

The Challenge Two Alphas, One Girl Chapter 81 - Tips

0 10 minutes read

Maze's POV

The pack doctor took a syringe filled with bright purple liquid that glowed. The antidote to wolfsbane. She pushed it directly into my IV cannula. Thaddeus was being given his antidote by another doctor simultaneously.

"How long will it take to work, Doc?" I asked. My whole body was in pain but I refused to show it. I wanted to be cleared as soon as possible. I didn't need any pushback from the doctors.

"You should start to see some improvement in fifteen minutes and within an hour, most of the effects of the poison should be nullified," explained the Doctor. "Call me Jo, by the way. I know you want to go looking for Friday! That's exactly what I want to! I'm gonna hit you with every drug I can ok!"

I actually chuckled despite how awful I felt. This was the kind of doctor I needed right now.

"Good!" I said.

She ordered something non-drowsy for the pain.

"Nurse, administer the analgesia to both alphas please! I need to run and check on their labs!" She called.

"I have them," said a voice I recognised. Fang!

A snarl ripped through me instinctively. If he'd never betrayed Friday we wouldn't have been in this position.

Fang sighed. "Maze chill!"

It took five doctors, six nurses and three pack warriors who happened to be nearby to stop me ripping out my IV and jumping on Fang.

I only stopped really because the tiny helpful doc complained she was being smushed in the pandemonium.

"Jo!" I called. This one was Friday's friend who had organised the paternity tests. She was Raelynn's friend too. She came out from under a huge warrior's arm unscathed.

"I'm ok. No more fighting!" She said, frowning.

I sighed. "Sorry, Jo!"

Thaddeus was sitting up in my direction but his eyes were far away.

"As soon as the antidote and fluids are done, we need to go after her," he grumbled.

Fang handed the lab results to Jo.

"Wow!" She exclaimed. "Your kidney and liver function tests are still normal even with the poison!"

"They're alphas," said Fang shrugging.

"Discharge them and let them go get my sister. I'm coming with you by the way!" Fang added nonchalantly.

I snorted. "Like hell you are."

Thaddeus surprised me by saying over mind-link, Let him. He's a good fighter at least. This is can be his chance to redeem himself.

I sighed, Fine.

I said to Fang, "If I let you go with us, you better prove yourself useful!"

"Have I ever shown you otherwise in battle?" Fang said.

I refused to answer that. He was a good fighter but an untrustworthy entitled asshole.

Within fifteen long minutes, in which I imagined every possible horrible thing that could happen before I got to my Baby, I felt considerably better. Jo implored me and Thaddeus to wait the hour. I sighed. The little doctor was really trying her best. I obliged. By the half an hour mark, I felt almost normal. Thaddeus was receiving reports from the squads he had mobilised to search for Friday. He had deployed literally every special ops unit. All the most skilled warriors and trackers, even spies, were looking for Friday. Where was she? Nothing yet?

Beta Theo came rushing in, looking frazzled and panting.

"I fell asleep with Titus on my chest. I was watching the baby! I knew you went dress shopping with Friday! I thought it'd be a quiet day!" He said.

He went to Thaddeus and pulled him into a huge hug. Thaddeus gripped Theo. I could hear the huge alpha sniffing. My heart went out to him.

It'll be ok, bro, it has to be, I said over private mind-link.

He was silent but I could sense he was listening.

Theo pulled away.

“Any update, Theo?” I asked.

“I’m checking with Westwood!” Theo said, his eyes darkening.

“Westwood says they have a lead!”

Thaddeus practically hit the ceiling, jumping up, almost ripping his IV out.

“NO!” Shrieked Jo, making us all jump a little. Thaddeus sat back down shocked at the power with which the little doctor had shrieked.

“Sorry!” She said. “Ok, it’s been forty-five minutes. Almost time ok. Theo explain the lead to them in this last fifteen minutes and plan out your attack right here, please! Multitask!”

Jo was a very bossy little doc but I liked her. She was practical. She had that same innocence that Friday had with an underlying sense of mischief.

“Westwood says they have a list of all the properties owned by Ezekiel. And most seem to be empty. However, they found a house that was in former Sister Mary Faith’s name,” said Theo.

“One of the nuns from the orphanage Raelynn grew up in?!” I asked quickly.

“Yes!” Said Theo. “She’s no longer really a nun. She goes by the name Brink now. Ever since she was turned into a vampire. Her and the other former sisters reside there. There’s apparently a huge underground portion to the house on the floor plan!”

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“You got the floor plan?!” I asked, impressed.

“Westwood deserves your praise...I was napping, babysitting my kid,” Theo said sheepishly.

“It was your day off, bro,” mumbled Thaddeus apologetically.

"That's ok, bro. I know how long you've waiting for your Luna. I'm not gonna let anything happen to her," said Theo. "Yeah, Maze, Westwood got the floor plan."

"So that underground is the perfect place for housing these...super wolves and super vampires," said Thaddeus, his eyes faraway.

"Yeah," I said. "We might not just find Friday. We might find the motherlode! All the different werewolves and vampires Ezekiel and Farris might have been experimenting on. If they did that to Ezra, Ezekiel's own son and Friday, Farris' own daughter, and Raelynn..."

