

Broken 561

Chapter 0561

-September lily

Come here and kiss me

That's an order

September lily

Come here and kiss me

Please think about me

But only the good things

Like a mother

And the truth of it is

I wonder am I beautiful enough

For you to kiss me true"

The song has lyrics about the reasons for her tears and asking her to marry me. I
sing them all, never

taking my eyes off hers. I watch as hers fill with tears.

I modify the final lyrics as I get down on one knee in front of her and her eyes get impossibly wider, Andra shining through them.

“September lily

My Lily bud

Please say you'll go

To Prom with me.”

I finish the song, strumming the final notes and wait for her answer. The entire room has gone quiet. I

have an instant of fear that she'll reject me before she starts laughing, tears

falling from her eyes.

“You are crazy. But yes. Yes, I'll go to prom with you.”

I jump up, pushing the guitar behind my back and pick her up, swinging her around as I kiss her. I hear polite applause behind me, but I don't care. My mate agreed to go to Prom with me. Every Alpha in the

room can suck it. She's mine.

The rest of the night, I keep Lily by my side except for the one dance that Alpha Eric insisted she promised him. I take the opportunity to dance with Luna Olivia. It keeps me closer to Lily. But while I

thought I would be able to listen into their conversation, Olivia has other ideas..

“That was a p

reyes.

a pretty clear claim on Lily. Clint.” I focus my attention on my Luna, looking down into her

“Yes, Donovan recognized her as his mate the first time we saw her after we turned 18. Since then, I've been trying to convince her that I was worthy of being her mate.”

She nods. “And you didn’t notice until after your birthday?”

“I didn’t, but I wasn't looking for my mate, nor was I paying attention. I didn’t think I'd find her until after my birthday.”

“But Donovan definitely recognized her as your mate after your birthday?” She asks me and I look where she’s looking, seeing Anders dancing with Calista. He has the look on his face that I imagine that I have

when Lily is in my arms.

“Yes.” I answer her question, knowing she’s trying to figure out if Zakai has recognized Calista and Shali as their mate. I know he has, Anders told me so, but

that's not for me to tell his mother. If he didn’t tell

her, there's a reason, and I'm guessing it's to keep her from putting her nose in

the situation.

“Calista turns 18 next weekend, doesn’t she?”

“Yes, she does.” I say, my lips twitching at my Luna's attempt to meddle in her son's love life.

She must hear the smile in my voice because her laser focus returns to me. “And when is Lily's birthday?”

“Two weeks.” I lean in, whispering in her ear. “And I can’t wait until she recognizes me as her mate, and I

can mark her as mine.”

She smiles at me a moment. “What do you think it means that two Guardians are fated? And that those

Guardians are both in our pack?”

I shrug. Anders, Patrick and Calvin have all asked this same question. “It could be the Moon Goddess wanting her children to come together in a way they never have before. Or maybe it was always meant to be this way and selfish Alphas kept them apart. I guess it's also possible that something bad is coming and we'll need two Guardians to fight it off, but I don't think so.”

“I like this new you, Clint. You're still confident, but without the arrogance.”

“My mate has made me want to be a better man for her and for our future pups.”

Olivia chokes at that. "It's a bit soon for that, isn't it?"

I shrug again. "I want an eternity with Lily. That means a family and a beautiful life together. I want it all everything. I never did before, but with her, I do." I say, looking over at my mate. She must feel my stare

because she looks at me and gives me a radiant smile.

How could anyone say no to Clint

Chapter 562

How could anyone say no to Clint when he sang me a song in front of our entire pack and nine neighboring Alphas, I may not have spent any time with Clint before he realized I was his mate, but I know that he never, ever, treated another she-wolf like he treats me.

His claim is so blatant, his song is so sweet, that my heart melts. I said before that I hoped that he was my mate. It's impossible for me not to believe him when he says he is. Other than the "Anna incident". he's been nothing but perfect. When Alpha Eric convinces me to dance, he reinforces just how significant Clint's gesture was. "I've seen several Alphas claim their mates. But no one has been quite so public about it unless it's at the moment where they both recognize each other. I've never seen it when one of the mates is underage."

I can't help the smile that spreads across my face. "He's been pretty amazing."

"How long

long before you turn 187"

I refocus on him. "Two weeks."

"Well, if things go south with him." He wags his eyebrows at me.

I can't help but laugh at his antics. "Somehow, I think there is a very special someone for you."

"If I'm being honest. I'm losing hope. It won't be long before I have to take a chosen mate or go feral and

I have no intention of doing that to my pack or forcing my Beta to put me down."

