

## **Broken 551**

### Chapter 0551

I have to admit, the thought of ten Alphas being on our pack lands at the same time, all of them knowing about me, has me on edge. I know I can fight, and I know I'm strong, but having Clint beside me makes my chances for making it through next weekend without being kidnapped exponentially better. So, I agree to sharing a room. I already know that if I'm not with him at night, I won't sleep a wink and I need to on my game and extra careful next weekend, which I can't do if I'm exhausted.

"First," Alpha Patrick begins. "Lily, you will train with me or Anders every morning. No one else. I want to make sure you are ready to fight an Alpha if that's what it comes to."

He looks at me and I nod. I've already sparred with Alpha Patrick a couple of times. I'm hoping now [I'll be strong enough to defeat him.

"Second, you will train with Clint every afternoon in both human and wolf form."

Clint and I nod. "We already do that every day." Clint tells him.

"Okay, let's take a look at who will be here and who we need to focus our worry and warriors on. Alpha Leander is the Alpha from our neighboring pack, Shadow Falls, and already has a mate. I don't expect any problems from him. Alpha William and Alpha James also have mates and both of them also have heirs, so I don't expect any problems from them. Alpha Christopher has a human mate, but from everything I've heard, he is very much in love, so he shouldn't be a problem either."

Okay, four of the ten have mates. That's not as many as I would have hoped.

"Of the remaining six Alphas, the two that I am most concerned about are Alpha Jerome and Alpha Benjamin. Alpha Jerome lost his mate under questionable circumstances after she gave him a male heir. There have been rumors of questionable deaths in his pack ever since he took over as Alpha. He is power hungry and would love to have a Guardian in his pack, even if he has to forcibly

mark her. Alpha Benjamin is ruthless and power hungry. He has taken a chosen mate, and from everything I've heard, he's not happy and so far, she hasn't given him an heir. If I had to guess, I'd say he will be bringing the most warriors of any Alpha. He's definitely at the top of my list of concerns for Lily's safety. The remaining four Alphas are a risk simply because they are unmated. Two had already declined but have since rescinded and are now coming. Both of them are

in their twenties and still looking for their mates. They may just want to see if Lily is their mate, but they could make a play to take her. The other two are older Alphas who have sons close to Lily's age, so we can't rule them out.

The severity of the situation begins to sink in. Next weekend I'm going to be glued to Clint.

"Of course, Alpha Mahli's invitation has been revoked since he attempted to take Lily, but that doesn't

mean that he won't make a play either. And, of course, we have to worry about Aaron trying to make another deal with an Alpha to get the money he needs to pay his debts. In addition, every one of these Alphas will be traveling with their Betas or Gammas and most likely some of their too warriors. This means, if they try to take Lily, they will either have strength to try to achieve it or they will be able to make

a diversion."

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"What is the plan to keep Lily safe?" Anders asks his father. Clint has been getting increasingly angry beside me, but my increasing fear for my safety is making it hard for me to calm him.

"As I mentioned, Lily only spar with me, Anders or Clint this week. Clint, when you train, I want you training in both human and wolf forms."

Clint nods. "We already train in both forms."

d you to

Alpha Patrick looks at me. "I push yourself and Andra this week. I need you to be stronger by next weekend."

I nod. "I can do that."

Clint takes my hand, looking at me. It helps calm me. "You can definitely do that. You're strong and you're a Guardian. You'll be ready to take on an Alpha by next weekend, no question. Honestly, you probably already are."

"I guess we'll see tomorrow morning." I say, not feeling very confident right now.

Clint squeezes my hand.

"Nothing will happen to you Lily. I won't leave your side next weekend."

I look at him and see that he has reigned in his temper to help me with my fear.

"We'll need more than just Clint watching Lily at all times." Calvin says.

"Agreed. You and I need to come up with a plan to have increased patrols and also have three warriors with Lily at all times. We can rotate that out if it includes

you, me or Anders." Patrick replies and I can see the wheels turning in Calvin's head as he begins planning for the increased protection duty.

"What about my mother? Do you think any of them would go after her to get to me?"

Alpha Patrick smiles a fatherly smile at me. "Spoken like a true Guardian." He says before nodding. We will need to have someone watching her as well. I'm assuming your father isn't an issue?"

I have to think about that one. If someone threatened to hurt my father, would I be willing to give myself up to keep him safe?

When I look up, everyone in the room is watching me for my response. "He is part of the reason I'm in this mess. If he is threatened, then he will have to deal with the consequences of his actions."

Everyone nods. "We have four days. There may be other preparations to make between now and then. but Lily, your main job is to get stronger. You and Clint are our best defense against you getting taken. Don't go anywhere without Clint

or your protection duty, not the bathroom, not your bedroom, nowhere. Do you understand?”

