

The Challenge Two Alphas, One Girl Chapter 71 - Tips

0 11 minutes read

Katrina's POV

My throat was sore and my voice hoarse from screaming. I banged on the locked door one more time. It would not budge. I was panting. I tossed the pitcher of water across the room sending drenching the rug near the bed. I sent the platter of cheese and wine flying causing red to splatter across the bed. I screamed again in rage but my voice had really lost its power. I clutched my throat. If that slime-ball thought I would marry him he was sadly mistaken.

I had been in this luxurious bedroom locked up for hours and hours. There were no windows. I was unsure of the passing of time. I was like a rare bird in a golden cage. The door clicked. It opened slowly. Lane, my purchaser, was standing there with a sly gleeful smile and a gleam in his eyes. He was flanked by two of his guards. They were vampire warriors who worked with my father. The last time Lane had checked on me, I had flew at him and scratched his face and neck. I noticed it had already healed. My own stepfather, Ezekiel, had betrayed me, sold me to this fiend.

"I have some grave news, I'm afraid," said Lane looking anything but sad.

My heart raced.

"Your dear brother, Lord Ezra, was stabbed by a blessed blade during all the commotion he caused when he found out you'd been promised to be! What a mean brother in law he would have been!" Lane clutched his chest as though deeply personally offended.

I held my breath. I was shaking. Ezra. No, no, no. He was lying! He had to be! Ezra was the strongest fighter in our coven. I tried to hold back my tears and be strong but my heart was breaking. Tears streamed down my face.

"Here's proof if you require it," added Lane, tossing a pouch on the bed.

I held it with shaking hands. It was heavy. I looked inside. The blessed blade was in there stained with blood. I could smell it. Ezra's blood. I dropped the pouch on the floor. I crawled backwards away from Lane and his guards. I cowered in a corner, my head in my hands.

"Oh and something else, a certain werewolf came looking for you? Um, what was it... Sabertooth?" Asked Lane with a mock quizzical look on his face.

"Fang?" I breathed. My heart almost stopped.

"Yes! That's it!" Exclaimed Lane.

As if he didn't know the name of the Marigold Beta!

"What have you done to Fang?" I whispered, trembling.

"It was ever so heroic how he barged in with a squad of werewolves to come to your rescue!" Cooed Lane.

Fang had come to save me? Even in the midst of despair I felt my heart leap a little as I pictured him storming into the castle, tall, broad-shouldered and hotblooded, his warm brown eyes searching for me.

Lane interrupted my daydream, my brief respite, to deliver the final blow.

"Alas, bullets of silver dipped in wolfsbane were rained down on your heroic friend!"

My vision blurred at the edges. I shut my eyes tightly. I refused to speak. I wanted time to stop. If this was my present I did not want to look upon the near future.

Fang's POV

By now everyone I loved would have learnt of my treachery. I felt strangely emboldened by this. It was freeing in a sick detached sort of way. When you'd fallen short of everyone's expectations, burnt every bridge, let everyone down, it really no longer mattered what happened or what anyone thought of me. If I could wish for anything just for myself, it'd be to hold my future child, to see their little face at least once. I sighed.

The estate where Lane lived loomed before me. Its walls of dark grey stone were strangely jagged and oddly angled, making the castle look like a crooked mountain. I ran towards it, silent and determined. I was in my wolf form. There was a guard booth at the gate with three armed guards sleeping. Sleeping vampires? Upon closer inspection, I realized they were human. Was there a huge budget cut in security? There was no honor in taking down a sleeping human. I leapt over the gate easily and landed soundlessly. They remained sleeping.

A rustle nearby made me flinch. I smelled them. Two vampires were approaching, both armed. They were guards doing a patrol. They were made vampires not novices but not incredibly experienced. I did not bother to hide. One saw me. He raised his gun clumsily I launched myself at his throat. The other was so shocked he had frozen. I quickly took care of him. The humans were still asleep at the gate! Good grief! Being a human was probably tiring or something. Their immune systems weren't as great. Maybe they all had chronic fatigue.

I shifted, standing there, naked as the day I was born. I wanted to check the gun's ammunition. There were two barrels, one loaded with silver bullets dipped in wolfsbane and the other contained wooden bullets with sharpened points, like wooden stakes. These had been blessed with holy water. Wow, so this manor was anticipating

retaliation from either vampires or werewolves. I thought of Ezra. He was well-liked among vampires as the Vampire Prince. If people found out of the mutiny in which he had been stabbed, they'd be furious. Some would remain loyal to their old ruler Ezekiel but many would turn away from the old ways and follow Ezra. I smiled at that. There was hope for the future yet.

Raelynn's POV

Thaddeus had organized a room for me on the Alpha floor but it remained unused. I used the adjacent master bathroom to shower quickly or take a bathroom break. Other than that, I stayed at Ezra's bedside in an armchair. He was still unconscious but the doctors said he was improving. His vitals were stable now and for that at least I was grateful. I sighed. I stroked his cold cheek. I kissed his forehead and the tip of his nose. I wiped a stray tear as it escaped my watery eyes.

I kept picturing Fang in his wolf form taking down all those vampires who had attacked Ezra and me. He had said he was proud of me. I had barely had a brother and then just like that he was lost to me. Friday had mind-linked me to say she was working on a plan to go after Fang and Katrina. She thought it would be too late by the time Ezra woke up. Thaddeus and Maze would send a squad for Katrina but they certainly wouldn't be seeing to Fang's safety any time soon. They had seemed furious after Friday read Fang's confession letter. I put my head in my hands.

"Raelynn," said a high-pitched voice softly. I looked up. My eyes widened. It was the little doctor who had agreed to organize the DNA test for me.

"I'm sorry to disturb you during such a difficult moment," said Dr Jo apologetically.

"No, no, it's ok. One more day until I get my paternity test results!" I exclaimed, smiling.

"Actually..." began Doc Jo.

My heart plummeted. It would be longer than forty-eight hours? I sighed.

"It's ok, Doc, I know you're all doing your best," I said smiling.

She giggled. "Don't mope yet! Let me finish! Also don't call me Dr. Just Jo is fine," she said brightly. She had a gleam in her big brown eyes. The light was fading outside. Her golden brown curls shone in the last rays of sunlight as they streamed in through the glass windows in the infirmary.

"I called in a little favour owed to me from my friend, the lab tech! He rushed the results so we got it in twenty-four hours!" Jo said.

I felt giddy. I waited with bated breath.

“Are you ready to know who your father is?” Asked Jo.

The door to the infirmary burst open startling both of us. We looked around. It was Friday! Her eyes were red and puffy from crying. I knew she was mourning Fang.

“Jo!” Exclaimed Friday, sounding surprised.

“I’m so sorry about the whole situation,” said Jo, looking at Friday’s puffy eyes.

Friday sniffled and shrugged, smiling sadly.

“I have the paternity test results,” Jo said hesitantly to Friday.

Friday’s eyes widened. She looked as though a lightbulb had just turned on in her head.

“Do you mind me staying or do you want to find out alone?” Friday asked, biting her lip.

“Together,” I insisted, taking my little sister’s hand.

She smiled though there were tears in her eyes.

“Together,” she agreed softly.

Jo grinned. “Friday Fenestra, your results are more of a confirmation as we already knew you and your mate, Maze, couldn’t be related otherwise you wouldn’t be fated. Oh that rhymed!” She smiled to herself.

Jo was a little out there. She was my favorite of the pack physicians. I snorted.

“Ok, so Farris is in fact your father, Friday,” confirmed Jo, looking a little apologetic.

Friday nodded. She had expected as much. She certainly didn’t want to be Maze’s sister anyway. I knew they hadn’t done the deed because her neck wasn’t marked by him or Thaddeus and the Challenge didn’t allow it. However, I was pretty sure they’d done a lot. They seemed really cozy. That would be a disaster if they were related.

“Raelynn?” Said Jo.

“Yeah,” I answered softly.

“Farris is not your father,” said Jo with a little smile.

My breath hitched. Friday grinned at me.

Jo continued, "Malachi was a match. You're Malachi's daughter, Raelynn."

I sat down. Friday squealed. "Raelynn, Maze is gonna be so happy! He wanted a sibling so badly! Malachi is gonna be thrilled! You're gonna be his spoiled little b.rat, trust me!" Friday giggled. She hugged me and I held onto her tightly.

"And well, Felicity is your mom, but that was obvious. But, I checked the birth records just to be certain and thorough!" Said Jo. "Raelynn's birthday matches the date of Felicity's alleged still birth. Also, there was no post mortem report on the still birth!"

"Thank you, Jo!" I said, sniffing, tears streaming down my face.

"And I have another idea!" Jo said.

"What?!" Friday and I said in unison.

"Go beg your new big brother Maze to let you save your other brother Fang! Ask him right after you reveal you're his long lost sister and make sure you're still crying when he sees you! Friday you start crying too!"

Friday and I grinned. We had to try! There was just one, no, two people I wanted to tell first.

Malachi's POV

My Felicity was beside herself with grief over Fang's confession letter. She felt as though her eldest son was already dead. Although, many comparisons were being made between Farris and Fang. I could not help but feel that Fang had much more honour than his father. What he had almost done to Friday was unforgivable yet Friday seemed to be the quickest to want to forgive him. I sighed. Felicity was in my arms. We had not left the bed all day. Usually I would be thrilled but she had been crying and I had been comforting her, so it was not that kind of day. I only had one son, just one child, and I would rather die myself than lose him. I could not imagine how she must feel. She was not just mourning Fang, she was questioning how she had raised him because of what his betrayal of his own little sister.