"Well, I can't say that I know what the mate bond feels like, not really. But I can tell you what it's like being on the receiving end of someone who says they're your mate. I don't know how a chosen mate could compare to that." I say, as I look over and see Clint watching me. I put every bit of happiness he's given me tonight into my smile.

When the dance ends, Alpha Eric kisses my hand. None of the other Alphas dare to approach me and

Clint stays by my side the entire night.

The next day, the Alphas begin leaving early. Those that don't, leave soon after breakfast. Alpha Leander and Luna Estella let us know that they will invite us to meet the new Alpha heir when he or she is born.

Our alliance with Shadow Falls is strong, and I hope that it always remains that way.

After they are gone, I thought we would be able to relax, but Clint has different ideas.

“Okay, Lily bud. I talked to Patrick, and you are going to start sparring against two warriors at once. We'll

see how it goes and then we'll bump you up to three and four and so on until you

max out.”

“Are you trying to kill me?” I ask, only half joking.

“Nope, haven't you heard? What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger. And I plan to make you stronger, Lily bud.”

True to his word, the next week is grueling. I'm sparring against two warriors all morning, we're coming to the end of the school year, so teachers are piling the workload on us and in the afternoon, Clint is pushing me like some sort of crazed military boot camp drill instructor.

Friday night, I plead out of studying to spend some time with Calista. Tomorrow is her 18th birthday, so I wanted to get her something special. Clint had asked what I planned to do and when I told him, he asked if he could pay for the gift and put his name on it too. I agreed, especially since I have limited funds.

After dinner on Friday, Anders, Calista, Clint and I go sit out on the back patio.

Anders prepared a spot that is separated from the rest, so we'd have a bit of

privacy. I know she's going to spend the morning with her parents before coming over to get ready for Prom. The guys have something planned, but they've refused to tell us what it is.

After we sit down, I hand Calista the gift from me and Clint. After talking about it, Clint wanted to add a second gift, and I agreed. The first gift is a picture of me and Cali. It was when we were in Maine and we are standing in front of the marina in the quaint town where we stayed. That weekend was so special, I wanted to memorialize it for her.

Chapter 563

She gets teary eyed when she sees it before holding it against her chest and thanking me. She sets it down and pulls me in for a hug. I love you, Lily."

"I love you too, Cali." I tell her.

Next, she opens the second picture that Clint wanted to get her. It's a great picture, I just wasn't sure how she'd feel about it, but Clint was persistent. When she opens it, she holds it for a moment, just staring at it. I look at Clint, but he's focused on Cali.

I see a tear roll down her face and see her trying to swallow what must be a lump in her throat. "It's perfect." She says, looking up at Anders. It's a picture of the two of them. Anders had said something to Cali, and she has her head thrown back in laughter in a rare moment of uninhibited joy. While that would make the picture beautiful by itself, the look that Anders is giving her makes it even better. It's intense, full of love and admiration. He isn't looking at the camera, you can tell he only has eyes for her.

Anders reaches out and wipes the tears from her cheeks. "Will you open mine?" She nods, wiping her tears with the back of her hand. She looks at the picture once more before thanking us and placing it on the table, taking the box that Anders gives to her. Based on the size, I'm guessing he got her jewelry.

I look at Clint and I can tell he's already seen it. I haven't, so I lean forward while she opens the box. When she does, we both gasp. It's an earring and necklace set with an aquamarine stone surrounded by sapphires. It's exactly what her eyes look like when Shali is shining in them.

"Oh Cali. It's beautiful." I say.

"I love you, Calista." Anders says and leans in, kissing her softly. As the kiss deepens, Clint nudges me

and we quietly leave them to celebrate alone.

When we get far enough away, I turn to Clint. "He's her mate, isn't he?"

He shrugs, not willing to answer me. I push him against a tree, pinning him with my hips. "Yes or no, Clint

Nelson."

I see the challenge in his eyes. "What if I refuse to tell you, Lily bud. After all, you only have a few hours

left until you'll know for sure.”

I pout. “I thought mates wanted to give their mates everything?”

He chuckles at me. “Nice try. I will give you the world, but for this, you just have to be patient.”

I lean in, nipping his bottom lip. I watch as his eyes darken. “What will it take. Mate.” Donovan flashes in

his eyes and in an instant, our positions are reversed, and he has me pinned against the tree, one of his legs between mine. I can feel his hard length pressed against my stomach.

