

## **Broken Warrior 151**

### Chapter 151

Thirteen Years Ago

It's my 10th birthday! I'm so excited! Today is the day that I will get my wolf! I've been waiting my whole life for this moment.

Okay, it's only 10 years, but it's my whole life.

At any point today, I could begin to hear her, but I won't be able to shift until after dusk. Because it's a school night, we

celebrated my birthday over the weekend with my friends and pack members. My father, the lead warrior of our pack, The Great

River Pack, has taken tonight off so he and my mother can be with me during my shift.

My mom has kept me home from school today. She is a teacher and also took the day off to spend with me. We're currently

sitting at the table, eating my favorite breakfast, french toast.

"Angel, honey, you need to calm down. She'll be here when it's time. All wolves wake at different times of the day." I'm bouncing

up and down in my seat, barely able to contain my excitement.

"I know, but Mom, what do you think she'll be like? Will she be like me? Will she like me?"

My father walks in, kissing me on top of my head. "Short stack, what's not to like?" My father is a giant of a man. Six foot six

inches, broad chest, solid muscle. I'm currently only five feet tall. Hence the nickname. My mother is a decent 5'9" so I'm hoping

to hit a good growth spurt in a few years and maybe get to her height or taller.

"Thanks Daddy." He smiles and sits down to have breakfast with us before heading out to training.

"So, what are my favorite girls up to today?" He asks.

"Well," my mother starts. "This morning, we're going shopping for some camping gear, so we can take a weekend soon and all

go camping in the woods. after Angel gets her wolf. Then because the birthday girl has requested pizza for her birthday dinner

and chocolate chip cookies for dessert, I think most of our afternoon will be spent cooking and baking. And finally, before we go

out to shift, we'll open presents."/

My father finishes his breakfast getting up. He leans down to kiss my mom before coming back around and giving me a kiss on

the cheek. "Sounds like a

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great day! What time should I be home for dinner?"

Mom has followed my father with her eyes since he kissed her. I hope to one day have someone to love the way they love each

other. "We'll plan to eat at 5pm, then presents around 6 before heading out no later than 7pm.

"Ok, see you then. Take care of my girls." He says as he heads out. He always says that to us when he leaves for work.

Mom and I spent the morning shopping. We got all kinds of camping equipment, some extra blankets to fight against the

Minnesota snow when we go camping in winter. Even with our wolves, the winters get really cold here.

We're making cookies and I'm getting nervous. I still haven't heard my wolf. What if I don't get her. It happens sometimes. It's

rare, but it has happened that a person born of two werewolves doesn't get a wolf spirit. As the day has gone on, I've gotten

increasingly worried that I won't get my wolf. What if the Moon Goddess doesn't think I'm worthy? What if I did something to

make her mad and now I won't get my wolf. What if....

"What if you're worrying for nothing?" A voice says.

I stop and look at my mother. "What did you say?" My mother looks at me, then smiles. "I," she stresses the word, "didn't say

anything. Perhaps someone else did?"

It takes only a second for me to understand what she is saying. "Are you my wolf?" I say it out loud. My mother has stopped to

watch me.

'You know I'm in your head and you don't actually have to speak out loud, right?' My wolf asks me. I start jumping up and down.

"Oh my goddess, oh my goddess, oh my goddess. She's here mom, she's HERE!" I'm screaming at the end.

My mother hugs me, looking into my eyes. Her eyes darken, her wolf, Rain, coming forward. "What is your name, little one?" My

mother asks with Rain's voice overlaying making it deeper.

I can feel my wolf push forward, wanting to answer. It's a strange feeling, like I'm fighting myself for control. 'Relax. We are one. I

will never hurt you.' My wolf tells me.

So, I relax and let her come forward. "I am Alessia." My mother gasps.

"Mother? What's wrong?" Why does she look like that?

She gulps audibly. "Nothing sweetheart. It's nice to meet you Alessia. We can't wait to see your wolf form this evening."

She steps away from me, looking distracted. "Honey, can you keep track of the cookies while I step away for a few minutes? I'll

be right back."

'What do you think that was about?' I ask Alessia, watching my mother walk into the next room. I'm already loving having my

forever best friend in my head. I feel her smile. 'I love you too, Angel. And I'm not sure why our mom is acting strange. She

seemed happy to see me, but something is definitely wrong.'

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Mom comes back in the kitchen and tells me that dad will be home early. It's not 20 minutes later that he walks in the door.