She was also feeling immensely guilty for mourning someone who had almost handed her youngest over to vampires. Felicity had always felt as though she had neglected Friday. My heart went out to little Friday. I hoped Maze was being sensitive towards her. I knew my own son and sensitivity was not his forte. It wasn't really mine either but I was trying.

There was a knock on the door. Before I could answer, the person burst in, breathless. It was Raelynn! Friday came peeping in after her with a strange look on her face as though she were suppressing a huge grin. Both girls caught sight of Felicity and I under

the covers together and they blushed simultaneously. The resemblance between them was uncanny. They both looked like my beautiful Felicity.

Felicity had also been speculating about Farris' behaviour in the past. She had been thinking about the still birth she had experience before Friday was born but after the twins. As soon as she left the hospital, she had asked me to meet her. It had been very much like this, me holding her for hours while she cried. I had had no idea where Farris had gone off to back then. He had not been at work. My Gamma at the time had told me he was missing in action. He had been a shady Beta at times but I had known I was sleeping with his wife so I had not picked extra fights with him though I had made him work long hours.

"Mo..." said Raelynn before pausing, and backing away. Friday backed away too. They both looked mortified. I realised why. I sat up and pulled the covers off me and Felicity. They had thought we were n.aked. I chuckled. Felicity and I were both in pyjamas still.

"What's wrong, girls?" I asked.

Felicity sat up, attempting to dry her eyes. The front of my shirt was drenched in her tears. I took out my handkerchief to help her dry her eyes. I k!ssed her forehead.

"Hi, girls," said Felicity softly, managing a small smile.

Friday nudged Raelynn forwards a little.

"I...I..." Raelynn began and then she burst into tears.

"Hey! Hey!" I said, getting another handkerchief from my top drawer and going over to Raelynn to wipe her eyes.

"What is it? Everything isn't it? Fang's letter, Katrina being missing, Ezra your mate being unwell," I said softly.

She threw her arms around me and I held her. I k!ssed the top of her head. "Ezra will be ok. I got shot you know," I told her.

She squeaked in surprise.

"Yeah," I said. "With a silver bullet dipped in wolfsbane. Ezra is a highborn. That's like a vampire alpha isn't it?"

Raelynn giggled, sniffing.

"Yep," I said. "And uh, Fang and Katrina," I said, sighing. "If it were up to me, I think we should bring both of them here. Farris is here. Bring Fang here. He's a wolf. He should be under wolf law not left for the vampires to deal with. He should be brought here and

we'll decide what to do next. I understand why you girls are upset. Fang has done some good also..."

I looked at Friday who was crying too and I pulled her to me. "I know you girls want Fang pardoned," I said, kissing both of their heads.

I was tired of watching girls cry.

"Of course you do, Friday," I murmured into her hair. "Fang did something heinous, but he's your brother and you love..."

"I stole your DNA!" Said Friday suddenly.

Raelynn nodded fervently as though grateful for Friday's confession. My DNA?

"I took some of your hairs from the towel my Mom used to dry your hair," Friday admitted, looking up at me with her doe eyes.

"That's...ok," I said, confused.

"Fang's my brother, too," blurted Raelynn. Friday grinned.

I felt my heart rate quicken a little. Felicity was just staring at all of us.

Raelynn looked up at me. "Fang is my brother and so is Maze!" She said.

Felicity covered her mouth with trembling hands. I felt tremulous too.

"Mr...uh Alpha...Malachi," Raelynn said, unsure of herself. I cupped her cheeks in my hands and tilted her face upwards so I could look at her closely.

"We did a paternity test, sorry for not asking, but we really wanted to know," mumbled Friday.

My breathing hitched. I ruffled Friday's wavy hair. I still had one hand against Raelynn's cheek. She cupped that hand with her own to hold it to her cheek. She blinked back tears. "Felicity and Malachi, I'm your daughter," said Raelynn.

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Raelynn's POV

I had just told Felicity and Malachi that they were my parents. I was waiting now with bated breath, my stomach in knots. I had never felt more vulnerable. With each second of silence, my anxiety exponentially increased. Did they want me as their daughter?

Were they happy, sad, apprehensive, indifferent? I had not had time to process the news really or to decide how I would handle it if there was any rejection or denial involved. I could hear Malachi's racing heart synchronised with Felicity's.

Friday and I were both still being hugged by Malachi. I hoped he would accept me and even though Friday and Fang were Farris', I hoped he'd care for them also. Friday needed a father figure too. She needed a family. I could tell she desperately wanted one, a stable and loving one. Fang needed a second chance and guidance. The twins, Fallon and Fargo, were still relatively unknown to me.

"Are you disappointed?" I mumbled, not able to wait any longer.

Malachi's grey eyes widened in surprise. He broke into a huge grin.

"No, of course not, I'm..." he paused, taking a deep breath, his eyes filling with tears.

"I'm sorry I couldn't be there for you, to love you and raise you and protect you but I had no idea..." Malachi said, his voice cracking.

"Felicity?" I said softly. She walked over to us and joined the group hug. She burst into tears.

"Oh, my baby," she said as tears streamed down her cheeks. "He told me you were gone. He told me you were dead."

She cupped my face in her hands and kissed my forehead. "I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry! My little girl!"

She hugged me tightly. She turned to Friday. "Friday, I'm so sorry for the way things went with you growing up. I let Farris fill Fang's head with nonsense as though having wolf was the most important thing in the world...if I had been a better mother..."

"No! Mom, please don't say that," said Friday, hugging her Mom.

"How did this happen?" Malachi whispered, stroking my wavy hair absentmindedly.

"Farris speculated that I was not his when Felicity was pregnant with me..." I began.

"Feel free to call me Mom, ok," whispered Felicity, "if you feel comfortable."

"And you can call me Dad, if you want to, that is," said Malachi softly getting choked up.

I laughed out of relief. Tears continued to fall down my face.

"Friday was the one who found out, Mom and Dad," I said, prompting Friday to tell her story.

Friday took a deep shuddering breath. Once we told them everything, there was no going back. "I was distraught about Farris being potentially...sentenced to...well, I had never had a good relationship with him and I didn't wanna say goodbye without trying," whispered Friday, hugging herself. "I went down to the dungeons one one night to talk to him myself about what he did to you...he had no remorse," Friday sniffled.

"I realised I could touch the silver bars of the cage. Farris explained why that was. He told me that Ezekiel had a goal of creating super she-wolves. Farris suspected Mom of cheating and he wondered if Raelynn was his. He also wondered if I was his. He wanted to punish us for it," explained Friday.

Malachi let out a deadly growl but his vitriol was not actually directed towards us but rather it was directed towards Farris.

"Ezekiel was conducting experiments to make super werewolves and vampires. He and his vampire warriors went after this convent where the nuns were trained to be vampire and werewolf hunters. Ezekiel's vampires were able to turn the nuns into made vampires. Some of them ended their lives before the change was complete rather than become vampires but many became vampires with great fighting skills. Ezekiel turned the place into an orphanage of sorts where he experimented on vampire children exposing them to increasing intensities of sunlight. Ezekiel even exposed his own son, Ezra, to the sunlight. Ezekiel wanted to experiment on werewolf children too but it was much harder for him as a vampire to get werewolf children. Farris saw an opportunity and sold Raelynn who he didn't think was his and told Mom she was stillborn but the doctor who did the paternity testing could not find any post mortem done on the alleged stillborn."

Malachi snarled. His eyes turned black.

"Ezekiel injected her with wolfsbane periodically. He thought the experiment was unsuccessful as it seemed as though the wolfsbane had permanently suppressed her wolf. He kept her alive because it turned out she was Ezra's predestined. Farris was also injecting me but with silver, which is why my wolf was suppressed too, until very recently. It's also why I can touch silver. I'm not averse to it and Raelynn is immune to wolfsbane. She even has poisonous bites as a wolf," Friday said softly.

Malachi's wolf was coming to the surface. He was enraged. His features contorted. He was shaking. Felicity came close to him and flung her arms around his waist, trying to calm him down.

"Dad!" I said, snapping Malachi out of his enraged trance for a second. "Do you see why Friday and I are inclined to forgive Fang? Fang risked his life and his reputation and his future with his wife and child to make things right! He doesn't deserve the same fate as his father. They're not the same! Also, I couldn't bear it if my brother, Maze, allowed my other brother, Fang, to be killed as revenge for my sister, Friday, when Friday already forgave him so it should be her choice!"

Damn, our family tree had just gotten really complicated.

Maze's POV

I was moping around, sulking in my room. Thaddeus, being a good bro, was trying to comfort me. My little Friday was angry at me. I had finally worked up the courage to tell her I was in love with her and she'd said she felt the same way but she'd actually threatened to leave me and Thaddeus if we didn't help her help Fang, her traitorous scheming brother.

"Friday is avoiding me. I feel like she hates me but I love her," I whined, facedown in a pillow.

"Where's your diary?" Asked Thaddeus. "Write it out!"

I glared at him and he burst into raucous laughter. He found my journal and chucked it at me.

"It's a journal!" I specified.

"Sure," said Thaddeus.

"How can you be so calm? With everything Fang did and how Friday's defending him?" I asked.

"Because I'm not totally surprised. Theo has been reporting strange behaviour from Fang since the very beginning though I am disappointed. I genuinely thought he was getting better. He probably did get better otherwise he might have gone through with it. Also, I don't want to hold too much malice towards Fang despite how hateful I might feel for now," reasoned Thaddeus.

"Why not?" I demanded.

"Because I fully intend to help Friday honour a certain portion of the letter..." began Thaddeus.