"And the nuns..." continued Thaddeus. "Then, they probably have many more."

"It's been an hour, I can't officially discharge you but sign these DAMAs and go get the Luna. I think you can kick some a.ss now!" Said Jo.

We signed the DAMA forms (Discharge Against Medical Advice) because theoretically she couldn't legally let us go without them and poisoned people needed to be monitored for 12 to 24 hours and up. No way! I was out of there! Thaddeus, Fang, Theo and I got ready to go to the location. Fargo and Fallon had arrived at the pack house shortly after Thaddeus and I had first been put in the infirmary. The twins were pacing nervously, anxious to go find their sister. Timothy and Titus wanted to come too. Thaddeus reluctantly allowed his brothers to join our squad and I allowed Fallon and Fargo to join as well. Ezra insisted he was going.

He was a Vampire Prince and not under either alpha's jurisdiction so he could not be told no. He would be helpful anyway. He had healed well. Raelynn was pleading with Ezra and then with Fang and then with me to be allowed to go. She got three firm no's. I hoped she would actually listen. Felicity was beside herself and being comforted by my Dad who pulled me into a hug right before we left.

"Bring her home ok! Bring yourself and everyone here home too!" He murmured and kissed my forehead. I nodded resolutely.

I was going to get my Friday back come hell or high-water.

Thaddeus' POV

One of the squads I had dispatched was already staking out the "nunnery". It appeared to be heavily guarded by the former nuns turned vampire warriors. The compound was huge, inclusive of an abandoned school, an archaic cathedral, a huge main house with quarters for hundreds of people and whatever lay beneath the earth. There was even a vineyard on the property as well as an orchard and a pumpkin patch. The "orphanage" itself was allegedly abandoned and supposedly didn't house anyone anymore.

That was on the west edge of the property. Raelynn would've probably been helpful on this mission if she had snatches of childhood memories of this place but we had not told her anything. We did not want to risk her following us. There were nine of us: myself, Maze, Theo, Fang, Timothy, Titus, Fallon, Fargo and Ezra. The squad sent ahead of us to the location comprised of twenty-five warriors.

My Gamma Westwood drove the huge six-door jeep we were in. Once we were at the location. We leapt over the wall easily. It was dusk. I could see the sun's descent was almost finished. The last few rays of sunlight faded and darkness fell. The abandoned orphanage was in shambles. It must have been a beautiful building in its prime. Westwood and a few other warriors remained outside the compound to watch remotely in case they needed to call for reinforcements.

The nine of us were preceded, flanked and shadowed by several warriors each. Beyond the orphanage was the school for the orphans. This building was also dilapidated and abandoned. We spotted the magnificent cathedral. There were huge floor-length stained glass windows and white arches and pillars. The stone was all white washed. The tiles were mosaic. I was mesmerised by its strange haunting beauty for a few moments. We moved on to the "nunnery" which was the only well-kept building.

My tech team had managed to knock out their surveillance cameras so hopefully that would add to our surreptitious approach or it would tip them off if they realised the cameras had stopped working and they might now be on high alert. I believed it was the latter because a woman flew down from the rafters of the building. Flew! Like a bat. She wasn't really a woman.

I shuddered. The woman was grey-skinned. When she raised her arms there was webbed-skin between her armpits and sides like bat-wings. She looked hardened unnaturally like she was made of grey stone. Her eyes had no pupils, no sclerae. They were just black orbs. She had no eyelashes, eyebrows or hair. She was totally hairless in fact. I only assumed she was a woman based on her breasts. She was bare-chested and wore a loin-cloth. What had Ezekiel done to her? These had been human nuns. I stepped backwards, feeling pity, unwilling to strike first.

"Where's Friday?" Asked Maze, cutting to the chase.

She laughed in a voice that seemed like a chorus of several. "You won't find her. She's well-hidden."

"You have one more opportunity to tell us!" Said Maze sharply.

Another grey bat-like former nun turned mutated vampire swooped down. A third followed her.

"Where. Is. Friday?" Maze asked pausing at each word.

“Where is she?” I asked becoming impatient. “Tell us. Maybe we can help undo some of what Ezekiel has done? It’s him that did this to you, right?”

“Master Ezekiel is a genius,” said the first one. “We were weaklings before. Now we are strong!”

“He took your life from you?! And gave you this warped one?! You don’t mean that!” Insisted Ezra, who was horrified at his father’s frankensteins.

“Ok,” I said. “Where’s Friday?”

The three gargoyle-like women laughed. Their laughter was so unpleasant like a banshee wailing. I was about to see red. Fang sprang at the first one unexpectedly. He had shifted and he grabbed her straight by the throat. Though she was held by her throat she wrapped her arms around him and held him in a strange choke-hold. They struggled. She was strong. Even a tough beta was having some difficulty. I knew Friday would never forgive me if anything befell Fang under my watch and she would accuse me of doing it on purpose. I rushed forwards and grabbed one of her arms. I was shocked to find it like literal stone. I bent it away from the beta’s neck giving him the leverage to chomp. She fell down. The bite on her neck had half-severed her head but there was no blood. Just a crumbly dust. What the...

A flock of these women swarmed down. I mind-linked all twenty-five warriors to immediately attack, no more holding back.