“Yes. Alpha.”

“I won't be leaving her side, not for a moment.” Clint chimes in. He squeezes my hand and looks at me. “I

told you, no one will take you from me, and I mean it. I don't care if I have to kill every Alpha that comes.

to visit. They can't have you.”

“Let's hope it doesn't come to that.” Alpha Patrick says.

“Yeah, I'd rather my 18th birthday not go down in history as “The Bloody Birthday\*“.” Anders chimes in. I hope so too. But I'd rather be in a bloody battle than kidnapped and forced into a mate bond.

did

Alpha Anders birthday is going to be interesting. That's a lot of Alphas in one place. And did anyone recognize some of those names?

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While I'm thrilled that I get to move in with Lily, and don't think I won't push to keep it that way, I'd rather things stay as—is and know that she's safe. Since that's not an option, the next best thing I can do is help her get stronger while protecting her.

When we leave Alpha Patrick's office, I walk her to her room. “What would your preference be, Lily bud? Do you want to move to my room, or have me move in here with you?”

She opens her door, looking around. “This isn't really my room. It's been a sort of stopping point since leaving my home. I have no connection to it, unlike you who has lived in your room years.”

I shrug. Any place will feel like home if she's there with me. "I want you to be comfortable. I will be comfortable because you are there." I say, pulling her into a hug. I know tonight has been nerve-wracking for her. Her fear was palpable and all of us could smell it earlier. As angry as I am about having so many Alphas in our territory coming after my mate, I had to suppress it to help her calm down. Anders\* comment about the bloody birthday was aimed at me. He knows I'm a hot-head and that I won't hesitate to get into a fight if it means keeping Lily safe.

But this is also a political event, by werewolf standards. Anders\* birthday is a chance for other Alphas to get to know him before he becomes an official Alpha. This is a chance to strengthen alliances and make new ones. Not every Alpha will be after

Lily and not everyone that may want her is ruthless enough to kidnap her. I'll have to remember that and keep from going off next weekend.

In addition to everything else, Anders' birthday was the day we had decided that I would sing my song for Lily. Of course, that was before all of this. But now, maybe it's not such a bad idea. I would be staking a claim on her in front of all these Alphas. If it isn't clear by then, it will be that they have to go through me to get to her.

She relaxes against me. "I will move to your room. Not only will being on the Alpha floor make the other Alphas think twice, but it will also mean they have to go through Anders and Alpha Patrick to get to me."

"And me." I say, pulling back and looking at her.

"And you." She says.

I kiss her nose. "See you on the roof in a few minutes?"

She smiles and nods.

The rest of the week is pretty standard. She defeats Patrick on Tuesday, Anders

on Wednesday and on Thursday, I put her up against both together. She's able to hold her own and almost gets them both, but they have been fighting together all of Anders' life and they work well together. I realize that from now on, this is how Lily needs to train. She's gotten stronger and needs to fight more than one warrior at a time. After this weekend, I will recommend that to Patrick.

On Anders' birthday, he recognizes Calista as his mate. She still has a couple of weeks left before her birthday, but he's making plans to give her a birthday gift that she'll never forget.

"How have you done it all this time? I'm going crazy and I only have to wait a couple of weeks." He asks

1. me.

"I've spent every minute I can with her. It was the only way that Donovan would remain calm. And our nights on the roof have helped tremendously. Now you understand how desperate I was when she wouldn't speak to me."

I can see his wheels turning. I know it's hard for him, being an Alpha, but it was hard for me too. I'm so thankful that the issues between Lily and I have resolved.

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Lily officially moved into my room on Wednesday. I made space for her in my closet and in my bathroom. I love that my room smells like her now. Patrick tried to have another bed put in the room, but I told him that Lily knows that I'm her mate and after she said it didn't bother her to sleep in the same bed with me, he let it go. But I got the Alpha version of a father's lecture about birth control. I assured him we weren't having sex. I'm not sure he believed me, because I got a box of condoms anyway.

Friday morning, the Alphas started to arrive with their pack members. Alpha Leander and his mate, Luna Estella arrived first, as their pack borders our own. When they arrived, I could tell that Lily liked Luna Estella immediately. Alpha Leander is a very attentive mate, and I relaxed, knowing that he would not be trying to take Lily. I felt even better when he announced that he and his mate had just learned that she is expecting their first pup.

“Do you know if it's a boy or a girl?” Lily asks her.

Luna Estella shakes her head. “Not yet. We've only just learned that I'm pregnant.” She says, smiling up at her mate. He wraps his arms around her, his hands on her stomach.

“I'm sure it's a strong male who will take over the pack for me.” He says in true

Alpha fashion.