"There's my birthday girl." He says, but I can see that he looks stressed out.

"What's this I hear about you getting your wolf? Alessia is her name?"

"Yes, and she's perfect Dad!" I exclaim, giving him a hug.

My father's wolf, Ward, pushes forward. "Let me meet my pup, little one." He says.

Alessia pushes forward and this time, I am relaxed and it goes much faster. I see Dad's eyes widen before he reaches out pulling

us to him for a hug. I hug him back, excited to have him home early to celebrate.

When I pull back, dad is looking at mom. "Alpha Peter asked to us to bring Angel by tomorrow so he can meet the newest

member of his pack." Mom is looking at dad and there is a weird, silent conversation going on.

"But!" He says, looking back at me and smiling. "I have a great idea! Why don't we take that new camping gear you got today

and go someplace really special for your shift. We can stay the night out under the stars. I bet Alessia would like that."

I turn to my mother. "Oh, can we mom? Pleeeeeeeease?"

My mom is still looking at my dad. There is definitely a silent conversation going on. "They are mind linking. They don't want us

to hear what they are saying. Alessia says to me. She's curious about this behavior as well.

Mom turns to me. "Sure, let's eat dinner then while you go pack some clothes in a duffel, I'll pack up some food."

"Yay! This is going to be so much fun!"

It was nearly dark before we headed out. "Sweetheart, why don't you lay down and take a nap. We're going to go find a really

cool place, out of the way. The first shift always takes the longest and it can be painful, but we'll be right there with you." My dad

says. I don't know if I can fall asleep, I'm so excited, but I lay down. in the back of the car and close my eyes.

When I wake up, I can hear my parents talking. "As soon as we break our pack link, he'll know something is up. Shouldn't we

wait until we're further away? They can still track us this close." My mother was asking my father.

"Yes, we should wait until closer to morning, but before he's awake. If we do it at

just the right time, he may not wake up and if we're very lucky, he won't notice until later in the day. By then, we'll have dumped

the car and hopefully be in the mountains."

My mother continued to express her concerns. "Won't she be too tired. We'll be faster in wolf form."

"If she gets too tired, I can carry her. She's still small and Ward can easily carry her for hours, if needed."

I sit up. "Where are we? Why are we still driving?" I ask.

My parents look at each other, not answering me. Now, I'm starting to get angry, this was supposed to be my day to shift for the

first time and we're just driving." What's going on?" I ask angrily.

My mother turns to look at me. "Sweetheart, we had to leave the pack. It was important."

"What do you mean,

'leave the pack'? We're going back, right?"

"Alessia? It's my father that asks. "Do you know what you are?"

"Yes. I am a Guardian." Alessia replies.

"Wait. What do you mean you're a Guardian?" I ask out loud so I can figure out what is going on.

It's my mother that responds. "When you first let Alessia forward, her eyes glowed a bright golden color. Only a Guardian's eyes

are gold sweetheart."

"I don't understand. Why do we have to leave the pack because Alessia is a Guardian?" I ask my parents.

"You and Alessia will be very powerful, Angel. More powerful than an Alpha when you get older. We were worried that Alpha

Peter would try to force you into a mate bond with his son. He would not want to risk losing you to another pack. Having a

Guardian makes a pack infinitely stronger. No alpha has ever willingly let an awakened Guardian leave their pack."

"In every instance that I've ever heard, the Alpha either forced the Guardian into a mate bond with them or their Alpha heir. There

was only one that did not force his Guardian, but his Guardian is a male, not a female, and the males were friends before the boy

got his wolf." My father turns to look at me briefly before turning back to the road. "We didn't want you forced into a mate bond,

Angel. We want to give you the freedom to find your mate when you are old enough."

"So, what will we do now?" I ask.

My mother answers this time. "We will stop in another hour or so, when we feel we are far enough away from the pack. Then we

will let you shift. After you shift, we will renounce our pack and run to the mountains on foot. From there, we will have to wait and

see."

Wait, renounce the pack, do you mean...?" "We're going rogue." My father answers.

## Chapter 153

Six months ago

As I drive away from Cara's birthday party, I call my Beta, Dustin.

"Alpha?" His excitement and hopefulness feel like a punch in the gut. Everyone in my pack was hoping Cara would choose me.