Raelynn’s POV

Listening to orders was not my thing, especially when my baby sister was in trouble. If Friday and I had listened back when Fang was in trouble, who knows if he would be ok today? I shifted and ran around through the back of the pack house. I followed the jeep at a far enough distance. I actually think Westwood who was driving spotted me but didn’t say anything! He was cool. I had been so little I wouldn’t have remembered the way to the place. I wouldn’t have known the way. I had not been permitted to go on excursions anyway. I leapt over the wall. A ton of horrible memories hit me at the sight of the now dilapidated orphanage. I had been in the last batch I believed before the shut down the orphanage and school. I knew they still had people here somewhere. They had just given up the whole school and orphans pretence and carried on their experiments without much of a front because they realised how easily they were getting away with it.

I focused on Friday, pushing the dark memories aside as I traversed the compound, diverging from the guys. They were heading towards the nunnery. I shuddered, remembering how strange all the “nuns” had been. They had been very fussy about their habits. They had all been so pale and sickly looking with needle marks on their skin. I hurried in wolf form towards the cathedral passing behind the old orphanage and school. I looked at the cathedral.

It had been so grand and still looked quite beautiful. It had been a very important church back then. In just over a decade everything had changed. The “nuns” had closed the school and the orphanage and had stopped holding masses. I ran into the cathedral. I hoped I didn’t run into anyone. The place was deathly silent. It was a large compound. I listened carefully. I could hear a few muffled screams in the distance.

That must be the guys and whoever is on guard here fighting. I walked up the aisle. I chuckled inwardly. This was not what I’d imagined in terms of walking up the aisle. I knew what to do! There was a way to get underground here. I had seen it! It was a fuzzy memory. I found where they drew the holy water. From a well built right at the back of the stage in the back room. The well was huge!

The opening was wide and the container for water was actually big enough to act like an ancient pulley elevator for someone to go down and come up from the underground level. I jumped into the huge container. It had taken thirty nuns to lift and lower this, I remembered. It was a stone container. I could scarcely fit in my wolf form. Something snapped and I went hurtling downwards, heading to the underground level.

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07 minutes read

Friday’s POV

I woke up on a cold hard surface, shrouded in darkness. I was lying on a stone floor. I got up and crawled a bit, my muscles aching too much for me to stand yet. At least, the stone floor was smooth. I reached out and felt cool metal bars. I was in a cell, perhaps, in a dungeon. I didn’t want to scream. That seemed useless. I had only my wolf for company.

We’ll get out of here don’t worry, she said with the utmost certainty. She was expecting our alphas to come for us. I was expecting and hoping for that too!

Raelynn’s POV

The stone container I was in crash-landed on a stone surface. I had been crouching the whole time. I was sore but nothing seemed to be fractured. It was a good thing I had been in my wolf form. I hesitantly leapt out of the container. I surveyed my surroundings nervously. I looked up. I seemed to have broken the pulley system and snapped the ropes. Would I be trapped down here? I really should mind-link for help.

Not until we find our baby sister, insisted my wolf. I agreed.

I sniffed the air and walked forwards. It was so dark that I had difficulty seeing even in my wolf form. There was an unnatural sterile sort of smell down here like the smell of chemicals in a lab. I kept going. It was a long stone hallway. I came to a fork in the huge tunnel-like expanse. To the right, the stone gave way to white tiles. That must be

the lab! To the left there was more stone and I caught sight of a faint glint, indicating there was a shiny surface. Metal! The bars of cellars! That was the dungeon. I ran that way. I picked up a scent similar to mine. Why were there no guards down here? Where was everyone?

Most of the cellars were empty. I finally encountered two with people in it. There was a vampire lying in one. I gasped and recoiled. He was dead! Burnt up by sunlight! I supposed his exposure therapy had not worked. How awful! There was another with a woman who seemed as though she were made of stone. Had she been human? My heart was beating frantically. What if Friday were already...

Raelynn? Came Friday's tentative voice. She was mind-linking me.

Friday! I squealed in utter relief.

I can smell you! Friday said. Are you here? Wherever here is?

I'm in the dungeon underneath the church at what used to be the orphanage's compound! I said.

I could feel her relief. I hurried towards her, following her scent. I found her in a cell. She was in an incredibly ornate gown fit for a coronation. FRIDAY!!! I called.

She grinned.

Are there any guards down here? I asked.

"Not that I've seen!" She said, shaking her head.

How would I get her out of the cell?

I'm gonna get you out of here! I said.

I tried mind-linking Maze or Thaddeus. I was having difficulty reaching them due to the distance I believed. The compound was incredibly large. The only person I could sense was actually Fang! I felt like I was calling through a fish tank or something. It was echoey, muffled.

FANG!!! I said as loudly as I could.

Fang's POV

We were in the heat of battle. Thaddeus, Maze, Fallon, Fargo, Timothy and Titus had all shifted as had I. Ezra was the only vampire in our group. We were head to head against the heady, grey-skinned, bat-winged, hairless, former nuns. They did not hold back. They fought us tooth and nail. I chomped on the neck of one and tossed another away.

We were making some headway, having defeated a few of these harpies, when Raelynn's voice rang out in my head.

FANG!!! I stopped in my tracks to listen.