I see Luna Estella roll her eyes and Lily duck her head to keep from showing her smile.

Luna Olivia explains the plan for Alphas and Lunas to be placed in the packhouse, while their warriors will be placed in other homes.

“If I may, with my mate expecting our pup, I would feel better having my warriors close. If that's not possible. I'd at least like to have my Gamma nearby. I know you have plenty of protection available. especially with your unmated Guardian, but I won't take any chances with my mate and our pup.”

Calvin rearranges rooms and puts Alpha Leander, Luna Estella and their Gamma on his floor. This means some of the other Alphas will be across the packhouse,

giving more space between Lily and them. I am completely on board with this. Next to arrive is Alpha Benjamin. As Patrick expected, he comes with a full contingent of warriors and his Beta. There is no reason for Lily to be a part of the greeting party, so I tuck her away in our room, leaving Lyle to guard her while I stand next to Anders and Patrick. The Alphas will realize soon enough who she is just based on the protective detail that Patrick and Calvin have assigned to guard her.

I can see Alpha Benjamin looking disappointed as he looks around, hoping to see Lily. I'm not sure if he expected her to be on display, but even if she was here,

unless Andra was shining in her eyes, or we introduced her as a Guardian, he wouldn't know that she is our unmated Guardian.

When Alpha Jerome arrives, his response is similar to Alpha Benjamin's. Once again, Patrick was correct in his assessment. So far, these two Alphas are at the top of my list of people that do not come near Lily.

As the rest of the Alphas arrive, I realize the others may show an interest in her, possibly even try to convince her to consider them as mates, but Benjamin and Jerome are the two that I am most concerned about.

When they have all arrived, Luna Olivia and Beta Naomi offer to give tours of the pack lands. The Alphas who brought their Lunas agree. The others say they would like to relax out back by the pool, which has been set up with refreshments and drinks before the party this evening. Anders birthday party isn't until tomorrow, so tonight is more mingling and schmoozing with Alphas.



As soon as possible, I head up to our room, relieving Warrior Lyle.

What did you think of getting to see Alpha Leander and Luna Estella? And at the very early stages of pregnancy with Liam.

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I spend a boring afternoon watching as the Alphas arrive and then move to the backyard to enjoy time by the pool.

Finally, Clint comes back to the room, just as I get out of the shower. The official cocktail party starts at 6pm, with a sit-down dinner at 7pm.

Calista and I wanted to go shopping this week, so Luna Olivia and Beta Naomi took us with Clint and Anders as our guards. Luna Olivia informed me that, as my surrogate mother, she was responsible for buying my dress for both nights. I wanted to argue, but she wouldn't hear it.

So, tonight. I'm wearing a royal blue midi wrap dress that has a v-neck, flutter sleeves, and a matching sash. The dress comes to my knees, and I have a pair of 3-inch silver heels to go with them. I decide to leave my hair down in its large curls and after I finish getting ready, I feel Clint come up behind me.

He pulls my hair off one shoulder, kissing the spot on my neck where I know he hopes to mark me one day very soon, sending shivers down my spine. "I will be there with you all night. If I'm not at your side, I will be close enough to get to you in less than two minutes. You will always have three warriors surrounding you, so

the Alphas will know immediately that you are the Guardian. If you or Andra feel uncomfortable at any time, mind link me immediately and I'll be there."

I turn around, breathing in his scent and letting it calm me. "Thank you."

"You don't have to thank me. I have to be near Anders a lot, but I'll be keeping an eye on you. Lyle will be on your guard duty all night and the other two will rotate

depending on whether or not Patrick, Calvin or I am also on your guard. Don't leave my sight without telling me where you're going, even if it's the bathroom. I know it sounds intrusive, but I'm not taking any risks with you."

"Okay." I say. He pulls back and looks at me, Donovan coming forward. "Andra, we need you to agree as well." He says to her.

"I have no intention of being taken by anyone but my fated mate. I will let you know if I feel uncomfortable."

"Perfect answer." Donovan purrs at her.

Clint pulls Donovan back and I pull Andra back. I see his eyes go unfocused and I'm guessing he's mind linking my guard. He nods and takes my hand. "Ready?" "As I'll ever be." I say. When he opens the door, Warrior Lyle and Lucas are there, waiting for us.

"You look lovely this evening. Lily." Warrior Lyle smiles at me.

"Thank you. Thank you, both. I know tonight will probably be as stressful for the two of you as it is for

me.”

“Don’t worry about it. Lily.” Lucas says to me. “We volunteered. You’re part of our pack and no one is taking our pack member against her will.”