"I'm staying in the city tonight. Have someone clear out my room." I'd had my room decorated with the expectation that I'd be

bringing my new Luna home. There were flowers and candles around the room, setting the ambience for a romantic night of

marking and mating. But that won't be happening, and I can't bear to see the remnants of my plans. So, I'll stay in my apartment

in the city.

"What's the plan?" He asks, his tone considerably more subdued. Everyone knows we need a Luna. I'm nearly 25 and have yet

to find my mate. Pretty soon, I'll have to choose a mate. I had chosen someone, Cara, that I thought was worthy of being the

Luna of my pack. I haven't found anyone else that met the criteria that she did.

"We're going after Eli Gunnar. Meet me at my apartment in the morning and we'll develop a plan." Eighteen years ago, my pack

was attacked by an Alpha seeking to overthrow my father and take over our pack and pack lands. My father defeated and killed

the Alpha, Alpha Jerome, but not before a teenaged Eli Gunnar, known as the Banished Beta, got to my mother and killed her.

He was found with her bloody body in his arms. He ran and escaped. My father searched for him for years before he died. I took

over the search, even before my father's death 8 years ago.

Last month, Eli kidnapped Cara and attempted to force the mate bond on her. Luckily, she was underaged and her wolf is strong.

She was able to fight off the venom he put in her body. But having him in close proximity has only made me more blood thirsty.

I've been waiting a very long time to bring the Banished Beta to justice for what he did.

"Do you want some company?" Dustin asks me.

“No. I’ll be fine. Nothing that a bottle of bourbon can’t fix.”

I end the call and make the hour-long trek into the city. My apartment is in the same high-rise building that my company offices

are in. Holstin Enterprises, Inc. has two arms, one in construction and one in security. Both are easy businesses for shifters to

work in. Since my pack, the largest in the country, is nearly Soo pack members, I need an outside business to employ my pack

members and keep

the pack financially stable.

The company is in the human area, and my manager is a human. It’s helpful when there are drifters that come through town for

short periods of time. I frequently employ bear shifters, fox shifters and once I even hired a lion shifter, although that didn’t last

long as he tried to create a pride/harem with my clients. When drifters come into town, I hire them and depending on their skill

set, place them in one of my businesses. They make the money they want and then take off again.

I park in the underground parking garage reserved for residents and employees and head straight to the bar. When I sit, the

bartender looks over at me. “The usual?” He asks.

I nod and when he brings my amber colored liquid to me, I shoot it down and tap my glass on the bar. “Just leave the bottle.”

He does and moves on. My mind drifts back to places I don’t want it to be. Back to the time when I still had a chance with Cara.

She’s a Guardian, born from two Guardians. She is strong, powerful, fierce and beautiful. Everything I want in a Luna, except

she’s not mine.

I’m drowning my melancholy thoughts in my bourbon when a scent I haven’t smelled in a while hits my nose and a beautiful

woman sits down next to me. I can’t help but look her over. She’s stunning. Her bronze skin is accentuated with jet black hair that

looks like silk falling down to her mid back. She’s wearing a skintight animal print dress with a plunging neckline that shows off

her large tits and a short length that shows off her fantastic legs. The dress leaves no question that she's wearing anything

underneath it.

She looks me over before meeting my eyes. "Want some company?" She asks and her voice is like a purr.

I frown at her, my nose tipping up in the air trying to sniff out what she is. Her smile widens as she watches me. Then she leans

in crooking her finger to get me closer. I lean toward her and she slides her cheek against mine as she whispers seductively in

my ear. "Panther."

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She sits back and smiles at me, taking a sip of her drink before looking over at the bartender, raising her glass in a silent request

for a refill. She turns back to me." That is what you were wondering, right wolf?"

I set my arm on the bar, leaning into her. "What's a sexy kitten like you doing here?"

The bartender brings her a refill. I watch as she uses her tongue to play with her straw before answering. "I'm in town for the

weekend. Work conference." "What's your name?" I ask her, sliding my fingers up her thigh to the hem of her short dress.

"Audra. What's yours, gorgeous?"

"Liam. Want to take this party up to my room?"

Her smile is all feline. "Let me get another drink to go."

I look at the bartender. "We'll take a bottle of what she's having as well. Put it all on my tab."

The bartender brings the bottle. I grab both bottles, balancing my glass as well, leaving one hand free.