“Say it again.” His voice is deep with Donovan's, but rough and ragged.

“What? Mate?” I say in a purring tone, rubbing my nose against his neck before moving to his ear.” Mate.” I whisper licking his ear lobe into my mouth and gently nibbling on it. I feel his dick twitch against

my stomach.

“Won't you tell me?” I say, moving down to his mate mark and licking the spot that in a week, I hope to be sinking my canines into.

“Yes.” He says and this time it's breathy, needy.

“Yes what, my sexy mate?”

“Yes, she’s his mate, just as you are mine.”

“I am yours, mate.”

He growls, before taking my mouth in a scorching kiss, leaving me breathless. “In one week Lily bud, one week, you will be mine and this pretty little neck of yours will wear my mark so everyone knows it.”

“I can't wait, mate.”

The next morning, I catch Cali leaving Anders room. She's wearing his clothes and his mate mark on her

neck.

Calista and Anders are mated! Only one more week before Lily fully recognizes Clint as her mate.

Chapter 564

The week before Lily's birthday must be the slowest of my life. All I want is for Sunday to arrive so I can claim her as mine for all the world to see.

Anders wasted no time marking Calista. He made sure they were together at midnight and Shall recognized him immediately. By morning, she was officially our future Luna. Olivia and Patrick couldn't be happier, and plans for the Alpha and Luna ceremonies have started. Calista officially moved in the day after her

birthday, her parents thrilled that she is Anders' mate.

Prom was wonderful. I got to dance with my mate all night. She looked stunning and I couldn't tear my eyes away from her. Anders and I got hotel rooms and enjoyed the private time with our mates. While I want nothing more than to bury myself in my mate, I want to make her birthday special, so I held off.

I think she was surprised, but she didn't fight me. It's good that she didn't because I have very little restraint when it comes to Lily. I did, however, sink my teeth into her tight ass cheek. She says she has no curves, but she does. My mate will never be considered voluptuous, but she's perfect for me. And having my venom in her again, having my scent mixed with hers, even for a short time, made me happy.

The week before her birthday is filled with final exams. It's the seniors last week of school. So, between training, where I have Lily battling three warriors at a time

now, finals, and our evening warrior training. you'd think my days would go quickly, but they don't. Or at least, not quickly enough for me.

Olivia and Naomi are planning a party for Lily. Since she is a Guardian, her birthday is a big deal for the entire pack. Everyone is invited, including her parents. I was against it, but Patrick overruled me.

I spend as much time with Lily as I can on Saturday. But, while she is distracted by party preparations. I slip away, heading to our room. I grab the blankets that were our bed for weeks on the roof and leave a card on the bed for her. I tell her to meet me at the lake at midnight.

I go to the lake, preparing a romantic spot, where I can show Lily how much I

love her, want her and can make her mine under the moon and stars. As the midnight hour draws near, I light some candles and

wait for her.

When I hear her soft footfalls. I walk toward her. As soon as she sees me, I know she feels it. Andra pushes forward and Donovan does as well.

“Mate.” She says, looking at me with awe and love. So much love. She runs into my arms, wrapping herself around me, claiming my mouth in a fiery kiss that leaves us both panting.

Her scent of orange blossoms and ginger is so much stronger now. It surrounds me, infusing into my pores, into my very essence. Very soon, this scent will be mixed with mine forever, and I can’t wait.

I carry her over to the blankets, laying her down gently. I sit back, caressing her face, and just looking at her. Her answering blush is perfect.

“I’m going to make you mine tonight, Lily bud.”

“About time.” My sassy mate says to me.

I start at the top of her head, taking my time, kissing both her eyes, her nose, the corners of her mouth. and finally her lips. I slowly move my way down her throat, as she lifts her neck, giving me perfect access to her most vulnerable body part. Her submission has Donovan growling in my chest, and we gently nip her throat before licking and sucking on her mate mark, making my perfect mate moan in pleasure and press her body up against mine.

She tugs on my shirt, and I pull it over my head and pull off my pants before sliding my hand up her thigh. She's wearing a dress and I assume this was purposeful. She would have known she would recognize me as her mate and wanted to complete the bond. The dress makes it easier. As I lift her thigh, wrapping it around my waist, I can smell the sweet scent of her arousal. Her scent is so much stronger now that it makes it almost impossible for me to continue at my slow pace. I want to devour her, plunge my hard length into her, sink my teeth into her, taking everything that she has and giving her everything that I am

in return.