"What?!" I hissed.

"...by being a good Uncle to Baby Fenestra," explained Thaddeus calmly.

My heart broke for my future niece or nephew. Both his or her father and grandfather were criminals. I sighed. Thaddeus was always good at looking at the big picture.

"Me too," I said softly. "I want to be a good uncle. Has anyone checked on Astrid?"

"I asked Theo to send Ida to see about her for the next couple of days," said Thaddeus with a sad smile.

Poor Astrid. Pregnant and alone. We had never been close but she had helped Friday when her foot had been broken. She was a bit smug but she wasn't such a bad sort and she did seem genuinely thrilled to become a mother. A knock on my door interrupted my inner monologue. I was not in the mood to entertain.

"Who is it?" I asked.

"Friday," said my little Friday. I rushed to the door and flung it open, anticipating some quality time with my Luna. There had been a pause in the dating and wooing aspect of the challenge because of all the emergencies and proceedings over the past two days. It was the twenty-second day, Thaddeus' day. We were nearing the end of the Challenge. The full moon would be upon us soon.

I grinned to myself as my wolf showed me images of his plans for Friday over the next couple of hours. Behind the door stood many more people than just Friday. I frowned. No alone time then. Sigh. No such luck. My eyes widened as I spotted Raelynn. Felicity and my Dad were there. They both looked flushed with red eyes but strangely serene and happy. Fallon and Fargo were there looking confused. Ida was smiling with baby Titus on her hip and her other arm around a completely devastated looking Astrid. I helped Astrid to a chair in the room as she looked like she might faint at any moment. She gave no sign of having noticed anyone. She seemed completely lost.

"Is she ok?" I murmured to Ida.

Ida shrugged with a sad smile on her face.

"She will be," said Friday in a determined tone.

Not this again. If the circumstances were less severe and my little Luna hadn't been so pissed at me, she would have earned herself some spankings. I sighed and slumped into the other chair across from Astrid. Thaddeus remained seated on edge of the bed. He leant back a little, surveying everyone with curiosity.

"Alpha Friday, what is the meaning of all of this?" Asked Thaddeus sternly.

I snorted a little at his nickname for her. To my surprise, Friday gently brought Raelynn forwards to stand before me and then she returned to the group. She motioned for Fallon and Fargo to go stand at either side of my chair. Was this an intervention? I had gotten drunk like one time. I glanced at either twin and they seemed just as confused as I was.

“Friday?” I said, raising my brows.

“Raelynn has to tell you something,” said Friday.

Raelynn seemed shell-shocked. She took a step back. “Friday has to tell you something,” she insisted.

Friday sighed but smiled. “Maze,” she said. I smiled. I loved hearing her speak my name. I would rather these people leave so I could make her scream it but I would be patient for now. “I took some strands of your Dad’s hair and some strands of Farris’ hair,” she began.

I stiffened. “For a paternity test,” clarified Friday. My heart started to race.

“Of course, as everyone expected, Farris is my Dad,” Friday said, resigned.

I nodded. I wanted to mind-link her to say that I was her Daddy actually but it would have been too soon and vastly inappropriate.

“I’m Maze’s and Thaddeus’ mate,” she said.

Thaddeus winked at her and I smirked. She blushed at our reactions.

“So we couldn’t be related, Maze. Otherwise, we wouldn’t be fated,” she said.

She pulled Raelynn forwards again by the hand. I noticed five more people entered the room. Theo, Timothy, Titus, True and Timber.

“The rest of the results were regarding me,” mumbled Raelynn.

My heart was beating painfully fast. I looked at my Dad who was smiling at me.

“Maze, I’m Malachi’s daughter,” said Raelynn softly.

My inner wolf was nudging me to go to her.

“So I’m your sister,” she concluded sheepishly.

Why were people always so nervous around me? I was a nice guy, sorta. Approachable, in my opinion. I walked slowly up to my little sister. We stared at each other. I grinned at her and she grinned at me. I pulled her into a bear hug and everyone literally cheered. They were such dorks. I buried my nose in the top of her head. She did smell like me a little and a bit like Friday, kind of how I would expect our daughter to smell. My family was really complicated but I’d never been more pleasantly surprised. I had a sister! A real one! I kissed her forehead.

"I have a favour to ask," she said looking up at me with her doe eyes. My little mate Friday was also giving me puppy-dog eyes. sh!t. Already they were trying to team up to get their way. They were half-sisters with Raelynn being the only one related to me. I had been expecting her to be Farris' daughter so this was really a surprise.

"Ugh, no," I said before hearing her out. I ruffled her hair and pushed her away gently from me.

"Maze!" Scolded my father.

"What is it?" I asked Raelynn.

Raelynn tried to mess up my hair but she could not reach properly especially as I leant back to avoid her. She gave up and went back to the favour she wanted.

"Maze," she beseeched me. "I really need your help. So does Friday!"

This had Fang written all over it. I shut my eyes tightly.

"Both you and Fang are my half-brothers and I love you both despite hardly knowing you. My wolf could just tell. Please, just bring back Fang alive and from there, if there has to be a trial, let it be a fair one, considering both his transgressions and his achievements and self-sacrifices," pleaded Raelynn.

I looked back at Thaddeus. He was smiling at us. He sighed but he nodded.

"He endangered your sister, Friday, though," I said, sighing deeply, my heart constricting at the thought of what could have happened to my little mate.

I took Friday's hand in mine. "But I've already forgiven him though," she insisted stretching her hand out for Thaddeus to take. He sauntered over and held it.

My Dad and Felicity were holding each other. Felicity looked grief-stricken and Astrid was still in some kind of stupor. She seemed to be almost falling sleep on herself. Fallon and Fargo were quiet and thoughtful.

"Ok," I said softly.

The dorks erupted into more cheers. I hoped I wouldn't regret this.

"On one condition," I added over the din. Everyone quieted down, wondering what that could be. "I'm renaming you Maelynn!" I joked.

Raelynn rolled her eyes.

"Why not Faelynn?" Said Fallon or maybe Fargo, coming closer to Raelynn.

"Neither!" Insisted Raelynn. She hugged her other two big brothers tightly. The twins seemed relieved that we were going to go after Fang. I had never met anyone else in a pack-leader bloodline so disinterested in becoming a pack leader. Fallon and Fargo were not interested becoming Betas in Fang's stead.

"Thank you, Maze," said Felicity softly. She wrapped her arms around me. I returned the hug gently.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," she murmured wholeheartedly in my ear, standing on tip toe.

My Dad came over and kissed my forehead. "I'm proud of you, son," he said. "You and your sister," he added. Raelynn beamed.

"Astrid," said Thaddeus softly, kneeling in front of her, trying to get on her eye-level. Ida was massaging Astrid's shoulders. "We're going to send a squad. To go get Fang!" Continued Thaddeus. There was no response at first. She seemed to slowly process what he had said. She nodded, making eye contact with him and then me.

"One more thing," said Raelynn.

I prompted her to continue.

"Friday and I want to go with the squad!" Said Raelynn. Friday nodded fervently. Thaddeus laughed humourlessly. It was a "no" from him. I felt differently. It was a "NO!" from me.

"You both are staying here," I informed them. They frowned. I shot them a warning look when I saw they were about to argue. They fell silent and glanced at each other. I would need to watch them like a hawk.

"We'll go," chorused Fallon and Fargo. I nodded.

"NO!" Said Felicity with a surprising amount of power in her voice. She was a true Luna even though she hadn't truly ruled alongside my father during his term.

"The Squad will consist of my best and brightest warriors," said Thaddeus reassuringly as he got to his feet. "I'm going to organise it now. Theo," said Thaddeus. Theo nodded and followed his alpha from the room. I kissed Friday gently and ruffled Raelynn's hair again. I followed Thaddeus and Theo down the hallway. I noticed Malachi giving Raelynn and Friday a pointed look and motioning for them to go after me. What now?

Thaddeus' POV

"Alphas!" Squeaked Friday, stopping us in our tracks in the hallway. I grumbled at the formality.

“Baby, please don’t call me Alpha,” I told her. She smiled sheepishly.

“Raelynn and I have more to say,” she explained.

“What is it?” I inquired.

Fallon, Fargo, Felicity and Malachi along with my whole family came into the hallway. Astrid was being led slowly by Ida.

“Ok, quickly, Baby,” I said encouragingly. Katrina’s whereabouts were still unconfirmed. My Gamma had reason to believe that she was being held at the property of Lane, a loyal sycophant of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was possibly there as well. Truth be told, I hoped to k!ll Ezekiel before Ezra even woke up and then put Ezra on the vampire throne so there would finally be a vampire coven leader and a werewolf alpha who saw eye to eye in terms of peace proceedings. Technically Ezra and I would be brothers-in-law eventually as he was Raelynn’s mate and Friday was mine.

“It’s my father,” said Friday.

Did she want him off the hook as well? That I didn’t agree with. He had actually went through with his plan and would have k!lled Malachi if he had had better aim.

“I can’t absolve him Friday. He actually shot an former Alpha of an Aly pack,” I explained.

“I know,” said Friday softly. “That’s not it.”

“My father faked Raelynn’s stillbirth on purpose so he could...sell her to Ezekiel,” said Friday extremely softly but everyone heard based off of several growls and snarls resounding through the hallway.

“Why would he do such a thing?” I snarled, my eyes black.

“Because he suspected she wasn’t his daughter. He thought the same about me actually,” explained Friday. “So he used us both for Ezekiel’s experiments and those experiments during our childhood are what suppressed our wolves.”