I put my hand on her exposed back and lead her to the elevator. When we get in, I push the button for the penthouse and slide

my key in to gain access before pushing Audra against the wall, taking her mouth roughly and sliding my hand

up



her inner thigh until I feel her wet warmth. I was right, nothing underneath her dress. I slide my fingers across her bare lips,

growling my pleasure. Her hand has gone to my short hair, but she's found a grip and she pulls hard. Oh yeah, this is going to be

rough and raw. Good thing she seems to want the same thing.

When the door to the elevator opens, I step back and let her walk ahead of me. I stalk her like prey as she walks into my suite. I

set the bottles down as she turns back to me. Her amber colored eyes are full of desire and a hunger I understand well. It's been

a long time. I went celibate months ago when I told Cara I intended to pursue her. I wanted her to feel respected when, if, she

accepted me. Now I have a lot of pent-up sexual energy that I plan to expend tonight. And this little kitten seems more than

willing to take whatever I give her.

As I stalk toward her, she gives me a playful smile and begins walking backward, setting her glass down as she goes. A primal

growl, a growl of the hunt rumbles.

my chest. "Here kitty kitty." My voice so deep is sounds like a snarl.

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She turns to run and gets one step before I've got her, pinning her against the wall. She's panting as she looks at me. I reach up

and tear her dress down the center, letting it fall open: "I hope you didn't like that dress." I say to her.

Her claws come out and she scratches me from shoulder to waist, shredding my shirt. "It was my favorite." She says.

"I have no intention of being gentle." I tell her as my claws also come out and poke into her waist as I hoist her body up.

"Did I say anything about wanting gentle puppy." She purrs down at me.

I look up at her. "It's Alpha to you." And I throw her legs over my shoulders, my hands holding her up by her ass, as I pin her to

the wall burying my face between her legs. I make her cum over and over until she's screaming my name.

When I finally pull my head away, I bring her legs back to the floor before spinning her around roughly, grabbing her hair and

pinning her to the wall as I undo my pants. When they fall to the floor, I toss them aside before kicking her legs open. I pull back,

holding her head against the wall and pulling her hips back toward me.

“Brace your hands on the wall.” I order. As soon as she does, I slam my dick. inside her. “That’s right kitten, take my cock.” I fuck

her hard, feeling her body responding to mine. Her claws are scratching gouges in my wall but I don’t fucking care. Everything

that I’ve lost tonight, every desolate moment that looms. in my future, a lifetime of loneliness in my past, none of it matters in this

moment. Right now, there is nothing but this feeling, nothing but this little feline that seems to want exactly the same thing I do.

One night to forget everything.

When she screams my name I continue my brutal pace. It isn’t until she begins whimpering ‘Alpha’ over and over, I finally let go

and empty myself inside her.

## Chapter 155

The next morning, I wake up at my usual time. I’m surprised since I didn’t get much sleep. Kitten has some stamina that’s for

sure. I look at her naked body next to mine. She is covered in claw marks in various stages of healing. My hand print on her ass

is lighter than it was when I gave it to her, but it’s still there. My own body is riddled with bite and claw marks partially healed.

I lean over and kiss Audra on the shoulder. She moans, half asleep. “Again already? Are all Alphas like you?”

I chuckle and smack her ass cheek hard enough to leave a new mark. She hisses. with the pain, but doesn’t resist. If anything,

she pushes her ass toward me, so I lean down and sink my teeth into her fleshy cheek. She moans through the pain and I can

smell her arousal.

“Naughty kitten. If you want more, you’d better meet me in the shower. I have a meeting this morning.” She groans as she

watches me walk into the bathroom. I've just gotten under the hot water when I feel her come up behind me. Her

hands go dick, stroking me. I was already

around my waist and slide to, partially hard because of the smack and bite mark so it only takes a moment to be at full attention.

I turn to face her and she drops to her knees.

"Hungry little kitten?" She nods as I rub my tip across her lips before she licks. from base to tip. I'm not certain, but it feels like

her tongue is rough like a cat's. After all the activity last night, it's almost too much stimulation. Then she takes me in her mouth

and down her throat. I don't know if all felines are this good at giving head, but damn she is. After I shoot my load down her

throat, I pull her up, pushing her against the wall and take her again.

When we're done, I finish washing and leave her to finish in the shower. I walk out and hear a knock at the door. Thinking it's

room service, I open the door to find Dustin. "Hey, uh, come in." I say.