Chapter 565

But this first time only happens one time and I force myself to focus. As my hand continues its way up her thigh, I realize my mate had other plans. I lift my head up, looking down at her hip before looking back up at her.

"No panties?"

"They would just be in the way." She says breathily, but the look in her eyes is full of desire. Desire for

1. me.

I growl again, before pushing the dress up higher. No bra either. My mate is seriously pushing the edges of my patience and my sanity.

I slide the dress up and over her head, sitting back and looking down at my mate spread before me." Were you in a hurry, my sweet mate?"

"Yes. I've waited long enough to make you mine, mate."

Looking down at her, I run my hands from her toes, up her calves to her thighs,

over her hips and her flat stomach, caressing her breasts and feeling her nipples peak under my hands before moving up to her shoulders and down her arms.

“You are so beautiful. I don’t know what I did to deserve you, but I’m so glad that I did it.”

I pull her leg up and never taking my eyes off hers, I begin kissing my way from

her ankle to her calf, licking behind her knee before nipping and kissing my way down her thigh. I can’t help but slide my tongue over her pussy lips. They are glistening with her arousal and her smell and taste are making my head spin.

Nothing has ever tasted as good as my mate does right now.

I hadn’t planned to stop here, but I have to have more of her. I dive between her legs, devouring her. She pushes her hips up, giving me better access to her. I slide my hands under backside and lick my way to her clit, sucking it into my mouth.

Her moans of pleasure mix with the late—night sounds of the forest and the lapping sounds of the water from the lake beside us. I could feast on her all night, but I have a mark to put on her. I slide two fingers inside her, making sure she’s ready for me. She’s soaking wet, her body on the edge of release.

“Clint.” Her panting moan makes me growl against her, causing her to go over the edge, her inner walls clamping down on my fingers.

“Clint!” Mmmm, I love hearing my name screamed from my mate’s lips when I’m giving her pleasure. I look forward to hearing that sound for the rest of my life.

I don’t wait for her ride out her pleasure. I’m not done with her yet. When I pull off her clit, sliding my fingers out of her, her eyes open and focus on me. “Make me yours.”

My control snaps. I thrust into her, taking her mouth in a savage kiss. I want everything, all of her. When her whimpers turn to moans and she begins rocking her hips against mine, I start to move in and out of her. Her body is warm and wet around me, and it feels like I’ve died and gone to place where there is nothing but

Lily, me and this ecstasy.

I pull her leg up, pressing her knee to her chest, plunging even deeper into her core. I clench my teeth and hold out until I feel her body clamp down on mine, the force of her orgasm pushing me over the edge. I feel my gums tingle and this time, when my canines extend, I sink them into her neck.

The feeling of my teeth burying into her mating spot is almost as intense as being balls deep inside her. I feel the venom of my canines milking into her at the same speed my cock is releasing inside her. The feeling is so strong, I almost black out. An instant later, I feel her canines sink into my neck, milking into my mate mark. The pure rapture of feeling our minds and bodies connect as one, has both of us shooting off again. I roar my release into her neck, our bodies convulsing with our pleasure.

When we finally come down, we pull our teeth from each other's necks licking the wounds closed. "You're mine now, Lily bud. Forever."

Chapter 566

I knew as I was walking to the lake that Clint was my mate. His scent of apple pie was so much stronger than before. And when I saw him, Andra said the word he's been waiting to hear for months. Mate.

Everything that was good about Clint is now amplified, his scent, his voice, his hands roaming over my body sending tingling sensations everywhere. I can't wait to complete our mate bond. I knew I wanted him before, but it was nothing compared to this.

When he's finally inside me, when our teeth are buried in each other's mate marks, the feeling is like nothing I could have ever imagined, nothing you can explain to someone that hasn't experienced it. Sex with Clint was fantastic before, and it doesn't even come close to this.

We make love for hours, exploring, touching, tasting. I want to do and have everything with my mate. I want to experience it all and every time is just as

amazing as the first time. I can't ever foresee a time when I will not want him to touch me, when I won't respond to his touch exactly like I am tonight.

A couple of hours before sunrise, we shift and give Donovan and Andra their time to mate and connect. While I'm happy for Andra, it feels a little voyeuristic to be front and center while they are going at it. So, I pull back, Clint keeping me company through the mind link.

I knew Lwas falling for him before, but this feeling of love, it's almost overwhelming.

"How did you wait for two months for me to turn 18?" I ask him, after getting distracted by Donovan sinking his teeth into Andra's neck, marking her.