It all made sense now, how someone with such a strong wolf could take so long to actually shift. “What were the experiments?” I asked, not sure I was ready for the answer.

Maze’s eyes were black too and his hands were paled into fists.

“Ezekiel and his vampires attacked a convent of vampire-and-werewolf-hunting nuns. The nuns became formidable vampires who provided their convent as a base to

experiment on vampire kids exposing them to more and more sunlight,” explained Raelynn.

The hairs on my neck stood up. I imagined the satisfaction of ripping the old vampire’s throat out.

“He even experimented on Ezra with the sunlight,” explained Friday.

“And he injected me with wolfsbane periodically which suppressed my wolf at first until I saw Ezra...until I saw him get hurt,” Raelynn explained.

My heart hurt for my future sister-in-law. I turned to Friday waiting for her to tell me the whole truth. Maze was shaking. I noticed my Dad, Timbre, was trying to calm him down. He seemed seconds away from shifting.

“Um,” she said sheepishly, looking at the floor. “Farris injected me with silver when I was baby. So I am immune to it,” said Friday as though attempting to look on the bright side.

Silver! As an infant! My inner wolf was seething. I felt myself trembling. I looked down at my hands too late to realise fur was sprouting all over me. I was shifting? My furious wolf was taking control. He wanted Farris dead. Immediately.

Elizabeth’s POV

I had decided to take a break from the Berryndale pack house and spend some time with Cody at his Ranch. The ranch was beautiful. The atmosphere was so peaceful. I watched the horses gallop across the rippling grass, their manes flowing behind them. I was sitting in the shade of the veranda. I felt soft licks on my neck and I smiled. Cody pressed a kiss to the silvery mark he had left on my neck. I gazed up at him, admiring my own mark on his neck. Cody tried to sit in my lap.

“Hey!” I protested.

He chuckled. I pushed him playfully and he switched with me so that I was on his lap instead. I threw my arms around his neck and kissed him with abandon. The past few days of alone time with Cody had been wonderful. We had decided to mark each other and Cody wanted to settle down and get married. I had just gotten divorced but the main reason that relationship fell apart was our lack of connection. We had not been mates. We just were not meant to be but we had produced our wonderful son, Maze, together.

I felt a pang of guilt being away from Maze. We mind-linked almost everyday. I knew there were some chaotic things going on in the pack house right now. The Friday look alike turned out to be a she-wolf after all. I had my suspicions about who her parents were. The vampire, Lord Ezra, was wounded in ambush orchestrated by his own father

and he was recovering currently. He was the mate of the look alike apparently. A she-wolf and a vampire. Times were really changing. Why did I ever let my parents stop me from being with Cody over something like money when we were fated? The worst of all was Fang's confession letter. Maze had mind-linked me at length about it.

My poor Maze. He was so stressed, feeling guilty over the kind of punishments the lawless Fenestra boys should receive. Farris was a monster in my eyes. He would have shot me if he had the balls. Fang, on the other hand, had carried me back to the Marigold pack house when he had found that seedy motel. I sighed. I had a soft spot in my heart for Fang. I had pleaded his case a bit over mind-link. His rescue of me, his confession, his slaying of all the vampires at the Manor who attacked Ezra should count for something. They should detract from his sentence somewhat.

I must have been so upset about Fang that I began to feel nauseated. I got up suddenly and Cody protested as I had left his lap.

"Lizzie," he whined, widening his puppy-dog eyes.

I giggled. "I need to use the bathroom," I admitted.

He nodded. I used one of the bathrooms downstairs. I looked at my face. I seemed a bit pale even though my eyes were bright with happiness from. I felt the acid rise from my stomach, shooting up my oesophagus. It burned all the way up. Ugh. Oh no. I rushed to kneel near the toilet just in time. I vomited. Cody came in to check on me.

"Lizzie!" He exclaimed, quickly holding my hair back for me as I retched again.

"What's happening? Ugh!" I said, annoyed. I hadn't drunk yesterday.

"Maybe you're..." began Cody hopefully.

"At my age?" I asked incredulously.

"You know she wolves have long fertility windows," reasoned Cody.

I raised my eyebrows at the terminology. "Ok, Doc!" I joked.

"Hey!" He protested. "I've been reading a book about it," he murmured.

Cody had been reading a book about she-wolf fertility? My heart warmed a little. I wanted to kiss him but I had just vomited. He seemed to read my mind and he placed his lips to my forehead. Tingles shot through me and I smiled.

Katrina's POV

I would never escape this impenetrable inner darkness, would I? This mental fog consumed me. I was too aggrieved to even cry. Did my brother and the guy I loved really die because of me, while trying to save me, whilst confronting my stepfather? If I ever managed to get out of here, I would k!!! Lane and then I would k!!! Ezekiel. Something inside me told me to be strong. All was not lost. I shouldn't trust Lane. I could have my revenge if I complied a bit.

Lane appeared in the doorway, flanked by two guards again.

"Look at this pigsty," grumbled Lane, eyeing the wine stains and the food spilled.

"I'm sorry," I said, almost choking on the word.

Lane smirked. "That's more like it. I knew you were a smart girl deep down inside. Are you ready to cooperate?" He said with a sneer.

I nodded, not trusting my voice.

He stretched out a hand. I reluctantly took his hand, allowing him to hoist me up. I was a little unsteady on my feet. I hadn't eaten or drunk any water or bl00d in many hours, possibly a few days.

"Let's get some bl00d in you," murmured Lane. I supposed this was his best attempt at feigning being nurturing. He led me through a maze of hallways. I had never been to this Manor. I hated Lane and his snobby family. He led me to a dining room and put me in a chair. I slumped over on the table. I really couldn't help it.

"Bring my bride some fresh bl00d!" Ordered Lane with a clap of his hands.

I heard footsteps and then I heard muffled screams. I gasped. I stiffened, straightening up, suddenly getting a surge of energy. His guards were holding a young human woman with cloth tied over her mouth. Her eyes were wide and fearful. She couldn't be more than twenty. How barbaric! Most modern day vampires bribed bl00d banks or humans directly for voluntarily given units of bl00d. I supposed that wasn't "fresh" as Lane had specified. The guard had a knife. He held it to the woman's throat and the other guard held a bowl underneath to catch the bl00d.

"DON'T!" I screamed.

Lane flinched. "What?" He said laughing.

"Don't k!!! that girl, please. Please, Lane," I beseeched him.

He sighed. "I don't like bl00d that's been sitting in a fridge. It's not to my taste," he complained.

What a monster! He was even worse than I thought. How many kidnapped humans did he have in his pantry?

“Lane, please, stop this! I...I’ll be a good...wife,” I almost retched saying that word. “Just don’t klll this girl, please,” I whispered.

Lane stroked his chin. “Hmm, I think...NOT!” Lane made a swift horizontal motion with his index finger across his throat to instruct the guard to slit her throat. The guard did the same movement with the knife, following Lane’s instruction. I screamed. I stared at the girl waiting for bl00d to gush from her throat. No bl00d fell. Her throat wasn’t cut. The guard’s hand was empty. Where had the knife gone? Huh?

Suddenly the tip of the knife plunged out of the guard’s abdomen. I gasped. Lane roared. Someone had stabbed the guard from behind. In a flash, the throat of the other guard holding the bowl was ripped out my a clawed hand. The guard with the bowl fell over. The guard with the knife through him was dropped to reveal who was there. Behind him stood Fang, wearing the black cloak the patrol guards wore, brandishing the knife, his eyes black, his canines bared and his bl00d-stained claws out.

The Challenge Two Alphas, One Girl Chapter 73 - Tips

0 12 minutes read

Theo’s POV

Everyone was infuriated at the injustice and the pain that Farris had inflicted upon Raelynn and his own daughter, Friday. Thaddeus and Maze were at the forefront of this as Friday’s mates and Maze having just found out he was Raelynn’s half-brother. In the blink of an eye, both alphas shifted. Their bones cracking, lengthening and rearranging. They turned into massive wolves, scarcely able to fit in the hall way, their ears almost brushing the ceiling. Maze was a glossy black wolf with stormy grey eyes and Thaddeus a brown wolf with astonishingly blue eyes. The dashed off. I shifted and went after them, so did Malachi.

Malachi and I descended the steps to the dungeon in our wolf forms with a flurry of activity behind us, people following in both human and wolf forms. I knew Thaddeus would regret it if he kllled Friday’s father thoughtlessly. Malachi was thinking the same thing about Maze.

Theo, you stop Thaddeus try to talk some sense into him. I’ll handle Maze, came Malachi’s voice over mind-link.

Got it! I said, agreeing with his plan.

I leapt down several stairs at a time descending to the dungeons and sp0tted Thaddeus snarling and growling near the last cell. I dashed in front of him to cut him off. Malachi darted in front of Maze nudging him backwards. Thaddeus and Maze snarled and

thrashed at us, not wanting to actually hurt us. They were more agitated now than furious like before. Something was different. I looked back at the cell. It was empty! Farris was gone!

Fang's POV

I did away with those two sadistic vampire guards who were about to s***h a girl's throat so their sick master could quench his thirst. Both guards lay dead on the floor. Lane was screaming for his other guards. Katrina dove at Lane and gripped his throat trying to strangle him. They struggled and Lane overpowered her just as I sprang across the dining table, shifting in midair. I bit a chunk of Lane's leg off. He let out a blood-curdling scream and swiftly grabbed a knife from the table to stab me with. All the cutlery in the manor was made of sterling silver.