He looks at me. "What the fuck?" Yeah, I'm covered in cat scratches and bites. He only takes two steps in before stopping dead

in his tracks. "What the fuck happened here. And what's that smell. It smells like...."

"Panther?" Audra asks coming out of the bathroom with nothing on but a towel wrapped around her head, keeping her long hair

from dripping.

Dustin just stares. I have to admit, the woman is gorgeous. Even after seeing every inch of that luscious body last night, I could

still look at her all day.

"Dustin, Audra. Audra, Dustin." I make introductions.

'Ummm, hey." Dustin says.

"Hey" she says back before looking at me. "I don't have anything to wear since you felt the need to rip my clothes off." She says,

putting a hand on her hip.

“Right. Hang on.” I go to get her one of my t-shirts and pair of shorts, getting dressed as well.

“So, you guys did all this last night?” Dustin asks. The room is a disaster. The bed is broken, the sheets and mattress are

shredded, the couch is shredded, the coffee table is in splinters, there are holes in the walls, and claw marks on almost every

surface.

“Yep. You know, you don’t smell like an Alpha.”

“I’m his Beta”

I come back out with the clothes. She puts them on and turns to me. “Thanks for the best fuck I’ve had in a really long time. If I’m

ever in town again...”

I reach my hand out to Dustin and he pulls a business card from his wallet. “Look me up.” I finish her sentence. She gives me a

pleased smile then turns, grabs her purse and heads out.

I look at Dustin. “Let’s get to the office. We need to get a game plan together and I need someone to come clean this place up.”

“Yeah you do.” He says as we head out.

## Chapter 156

### 10 Years Ago

When we ran three years ago, my father had been right. Our Alpha sent the pack warriors to find us. The first three years had

been really hard. We had to skirt around other pack territories, we had multiple run ins with rogues and we had to hunt and kill

our own food or steal what we couldn’t afford.

Dad would take odd jobs here and there to make money when he could, but we could never stay in one place for too long before

he’d get a hint that the pack had found us, and we’d have to take off again.

When Dad isn’t working, he is training me on how to be a warrior. Since Alessia is a Guardian, he felt that the sooner I learn how

to fight, the better for me. And he was right. My mother isn’t a warrior, so for a while, it was solely on my father to keep us safe.

After several months of training, I began to help my father when we'd be attacked by rogues. In the last year, I've become a very

adept killer. I can take on two rogues at a time by myself. Ok, so my dad can take on four at a time, but I'm still only 13. Alessia

and I will only get stronger.

Mom has decided that my other studies should not falter just because we don't have access to a standard school. So she's been

teaching me herself. And I have to admit, I love that the world is, quite literally, my educational oyster. Mom has used our

landscape to teach me science, chemistry, and even math. Other times, we use our time to gather water or wood for a fire as an

opportunity to discuss our history, as well as the history of other supernaturals and humans as well.

Maybe it's the wolf in me, but I love living in the wild. If it wasn't for the constant threat of being captured by our pack or

supernatural hunters, or the risk of me being taken by an alpha who's pack stumbles across us, it would be amazing.

All of this changed when Dad got wind that our old pack warriors had found us. again. They'd been pushing us progressively

south and east. That first night, we had made it into northern Illinois. Since then, we've been through Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Most recently, we had crossed the Kentucky border and were living in the Red River Gorge area. We had to be careful as there

were several packs in this part of the state, but we'd found a place that wasn't owned by any local pack.

When Dad heard that our pack was close, we packed our meager belongings and ran again. Only this time, one of dad's

previous warriors and friends caught up to us. Dad mind linked mom and I to hide in a cave and he shifted before going out to

confront his previous friend.

While my mother could not hear, with my Guardian hearing, I listened to their conversation. I had no intention of letting my father

get killed, so while my mother tried to convince me to move farther into the cave, I refused, ready to help if needed.

I heard the sound of bones cracking. "Richard You're a hard man to find." An unfamiliar voice said.

I heard more cracking bones, then my father's voice. "Jude. Fancy seeing you here."

"Let's not play games Richard. We've been searching for you and your family for three years. Why did you run? Why did you

renounce the pack?"

"My reasons are my own. You need to leave Jude. I have no interest in killing you, but I will if I have to."

The man named Jude sighs. "Has it really come to this? Your family deserves more than this life. Just tell me why. Help me

understand. Everything was fine and then you just left. Alpha and the rest of the pack want you home."