"I spent every possible moment with you that I could. Now you see why sitting next to you in class, riding to and from school with you, training with you was imperative in my day. It was the only way to keep Donovan calm and keep me from losing my shit having you around all those unmated males."

"Well, you don't have to worry about that anymore, do you?"

"No, you are all mine, Lily bud."

"And mine." Donovan says in our link.

"And Clint is mine." Andra adds.

"Are you two done?" Clint asks them.

"For now." Andra says, rubbing herself against Donovan.

"Did you mark Donovan? I closed my eyes after he marked you." I ask my wolf.

"Donovan is officially mine and any she—wolf that thinks she can have him will answer to me." She

growls

Donovan licks her face, rubbing his body across hers, scenting her. "There is no one for me, but you."

Clint and I shift back as the sun begins to rise. We get dressed grab the blankets and candles and walk back to the packhouse hand in hand. "Shall we get some

steep before we have to get up for training?"

"I got Patrick to agree to a day off for the two of us. It is your birthday after all, and he knows that you're my mate. He figured we'd be otherwise occupied."

"Mmmm, does that mean that we aren't expected to be anywhere until my party this evening?" I ask him.

"That's exactly what it means. Why? Does my insatiable mate want something from me?"

"I want everything from you. But right now, I want you to take me again in the shower."

He throws me over his shoulder, smacking my ass before running into the packhouse and up to our room. Later that morning. I hear my phone ping. Clint is wrapped around me, sleeping, like I should be.

I grab my phone and see a text from my mother.

Mom: Happy birthday, sweetheart.

I haven't spoken to my mother since I moved into the packhouse. She has never once reached out to me.

Me: Thanks, Mom. Will I see you tonight?

Mom: Well, that's why I was reaching out. Your father is uncomfortable coming to the packhouse for your party because of everything that has happened recently. I was hoping that I could meet up with you before your party. I have a gift for you. I'm not surprised my father isn't comfortable coming to the packhouse. Everyone in the pack knows what he did. I appreciate the olive branch my mother is extending. Maybe she and I can start fresh. I'm not ready to forgive my father yet, but I would like to have a relationship with my mother.

Chapter 567

Me: Sure. Should I come to the house?

Mom: Actually, I don't want your father to know. Could you meet me behind the

lake?

So, I won't be having a relationship with my mother, at least not while my father forbids it. I'm sad, but glad that she's at least willing to recognize me on my birthday. Maybe I can at least get a hug from her.

Me: Sure. What time?

Mom: Your party is in a couple of hours, so how about now?

I turn and look at Clint still sleeping behind me. Maybe he won't notice that I'm gone.

Me: Sure mom, I'll be there in about 20 minutes.

I slide out of bed, pulling my pillow down and smiling as Clint wraps himself around it. I put on a pair of shorts and one of Clint's shirts, tying it at the waist so it doesn't hang down too long. I grab my shoes and slip out the door, closing it quietly so it doesn't wake him.

As I head out, I run my fingers through my hair, finger combing it as I head out to the lake. I wave at a couple of people and when I get to the lake, I can't help but smile at the spot where Clint and I completed our mate bond early this morning.

I walk around to the back side of the lake, looking around for my mother.

"Mom?"

I raise my nose in the air and the minute I smell him, I turn to run. When I do, my father is there, blocking

my way. Behind me, Alpha Mahli and several of his warriors come out of the woods.

“Clint!” I scream in our mind link. I can take some of these men, but not all of them.

“Hello again, Darling. I have come to take what is mine. Your father promised me your hand and I have

paid handsomely for you.”

“I am not a commodity to be paid for and I am not yours.”

I feel my father move toward me from behind. I turn, grabbing his arm and swinging him to the ground. I underestimated him though, and he had a syringe in both hands. While I am taking him down, the hand I

don't have comes up and jams a syringe of liquid silver into my ribcage.

I immediately release my hold on my father, grabbing my side. The pain of the silver is making it hard to

breathe.

“You idiot! If you kill her, the deal is off.” Alpha Mahli says to my father.

“Lily, where are you? I'm on my way.” Clint says in the mind link

“Lake.” I say, and I think the needle must have punctured my lung. I feel like I'm breathing silver.

“Hold on. I'm almost there.”

“My wife heard that Lily is resistant to silver. She won't die, but she's immune to wolfshane. This is the

only way to subdue her.” My father says.

Alpha Mahli walks over to me. I try to take a step back, but my father reaches up, holding me in place.

“Was mother in on this too, or did you force her to send that message?” I spit out at my father.