"NO!" Screeched Katrina as Lane stabbed me in the shoulder. I roared

A dozen vampire guards ran into the room. Katrina, enraged, stabbed Lane in the eye with a fork as hard as she could. He roared in pain and smacked her with such force that she flew backwards, hit the wall and crumpled on the ground. No! I pounced on him and tore at his throat, finishing him. The guards hesitated, now that their leader was dead. I took advantage of the opportunity by tackling the nearest one and ripping his throat out. I had to check on Katrina but there were still eleven guards and no one to watch my back. My wounded shoulder was certainly far from a deathblow but the blade had been silver so it was still bleeding. It would not heal quickly like a regular wound.

The vampires charged at me. I scanned the room quickly, looking for anyone who had a gun that could be loaded with silver bullets dipped in wolfsbane, the go-to for killing werewolves. I spotted a vampire down at the far end of the dining hall loading a gun. I rushed across the room and knocked the ammunition and the gun out of his hands. It skid across the floor and he lunged for it but I tore at his arm and sent him flying into another nearby vamp. I darted across the room and nudged Katrina. She was barely conscious. I whined. I just needed her to climb on my back and hold on. She managed to grip my fur and hoist herself onto my back. I ran from the room just as I heard shots being fired. That was a close call! I dashed down the hallway, exiting the way I had come. I was nearing the courtyard where I had killed the two patrol guards. I stopped dead in my tracks. Another wolf blocked my path. He was a slightly lighter brown than me with flecks of grey in his coat and dark eyes. He was just as huge as I was, another Beta wolf, technically a former Beta wolf. I knew him all too well. It was my father Farris.

Thaddeus' POV

Please there's no time to waste! Fang needs us! Katrina needs us! We can look for Farris after! He may be with the vampires for all we know! He has connections with Ezekiel! Raelynn said, mind-linking Maze and me.

That's just it! If he escaped from the pack house, then there's a weakness in the security here! I said worried. I need to see the surveillance footage! Where were the guards?

I mind-linked my Gamma, Westwood, who informed me immediately of what happened. Apparently, Farris had been refusing his meals and just drinking water for several days now. He would also exercise obsessively in his cell. The guards thought it was a form of slow suicide but it was his escape plan. The surveillance showed him waiting for the handover time between shifts when the guards were changing from hours shift to the evening hours shift. He climbed through the space between two silver bars still having to squeeze through so that the silver brushed against the side of his face and a piece of his neck. He had screamed as he felt the silver singe his skin. His burnt skin and flesh had been smoking slightly according to the surveillance footage as he scrambled away. He had bludgeoned one guard and put on his clothes and scampered out of the pack house. My Gamma conveyed all of this through mind-link letting the images flash through mind so I saw what he had seen.

You're right, Raelynn! There's no time to waste! I said. You and Friday stay put here!

Raelynn snarled a little over mind-link at being dismissed like that. I ignored her. There was no way she or my little Friday were going anywhere near an enemy vampire Manor, not on my watch. Maze, Theo, and I along with a squad of ten of my best warriors left for Lane's manor, in our wolf forms, running at top speed. Fallon and Fargo tagged along despite their mother's protests and Timothy and Titus followed me despite our mother's disapproval. Another squad of ten warriors raced alongside us in two jeeps armed with guns loaded with blessed bullets. My Gamma stayed behind to watch remotely through body cameras and to dispatch more squads if necessary.

Friday's POV

I was not about to be ordered around, not even by Thaddeus or Maze! Neither was Raelynn. I had never fully shifted. I hoped that I could. I rode on Raelynn's back. She was raised by vampires. She knew their territories inside and out. She knew a short cut through a forest that snaked behind the Bevy. We would enter the Manor's estate from the back entrance. Raelynn's wolf was dark and glossy. She was extremely agile, smaller and quicker than the boys, the big bad wolves. She flew through the trees. We were nearing the forest behind the Bevy lagoon in no time. She picked her way around until we came to a wall.

Over this wall is Lane's estate and Manor, said Raelynn to me over mind-link. Are you sure you're ready?

Yes! I told her.

Stay close to me if you have problems shifting ok! Said Raelynn.

Ok, I promised.

Raelynn ran up to the wall and leapt over it gracefully. She landed in a courtyard of sorts with cobble stones. She sniffed the air. The vampires were not close by.

Can you link Fang? I asked.

It was easier to mind-link effectively when in wolf-form.

Yes! He's fighting! He's pretty busy! Said Raelynn.

Let's go help him take down some vampires! I cheered.

He's not fighting vampires right this second! Warned Raelynn running towards Fang's location using mind-link and his smell to guide her.

She quickly found him. I gasped. Fang and another very similar wolf were fighting while an injured Katrina lay on the floor nearby. Snarling, teeth clashing, claws scraping. They were about the same size, and colour except the other wolf had flecks of grey in his brown coat which revealed his older age. I instinctively recognised him. Fang was fighting our father, Farris. Farris was looking a bit thin like he had been missing meals. What was the point of Farris being here and of him fighting Fang?

I hopped off Raelynn's back.

"STOP!!" I screamed. They both stopped and sat down, still growling ferociously.

I was shocked they had listened to me.

You're a true Luna remember, twice over, said my wolf.

Oh! They were compelled to listen to me! They had no other choice.

"Dad, why are you doing this?" I asked out loud.

Ezekiel is the only master I serve! The voice of his wolf was deep and resonant.

My wolf growled. She wanted to come out! She wanted me to shift and fight!

I wanted to know why he was doing this. Was it just hatred for Malachi? Was it hatred for me and Raelynn as he speculated that we were fathered by Malachi? Raelynn spoke over mind-link before I could answer.

I am Malachi's daughter, Farris, so hate me if you want to but Friday is your flesh and blood! Haven't you let her down enough?

Farris growled ferociously at Raelynn and she snarled viciously back. My eyes went to Katrina who was stirring a little.

What is it Dad? You don't want us to take Katrina, is that it? I asked impatiently.

She belongs to the vampire Lane, an associate of Ezekiel! She was purchased at great cost! She stays, said Farris

I killed Lane! Snapped Fang.

Farris growled but he backed away a little. Fang and Farris could not disobey a direct order from me. I sighed.

Make him yield so we can take him back to the dungeons! Fang said to me over a private mind-link. I sighed. I couldn't do it. My wolf was grumbling at me.

Just go! I told Farris. I didn't care to make it private. It was no use hiding it from Fang and Raelynn, pretending I hadn't let him go. Farris scampered away. He was an older and now skinnier version of Fang. He was probably exhausted. He had much more experience and that was how he had battled him for as long as he had.

FRIDAY! Fang said.

I turned away from him so he wouldn't see that I was crying. I didn't need yet another person telling me how foolishly forgiving I was. Maze and Thaddeus thought so when it came to Fang and now Fang would think so regarding our Dad. Raelynn was quiet.

I rode on her wolf's back into the castle itself. Fang trotted after us with Katrina on his back. I wondered where Thaddeus and Maze were. I knew they had come with two squads, one in their wolf forms, one in their human forms. They would find out what Raelynn and I had done eventually and just like we'd thought, they hadn't gone straight to check on Fang. I heard a commotion. Raelynn followed the noise. I wanted an ambulance to come immediately for Katrina. I wasn't sure how badly off she was regarding her injuries. I took a deep breath. I wasn't too eager to face my alphas' reactions to me defying them.

Thaddeus, I called hesitantly.

Friday? You can reach me all the way from the pack house? Thaddeus replied. What's wrong?

I need an ambulance for Katrina! She's at the back of the castle. We're moving towards the loud noises where you guys probably are! I admitted.

NO! What're you doing here? Stay there at the back! I'm coming! He said.

We're already where you are, I think, I replied sheepishly.

We ran into a huge high-ceilinged room where a battle was raging. There were at least fifty vampire guards, ten shifted werewolves and ten werewolves in their human forms. I could see it all unfolding from my vantage point, atop Raelynn's wolf at the far side of the room. The vampires were raining silver bullets down on the scene, concentrating on the shifted wolves whom they seemed to fear more. Oh no! None of the werewolves had been hit yet it seemed. The unshifted werewolves fired blessed bullets with pointed wooden stakes at the ends. I spotted Thaddeus' wolf right away, huge and dark brown with blue eyes. He spotted me too. I knew he would run to me and that was what I was terrified of with the onslaught of silver bullets.

I'm fine! Please, don't go through the crossfire! I'm immune to silver ok! I mind-linked him.

He ignored me and darted behind the line of vampire warriors jumping over the nearest one so he was running along behind their backs. They started turning around to fire at him, but he moved so quickly I almost couldn't register it. He chomped on one and tore out the throat of another in a split-second. In a matter of moments, he had ripped out the throats of ten vampire guards. None of them were a match for him, not even close, all made not born vampires and all novices. Wait, how did I know that? I know that instinctively, said my wolf, chuckling.

Thaddeus leapt over a few more and several wolves rushed behind him, taking down anyone who dared to aim at their alpha. Berryndale wolves were amazingly loyal to their alphas. Marigold wolves were usually the same but if I counted my father and my brother, they kind of ruined our streak a little bit, Farris more so than Fang. Thaddeus reached me. I couldn't help but grin. He was amazing! One day I would be just like this! He could teach me! He immediately snarled at me. My face fell. I wasn't scared of him though.

GO! NOW! I'm watching your back and making sure no one follows you out now that you've let all the vampires know my Luna is here! I sent for the ambulance! It will meet you four out back! Thaddeus ordered.