As we walk down the stairs, I can hear that the party seems to already be in full swing. “Everyone is hoping to see the newest Guardian.” Clint says, as if he just read my mind. Who knows, maybe he did. He’s very in—tune to me lately.

When we walk in the door, I have Clint on one side, Warrior Lyle on the other and

Lucas at my back. The room goes quiet, and I instantly feel my heart rate increase as everyone turns and looks in my direction.

Andra, sensing my unease, pushes forward and I feel the mood in the room change. Clint squeezes my

hand before he guides me into the room. Alpha Patrick comes up, taking Clint’s spot.

“I’ll make introductions, why don’t you go check on Anders.” He says to Clint.

Clint nods and walks toward Anders. This must have been pre-planned. I know his job is to make sure that Anders is safe tonight. While unlikely, it’s not unheard of that packs will attempt to take out a new Alpha on or before their Alpha ceremony. Clint, Alpha Patrick and Beta Calvin are on double guard duty this weekend.

Luna Olivia joins us, and it helps to ease the feeling of my being surrounded by a

group of fighters. There are a few standouts among the Alphas. Alpha Benjamin and Alpha Jerome both make my skin crawl. Both of them have their Betas with them, and interestingly, I like Alpha Jerome's Beta, Emerson. He seems like a much better man than his Alpha does.

After the introductions of those two Alphas, I see Alpha Patrick slip away and he is subtly replaced by

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Alpha Fernando, while not creepy in the way he looks at me, leaves no question that he wants me to join his pack. "My son, Santiago, may be a year or so younger than Chapter you, my dear, but I know he would happily take you as his chosen mate. You should make sure you consider all your options. A young lady in your position has many options to choose from. Do not feel that you are bound to remain in this pack if you are unhappy here." Santiago takes my hand and kisses it. It was meant to be a charming gesture, but it falls considerably short as Santiago is young and you can tell that he's never kissed a woman's hand before.

"Thank you, Alpha Fernando, Alpha Santiago. I am quite happy here." I say, pulling my hand free from

Santiago.

Before I have a chance to move away, another Alpha is right there. This one is young, older than me but not by too many years. His Alpha aura and charm flow off him like water flows over pebbles in a creek. And I am Alpha Eric." When he takes my hand and kisses it. I can tell this man is used to having women fall at

his feet. As much as I feel a pull to Clint, even I am captivated by his debonair nature. He looks up at me, still bent over my hand and the look he gives me is smoldering.

Andra must also be affected because she comes forward. His smile is radiant as

he winks at me before standing up. "Is it true what they say about Guardians?"

He asks me.

"I don't know, what do they say?" I ask, finding myself responding to his flirtation in an equally flirtatious way. It's like he's drawing it out of me without me being conscious of it.

"They say," his eyes twinkle as he leans in as if this is some secret information that he is sharing with me alone, "that a Guardian can defeat an Alpha in a battle."

I shrug. I haven't removed my hand from his. For some reason, he isn't nearly as offensive as the young, inexperienced Santiago. "Clint has defeated both Alpha Patrick and Alpha Anders in sparring contests."

His smoldering eyes never leave mine, and now they are twinkling with mischief.

"And what about you, Lovely Lily. Have you ever defeated an Alpha?"

I realize that several of the Alphas surrounding us are now listening in to our conversation. "Alpha Eric.

are you truly willing to risk your reputation by losing against a she-wolf in a sparring match?"

“Not any she-wolf. A Guardian. And yes, I'd be willing to try my hand against you in a sparring match. I don't think my reputation would be damaged, not because I doubt your strength, but because you are a

Guardian. You are meant to be the strongest of us all, are you not?”

I feel heat at my back and the scent of apple pie lets me know that Clint is right

behind me. “Lily is a very strong Guardian. I'm quite sure she could take you, Alpha Eric.” He says as he wraps his hand around my wrist and, not so subtly, pulls my hand from Alpha Eric's.

“Then perhaps we can set up a sparring session tomorrow. I've never had the opportunity to go against a

Guardian.” Alpha Eric says, never taking his eyes off me

“I'd be happy to spar with you, Alpha Eric.” Clint says to him.

Alpha Eric finally looks up at Clint. “It would be my privilege to go up against both of you, though not at the same time. I don't have a death wish. Afterall, how many Alphas can say that they have sparred with both Guardians?”

“Two in this room.” Anders says, walking up and joining the conversation.

“I would also be interested in seeing If what they say about the Guardians is true. I can't believe this little girl could possibly defeat me.”

Alpha Patrick walks up and snorts. “And that would be your undoing, Alpha Benjamin. Lily defeated me and Anders just this past week.”