“Your mother loves me. She doesn't want to see me get torn apart by loan sharks.”

“Maybe you should have thought of that before you gambled everything away.” I say as Alpha Mahli comes up in front of me.

“Why does she smell like the other Guardian?” Alpha Mahli asks.

“She's wearing his shirt.” My father says.

And suddenly it dawns on me. They don't know. They have no idea that I'm already marked. They're too late. Clint and I meeting at midnight last night just

saved me from being marked by Alpha Mahli.

I reach up and pull Clint's shirt from my neck. "Or it could be that I'm already marked and mated." I start to laugh at the shock and surprise on their faces. My father whips me around, yanking the shirt down. Seeing my mate mark, his hand flies out to punch me in the face. A moment before he makes contact, his hand stops.

"Touch my mate ever again, and I will fucking end you."

Wow, mom and dad are a piece of work! But Alpha Mahil is too late.

Chapter 568

I woke up to find that Lily was gone. The pillow in her place not providing the same sense of calm that having her body next to mine does. I was just getting dressed to go find her when her panicked scream came through the mind link.

I reached out to Anders, telling him that Lily was in trouble. She must have gone off on her own, knowing

that she was marked, but no one else knows that.

When she tells me she's at the lake. I open my mind link to all the warriors, Anders, Patrick and Calvin, letting them know that Lily is at the lake and in trouble.

I don't wait for them to respond, I rush out the back door, shifting into Donovan as I jump off the back step. We race to the lake, catching the scent of Aaron Raines and Alpha Mahli. That asshole will pay for this. He's still trying to sell his daughter to pay for his debts.

I hear Lily tell them she's already marked and mated a moment before I see Aaron's arm shoot up to hit her. I shift back, grabbing his arm, threatening his life if he ever lays a hand on her again. Rather than dealing with him, I punch him in the face, knocking him out.

Lily's mom rushes over, leaning over her husband. "You killed him!" She screams.

"Mother, you idiot. If he were dead, you'd feel it. Clint just knocked him out." Lily says and I can tell something is wrong. Her voice is off, her lungs rattling like they have fluid in them.

I turn, pulling her into my arms as I glare at Alpha Mahli. "As you have seen, Lily is marked and mated. You can't have her."

"Well, this presents a predicament, seeing as how I paid in advance for a Guardian mate." He says.

looking at Aaron.

I couldn't care less what happens to Aaron. But something is definitely wrong with my mate. She's leaning against me, and her breathing is ragged.

Anders and Patrick arrive and taking in the situation quickly, they confront Alpha Mahli, but I need to find out what's wrong with Lily. When I ask her, she can't even answer me. I can feel her pain emanating from her lungs.

I pick her up, but as I turn to leave, it's Alpha Mahli that answers. "Her father injected her with liquid silver, but he did it in her side. He may have punctured her lung."

I feel my heart stop. I turn and race for the pack hospital I don't know if there is anything they can do for her, but I can't lose her when I just finally made her mine.

When I get to the pack hospital I realize that someone must have alerted them. They are waiting for me. They begin to ask Lily questions, but she can't answer, and when she tries, she begins coughing uncontrollably.

I tell them what we know, and I carry Lily back to a room where we can get x-rays of her lungs. I make sure they keep her sitting up, so she doesn't feel like she's drowning in silver. Her breathing is labored, and I can tell the lack of oxygen is affecting her.

When the doctor comes back in, he doesn't have good news. He puts her x-rays up on the screen and shows me that there is indeed silver in her right lung, making it practically unusable.

"What can we do?" I ask him.

“The only possible option is to remove the silver from her lung.”

I look at him. “How can we do that?”

“The same way it went in, we put a needle into her lung and draw it out. But there are potential complications. She'll still have silver residue in her lung and now she'll have two puncture wounds in that lung. It may not heal, and it will most likely collapse, at least temporarily. If that doesn't work, we may have to put a tube into her lung or try to aspirate the silver some other way.”

“Do it, do whatever needs to be done to help her heal.”

“Okay, we'll get started. Lily Raines, right? Is there anyone that we should...”

“Nelson.” I cut the doctor off.

“Pardon?”

“Lily Nelson, not Lily Raines.”

“She's your mate?”

fYes

“Well then, having you here will be a good thing for her. It will help her heal. I'll get a surgery room ready We'll have to sedate her to do this procedure. I'll be back in a moment to get her.”

When he leaves, I lean over Lily. I'm not sure if she's conscious or can hear me,

but I want her to know that I'm here. "I'll be with you every step of the way. Lily. I promise. I'll be right here."