FANG!!! I stopped in my tracks to listen.

What's wrong?! Are you HERE?! I asked.

I could feel her hesitance when I asked that. She was here.

I found Friday in the dungeon under the cathedral in a cell. There's a well at the back of the cathedral that leads down to the underground. Please be careful! I think I broke the pulley system so I don't know how to go back upwards! She explained.

I immediately mind-linked everyone except the vampire, Ezra.

Thaddeus and Maze were livid. We were in our wolf forms so we would not be able to speak to Ezra. The two sets of twins said they would finish off the harpies with the help of the squad of warriors who had come with us. I spotted Thaddeus' gigantic wolf as he chomped on two more necks, trying to reduce the onslaught. I could tell he was worried to leave his brothers here to fight. He took down yet another one in record time. Maze had just taken down two as well with a new ferocity, eager to get to Friday. The creatures were retreating.

Maze, Thaddeus, Ezra and I ran towards the cathedral. Thaddeus had nudged Ezra to get him to follow us. We found the pulley system at the huge well in the back broken. Thaddeus secured the rope from the system to an anchor in the cathedral. The heaviest statue he could find, the monument dedicated to the founder of that cathedral. That would suffice for climbing back out.

We all shifted and descended into the darkness of the well.

"Ezra, Raelynn is down here in the dungeon! She found Friday! She followed us!" Thaddeus explained.

I heard a frustrated growl rip through Ezra. Raelynn had been explicitly forbidden from coming but I knew there was no stopping her or Friday when they wanted something. We followed Raelynn's directions and soon came to where she stood before Friday's cage!

Maze's POV

“Baby!!!” I yelled rushing to the cage gripping the bars, giddy with relief at finding my beautiful mate again. I felt the burn of the silver and had to release them.

“Be careful!” She squeaked, reaching through the bars. She was immune to the silver. I grasped her hand and kissed it. Thaddeus kissed the other hand.

“Little Luna!” He murmured.

It was after midnight. Who would have thought the twenty-sixth day of the challenge would be spent in a dungeon?

“We need to get her out of here?” I said, thinking out loud.

“Not necessarily!” Said a voice.

I turned sharply and spotted him. Ezekiel Victor Van Der Windt, the so-called Vampire King, walking towards us with a troop of his bat-like monsters behind him. My eyes immediately went to the werewolf in the group. Farris. I snarled, baring my canines, my eyes black. I would rip his throat out for the atrocities he had committed with his own daughter a victim. Farris wore a cold smile as did Ezekiel. Ezra and Friday were both staring blankly at their fathers, detached from these fiends.

“Open the cell!” I Commanded Farris in my Alpha voice. He was compelled to obey coming forwards involuntarily. Ezekiel grabbed him by the shoulders to stop him.

“NOW!” Added Thaddeus ordered, his voice booming, making dust crumble downwards.

Farris was forced to rush forwards with the keys in hand.

“NO!” Bellowed Ezekiel struggling to restrain Victor. They began to struggle, a black-eyed Farris versus a red-eyed Ezekiel. Ezra smirked at their squabbled.

“Farris, toss me the keys!” Ordered Thaddeus in his alpha voice. Farris threw the keys across the room and Ezekiel roared in surprise. Thaddeus caught them. In fury, Ezekiel yelled, “ATTACK!!!”

The harpy-like creatures swarmed us. We took them down as far as we could. They kept trying to grab the keys. Thaddeus had passed Raelynn the keys and he was fending off creatures from getting to her, watching her back as she fumbled with the many keys. She tried key after key, getting increasingly frustrated, her hand trembling. Raelynn narrowly avoided a harpy grabbing her by the throat. I chomped as hard as I could on the stone-like neck of that harpy, severing her head from her body in one bite. Her head went rolling across the floor. I spotted Ezra fighting Ezekiel. They matched each other move for skilful move. Ezra jumped into the air and kicked Ezekiel sending him flying into the wall. Ezekiel quickly recovered. The old vampire was still very powerful. I heard the satisfying click of the lock as Raelynn found the right one! Friday

was freed. Ezekiel stopped fighting Ezra. He actually backed away, and so did Farris. The harpies hesitated, cowering a bit. Huh.

Friday slowly exited the cage, her eyes black. Her features got sharper. A tail sprung out from behind her. I gasped as I noticed the pointed edge of the tail almost like a spear. Her claws came out. She smiled and her mouth was filled with bared canines and pointed little teeth. There was an intense aura in the room, like the crackling of electricity. In one giant leap, Friday flew across the room, landing en pointe on her clawed feet. I heard Ezekiel gargle and splutter. It all happened so quickly, I was confused. I looked at Ezekiel. There was blood spilling onto his shirt. Friday had stabbed him straight through the back with her tail while facing him. I was in total awe of her. She relinquished her hold on him. A squelch was heard as she removed her tail. The place where she had stabbed didn't seem to heal. It continued to gush. He fell backwards and onto the ground.

"That was for Raelynn!" She said and when she spoke her wolf's voice intermingled with hers and they spoke as one. The room trembled. Dust fell down from the ceiling.

I spotted Farris sneaking up on Friday with all the commotion distracting everyone.