I'm a bit offended by the shock on Alpha Benjamin's face. Seriously? Does he not know how strong a Guardian is? Isn't that why every Alpha wants one? Of course, an arrogant Alpha would never believe that a Guardian could defeat him, much less a Guardian who is a she-wolf.

"Now, if you'll all follow my mate, dinner is being served in our dining hall." Alpha Patrick gestures and everyone begins filing out to the dining hall.

So, we get to see Alpha Jerome before he kills Eli's father (his Beta) and we got to see Alpha Fernando and Santiago, Carlos's father and brother.

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wanted to rip that Alpha's arm off, not only because he was touching Lily, but he was also holding her hand like he had a right to do so. What's worse. Lily seemed enamored with him. I had been keeping an eye on her and I saw when Andra flashed in her eyes. Whatever Alpha Eric said, it impacted not only Lily but also Andra. I can't wait for the day that I can sink my teeth into her neck, leaving my mark, so everyone knows she's mine.

Maybe we should leave a different kind of mark on her neck tonight." Donovan says.

"If she'll let me. I'm all in." I say to him as we move into the dining hall.

I see Alpha Jerome making his way toward us and I steer Lily toward our seats.

Alpha Patrick and I met with Luna Olivia before this event to make sure that Lily would always be surrounded by two of us, at minimum during meals and that she would never be seated next to one of the other Alphas.

I sit Lily beside Luna Estella and I sit on her other side. Alpha Leander is on the other side of Luna Estella and his Gamma is opposite her. Calvin and Naomi are opposite Lily. Also at our table are Alpha Christopher and his mate, the human. Anders, Calista, Patrick and Olivia are at another table talking with

the group of Alphas seated with them tonight. They are being rotated around at

each meal to ensure that every Alpha has time to speak with Patrick and Anders.

Dinner is an easy affair. Lily, Naomi, Estella and Christopher's mate. Emily, talk of children, mates and

other female types of things. Alpha Leander, Calvin, Christopher and I join them periodically, but I'm keeping an eye on Anders as well as watching the other

Alphas. I don't like what I see from Alpha Jerome or his Beta's obvious

disagreement with whatever is being said quietly between them. Alpha Benjamin

is blatantly staring at Lily and continues to do so until he feels my stare boring

into him. When he looks at me, he jumps slightly at what must be a threatening look

on my face before casually looking away. Yeah, asshole, get whatever it is you're

thinking, out of your head.

After dinner, Patrick comes over to me and Lily. "So, several Alphas have expressed an interest in

sparring with a Guardian or two. So, I'm setting up a sparring event tomorrow

morning. It won't just be Alphas versus Guardians, I'll be putting Alpha against

Alpha and any Beta that wants to participate will



be welcome. Several of our warriors will be there, along with me, Calvin and Anders, so you'll be well

protected Lily." He says.

"Is this really necessary? I'm willing to spar with all of them, several at once if they want." I say, trying to

keep Lily from having those Alphas' hands all over her.

"Clint, I've trained my entire life to be a strong fighter. I will be fine. Nothing will happen to me while

everyone is there watching out for me."

The next morning, we meet outside for training. Not surprising, Alpha Eric wants to spar with Lily. He

steps up first. "Okay little Guardian, let's see what you've got."

I want to watch them and make sure that Lily is okay, but I have my own match.

Mine is with Alpha

Benjamin. I decide to make a point that he needs to stop staring at my mate. I fight him hard, harder than

I've ever fought against Anders or Patrick. I make sure to hit him hard enough that he'll be feeling it for hours and hopefully, he changes his mind about sparring

with Lily.

When he finally taps out, he's bleeding from multiple parts on his body, and he limps off the training grounds to sit and watch. I turn and see that Lily has defeated Alpha Eric, but he's smiling at her and acting pleased that he was defeated by my mate.

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"Thank you, Guardian. That was quite..... exhilarating." I watch as he takes her hand and kisses it. I can't help the growl that rumbles in my chest. Lily's head snaps up, but Alpha Eric never takes his eyes off her.

"Did you want to try your hand with another Guardian, Alpha Eric?" That gets his attention, and he turns

to me.

"It would be my pleasure."

like my chance to spar with a Guardian." Alpha Jerome walks up. Dammit, if I'd known that he was going to spar, I would have taken him. Now it's too late.

I look at Anders, who gives me a subtle nod. He'll watch the light and make sure nothing bad happens to

my girl.

I begin my battle with Alpha Eric. He's good. I'm impressed that Lily beat him.

He's fast, a smart fighter and he's strong. "I can see you have been training Lily. She has many of the same moves that you are using. I might actually be able to defeat you, Guardian."

"Doubtful." I say and just as I'm about to jump in again, I hear Andra snarl. I whip my head around and see that Andra has Alpha Jerome on the ground by the throat.