My wolf whimpered because our alpha snarled at us and yelled at us. Also, he was sending us away from the battle and my wolf wanted to fight. I tried to soothe her. I didn't want to push my luck with Thaddeus. I looked at the crowd of werewolves and vampires. Even though the werewolves had been outnumbered, these were top fighters versus inexperienced guards. The vampire guards seemed to be retreating but firing bullets over their shoulders as they moved away from the wolves. The only wolf almost as gigantic as Thaddeus was black and glossy with grey eyes. Uh oh. Maze was over to me and Thaddeus in a flash.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! Maze bellowed over mind-link actually making my head hurt.

I came to get my brother, I said.

You have him now go! Maze said. My wolf was really upset now. I told her to relax. They would forgive us in like ten minutes the very next time they were horny. Raelynn reluctantly trotted away, urging Fang forwards. Fang seemed to want to help. He probably wanted to stay and prove his loyalty. I didn't want him staying behind with Maze and Thaddeus when they were already furious. What if they all got in a fight?

Think of Katrina! I told Fang.

He sped up, running back out the way we came. We saw the ambulance surrounded by another squad of THIRTY werewolves guarding it in their human forms. We didn't need that many guards. I would take ten. They were already mad at me so whatever. I spoke out loud as head was still throbbing from Maze's outburst over mind-link.

"Ten stay with us! The other twenty help Thaddeus and Maze! Please be safe!" I ordered as I rode Raelynn's wolf right into the back of the ambulance.

Westwood entered the back of the ambulance. Thaddeus sent his Gamma! I had thought he was heading surveillance.

"Luna, please, I can't overstep you or your orders but Thaddeus will be furious with me!" Said Westwood. sh!t.

"Ok! Wait! Split fifteen with us and the other fifteen go help those inside!" I called to the werewolves, amending my order.

"He's still gonna sh!t bricks," said Westwood.

I blushed but shrugged my shoulders. Westwood gave cloaks to Raelynn and Fang so they could shift back. They did so and covered themselves as the EMTs started working on Katrina. I noticed bl00d was soaking into Fang's cloak.

"Fang!" I cried. I inspected where the bl00d was coming from. He had a stab wound to his shoulder, undoubtedly made with a silver blade otherwise it would have healed. The scratches from his battle with our father were all starting to fade. I felt a pang of guilt thinking about how I'd let my father go. My father who had shot Maze and Raelynn's father. I glanced at her. She hadn't stopped me sparing him. She knew what I was thinking before I said anything. She was very good at reading me.

If it made you feel better to let him go, so be it. You've suffered enough, Friday. We both have. And if his suffering makes you suffer then I don't want that, so long as he doesn't come after my father or our mother or us again, explained Raelynn.

I smiled and held back tears. I would need them for later.

The Challenge Two Alphas, One Girl Chapter 74 - Tips

0 10 minutes read

Maze's POV

I pounced on a retreating vampire and chomped on his neck. I beheaded another all in a matter of seconds. These were made vampires like the ones who had been sent after my Friday on our camping trip. The more of them I left alive the more trouble they'd be later on as they gathered experience and intel. I didn't want many or any loose ends really. I took down two more.

Suddenly in the midst of battle, with the vampires already retreating, fifteen more werewolves joined us. The vampires all but flew away. Thaddeus chose not to chase them down but he ordered the castle ransacked and stripped of all valuables to send a message. The vampire antiques salvaged would be great bargaining chips if we ever needed to do business with unfriendly vamps. Thaddeus was furious about the new additions. I dashed over to him. He was pacing while we regrouped and accounted for everyone quickly before we made our leave.

What's wrong? I asked him. I assumed he was still pissed with Friday for disobeying our orders to stay behind. I was angry but I was over the fantasy that Friday would ever be a well-behaved Luna. Truthfully, I now loved her wild and free as she was. I wouldn't tell her that to encourage her crazy behaviour though. I just wanted her safe.

I didn't order reinforcements! Muttered Thaddeus.

Understanding dawned on me. Little Luna Friday was exercising her right to give orders. I chuckled inwardly at the mental picture of tiny Friday bossing huge werewolf warriors around, redistributing them. They could not disobey. She was the Luna, though unmarked and technically unmated.

Thaddeus and I and his warriors headed back to the pack house. I had shifted and was in a huge brown cloak with a hood. My hair was getting way too long, past my shoulders, but I knew my Friday would whine if I cut it. The first person I spotted on the pack house porch was not the Fenestra I wanted to see. Fang. Standing there. Blank-faced. He had to be the most brazen person in the world. The guy was bold. I gave him that. I sighed.

"What?" I asked.

"I'm sorry, for everything," Fang said.

I snorted humourlessly. Thaddeus who had also shifted and clad himself in a black cloak came forwards. Fallon and Fargo were nearby, returning from the fight, staring

wide-eyed at their brother. Thaddeus growled at Fang but didn't pounce. Timothy and Titus grabbed Thaddeus' shoulders to my surprise. Thaddeus glared at them.

"Ugh, what, you clones?!" He snapped at them.

"We like Fang," they said in unison.

I rolled my eyes.

"Don't you like Friday who Fang tried to have murdered?" Snarled Thaddeus.

"I never wanted her dead, ever! The vampires initially promised me she would just become a servant or something in the Manor," Fang said.

"And you believed that?!" I growled. "If they kept her alive there, we would obviously keep trying to rescue what would be the point? It would be an endless war till we all died or got Friday back or the vamps gave up! We would never give up!"

"I hadn't thought it through," he said. "I believed what I wanted to believe. Most people do."

Thaddeus and I were livid. Before either of us could argue, Fang put his palms up.

"Look, hear this one last thing, for Friday?" He implored us.

I sighed. Thaddeus grumbled.

"You can kill me if you want," he said.

"That's a great idea!" I complimented. Thaddeus snorted.

Fang sighed. "But, let me walk Friday down the aisle first!" Pleaded Fang. "She deserves that much. She just asked me. The challenge is almost over. There's no one else to walk her."

My heart softened a little.

"The other clones can do it," said Thaddeus, indicating Fallon and Fargo.

"She didn't ask them, no offence Fallon and Fargo," said Fang. "Good luck convincing her then."

Thaddeus grumbled.

"Remember," said Fang tauntingly with a small smile. "The Challenge isn't over. She really hasn't picked either of you yet."

Thaddeus and I both growled at him.

Fang smirked regaining his old confidence and swagger. He leant on the nearby bannister. "You know, for all we know, a third neighbouring alpha might stop by to borrow an egg or something and poof, Friday's fated to yet another option. She's very good at drawing attention," said Fang, chuckling. He actually lit a blunt. Where'd he get that? This motherfvcker!

He smoked and ignored us going round the side of the building.

"I'm gonna k!!! him!" I yelled.

"Maze!" Bellowed a voice that wasn't quite Friday's.

Huh. Raelynn. And Ezra! He was awake, being half-supported by Raelynn. The youngest pack doctor was on his other side grinning. They had already started physiotherapy.

"Is he allowed to walk about, Doc?" I asked the little doctor. Her name was Jo I recalled. She would get upset if called Doctor.

She frowned at me. I smirked. "Yeah," she said simply. "He's taking in some breeze, some fresh air." That did not sound medical but ok.

"Maze, Thaddeus," said Ezra, his voice sounding a bit tired. "Thank you for bringing Katrina back!"

I nodded. Thaddeus smiled.

"It was mostly Fang!" Said Raelynn.

What the fvck?

"I'm divorcing you!" I told Raelynn.

"WHAT?!" She shrieked.

"You can get divorced from your whole family including siblings! I read about it!" I told her.

I hadn't read anything of the sort.

"Maze!" Yelled my father sternly, coming out onto the porch, glaring at me.

Why was everyone mad at me?

“You can disown your sibling not divorce!” Said Raelynn, rolling her eyes. She glared at Ezra as if they had previously discussed something.

“Oh, thanks for bringing Fang back and well, Fang brought Katrina back so thanks for all of that,” said Ezra not convincingly. He could give two sh!ts about Fang. Thaddeus exchanged a glance with me, clearly thinking the same thing.

“That boy whined and whined and whined you whole life for a sibling,” muttered my father under his breath but I heard him! “Now, he has one, he wants her separated from him.”

“I was joking!” I said defensively.

“Joking is not your thing,” said Titus, or maybe Timothy.

“Speaking is not your thing, Titus,” said Thaddeus. I was right at first about it being Titus.

“Thaddeus and I need to convene on the whole Fang issue and we’ll let you know our ruling,” I said.

“Convene! Now, that’s a Maze thing!” Said Titus.

“Rename that baby Timothy!” I said to Ida who had baby Titus on her h!p. She had just come out to greet us.

“Yes!” Exclaimed Timothy.

“Hey!” Said Titus.

Thaddeus and I went upstairs to look for Friday.

Friday’s POV

My alphas didn’t know I had ran into my father fighting Fang and let him go. I knew Fang and Raelynn wouldn’t snitch on me. I sighed. I was avoiding them. I knew I was in trouble. That could wait. It was the end of the twenty-second day of the challenge. I was exhausted. I was still worried about how unpredictable my shifting was. When Maze and Thaddeus came to my door, I refused to let them in.

“I will break down this door, little Luna,” called Thaddeus from the other side of the door.

My wolf got excited.

"Please don't," I pleaded. "I just want to go to sleep."

"Ok, Baby," mumbled Maze from the other side of the door.

"Are you still there? Both of you?" I asked.

"Yeah," came their muffled reply in unison.

"Please, let Fang walk me down the aisle," I said softly.

They were quiet but I knew they heard me.

"Please sentence him to something other than death or eternal imprisonment. Please!" I begged.

"You don't get community service for endangering the Luna, Friday," said Thaddeus.

I was quiet.