"FRIDAY LOOK OUT!" Both I and Thaddeus yelled at the same time, broken from our trances, rushing forwards as Farris raised a wolfsbane dipped sword, meaning to plunge it into Friday's back!

In one swift, clean movement Friday, without turning around, used her tail to stab Farris through the front of his torso. I saw the tail go straight through him. His face was contorted with shock. She relinquished him, allowing him to stumble and slump over. She then turned to look at his crumpled form. "And that was for me," she and her Luna Wolf said.

The Challenge Two Alphas, One Girl Chapter 83 - Tips

07 minutes read

Friday's POV

I slowly opened my eyes. I blinked and squinted in response to bright white lighting. Had my father stabbed me? Was I dead? Eventually my eyes adjusted and I could see where I was. In a bed in the infirmary at the pack house. Relief washed over me. There were many familiar anxious faces around me. Thaddeus, Maze, Fang, Raelynn, my Mom, Malachi and Jo. I could hear my twin brothers and Katrina talking somewhere in the corner of the infirmary. I heard Ezra's voice and Thaddeus' twin brothers. I sat up gingerly with the help of both of my alphas. Even Astrid was here smiling. As my eyes trailed over Fang and Ezra again, a sick sinking feeling threatened to overwhelm me. I had killed Ezekiel! I had killed Farris! My own father.

It was self defense! Growled my wolf. We did well! I almost completely came forth!

My wolf and I had shared our actions, shared control, a bit more of her than me. I wanted to shift completely though into an actual she-wolf. My head was so filled with different anxieties and concerns. I took a deep shuddering breath to steady myself.

“How are you feeling, Friday?” Asked Jo, the little pack doctor, gently.

“I feel ok,” I said, my voice shakier than I meant it to be.

She nodded.

“I’m so glad you’re finally awake!” Murmured Maze with a sigh of relief. He ran his fingers through my tangled waves.

I wondered how long I’d been out. Thaddeus answered my unspoken question. “We were so worried, little Luna! You were out like a light for almost thirty hours!” He said, the stress of the situation evident in his tone.

Wow.

“So what time is it?” I asked.

“It’s seven in the morning,” said Fang.

“You missed the entire twenty-sixth day of the challenge!” Theo added, coming into view.

“Yeah,” agreed Fang. “It’s seven in the morning on the twenty-seventh day of the challenge.”

I took another deep breath. The sick feeling wasn’t going anywhere.

“Ezra, I’m so sorry,” I whispered, feeling ashamed and fighting back tears. His father had been a horrible person but a life was a life and he was still someone’s father.

“For what?!” Exclaimed Ezra.

“Your Dad...Ezekiel...” I began, trailing off, unsure of what else to say.

Ezra smiled sadly. “When my Dad sold Katrina to a pervert she hated and then tried to have my Raelynn and me killed, I knew there was no coming back from that! It was either us or them and I chose us!” He said firmly though his voice cracked a little.

I breathed a small sigh of relief.

“Mom, Fang, Fallon, Fargo, I’m so sorry about Dad! I...” I was interrupted by an irate Fang.

“Don’t you dare!” He snapped. “Don’t you dare apologize about Dad. He never cared about any of us!” Declared Fang, wiping away tears to my utter surprise. Astrid pulled Fang into a hug.

The twins just nodded.

My mom’s eyes were puffy like she had been crying. “Fang told us everything, how Farris tried to stab you in the back!”

“Literally! Not to mention figuratively!” Commented Jo, folding her arms.

“Friday,” said my mom, “please forgive me for not seeing your father for what he was! I know I don’t deserve it! I’m so sorry for everything you went through because of him and due to my own stupid choices. Tears streamed down her face.

“It’s ok, Mom,” I mumbled. She sniffled.

“On another note, are you gonna let Friday and I join battles now seeing as we’ve now proved ourselves useful on two separate occasions when we were told to stay home!” Said Raelynn.

“You two never listen anyway! So what’s the point of telling you yes or no?!” Grumbled Maze, in response to his younger sister.

I smiled slightly at how easily and quickly they’d developed a relationship. They quarreled a lot but they seemed to enjoy squabbling as did many other brothers and sisters.

“So,” I said, eager to change the subject, “whose day is it again!”

“It’s my day,” said Maze softly. “But you’re not going anywhere! You need to rest!” He stroked my hair and my forehead. He trailed his fingers across my cheeks. Thaddeus was on my other side holding my hand in both of his. He kissed my hand. I felt so sleepy still.

“So I just passed out after...the battle?” I said, not sure how to phrase it.

“Yeah,” said Raelynn softly, her eyes wide and fearful as though she were reliving it. “You swayed on the spot a little then you fainted. Maze and Thaddeus caught you though.”

Thaddeus squeezed my hand and kissed it again. Maze continued caressing my face gently.

I was emotionally numb. I was still in disbelief. My father was dead and I had killed him. He had been evil but was I evil too? Ezekiel was dead too! Was I a murderer?

“Will there be a trial?” I asked hesitantly.

“What? No!” Said Maze.

“What are you talking about, little Luna?” Asked Thaddeus.

“I’m talking about me. I...killed two people,” I said, my pulse quickening and my mind racing.