"Andra!" Anders says, moving quickly to her side.

Something happened and Anders missed it. It must have been subtle but

significant if Andra forced a shift and is threatening to rip this Alpha's throat out.

I walk over to her, crouching down at her eye level. "Andra. You can't kill an Alpha during a sparring

match. Not unless he did something unforgiveable. Give Lily back control and let her tell us what

happened."

Andra snarls once more, pressing her teeth against his throat, making a point to Alpha Jerome that she could easily kill him before she shifts. I immediately pull my shirt off, yanking it over her head before every Alpha here stares at her naked body. When she stands, her chest is heaving and she's glaring at Alpha Jerome. She reaches down and pulls a small needle from her thigh. "I'm immune to wolfsbane, you piece of shit."

Donovan snarls, coming forward. I take the needle and smell it. I can smell the wolfsbane. Alpha Eric

comes up beside me. "May 1?"

I give him the needle and he also smells it before turning to Alpha Jerome. "What is the meaning of this?"

Anders comes over, taking the needle and sniffing it before passing it to Patrick. "Oh please. Don't pretend you aren't planning to do whatever it takes to get this Guardian to your pack. We've all seen how you've been charming her. I may not have youth on my side, but I have other ways to

get her to my pack." Alpha Jerome says.

+1S BONUS

Patrick snarls. "You have attacked a member of my pack without justification. Get off my pack lands immediately or I will declare war on you and your pack. You and your pack members are no longer welcome in Canyon Ridge."

I watch as Alpha Jerome's Beta, Emerson, comes over to help his Alpha up.

Jerome slaps his hand away before getting up. "Are you sure you want to make an enemy out of me?" He asks Patrick.

I step forward. "You heard my Alpha. Leave. Before I make you leave."

He turns and begins walking away. "You will regret this." Alpha Jerome says as

he leaves.

I watch Patrick mind link and several warriors, including Calvin follow behind Alpha Jerome and his Beta to ensure they and their warriors leave our pack lands.

“Anyone else want to try to take my underage Guardian from my pack against her will?” It's Zakai that snarls the question to every other Alpha on the training field. He looks directly at Alpha Benjamin, who looks away. Hopefully he's rethinking whatever he was planning.

“Anyone who tries to take a Guardian from my pack against their will, will be considered an enemy of my pack.”

He makes eye contact with every Alpha, before ending the sparring session.

Well, we knew Alpha Jerome was a jerk. Game, set and match to Andra!

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Not only was Alpha Jerome taking every opportunity to put his hands in inappropriate places while we sparred, but when he realized he couldn't take me, or maybe because he realized he was running out of

time, he injected me with wolfsbane.

I'm thankful that I'm immune. If I wasn't, I would have ended up in the pack hospital and of all the places

in our pack, that would probably have been the easiest to kidnap me from.

As I turn to walk inside, Alpha Eric falls into step beside me. "Are you alright?" He asks and there is no

flirtation in his voice. He is genuinely concerned.

"Yes, thank you. I'll just have a bruise for a couple of hours."

"So, you really are immune to wolfbane?"

I look at him. "I am."

He turns to look at Clint who is hovering on my other side. "What about you, Guardian Clint? Are you

immune to wolfsbane?"

"No. Just Lily."

Alpha Eric looks impressed as he looks back at me. "Why do you think you are immune?"

"I have no idea. But I'm thankful that I am, and that it wasn't common knowledge until now, otherwise, he

might have tried to use silver.”

Both Alpha Eric and Clint growl at that. “No Alpha worth the title would stoop to such a level. If you can’t win a she—wolf, Guardian or no, on your own merits, then you don’t deserve her.” Alpha Eric says.

As we reach the packhouse, he turns to me. “I do hope to see you later, and

perhaps you’ll save me a  
dance?”

I can’t help but smile at him. I do like Alpha Eric. “Of course.” I say, and I feel Clint tense next to me. It doesn’t go unnoticed by Alpha Eric, but he chooses to ignore it.

“If you’ll excuse me, I need to speak to your Alpha. I want to make sure that he takes Alpha Jerome’s threat seriously. He’s a ruthless Alpha and will want revenge for today.”

He bows over my hand again, kissing it and giving me another smoldering look.

“Until later, Lily. Clint.” He nods his head at Clint before walking off.

As we start to walk upstairs, Clint leans into me. “Lily, I swear if you try to go off with that Alpha tonight, I

might kill him.”

We get to o

our room, and I turn and wrap my arms around him. "And where would I go with him, Clint? My room is here, with you. I share a bed, with you. I have no intention of going anywhere with any of these

Alphas. I like Alpha Eric and he proved today to be an honorable Alpha. I agreed to one dance, not a night

of illicit passion."

