha Patrick. “I swear I didn’t mean to. I admit I wanted Clint, and

I may be jealous of all the attention he gives Lily, but I would never go against your Alpha command. Please you have to believe me.” She says, and tears are streaming down her face.

Alpha Patrick scrubs his hands down his face. “You’re on kitchen duty for a month.” He nods at Beta

Calvin to take her out.

“THAT’S IT?” Clint yells, jumping to his feet. “She put Lily at risk and now EVERY Alpha is going to know that she’s an underaged Guardian. They’ll hunt her down and all she gets is kitchen duty?” He’s pointing at Anna, looking murderous.

I jump up and stand in front of him, putting my hands on his chest. If being his

mate calms him, as he said, then I need to do that right now before he tears Anna apart.

“Clint.” His chest is heaving but he doesn’t take his eyes off of Anna. I can hear her sobs getting louder. She may not be bright, she may be a jealous she-wolf, but she isn’t devious. Her comment wasn’t purposeful.

“CLINT!” I say more forcefully.

He looks down at me before grabbing me and pulling me against him. “They can’t have you. None of them. I won’t allow it.” He’s crushing me and even without his wolf, he’s very strong.

I wrap my arms around him. “I know you won’t.” I rub his back until he calms, then I pull back and look at Alpha Patrick over my shoulder.

“I want Clint back on my guard duty.”

I see the relief on Alpha Patrick’s face as I feel Clint’s body relax against me.

“Done. As soon as Donovan is back, you’re on Lily’s guard duty full time Clint.”

He pulls back and looks at me. “Thank you.” He says before pulling me against him again.

So, it was Anna that let it slip, even though it wasn’t intentional Do you think her punishment is sufficient?

Chapter 549

I am so angry at Anna that I could literally tear her apart. I was on the verge of doing just that when Lily

stood in front of me. Her calming touch helped me to settle down, but it was her telling Patrick that she

would let me guard her again that finally had me settling.

I know that other Alphas will have heard about her by now and they will be coming for her. But I also

know, if I'm with her, they won't get to her. No one will take my mate from me.

I don't know how Lily can be so forgiving of what Anna did, but I can't. I won't forget that she put my

mate's life in danger.

When we leave Patrick's office, I walk her to her room.

"Clint, you're dead on your feet. Come in and lay down."

I don't have the energy or the will to argue with her. She leaves her door cracked open and takes me to her bed, tucking me in. "What are you going to do while I sleep?" I ask.

"I need to catch up on homework and then I'll order food for us to have when you

wake up.”

I pat the bed beside me. “I need to catch up on homework too, Lily bud. Probably a lot more than you do, since I haven't been able to focus all week. Come lay down with me. It will help me to sleep and then we can start our homework over dinner. Deal?”

I honestly don't need her to lay down with me. The scent of her is all over the bed and I could sleep easily, but I've missed her so much. I just want to curl up

around her,

She rolls her r eyes at me but comes over and crawls into bed. “I can't sleep too long, otherwise I won't be

able to sleep tonight.”

“Wake me when you get up.” I say as I wrap my arms around her, my entire body relaxing, and I bury my

[})

I

face in her hair before I fall asleep.

When I feel Lily begin to stir, I wrap my arms more tightly around her. “Just a little while longer. I'm still healing.” My voice much deeper than it should be.

That has my eyes shooting open, Lily's head turning to look at me over her

shoulder. "Donovan?" We ask

in unison.

"Mmhmmm." He says, snuggling closer to Lily.

She turns over in my arms, facing me. She begins stroking my hair and my face as if Donovan was in wolf form. Donovan immediately begins purring at her.

"There's that sound I love." She says to him.

I watch her through Donovan's eyes, letting him stay forward with her. Her touch will heal him too.

"How did he convince you to come back?" He asks her.

+15 BONUS

I watch as Lily's azure eyes shift to green and rim with gold as Andra comes forward. "He told us that we

are your mates."

Donovan nuzzles Andra's nose. "You are. You are mine, little one."

Andra's answering purr makes it nearly impossible to hear their conversation.

"I'm very happy about that, even though I can't feel it yet. Lily isn't quite there, but Clint is being patient."

"You both have every right to be angry with him. We are yours as much as you

are ours. That she-wolf is lucky to be alive. I wanted to kill her that night.”

Donovan begins rubbing his face on hers, trying to scent her, but it won't work in our human form. The meaning is still there, and Andra seems to appreciate the gesture. “What else did I miss?” He asks her.

Andra tells him and when she's nearly done, there is a knock at the door before Calvin walks in, carrying food. He stops when he sees both of our eyes shining gold.

“Guardians.” He nods his head, acknowledging our status and our wolves being forward. I watch as Nolan, Calvin's wolf pushes forward.