“Baby, Ezekiel and Farris had mile-long lists of offenses. After you fainted, we searched the entire premises and identified dead bodies of several missing people whom they must have experimented on. Also, it was self-defense and you’re the Luna. You’re allowed to exact justice,” Maze explained.

Thaddeus nodded, his blue eyes sparkling with tears. I kissed his cheek just as a stray tear rolled down it. I heard him sigh contentedly. He nuzzled me.

“Let’s give them some privacy,” suggested Malachi. He was the former alpha of Marigold but he still had a way about him where even his suggestions could not be ignored. Everyone besides my two alphas filed out even the doctor. I was alone with Thaddeus and Maze.

“I love you. Both of you,” I said.

Thaddeus pressed his lips against mine gently but insistently. I sighed happily into his mouth. His tongue caressed mine slowly making heat spring up in my tummy. As soon as we broke apart, Maze claimed my lips, nibbling my bottom lip eagerly. I groaned a little as he tangled his hands in my hair and explored my mouth. I pulled away for air.

I couldn’t believe how much had happened and how the time had flown by. Soon enough the Challenge would be over and I’d have to choose. Could I choose both? How would I split the time between Marigold and Berryndale. Having more than one mate was usually reserved for situations involving multiples like twins and triplets. It would be scandalous in my case. Did I even care what anyone thought? They used to shun me. Why should I care about their opinions and fear their judgement? I sighed. My alphas insisted that I rest all day. I was so thankful they both stayed with me to make the day enjoyable or bearable at least. I didn’t particularly like being cooped up when I felt well. Thaddeus and Maze told me tomorrow would be Thaddeus’ last date with me and the following day would be Maze’s last date with me. That meant each alpha was supposed to plan a grand surprise of some sort. I was highly curious as to what each alpha had in mind. I would find out soon enough!

Theo’s POV

I was so relieved for my bro. He adored Friday and would have been wrecked if anything had happened to her. We were playing cards in his room at the day's end. He had left Raelynn and Ezra to watch over Friday for a little while after he had spent most of the day at her bedside. He said he had something to show me.

"Show me," I said.

He grinned.

"Come on! What's the big surprise?" I said.

"It's pretty obvious for a surprise considering the nature of the Challenge!" Thaddeus boomed, stroking his chin. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a small red velvet box. He opened it to reveal a huge yellow gold diamond engagement ring.

"She's gonna flip!" I said.

"You think she'll say yes?" Thaddeus asked. "We've technically only known each other a month. A jam packed month passionate month but a month nonetheless!" Said Thaddeus, uncertainty in his blue eyes.

"Remember when she almost broke down your door to get the D! Bro, enough said!" I replied.

Fang's POV

Things between Maze and I were still quite tense. We had a sister in common now though when it came to Raelynn so Maze seemed to be trying not to hate me. He knew I'd be a part of Friday's and Raelynn's lives so it would be better to be at least cordial again. He had called me into his study. It was his office but he called it his study like he was from the sixties or something.

"Fang, since your father has passed on...well you know what happened...you are Friday's eldest brother and the person she wanted to walk her down the aisle so I wanted to run this by you," said Maze. He took a deep breath. "Of course I'll consult her mother as well!" Maze fumbled with something in his pocket. It was a small blue velvet box. He opened it to reveal a huge white gold diamond engagement ring.

I was expecting as much.

"What do you think?" Maze asked.

"Friday really loves you," I said. It was the truth. She loved Thaddeus too though. Did she actually have a choice in mind.

“You know, Maze, you’ve transformed in front of my very eyes into someone much better than you used to be, someone who could be worthy of Friday,” I said solemnly. Maze gave me a small nervous smile.

I wondered who I would walk my sister down the aisle to meet.

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0 5 minutes read

Friday’s POV

I woke up in the middle of the night. I sighed. It was always exceedingly difficult for me to fall asleep again once I was up. I felt so restless.

“You’re awake,” said a quiet drawl of a voice. I almost hit the ceiling. I jumped, startled. The voice reminded me of Ezekiel a little. He’s dead, I kept reminding myself. The voice belonged to his only son, Ezekiel. He was sitting in a chair at the foot of my bed in the darkness. I looked at him.

“Yeah,” I mumbled, wanting to ask him what he was doing but feeling afraid.

He answered my unspoken question.

“I wanted to talk to you about your wolf,” said Ezra. “Fang had been explaining something to Raelynn and me. I thought you should hear it. It’s his theory about why my father might have been so eager .”

I nodded encouragingly. “Yes, please,” I verbalised.

“Your wolf is anthropomorphic,” he said simply.

Essentially my wolf had human characteristics but didn’t everyone’s.

“But we’re werewolves! Well, not we,” I corrected myself, realising Ezra was, in fact, “Most of us are werewolves. Why would I half-shift? My wolf seemed strong enough. Anthropomorphic? Well, didn’t that apply to every werewolf.

“The vast majority of werewolves can’t do what you did,” said Ezra, smiling slightly.

What did I do? Murder people? They had been villains, I said to myself.

They were monsters! Insisted my wolf.

I felt a pang as I pictured my father falling backwards, the stab wound in his torso, his eyes wide in shock. I quickly pushed the image aside.