"I'm never coming back. We're never coming back. That's all you need to know. Now move on before you make me do

something I don't want to do. It doesn't matter how close we used to be, my family comes first."

I shifted and Alessia moved quietly through the underbrush so we could see what was happening.

## Chapter 157

"Rich, I'm here. Alone. The other wolves with me aren't close. I want to talk. I want to understand. We were friends. Help me

understand why this" Jude gestured around him, "is better for your family."

He wasn't lying. I don't know if my father could smell them, but the other wolves. had gone in a different direction. This man

seemed honest, and Alessia could not catch a scent of any deceit on him.

We make the decision and walk out of our hiding place to stand next to my father. I may still be a fairly short girl, but Alessia is a

large wolf. We come up to my father's waist. I felt more than heard him sigh. "Alessia, you should have stayed put."

When I look at Jude, his gasp was audible. "Guardian." He whispers it with

reverence in his voice. His eyes begin tracking back and forth between me and my father. Then he points at me. "This...."

"Is my daughter Angel and her wolf Alessia." My father finishes. "On her 10th birthday, Alessia awakened as a Guardian."

Jude face breaks out into a huge smile. "But, this is great! Alpha will be so pleased. The whole pack will rejoice..."

He is cut off by my father's feral snarl. "I will NOT take her back."

Jude looks at my father as if he hasn't heard him properly. "But why not?"

My father rubs a hand over his face. "Jude. Think! You have a daughter. What do you think would have happened to her if her

wolf was a Guardian? What would Alpha Peter have done? What will he do if he finds out my daughter is a Guardian? Would

you want that for your daughter?"

I watch as the realization of our situation dawns on Jude. He takes a step toward me. My father growls at him.

Jude looks at him. "I would never hurt your daughter Rich. And no, I would not want my daughter claimed by an Alpha that may

not be her mate just because of who and what she is."

He crouches down and looks at me. "Hi Alessia. It's nice to meet you.

I look up at my Dad, who nods his head, before I walk over to greet Jude. He runs his hands through my fur, so much like my

father does to me. I can tell that this is how he interacts with his own daughter.

He pats my head before standing up. I move to stand beside my father again. \* Where's Katie?"

"I'm here." My mother says and walks out from behind some bushes.

"You don't look as bad as I would have expected. Obviously, you're doing something right." He looks at my father weighing his

options.

"I have a cabin. It's in the Appalachian Mountains. It's not on any pack lands. You can hide there. They won't look for you there

and I'll try to divert the hunt in another direction to give you time to get away. You need to hide your scent as much as possible

on the way to help me out. Do you have something to write on?"

My mother found a piece bark that we'd been using to write with and a piece of coal that we'd found. Jude gives us the address

and general directions before stepping back. "I need to go meet my group. I'll send you money when I can. Stay there as long as

you'd like. Good luck old friend."

He looks at me. "I expect great things from you Alessia, and you too Angel"

"Thank you, Jude. I owe you." My father says to him as he turns to leave.

"You've saved my life countless times Rich. I'm glad I can finally do something to pay you back. Be safe. All of you."

With that, he takes off in the direction of the other wolves.

It took us several weeks to find our way to the cabin. When we arrived, mom and I cleaned it up and dad was able to find a local

job working in construction.

It became a quiet and peaceful life. We were happy and life was good. Until it wasn't.

## Chapter 158

### 7 Years Ago

Over the last few years, Jude stayed true to his word. He sent us a burner phone after the first 6 months and kept us informed of

what was happening in the pack, and the on-going hunt for us. Over time, the hunting efforts for us waned, but never completely

ended.

We were careful, we kept a low profile, but we were happy. Mom continued my education at home, using the surrounding woods

as my classroom. Dad continued my training. Being a Guardian, I was getting stronger more quickly than others my age. At 16, I

could defeat my father in training as often as he defeated me.

It was a beautiful spring afternoon when the call that changed my life came in. Mom and I were walking back from the forest,

having collected some plants and bulbs that we would use to create salves and tonics my father thought best for helping Alessia

grow and strengthen.

Dad came rushing out of the house, a bag slung over his shoulder. "They found us. We have to go, NOW!!

Mom and I dropped everything and shifted. Dad tossed the bag to me. I caught it in my mouth as he shifted and we took off



running.

We have lived here long enough to have learned the lines of the pack lands in our surrounding area. My father leads the way as

we skirt along those lines and head north, going deeper into the forest. We've been running for an hour or more when we hear

the howl. They caught our trail.