Chapter 569

When they come for her. I follow them into the surgery room. "If you are going to be in here, you need to stay out of my way. The doctor tells me, and I move to stand by her head, my fingers running through her hair, I just need to touch her and hopefully, she feel my touch and it will help to calm her.

They sedate her but when he begins to cut her top off, I can't help the growl that leaves my mouth. He stops and looks at me. "In this hospital I am in charge, Guardian. You either stay out of my way or get

out and let me do my job."

I rein Donovan in and let him get back to work. I watch as he pulls up a live camera feed attached to the needle. He makes an incision then pushes the needle and camera into her side. He slowly and methodically moves the needle until it is at the bottom of her lung. After he gently pushes the needle in, he slowly begins to pull the plunger on the needle, suctioning the silver out of Lily's lung. When he's done, he pulls the needle from her body, leaving the camera, before wiping the trickle of blood caused by the needle. He watches her body on the screen before sighing. "As I expected, the suctioning process and the silver itself has forced the collapse of her lung. We will keep her sedated for now, so she doesn't struggle to breathe."

He pulls the camera from her body and looks at me. "You are welcome to stay with her and it's probably the best-medicine we can give her. I'm going to give

her some oxygen and tomorrow we'll see if there is any improvement. I can't begin to try to reinflate the lung until the punctures have healed.”

“I understand.” I say and follow the medical assistants as they push Lily to a recovery room.

I lay down beside her on the bed, talking to her, letting her know I'm here. After a while, Anders and

Patrick come in.

“We just got a status update on Lily. Any change?”

“Nothing yet. What happened to Aaron and Alpha Mahli?”

“Aaron and his wife are in the cells awaiting my verdict.” Patrick says, looking at Lily before turning back

to me. “I'm going to banish them.”

If I wasn't laying beside my comatose mate, I would have blown up at him. As it is, I lean in, kissing her temple and telling her I'll be right back before sliding off the bed and covering her. I motion for Anders and Patrick to join me outside.

As soon as her door closes, I turn on Patrick. “He nearly killed his daughter and you're only going to

banish him?”

“Alpha Mahli has already put a bounty on his head. I doubt he will survive a week, but this way, Lily won't blame me, you, Dad or this pack for the death of her parents.” Anders says.

Patrick nods. “Not wanting a relationship with her parents is very different than wanting them dead.

Anders and I discussed what Lily would want if she were awake. This is more for her than it is for them.”

I have my hands on my hips, but my shoulders relax and my head drops. They're right. Lily wouldn't want to see them dead, and she would struggle to know that

the Alpha and pack she loves, ordered their death.

When I come to terms with their decision, I look back up. “What about Alpha Mahli?”

“Technically, he didn't commit any crimes. A pack member invited him on our pack lands and he paid one of our pack members a lot of money. I also took into consideration that he probably saved Lily's life by telling us what Aaron did. I don't like his methods, but he didn't mean any harm to come to Lily. However, I let him know that he is now an enemy of our pack and if he or any of his pack ever enter territory again, they will be killed on site.”

“When will you be banishing the Raines'?” I ask.

Tour

“Tonight. I've called the entire pack to witness what happens when one of our

pack members threaten

another.”

“If you want to be there, Cali will come stay with Lily. I think she’s planning to come by anyway.” Ande

says.

“I’ll think about it.”

“She’ll be okay. She’s a Guardian and she has her mate by her side.”

They turn to leave, and I return to my mate, crawling into bed and curling myself around her.

Cooper

Author

Well Aaron Raines is a piece of work. What do you think of Patrick and Anders* decision to banish them instead of killing them for what they did to Lily?

Chapter 570

When i wake up, my lungs are cilli burring, but the scent of apple pie and the feeling of my mate wrapped around me in my hospital bed soothes the ache in my lanas. The doctors run a bunch of tests and are shocked at how quickly I have healed. A serious silver injury like this should have had me out for weeks. I

don't feel great, but I definitely feel better.

I find out what happened in the two days I was out. My parents were banished on the evening of my birthday Clint told me that Call stayed with me while he went to watch. My father apparently shouted obscenities to everyone in the pack, but specifically at Clint while my mother sobbed but followed my father off the pack lands.

1

The doctors keep me another day after I wake up, watching me as I cough up silver residue. The punctures in my lungs have healed and my collapsed lung has repaired itself. The doctors were concerned that the excessive coughing might cause it to collapse again, but as the day goes on, my coughing gets lighter and lighter. Clint never leaves my side.