“Most werewolves can’t act as one with their wolf, sharing a body and mind simultaneously, halfway between wolf form and human form. Sharing control of the body between the human mind and the lupine mind,” explained Ezra.

It didn’t seem that big of a deal to me. I had thought it was a bad thing, that I was getting stuck mid-shift or something.

“When do you guys think I’ll shift completely though? I’m a bit worried about that,” I said softly.

“I wouldn’t worry!” Said Ezra. “Eventually.”

I sighed. I wondered if it was the silver experiment that made my wolf slow to come forth. Was she bogged down by it? She seemed strong though. She had snatched control from me a few times like grabbing the steering wheel of a vehicle from the driver whilst in the passenger seat.

“Maybe you should practice!” Ezra suggested, his tone suddenly excited. “Practice with Raelynn! She’s been practising shifting faster and faster ever since she found her wolf.”

I nodded. Maybe I could go with Raelynn to practice. I knew she and Ezra had went out to the woods sometimes but I hadn’t thought it was to practice shifting.

The twenty-seventh day of the Challenge had arrived and left so quickly. I awoke on the morning of the twenty-eighth day. Today was Thaddeus’ final date day. He was never one to disappoint so I was excited but a bit wistful. It was almost over. Was I ready for this rollercoaster ride to be over? This had been the most daunting and yet exciting experience of my life so far.

I got dressed with Astrid’s help. She put another wreath of flowers on my head. Pink roses. My dress was pink and brown in a pretty paisley print. The dress was short with billowy long sleeves. I found Thaddeus alone in the Alpha Dining Room. No Maze. No servants. He looked so handsome in a smile dark grey shirt and grey trousers. He greeted me warmly. He got up and snatched me up into a bear hug, lifting my feet off the ground.

“Good morning, Friday, my little Luna!” He exclaimed.

“Good morning, Thaddeus, my big Alpha!” I said brightly. He boomed with laughter.

He made my coffee sweet and milky though a bit less than the first day. He was decreasing the sugar a little. I narrowed my eyes at him and he knew why. He chuckled to himself.

“Where are we going?” I asked.

“To the woods!” He said.

“Really?” I asked.

“Yep,” he answered simply.

He led me by hand out of the pack house and into the woodlands behind it. The trees towered over us like skyscrapers. They all had huge trunks. Their canopies were wide, blocking out so much sunlight that the entire forest was dark and cool. There were so many tiny pixies and fairies fluttering about though that they lit the way quite effectively. I followed him wordlessly. He led me by hand, our fingers interlaced. He undressed. I didn't look away this time and he smirked. I giggled. He shifted and I got onto his back, wrapping my arms around his huge neck. He dashed off, flying through the trees, blurring the darkness and making the fairies and pixies look like little streaks of colourful light. Eventually we came to a tree whose beauty took my breath away. I dismounted and walked towards it as if in a trance. Behind me I could hear Thaddeus shifting and dressing quickly so I'd missed my chance to ogle him again.

The tree was at least a hundred feet tall. The trunk seemed to go on forever. Flowering vines wrapped around it. The flowers glowed dimly and attracted so many pixies and fairies sitting in on the leaves and petals that the whole tree seemed covered with trembling lights.

“The nectar of this tree's flowers is very sweet so it's their favourite. They like the fruit at the top of the tree too!” Thaddeus said.

“It's gorgeous here,” I murmured.

“From boyhood to manhood, I've always come here to think and make decisions,” he said quietly in his deep, rumbling voice. “I've made every important decision right here,” he added, bringing me to the foot of the tree.

I grinned, happy to know more about him. We stood facing each other at the foot of his special tree. He smiled. He was gazing at me so intensely. I blushed. He got down on one knee. My heart began to race.

“Thaddeus?”

He pulled out a small red velvet box. I felt a tiny bit unsteady on my feet.

“Friday, from the first moment I laid eyes on you, there’s never been a doubt in my mind. For that reason, I didn’t actually need my decision-making tree for you but I wanted you to see it. I want you to see and know every part of me and my life and likewise, I want to see and know every part of you ad your life. You aren’t a question mark to me, you’re an exclamation point!” He said, chuckling. I giggled. “I haven’t known you very long, but I know you’re the one, my mate, my rightful Luna, the love of my life. I’m in love with you, Friday and I want to spend forever expressing that to you.”

He opened the box to reveal a large diamond ring with a yellow gold band. I exhaled a breath I hadn’t realised I’d been holding.

“You’ve already made me the happiest alpha alive so will you continue doing that as my wife, Friday?” He asked, chucking slightly, his blue eyes were sparkling with tears. I was crying softly too. I loved him so much. I was in love with him. I didn’t know I could feel this way about someone. I never thought someone as amazing as Thaddeus could feel all this for me.

“Thaddeus, I...”

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0 5 minutes read

Friday’s POV

“Thaddeus I...” I began.

“Before you say anything, my little Luna, I have one more thing to tell you,” Thaddeus said. Huh. My heart was beating so frantically. For one scary moment, I feared he would take his proposal back or give me an ultimatum. I couldn’t handle that. I loved Thaddeus beyond rhyme or reason.

“I was sure about you from the very beginning but there was someone else involved in the whole situation, someone I was unsure about! But, I’ve changed my mind in a big way when it comes to that person and that person changed his mind about me, too!” Said Thaddeus grinning.