He wraps his arms around me. "If you want illicit passion, all you have to do is ask, Lily bud."

I nip his bottom lip. "You mentioned wanting to leave a mark on my neck last night. Would you feel better if I let you leave one before Anders\* party tonight?" He pulls back, looking at me, seeing if I'm serious. It felt over-the-top last night, but after what happened with Alpha Jerome, I don't think it's a bad idea to have a hickey on my mate mark from Clint. I won't smell like him, but he'd be staking his claim and I might have some reprieve from the pressuring Alphas.

"You'd let me leave a mark on you?"

I turn my head, exposing my neck to him.

He opens the door to our room and walks me inside, closing the door behind me and pushing me against the wall. He grabs my thighs pulling them up and wrapping them around his waist. He kisses me passionately before pulling back, growling low and deep. "You smell like those Alphas." He says before

walking me into the bathroom.



I continue kissing his neck while he turns on the shower and sits me on the sink, pulling his shirt over my

head. Then he strips down before running his hands over my thighs, to my hips then up my sides, letting his thumbs brush against my nipples. They immediately harden at his touch, and I suck in a breath at the pleasure of his touch.

I let my head fall back and his mouth goes to my neck, licking and sucking where he wants to leave his

mark. I begin moaning and he wraps my legs around him again, walking me into the shower. He pushes me against the cold tile of the shower wall, and I can feel his hard length pressing between my thighs.

I feel his canines slide over my mate mark and my body clenches in pleasure.

“Someday soon, I'll sink my teeth into this pretty little neck so all the world will know you are mine, Lily bud.” His voice is deep.

and I know that Donovan is forward.

“Why don't you sink them somewhere else for now?”

I don't know what made me say it, but Clint doesn't hesitate. He reaches down, taking my nipple in his

mouth and gently sliding his canines into my breast, sucking and licking my nipple at the same time. The feeling of pleasure and pain is so exquisite that I cum, just from that, my body clenching, aching to squeeze around his length. I

shout his name and feel his body contract. Warm, sticky liquid squirts

against my thighs as he continues to milk his canines into my breast.

## Chapter 559

When he finally pulls his teeth from my breast, he licks the wound closed. He leans his head against mine. "You are so damn sexy, Lily bud. Thank you. Donovan and I will be much calmer tonight knowing that you will smell like us, even if it will only last until tomorrow."

"I will smell like you?" I ask.

He runs his nose over the spot where he sank his teeth, humming softly. "You already do."

I like the idea of having Clint's scent mixed with mine and so does Andra. Maybe that's what makes me daring. "If you want, you can sink your canines into my other breast."

His eyes brighten as Donovan pushes forward immediately and I feel his excitement bump against my thigh.

After giving me matching bite marks on each breast, making us both curn again and finally showering off the sweat from sparring and mess we made in the shower, we get ready for lunch.

He takes my hand and leads me to where we will be eating. Because lunch is a more casual affair, Clint will be sitting with Anders and I will be sitting with Calista

and some other pack mates.

When we are seated there are two Alphas at our table including Alpha Fernando and his son Santiago. When I sit, I see Alpha Fernando's nose wrinkle and he looks over at Clint. I guess it's obvious who I smell like. I see Clint smirking from the corner of my eye. When I turn to look at him, he winks at me before focusing

on the conversation at his table.

Lunch is fairly uneventful. Calista is a master at guiding conversation and asking the Alphas at our table about themselves and their packs. I'm in awe of my friend. She's usually so quiet, but in this

environment, she shines. I realize, once again, that she would make an amazing Luna. For my sake and for the sake of Canyon Ridge, I hope she's Anders' mate. He's certainly treating her as if she is. I guess both of us will find out in the next couple of weeks, her on the day of prom and me one week later.

I have noticed Anders keeping an eye on her and she told me that she chose her black dress for tonight because he wanted to match for his birthday. When she asked him what he wanted for his birthday, he said the only thing he wanted was for her to be by his side as his date, so she agreed.

After lunch, we all have some down time before the party tonight. Most of the Alphas decide to go lounge by the pool. Calista and I head to my room. It will take us some time to get ready for tonight. Clint has already moved his clothes to Anders' room so he can get ready there and give us space to get ready in

his room.

We put on our make-up then spend time putting our hair into formal updos. Calista curls her straight hair and then I pull it up, pinning it so that it cascades to her shoulders. We finish the look by braiding a small piece of her hair and pulling it over her head, so it looks like a headband. I anchor it to her curls on one side of her head with a delicate clip that looks like silver baby's breath.