The doctors release me in time for graduation. Most of the pack is there to watch as their future Alpha. Luna and two Guardians graduate. Afterwards the pack has a huge party, and they add my birthday party in. It's a festive night and the best part was getting to sleep beside my mate in our bed.

The day after our graduation, Alpha Patrick calls me and Clint into his office. Anders and Calvin are also there. "Lily, I have some news about your parents. I found out yesterday but didn't want to say anything until I confirmed what I was told and I didn't want to ruin your graduation party."

I tense up. This won't be good. Clint is immediately there, pulling me into his lap and sharing my seat with me, his arms wrap around me in a ring of love and security. I lean back against him and nod my head at Alpha Patrick to continue.

“I received a call from Alpha Leander yesterday. His patrols found two individuals near their borders. They had been murdered and dumped in close proximity to Shadow Fall's borders. Calvin went and

confirmed that they were your parents.” My throat constricts and a single tear drops down my face. “I'm sorry Lily. I know they weren't good parents, but they were your parents; and this must be hard for you.”

Clint's arms tighten around me. I turn in his lap, burying my face in his neck, breathing in his scent. My

father was never a great father, but in the end his addiction tore our family apart and ended my parents'

lives.

Everyone waits while Clint murmurs to me, rubbing my back and my hair while I let my silent tears for my parents fall. When I'm done, I sniff, sitting up and looking back at Alpha Patrick. “Do you need me to confirm their identities?” I look at Beta Calvin. “Not that I don't trust you, but I didn't know if, as family, I needed to confirm that they are my parents.”

Beta Calvin looks at Alpha Patrick. It's Alpha Patrick that responds. “Lily.” He stops, and I can see he's struggling with how to tell me what he wants to say. Whatever it is, it's bad.

“There wasn't enough left to identify your parents visually. Calvin had to do it based on scent.”

1 blink and 1 blink again. I feel my mouth opening and closing, trying to make words, but nothing comes

out.

“They were slaughtered? Even my mother?” I finally whisper.

“Yes, I'm afraid so.”

I feel like I'm in shock. Maybe my father deserved that, but my mother didn't. All she ever did was follow

the mate bond and her love of my father. And it got her killed in the worst possible way.

I pull out of Clint's arms. I need to get out of this office now. “Thank you for telling me.” I

dy and I race out the door. Clint is right behind me. He takes my hand and without a word, he pulls me down the stairs and out the back door. As soon as we're outside, he picks me up and begins running. He takes me to the lake, our part of the lake where just a short week ago we spent hours making love.

He sits down, keeping me in his lap. “I'm right here Lily bud.” That's all he says.

He sits with me for hours, letting me process my sadness and anger without saying a word. He lends me his strength and pours his love for me through the bond.

When I finally come to terms with the fact that they are dead, he asks me if I want

to do anything for them. Over the next week, I decide what I want to do, not necessarily to honor my father, but to make sure that this doesn't happen to anyone again.

I meet with Alpha Patrick, Anders and Clint and I tell him what I'd like to do. Our pack is known for its internal gambling. It's a fun past-time that helps break up monotony when things are quiet and helps blow off steam during stressful times. However, there are times when people, like my father, become addicted. I tell them that I want to develop a program or some way that any people in our pack that become addicted to gambling, or begin to show concerning signs that they are getting in over their head financially, are identified early and get the help that they need.

"I think that's a fantastic idea Lily and I'm embarrassed that I didn't think of it myself. Calvin, Anders and I will talk about it and develop a plan to assist those that struggle with addiction."

"Thank you, Alpha." I say.

When Clint and I leave the office, he looks at me, smiling.

"What?" I ask him.

H

"I'm not sure I've told you today how amazing you are. Every day, you do something that puts me in awe

of you.” He pulls me into his arms, leaning down and giving me a soft kiss.

“I seriously don’t know what I ever did to deserve such an incredible mate. You are the most

extraordinary woman I've never met, and I am the luckiest man in the world.”

“Are you going soft on me, Guardian?”

Donovan growls softly, while Clint pushes his hips against me. “Do I feel soft to you, Guardian?”

I laugh as Clint takes me to our room and shows me just how soft he hasn't gotten.

Clint and I get into a routine after graduation. We decide to wait to have children. We want to enjoy some time together, just the two of us. It works out great, because Anders and Calista have the same thought so the four of us get to spend lots of time together, enjoying our friendship and our mates.

A great idea Lily! Sounds like the pack needed something like that.