"Get some rest, Baby," said Maze. "I love you."

"I love you too, Maze. I love you, Thaddeus," I said, my eyes brimming with tears.

They wouldn't let me down like this, would they?

"I love you, Friday," rumbled Thaddeus.

I smiled.

Fang's POV

The twenty-third day of the Challenge dawned like any other. The sky was suspiciously blue. Astrid was snuggled up against me, my shirt still damp from her tears. I couldn't honestly tell her how long we had together yet. I really hoped the stress wouldn't affect her and the pup too much. I sighed and kissed her forehead while she slept. Katrina was stable. She had opened her eyes in the middle of the night and asked for me. I had gone to see her. She had smiled. I had stroked her cheek. I hoped she could understand that she was like a little sister to me. Ugh, now I had three of those things, Friday, Raelynn and Katrina. They were all so annoying but they were my biggest redemption supporters. I did love them though, a lot.

My shoulder was healing slowly. I refused to sleep in the infirmary to be monitored. I was a big wolf. I could handle myself. I also needed to spend time with my pregnant wife. She wasn't very far along. I really wanted to see the pup. I smiled at the thought. At least, there was a little piece of me coming into the world and he had good role models. Hopefully he would be a lot better than me and my father.

I walked down the stairs to go to the infirmary. The little doctor with Ezra yesterday was there. She was about an inch shorter than Friday. She seemed really annoyed at me. I glared at her instinctively. She glared right back, folding her arms. I broke into laughter but she continued to glare.

“What, Doc?” I asked.

“Why don’t you run away?” She asked as though it were obvious.

“Why should I?” I asked.

“Run away with Astrid and the pup!” She demanded.

“No!” I exclaimed.

“I’m done giving advice!” She said exasperatedly.

She stomped away but her stomping didn’t even make much noise though she was using all her might. That made me laugh even more.

She glanced back at me, wondering what I was laughing at now before she huffed away. It was her day off if she had worked yesterday. The pack doctors alternated. Why was she just showing up to work on her day off like a little crazy person? I chuckled to myself. I saw her come back and she had a backpack. Oh. Good.

“Go home!” I instructed. I was still a Beta technically.

“Alpha Thaddeus spotted me,” she whined. “He ordered me home!”

I patted her head.

“I don’t have to listen though!” She said with a smile.

“Really?” I asked curiously.

“My mate is a neighbouring alpha,” she said proudly.

This little thing was a future Luna! This little thing was over eighteen so she could spot her mate. Well, she was a doctor so yeah she had to be an adult.

“I thought you were like sixteen,” I told her.

“Ugh, no you didn’t!” She complained.

“Get home safe, doc!” I told her.

“Call me, Jo!” She said so angrily it made me laugh.

“Ok, Jo,” I said, rolling my eyes.

“I’m leaving now!” She announced.

“Ok,” I said.

“Think about running away,” she added. “I’m glad you’re alive!” She actually smiled brightly.

I smiled back.

Katrina’s POV

Everything hurt. I had seen Fang briefly last night. He had saved me! My heart fluttered at the thought of him. I sighed, knowing he had slept in his room with his pregnant mate. He would really never be mine. I sat up. The room swam into view. I spotted a male doctor and a male nurse going over my chart. They both left the room. Yes! I took my monitoring attachments off. I silenced the vitals machine so it wouldn’t beep because I was disconnected. I tiptoed away. I was healing already. It was just a few rib fractures. I could breathe a little better now and with less pain. I was really groggy. Morphine?

I was walking in no particular direction until it occurred to me that a vampire probably shouldn’t roam around a werewolf pack house. What if someone mistook me for an intruder? An enemy? A spy? I heard footsteps. I squealed and hid as best as I could. There was a chest in a showcase nearby. It was a hollow space in the wall covered by a see-through sliding glass door. I slid it open and then closed. Then, I hopped into the chest, closing it. The keyhole was large enough for me to peep though. Thank goodness the chest had been open. I should have never left the infirmary. I would sneak back there when these werewolves passed by or I would try to find Fang or Friday or Raelynn or Ezra! I almost forgot! Ezra and Raelynn were here! I felt a bit safer. Even Thaddeus or Maze would probably be nice to me. Well, maybe not Maze. I wasn’t sure how he felt about vampires.

There were four of them. Young werewolves. Two sets of twins, a blonde pair who reminded me of Thaddeus and a brunette pair who reminded me of Fang! They were all laughing and shoving each other. Ugh, boys! The golden-skinned, brunette pair stopped dead in their tracks staring around and sniffing the air. Huh. I sniffed also. Wow! What was that? It smelled amazing!

They seemed to think it was the chest or maybe me. They couldn’t know I was in here, could there? Werewolves had even better senses of smell than vampires. Oh no. They neared the chest. They slid the glass door open. I wanted to scream. As they got closer, the amazing smell intensified. It was making me...aroused. I wanted to moan. I clamped my hands over my mouth.

The twins had their hands on the chest. I thought the great smell was them but they seemed to think it was me. Their wrists were near the keyhole. I had never smelled anything so mouthwatering. I squirmed. A moan escaped my lips, muffled by my hands but I know they heard me! They threw open the chest. I almost fainted with fright and yet my tummy filled with heat. What would they do to me?!

The Challenge Two Alphas, One Girl Chapter 75 - Tips

0 11 minutes read

Friday's POV:

Today was Maze's day. The twenty third day of the Challenge. Time had really flew by. I would've never guessed how complicated things would become in less than a month. I stroked Saturday's fur. He purred contentedly. He was certainly used to the finer things in life now.

I sighed. I knew I had to tell Maze and Thaddeus I had let my father go. At this rate, every member of the Fenestra family would have a warrant out for their arrest. Was my letting him go illegal? I had gotten dressed early. To my surprise, Astrid had shown up to help me pick out an outfit. She styled my hair and did my makeup. She kept crying and thanking me for bringing Fang back. She was anxious to know what Thaddeus and Maze had planned for Fang. She just wanted his life spared. She could handle him being in prison if it were unavoidable. I would have never thought I would grow to respect Astrid so much. She was really trying to be strong, to be a supportive wife and to prepare for being a mother.

I looked at my reflection. I was in a simple short red dress with lantern sleeves. It had a sweetheart neckline and was a shimmering satin material. I wore a wreath of red roses on my head. Astrid had insisted on mascara and red lipstick. There was a knock on my door. I opened it and peeked out. Saturday peeked out also, near my ankles.

It was Maze. He was in all black: black satin shirt, plain black trousers. He was as handsome as ever. My stomach still clenched when he looked at me. His face lit up. He looked me up and down.

"Today is my day," he said sheepishly, rubbing the back of his neck.

I smiled slyly.

"What do you have in mind?" I asked.

"We're helping out a friend!" Maze said.

I raised my eyebrows, confused.

Maze took my hand and led me down the hallway to Thaddeus' room. Thaddeus was sitting on the bed in grey sweatpants and a heather grey T-shirt. How did these alphas make such simple clothing look so good? I stopped myself. I was supposed to be mad at them. I was so focused on ogling Thaddeus that I didn't notice Ezra at first. He was pacing on the far side of the bedroom, twiddling his thumbs.

Maze led me over to Thaddeus so I could sit between them. Thaddeus didn't greet me or look at me. I could tell it was on purpose. My wolf whimpered.

"What's going on?" I said, ignoring the fact that one of my alphas was ignoring me.

Ezra looked at me. He seemed a bit frazzled emotionally but miles better physically. He was almost completely healed now.

"Raelynn, your sister Friday, and well, your sister too Maze, but of course you're not related to each other..." began Ezra making some complicated hand gestures.

Thaddeus snorted with laughter. I stared at him and he refused to meet my eyes. I sighed and folded my arms, hugging myself.

"...anyway, she's my predestined! But, we're not married yet. This experience has made me realise I don't wanna wait any longer. I could've died without tying myself to my Raelynn!" Ezra said, sounding heartbroken at the thought.

"So you want my help to propose?" I asked excitedly.

"Yeah! Your help and Maze's and Thaddeus'!" Said Ezra grinning.

I squealed.

"I'm now open to any suggestions," Ezra said.

Hmm. "Where did you two meet?" I asked.

"At the orphanage Raelynn was at with the vampire nuns," Ezra said.

"Ok, moving on," I said.

"What's your favourite place to go together?" I asked.

"It's cheesy but the roller rink!" Said Ezra. "We used to roller skate together as teenagers."

I had not been expecting that.

"Would she want a private proposal or with people around?" I asked.

"I think she would want just her family around. She's wanted a family her whole life," Ezra explained. I nodded. I knew exactly how that felt.

"Let's throw a roller rink surprise party for her!" I exclaimed.

Maze nodded enthusiastically, seeming keen to go along with whatever. Thaddeus was silent which was so unlike him. We discussed details of how to surprise. Thaddeus added to the conversation but refused to speak to me directly. Admittedly, this was torture. Last night, he and Maze had both reminded me that they loved me so why was Thaddeus ignoring me now? What would happen tomorrow on his day? Would he even bother to do anything for me? There were so many things to see to these days, the whole wooing aspect of the Challenge had suddenly flown out the window. Ezra left to make arrangements. I sat there with Maze and Thaddeus in an awkward silence. I got up to leave.

"Where are you going?" Maze asked.

"Um, you said we'd help Ezra today and we did so I supposed we were done for the day," I said.

"No," chuckled Maze. "It's barely noon! Sit down!"

"I have to tell you both something," I said. Thaddeus actually looked up. His eyes swept over me then he looked away again.