“Anders spoke to Alpha Patrick. He has agreed that you can stay in Lily's room tonight Clint, as long as it is okay with Lily. Anders convinced him that you would heal faster in her presence and since she has agreed to you being her primary guard again, the sooner you are at full strength, the better for everyone. I can see that Anders was right, since Donovan is peering through your eyes.”

As he walks in, Calvin pulls Nolan back. “I've brought food for the two of you. You missed dinner.” He sets the food on the table. “Make sure you eat. Clint, you've been given a pass on training tomorrow, but Lily, you need to be there.”

She nods, sitting up. She has pulled Andra back, so Donovan shifts to the back of my mind to continue healing.

“I'll be there.” I say.

She turns and looks at me. “Clint...”

“Where you go, I go, Lily bud.”

The scent of the food hits my nose and my stomach growls loudly. Calvin smiles.

“I brought enough for three, so it should fill you up. If you need anything, I'm just a couple doors away.” He says before leaving and closing the door behind him.

Chapter 550

Lily and I eat, which helps me feel even stronger, then we do homework. I'm not caught up, but I will be this weekend. Lily agreed to help me catch up. It's not exactly like it was before the “Anna incident” but it's close.

I sleep curled up around Lily, my face buried in her neck and by morning, Donovan is back to full strength. We both go to training and once Patrick sees that I'm back to full strength, he lets me spar.

When we finish, Anders comes over. “So, I see it worked.”

“What's that?” I ask, not sure what Anders is talking about.

“You, spending the night with Lily. I told dad it would help you heal faster. I could only get you the one night, but it seems to have done the trick.”

“It did. Thanks, man.”

“That's what brothers are for.”

When it's time to go to school, I don't see Lucas anywhere and Lily comes down the stairs, looking like she's planning to ride with us. Thankfully Anders asks her.

“Are you with us today, Lily?”

“I am. I thought I was glued to Clint until I turn 18.”

“You are.” I lean in closer as we walk to the car. “Does this mean I don't have to sit in on a date with you and Lucas?”

She turns to as I open her door. “We cancelled our plans until I know what's going on between you and me.”

“Good. Because what's going on with you and me is forever, so Lucas will never be taking my mate on a date.”

I catch her smiling as I close the door. That's a good sign, and my heart relaxes knowing I won't have to watch someone else flirting with my mate.

Friday goes much better than the rest of the week. Lily is talking and laughing with me again. I'm so happy, I feel as light as air.

The rest of the day and the weekend go back to the normal we had before our weekend away. Lily and I meet on the roof and now the blankets smell like her again. She isn't ready for any intimacy, and I am respecting her decision, letting her drive our relationship in the direction and speed she's comfortable with.

She is letting me kiss her again, and I've devoured her sweet mouth more times than I can say, but it's

+15 BONUS

never enough. Her taste, her sweet moans and feeling her body respond to me, just makes me want her

more and more.

On Sunday night, Patrick calls us into his office. When we arrive, Anders and Calvin are already there.

“Have a seat. We need to talk about next weekend.”

I have Lily sit and I sit beside her, taking her hand. “What about next weekend. You mean Anders birthday party?” I ask. Anders turns 18 this week and there is a party planned next Saturday.

“Yes. As you know, we sent out invitations for Anders’ birthday party months ago. An Alpha heir turning 18 is a big deal for our pack as well as others.” Patrick is looking at me, and I don't like the direction of

this conversation.

“I'm not terribly surprised that every Alpha has accepted our invitation. It's unheard of, but that means news of us having an unmated, female Guardian has spread. Even those that initially declined, called to

say their plans had changed and they would be here.”

Donovan snarls. “How many?”

“Ten Alphas.” I'm on my feet, fist clenched.

"I'll take Lily and go away somewhere."

He's already shaking his head. "I need you here. This is Anders* birthday party and you are his Guardian."

"I don't want Lily going away without me." I refuse to let her out of my sight.

"Agreed, which is why she will be here and we won't be hiding her. They want to see our Guardians, we

will let them."

Donovan snarls again. "No!"

"Yes, Donovan. Lily is strong and so are you and Clint. So is this pack and every warrior in this pack will

be alerted to the danger that Lily is in."

He turns to Lily. "I want to move you to the Alpha floor."

"Put her in my room." I say.

"Clint-.." Patrick says with a warning in his voice.

Lily jumps up beside me. "He's right Alpha. You'll need someone either outside my door or in my room at all times anyway. Either move me to Clint's room or move him to mine. If there are going to be that many Alphas here, we'll be pulling warriors in too many directions. This way, at least at night, they can get a break."

Patrick looks between me and Lily. "Fine. You two decide who is moving. And sit down, we have more to discuss."