I was a bit confused. Did he mean...

“I want what’s best for you, Friday, and your happiness is of the utmost importance to me, little Luna,” murmured Thaddeus.

“What’re you saying, Thaddeus?” I asked softly.

“Turn around,” he said, chuckling.

I did as he said and my heart almost stopped in shock. Maze was standing behind me smiling. How did he sneak up on me? Maze got down on one knee.

“Friday, Baby, from the moment I saw you, I was enamoured with you. I know I didn’t show it at first. I didn’t know love could be so powerful. I put other things before you and I’ll always regret that. I hope you see now that I put no one and nothing above you and your happiness. I love you, Friday! I’m in love with you! I want to spend forever with you. You are my true fated Luna. I know you’re fated to two alphas and that must be overwhelming but I hope you know we’re sure about you,” said Maze.

He brandished a blue velvet box. He opened it to reveal a white gold ring with a huge diamond. “Friday, will you marry me?” He whispered, his eyes wide and sparkling with tears. I took a step away so that both Thaddeus and Maze were in sight. They moved a little so that they were both kneeling in front of me, facing me. Both alphas were kneeling before me, their eyes wide and their faces hopeful. It was so surreal.

“I love you, Thaddeus, so much! I can’t even explain how much! You are so accepting, so sweet and so strong at the same time. I respect you so much and I’m in love with you!” I said softly.

Thaddeus grinned.

“Maze, I love you. You’ve shown me a totally different person to the one who rejected me and I’m in love with this person, the real Maze. The kind, just, considerate, sensitive Maze,” I said. Maze smiled, his grey eyes focused on me. They both seemed nervous. I could scarcely believe there were two alphas on bended knee proposing to me at the same time. I knew what my answer would be.

“I’m sorry but there’s one problem though!” I said.

Their smiles faltered. They looked terrified.

“How will I fit both engagement rings on my ring finger?” I joked, grinning, as a few tears slid down my face. Their faces broke into huge smiles. I giggled.

“Yes, of course, I’ll marry you Thaddeus. Yes, Maze, I’ll marry you! Both of you!” I exclaimed as they jumped up and grabbed me into a big bear hug. Thaddeus pressed his lips against mine and tangled his hands in my tousled waves, angling my head for better access to my mouth. He made me shiver though his body heat overwhelmed me. I was breathless when I pulled away but I still launched into an eager kiss with Maze. He moved his lips coaxingly against mine and slid his tongue gently into my mouth. I moaned a little. Thaddeus was still massaging my scalp. When I broke away, they both slipped their rings on. To my surprise, the rings were custom-made so that they clipped together when they were both on, forming one two-toned band with two diamonds. They

were so different yet they complimented each other perfectly and suited me just as perfectly. By they, I meant the rings and my alphas.

All there was left to do now was let everyone know what was going on between me and my two alphas. I could not pretend I wasn't a tad nervous about that. I had the twenty-ninth day to tell my loved ones and the thirtieth day, the day of the ending Ceremony, to tell both packs! Packs I would probably rule over. My heart soared so high that even my anxiety couldn't get to me right now. Thaddeus and Maze had planned a picnic under the tree filled with the pixies and faeries who had all cheered when we got engaged by the way. I had wondered what that high-pitched buzzing had been. It was the squeaky squeals of triumph from the pixies and faeries, drunk on nectar, and reacting to the three of us as though they were watching a great romance movie.

They were so cute honestly. They kept landing on our picnic blanket and taking tiny bites of a sandwich Thaddeus had left out for them. The day was blissful though I could scarcely remember what we even talked about. We just understood each other so well at this point. When the picnic was done, we went swimming in a nearby small river. The water was so clear I could see every tiny brightly coloured fish and eel. Yes, there were eels.

I was apprehensive at first but Thaddeus assured me they were not electric eels and they were not dangerous. They were fascinating actually. They glowed in dark colours and left silvery shadowy trails the same way the pixies and faeries left glittery ones. Both trails faded after a few moments. Thaddeus told me the water here contained healing properties because of the strange eels.

"You know where Maze wants me take you guys tomorrow?" Said Thaddeus as he splashed Maze with water. Maze splashed him back grinning.

I was floating with my two alphas keeping an eye on me because I couldn't actually swim. I had never been permitted to take lessons. I was looking up at the clouds. I didn't need to daydream anymore but I still loved doing it.

"Where?" I whispered.

Maze snatched me up and held me from behind. I giggled. "To the Winter Faeries' Dale!" He murmured in my ear.

"Winter faeries!" I exclaimed.

Winter fairies were human-sized like us and had their kingdoms in the snowy mountains. The Dale or Valley between the two highest mountains was a romantic spot for various creatures with cottages and boutiques. I had never met a Winter Faerie. "I promised you other creatures," said Thaddeus, shrugging.

"That you did!" I exclaimed.

“Then to the Dale we go!” Maze said.

“Who says Dale instead of Valley?” I asked, giggling.

“Maze,” responded Thaddeus prompting Maze to tackle him into the water. They play-wrestled while I kept fake score and the faeries and pixies drunkenly made bets. It was certainly a day to remember, one I’d never forget.