Calista helps me with my hair. We keep my thick curls, but Cali pulls them up, creating a large, bun—style look. Because my hair is so thick, the bun is extensive and comes nearly to my shoulders. She adds a silver baby's breath clip to my hair as well.

When we get dressed, I am wearing a nude colored, floor length dress with spaghetti straps and a slit to my mid-thigh. The dress is layered with a lacy overlay that is covered in off-white embroidery that looks like vines covering my body. Call's dress is black and elegant in its simplicity. It has a fitted bodice with spaghetti straps and a skirt that flairs out from her waist to her feet with a slit to her mid-thigh. Her dress also has a sheer black overlay from the waist down, but you can only see it when the skirt flairs out around her. She will be stunning when she dances with Anders tonight.

Just as

we finish putting our shoes on, there is a knock on the door.

“Come in.” I call out, knowing it's Anders and Clint.

When they walk in, both of them stop short. My heart stutters at the absolute love and adoration I see in

Clint's eyes.

“We must be the luckiest men in the world.” Anders says, but his eyes never leave Cali.

“Yes, we are.” Clint agrees, before they both hold out their arms to us.

We walk to them, taking their arms and head down to Anders’s party.

One more night with the Alphas. What do you think of Lily letting Clint leave his scent on her?

Chapter 560

While Calista and Lily were getting ready for Anders’ party, he and I had our own plans to prepare.

“So, what's the play?” He asks me, as I tuck the guitar behind the podium on the stage.

“I was thinking, it might work if it looks like I'm going to give you a toast, but instead, I begin serenading

Lily.”

“You know it's a risk that she might shoot you down in front of everyone.”

I had thought of that, but I don’t think she will. I'm feeling more confident since this morning. If she’s

willing to let me scent her in such a bold and sexual way. I'm hoping she'll agree to go to prom with me.

"Itis, but it's a calculated risk and I'm hoping I've done my calculations properly." Anders shakes his head and chuckles. "Well, at least you're a better singer than I am. You won't ruin

everyone's evening with your voice."

"Hey, I've gotten pretty good on the guitar too."

He raises an eyebrow at me. "Do you know any songs other than the one you're singing tonight?"

Because I'm pretty sure I could play that tune by now, I've heard it so many times."

"I only need to know the one song. If she likes it, I'll learn more and play them for her every night."

"Goddess, help us all. Let's hope she doesn't want more songs."

When we have it set up and we're both comfortable with how the events will play out, we head up to his room to get ready. We're both wearing suits tonight as is the custom for formal events such as this. Anders is in standard black suit with a white dress shirt. I, however, wanted to match Lily, so I bought a off-white dress shirt to go with my black suit. I checked it against her dress to make sure it was a match. Not only will my scent be mixed with hers tonight, but we'll look like a

couple in our matching attire.

When we finish, we go to get our girls and I think both of us are stunned at their beauty. I know my mate is gorgeous. But tonight, she's beyond stunning. I'm doubly thankful my scent is mixed with hers. Even if she wasn't a Guardian, every Alpha here would want her.

I spare a glance at Calista. She is the epitome of a perfect Luna. In a week, Anders will be able to officially mark her if she agrees. He's been doing his best to make sure that happens. From everything I know about her, she'll be perfect for the position, and I couldn't be happier for my friend.

When we walk into the ballroom, decorated for tonight's festivities, I can sense every Alpha's envy. They

want our mates, one a powerful Guardian, and one a perfect Luna.

Patrick and Olivia come over immediately and greet us, welcoming Calista and Lily to the party, Olivia hugging them before hugging Anders and me. Patrick shakes our hands and guides us to the stage.

"Good evening, everyone. Tonight, we celebrate my son's 18th birthday. In just a couple of months, after

he finishes school, I will transfer the Alpha title to him. But tonight, we thank you for being here to

celebrate my son officially becoming an adult.”

Everyone claps, and Anders moves to the microphone, bringing Calista with him. He's claiming her in front of these other Alphas. I take this opportunity to follow Patrick and Olivia and guide Lily off the stage.

After Anders finishes his speech, I leave Lily beside Patrick, Calvin and Lyle moving closer to guard her, while 1 go on stage. Anders slaps a hand on my shoulder as he passes me, giving me a smile. This is it.

I walk up to the microphone. “As all of you know, Anders and I have been friends our entire life. He is like a brother to me, and I couldn't be happier to celebrate with him, here tonight.” Everyone claps at that.

“However, there is someone else I would like to acknowledge this evening. This person is even more important to me than Anders. She has my whole heart and will have it for the rest of our lives.”

1 look at Lily and her eyes have gone wide. I reach down and pull the guitar out, putting the strap over my shoulder and attaching the mini microphone to the strap of the guitar. I strum out the first notes of the song before I begin, walking toward Lily.