"Thaddeus is already very angry with me and well, I'm glad we're ok, Maze, but I don't know if it'll stay that way once you find out," I said, feeling sick all of a sudden.

Both of my mate's were staring at me now, eyes wide.

"Yesterday at the vampire castle, I found Farris, my father, and Fang fighting. I ordered them to stop because I couldn't bear it. And then...I let Farris go," I said, feeling queasy when I thought about it. I waited for them to freak out. Maze stared at me blankly. Thaddeus had little to no reaction. Were they totally fed up with me so it didn't matter anymore?

Maze took a deep breath. "You know that puts us all in danger right. Literally every single one of us," said Maze softly.

"I know," I whispered. "It was not a good decision...but I couldn't make myself make him return."

Thaddeus still wouldn't look at me. Maze sighed again and massaged his temples. I bit my lip.

"I'm sorry! I'm really sorry!" I mumbled.

"Ok," said Maze exasperatedly. "You may go."

I ran from the room. I rushed into my bedroom. I started sobbing before my face hit the pillow. Their subdued reaction was much worse than their anger. It felt like they'd just given up on me because I was too much of a handful. There was no Challenge anymore.

Katrina's POV

The twins stared at me as I lay in the c.hest. I felt so foolish. They were so handsome. Their dark glossy hair, their intense dark eyes, their golden skin, their tall muscled frames. Honestly they looked so much like Fang only slightly different, probably a bit younger. Their faces were a little softer. One of them grasped my waist and lifted me out of the c.hest like I weighed nothing. My breath caught in my throat and I clamped my thighs shut nervously. The twin who had lifted me set me down in the hallway. The blonde twins were grinning at each other, chuckling.

"Aren't you Katrina, Ezra's stepsister?" Asked one of the blonde twins.

"Yeah!" I said. "You must be Thaddeus' brothers?"

"Yeah, I'm Timothy and this is my brother Titus!" Exclaimed Timothy.

Titus smiled and stifled a laugh at the shocked expressions of the other pair of twins.

"And you two must be Fang's brothers?" I mumbled, looking down.

"Mate...I mean yeah!" Said one of them, shaking his head as though he'd been stunned.

"I'm Fallon," said the other brother. "This is Fargo."

"Katrina," I mumbled.

"We established that," said Titus, chuckling. Timothy nudged him and Titus quickly said, "We'll leave you three to get acquainted or stew in awkward silence. Whatever works!"

The blonde twins rounded a corner of hallway and disappeared from sight. It was awkward! Fallon, Fargo and I stared at each other. I wondered what they were thinking about! They were looking at me so intensely. Fang never looked at me quite like that.

"How're you feeling?" Asked Fallon. Strangely, I was instantly able to tell them apart though I had struggled with differentiating Timothy from Titus just now.

"I feel...really relieved that I don't have to marry that creepy guy Lane!" I admitted, the relief evident in my voice. I felt like I could finally exhale after holding my breath in for a painfully long time.

Fargo growled making me jump. "What guy?! What did he do to you?! Where is he now?!" Demanded Fargo, his eyes turning black,

"He's a rich sadistic vampire. Well he was. My father sold me to him for money, probably a small fortune. He kept me locked up in his manor hoping eventually I would cave and be his wife..." I said, shivering at the memory.

The twins both growled.

"Fang killed him and saved me!" I said, blushing and smiling happily.

The twins looked at me strangely, c*****g their heads to one side. I wanted to laugh because even the angle at which they tilted their heads was identical.

"What's your relationship like with our brother? How are you so close?" Asked Fallon.

"We're actually not that close...I mean...I care about him A LOT but I don't really know him that long or that well. I just know he's an amazing person," I mumbled, feeling stupid, like a school girl with an idiotic crush. Fang really was my hero but in front of the twins I felt so embarrassed to insinuate that. I felt as though I were being inappropriate somehow.

"Fang is great," agreed Fargo. "But he fvckngd up big time."

"Yeah he did," said Fallon sadly.

I sighed. That was partly my fault. I felt so guilty about it. Friday seemed sweet though I had only interacted with her briefly in the ambulance. She had come to help save me and Fang and I and Fang had almost handed her over to Ezekiel. I knew what it felt like now, to be handed over as a bargaining chip in other people's schemes. I had to get Fang's name cleared somehow! I should be sharing his guilt. I hadn't realised I was crying until Fallon started drying my tears with a tissue.

"Huh?" I said, sniffing.

"Take it easy," said Fargo.

"Come on! Let's go somewhere fun!" Said Fallon.

Fargo nodded enthusiastically.

"I'm a patient in the infirmary!" I admitted.

Fargo shrugged. "You already escaped. Is that why you were hiding in a chest?"

I blushed. I had been hiding from them truthfully in case the werewolves approaching had hated vampires.

"I was...just...checking out the decor..." I said. Wow, that was completely foolish. They were looking at me incredulously, smirking slightly.

Fargo stroked his chin. "Sure, knock yourself out...but take a break from the infirmary and the decor first!"

"Yep!" Fallon agreed.

"I don't know if I should..."

"Come on!" Insisted Fargo.

Fallon chuckled. "Come on little vampire princess," he said, extending his arm. "We don't bite!"

"Often," added Fargo, grinning. "You probably bite more than we do!"

They both linked arms with me and marched me away. We headed out of the pack house. I felt really overwhelmed. They towered over me. They didn't smell identical! That's how I was telling them apart, I realised. Fallon smelled like a bakery: freshly baked bread, vanilla, chocolate chip cookies. He smelled warm if that were possible. Fargo smelled like earthy like sandalwood, cedar and ginger. It was refreshing. I was staring at them mindlessly for a while before I realised they had caught me staring. I blushed furiously. Where were we going? We came to the edge of a forest near the pack house. The twins let go of my hands and randomly started undressing. I squealed.

"What are you doing?!" I demanded but within seconds, they had both shifted.

Oh! That made sense. They hadn't wanted to shred their clothes. My heart was racing. I tried not to think about the stuff I'd just glimpsed, muscles upon muscles and other things. I took a deep breath.

I marvelled at their wolves. They were a milk chocolate brown with dark eyes. They were as huge as Fang's wolf. One of them approached me. I realised what he wanted me to do. I climbed onto his back and we were off on whatever adventure the twins had planned!

Thaddeus' POV

I felt awful about not being on good terms with my little Luna but she didn't respond to scolding so perhaps she would respond to no response. I wanted her to lead but with

me not against me. These were issues that should've been discussed privately as Alpha and Luna. I wanted to be like my parents, in sync, but Friday was ready to forgive just about everyone on death row and their third cousin. My wolf was furious with me. We were usually equally Friday-struck. We still were but I was angry with her and he felt she could do no wrong. He also wanted to k!ll Fang and Farris. He was a wolf, he didn't have to make sense. It was my job to be judicial in my actions. His ideas involved k!lling Farris, k!lling Fang, pretending to not have k!lled them, making up with his Luna, having pups. I tried to tell him it didn't work that way but he wouldn't hear it. He was whimpering for his mate. I wanted to talk to her too but I had no idea what to say. I was scared she would let Ezekiel come to our wedding or something at this rate of forgiveness. If I had to compromise on anything, Fang was only person worth saving. He had rescued Katrina, the stepsister of an important vampire Aly, Ezra, and he had helped bring Ezra and Raelynn to the pack house in the first place. He had sorta un-fvcked up what he had fvckindg up by making Ezra look after Friday after he had schemed against her. I grumbled.

There was a knock on my door. Maze.

"Hey," he said. He looked as woebegone as I felt. "It's after sunset, time to head to the roller rink thing."

How the fvck did they plan that so fast? Maze answered my unspoken question, smirking.

"Your parents helped Ezra put the show together. My Dad and Felicity helped too, and they gave their blessing for Ezra to marry Raelynn. Even my Mom helped! She and Cody are downstairs. Hurry up, we can't not go," Maze said.

"Friday is mad at us," I said, like I was a nine-year-old hiding from a teacher.

"We are mad at her," Maze said, shrugging. "But we need to talk about it! I can't even be excited over anything, not even Raelynn's engagement or my other new sibling yet, until I make up with Friday."

"Wait, what?" I said. Other new sibling?

"My mom is pregnant!" Maze admitted.

What?!

Ezra burst into the room!

"We're waiting on you guys but we have to get there before Raelynn shows up! Fang is ready. Her other brothers, Fallon and Fargo, aren't back yet. Neither is Katrina! They keep saying they're ten minutes away. They're such liars. They went on some random joy ride. I'm not waiting on them. I told them just head straight to the rink. She'll have

two brothers there, Maze and Fang, and her Dad and her Mom! That's enough!" Ezra said impatiently, pacing back and forth, talking more to himself than us.

I could shower at werewolf speed. I nodded.

"Oh and her sister, Friday!" Ezra added, pausing his pacing for a bit.

"Where is Raelynn now?" I heard Maze say in my bedroom as I lathered at top speed in my bathroom.

I hastily washed off and dried myself.

"She's with Friday! Friday's distracting her! She's gonna convince Raelynn to dress up for an early baby shower for Astrid," said Ezra, explaining the cover story.

We should actually have that early baby shower for Astrid. She deserved it. Maze apparently felt the same way.

"We should actually do that, the baby shower. I have a niece or nephew on the way!" Said Maze suddenly as though he had forgotten. "And a sister getting married!"

"Well if she says yes of course..." said Ezra hopefully.

"And another sibling on the way!" Maze continued. I could hear him pacing. "I was an only child two minutes ago. I have so many people to worry ab..."

"Chill out, Maze," I said, joining them again. "I'm ready!"