We push harder, running through streams, swimming through lakes as we find them, or ducking under waterfalls. Anything to

slow them down or get them off our trail. It's well into the night when my mother begins to slow. My father finds a place for us to

stop, tucking us into a cave to rest after checking to make sure it was clear.

"Angel, stay here and guard your mother." He mind links me. "I'm going to look around and make sure it's safe."

It isn't long before I get a frantic mind link from my father. "Angel, get your mother and run. Run now. We're in the middle of a

nest of vampires! Go!"

I turn to look at my mother and see that my father had opened the mind link to both of us. She's up and moving at the same time

I am.

I sniff the air before leaving the cave, catching a whiff of something sickly sweet. I turn in the opposite direction and begin

running, my mother on my heels. We haven't run more than a mile when I catch the same sweet scent again, but much closer. I

stop, trying to figure out what direction it's coming from before turning and running off in a different direction.

We haven't gone far when I smell it again, stronger. I hear my mother whimper behind me. She's caught the scent now too. I turn

around in a circle trying to find an area where the scent is weak. When I find it, I begin running, my mother trusting my enhanced

Guardian senses.

stop once again when I realize we're surrounded. I don't know how many there are, but they are faster than we are and have us

trapped. I stand in front of my mother as I see a vampire walk out from behind some trees.

"Well, well, well." He says casually walking towards us. I give him a threatening growl, and he stops.

"What do we have here?"

You must be related to the other mutt we found."

I watch horrified as two other vampires drag my bloodied and beaten father into the clearing and toss him on the ground at their

feet. He has shifted back to his human form. I can hear his heart rate, so I know he's alive, but only barely. My mother makes a

move to go to him, but I cut her off. "Mom, don't move." I mind link her.

The vampire looks at my mother then back at me. "So, one of you is the mutt's mate, and the other is..."

He drags out the words

as if I am going to answer him. He looks over the body of my wolf. "Let's assume pup."

"It's too bad we don't like the filthy taste of your blood. I do so love them young." The lead vampire says.

"Kill them."

In a split second, my father's head is ripped from his body. The moment of shock is all it takes for another to stand in front of my

mother, his hands gripping her wolf's head, ready to decapitate her as well. I turn, grabbing hold of his arm and ripping it from his

body. I see the shock on his face an instant before I swipe my claws across his throat, slicing his head off.

## Chapter 159

My mother is in shock, her high keening howl ripping at my already raw heart for the loss of her mate. But I don't have time to

hurt. My mother is in no position to fight, having just lost her mate. So, I begin taking down the vampires.

My father has trained me well, but I've never fought against vampires. While werewolves are the stronger breed, vampires are

much faster. Being a Guardian gives me an advantage and Alessia is tearing through the vampires, ripping off heads and

clawing out hearts as fast as she can, but it's not fast enough.

“WOLF!” The lead vampire yells. I turn to see that he has my mother. She has shifted back, her eyes blank in her grief. I know

she won't survive without my father. Most werewolves can't survive the death of their mate. But I don't want her to die at the

hands of this leech.

He has my mother standing in front of him, his hand wrapped around her neck. He is looking at me over her shoulder. “Little wolf.

If you don't stop killing my brethren, I will have to kill your mother.”

I snarl at him. He's already said he is going to kill all of us anyway, so I may as well take out as many as I can on the way.

He gives me a vicious smile. “You're right, I am going to kill her anyway. But,‘ He holds up a hand to me as I start to bunch my

legs, ready to attack him. “If you stop attacking my brothers, I won't give her to Lennix here.” He points to one of the other

vampires that is slowly surrounding me.

“Lennix has a bit of a deviant nature. While most of us prefer to fuck our food. while we're eating, he doesn't seem to care where

he puts his dick, as long as they are screaming in pain while he's using them.” My stomach turns and I have to fight the urge to

vomit. “Sometimes if they aren't loud enough, he finds ways to hurt them so he can enjoy himself more.” The vampire Lennix is

licking his lips, looking at my mother lasciviously.

The leader rubs his nose against my mother's ear. “You wouldn't want to watch. as he makes this sweet little female here scream

in pain, begging for death, would you?”

‘Alessia?’ I ask, already knowing the answer.

‘There are too many. I can't take them all.’

I shift back, knowing it's my only possible option to save my mother. I watch as her eyes gain some clarity as she sees me shift.

She tries to shake her head no, but

the vampire's hold is too strong.

“Good choice.” He says as he rips my mother head from her body. I scream as I watch her body slump to the ground. I crumble

to my knees. My parents are dead. I have nothing and no one in this world. I am about to die, alone.

The leader walks slowly toward me. “I didn’t say I wouldn’t kill her. I said I wouldn’t let Lennix have her, and I didn’t. I am a

vampire of my word.” He stops. in front of me, gently sliding his fingers in my hair before grabbing it roughly and yanking my

head up to look at him.

“Now, what are you?” He snarls at me.

I look at him like he’s crazy. He’s just watched me shift from a wolf to a human. He must know I’m a werewolf.

He leans down, sniffing my neck before jerking back, looking at me more closely. He pulls my hand to his face, slicing my finger

with his fang. When he tastes my blood, the look on his face makes me sick again. It’s pure ecstasy.

“Custos regni.” He says

reverently.

He snaps his fingers and one of the vampires bring him handcuffs. He binds my wrists with silver before lifting me to my feet.

“You will be a gift to my prince. He will reward me handsomely for bringing you in.”

He binds my ankles in silver, and I’m thrown over the leader’s shoulder. As he walks away, I take one last look at my parents’

lifeless bodies, lying broken on the forest floor.

Chapter 160

The vampire leader carried me to a car and put me in the trunk. He duct taped my mouth before closing me in.

Once I am alone in the dark, I let the tears fall. I have no idea what I’m going to do, but I know no one is coming to help me. My

parents, my heart aches as I think them, Alessia howling mournfully in my head. My parents are dead. The only person that

knows about me is Jude, and if my previous pack finds my parents, they will assume that I am dead as well.

I have no idea why this lead vampire thinks the prince of vampires would want me. It’s well known that vampires do not like the

taste of werewolf blood, generally keeping us safe from them, unless we stumble into their territory. But when that vampire tasted

my blood, he didn't seem repulsed. Just the opposite. And I don't know what it was that he said, but the way he said it gave me

goose bumps. Whatever it is, it can't be good for me.

I don't know how long we drive before we stop. When the trunk opens, I'm ready to jump out, not that I'll get far with my arms

and legs bound, but I have to try. However, the vampire anticipates me and snatches me out of mid-air.

"Not so fast, my tasty treat. I have big plans for you. And if you play your cards right, perhaps Prince Keenan will keep you alive

as a blood bag." A blood bag? Death would be preferable.

He carries me over his shoulder again. We walk toward a building that you would expect to be owned by vampires. It's dark,

gloomy, and gothic looking. Gargoyles at the corners of what looks like an old castle. The only lights that I can see from inside

look red and cruel, like what I'd expect in a low-class brothel.

When we walk in, the screams that are coming from somewhere in front of me make my blood run cold. It's the sound of pain

and fear and death. Along with that sound is the sickening sound of lustful grunting, slurping and flesh being ripped apart

presumably by sharp teeth.

I don't know what to expect, but when I'm put on my feet, I'm in a room filled with vampires and humans. The smell of blood and

death is nearly overwhelming to my sensitive nose. The fear is so palpable that it feels like you could cut it with a knife.

I'm turned to face a vampire on a throne. Again, it feels so cliché that if I wasn't disgusted by what is going on around me, I'd

laugh. The throne is metal the color

of pewter covered in a blood red cushioning across the back, seat and arm rests. I can't tell how tall the vampire is, I'm assuming

he's the prince, but the chair back sits about six inches higher than his head.

It takes the vampire prince a moment to acknowledge us. His eyes are closed and he is sucking on the wrist of a young man who

is going pale and having trouble standing while a female, I can't tell her age, is being forced to go down on him. He has a grip on

her head and is shoving himself into her mouth at a brutal pace. I can see her fists punching against his legs as I watch his body

tense up and he holds her there until she stops fighting. Once he's finished, he pulls her off and she drops to the floor, dead. I

realize he just suffocated her while he orgasmed in her mouth.

His eyes track to mine as he continues to suck on the wrist of the man that is now on his knees, his eyes going dim as the

vampire drains him of his blood. He pulls his lips off the man's wrist, his mouth making a sickening suction sound. The man also

falls to the floor, dead.

The vampire prince takes a linen napkin and wipes his mouth as if he just finished dining in a fine restaurant. He looks at the

leader behind me.