

The Challenge Two Alphas, One Girl Chapter 86 - Tips

0 7 minutes read

Maze's POV

My Baby had said yes! She was going to marry me. Friday would be my wife! That was my first thought when I woke up on the twenty-ninth day of the Challenge. I hadn't realised just how heavy the anxiety and worry that Friday would, in turn, reject me was until I had those negative feelings lifted off of me. I felt so light now. I sighed. Soon enough, I'd be waking up next to Friday. I could sleep whole night next to her, snuggled up. We could do the deed properly, no more of this extended foreplay stuff. I could actually bury myself in her. I shivered with delight thinking about it.

I got up and got dressed in a pale grey shirt and light grey trousers. Today was technically my day and yesterday had been Thaddeus. I wondered how everyone would react to Thaddeus and I both being with Friday. I hoped my father and Felicity would understand. I knew Thaddeus' parents, Timbre and True, probably wouldn't mind. They were all about doing what made you truly happy and they'd definitely instilled that in all three of their sons. I didn't really care what Fallon and Fargo thought. I had gotten Fang's blessing to propose but I hadn't mentioned it would be a doubled proposal. Raelynn would understand. She was my sister too on my father's side and Friday's sister on her mother's side. Friday and I had a half-sister in common yet we weren't related to each other. My father was also marrying Friday's mother so she would be by younger step-sister. Our family was pretty complicated but we'd never been happier. With Raelynn marrying Ezra, Katrina would become Raelynn's sister-in-law. That meant Raelynn's sister-in-law was fated to her twin half-brothers, Fallon and Fargo. If I wasn't a part of this crazy extended family myself, I wouldn't be able to wrap my head around

I went to the Alpha Dining Room. I was the first one there. I wondered if I should go wake up Friday. I decided to do something else. I was going to tell my father about both Thaddeus and I proposing to Friday. I would wait for Friday to tell her mom but I wanted to be the one to explain to my father. It made no sense telling my paternal grandparents. They would probably find the situation scandalous. They'd find out eventually.

I knocked on the door to the room where my father and Felicity were staying. My Dad opened the door. He seemed still half-asleep.

"Maze, are you all right?" He asked groggily,

"I need to tell you something!" I said, my anxiety rising.

"Ok," murmured my father.

I led him to the empty Alpha Dining Room. We sat across from each other.

"I don't know how to say this," I mumbled.

"Just say it. Get it off your chest!" Said my father encouragingly, his eyes growing worried.

"Ok," I said with a sigh.

"I proposed to Friday," I said.

"Congratulations!" Exclaimed my father, beaming. He got up with his arms outstretched to hug me.

"Thaddeus also proposed to her," I said quickly.

My father sat back down. "Who did she say yes to?" My father asked, concern evident in his eyes.

I took a deep breath. "She said yes to both of us."

Thaddeus' POV

On the twenty-ninth day of the Challenge, I got up and got dressed in a simple white shirt and black pants. The whole time I was getting ready, my every waking thought contained Friday. I couldn't wait to see her today but first I wanted to talk to my parents. I found my mother and father in their room. They were in matching pyjamas playing scrabble sitting on their bed.

"Who's winning?" I asked them.

"Me," they both said.

"Don't listen to your mother! I'm the scrabble champ. My mind is as sharp as my claws!" Said my father.

My mother chuckled. "You really believe your father? I am the scrabble pro in this family!" She proclaimed.

I smiled slightly.

"What's wrong with my Baby Boy?" Coos my mother, noticing I wasn't as chipper as usual. She came over to me and encouraged me to sit down. She brought me a mug of her famous cappuccino.

"What's wrong, Son?" Asked my father sternly.

My mother ran her fingers through my hair. "You seem stressed! Talk to us!

I sighed. I was so nervous to tell them.

"I proposed to Friday," I said looking at both of them in turn.

"But that's wonderful!" Exclaimed Mom.

"Then why do you seem so glum?" Asked my father. Understanding coloured his expression. I knew immediately he had jumped to the wrong conclusion.

"Did Friday say no?" He whispered, his tone horrified.

"No, she said yes!" I insisted, a slow smile creeping onto my face as I thought about it.

"That's great, Son!" Boomed Dad.

"Congratulations, Sweetheart!" Cooed Mom.

"So what's the issue?" Asked my father.

"Yes, Sweetie, what's wrong?" Said my mother.

I didn't know how to explain it. "Maze proposed too!"

My mother gasped. "Was he crushed when Friday said yes to you? Poor dear, but I'm happy for you, Honey."

"No. Mom, he...also got a yes from Friday," I said slowly.

My parents looked confused.

"She said yes to both of you behind your backs and you've spoken and found out about it?" Said my father, making some complicated hand gestures.

"Wow, ok. So will you both confront her?" Asked Mom, in hushed tones. "That wasn't right but don't be too hard on her. She's from such a messed up family..."

"No!" I said quickly. "Maze and I planned to propose to Friday together because we...share her. Like twins!" I blurted out.

"Twins?" My father said, raising his eyebrows.

"Yeah like Timothy and Titus. They're gonna share a mate right?" I said.

"Yeah," said my mother slowly, her eyes wide.

“And uh Fallon and Fargo share Katrina! And um those alpha triplets, Westwood’s cousins from up north? Remember them? They have one mate too! Their childhood companion. Remember we visited them once. It was years ago. She was a little girl then. She served ham sandwiches off a platter and the triplets were kinda rude to her and I shoved one of them. They were real little punks growing up and now they’re fated to her and they all share and...” I went off on a tangent, rambling on and on.

My Mom put her hands on my shoulders to stop me.

“Yeah, Son, but those cases are different. Those boys shared a womb, an amniotic sac, a placenta!” Said my Dad, hitting me with some science. “They’re accustomed to sharing. They’ve grown up knowing and expecting to share. You’re really ok with this?”

“I can’t explain it but I just am,” I admitted.

“Son, we love you,” my Mother said. “I have to ask you?”

“What?” I asked, worried.

“Are you in love with Maze too? We’re accepting people you know that...” my Mom began.

I quickly stopped her before she went off on a tangent. “NO! Absolutely not!” I said and I actually boomed with laughter. “Mom, you raised me to let people be who they are but I am straight and so is Maze. We just...have a bond like brothers even though we’re not. I do love Maze like I love Timothy and Titus even though I tried to sell them to the faeries that one time,” I recalled to lighten the intense inquisition.

My parents chuckled.

“So what are you actually revealing to us?” Asked Mom.

“That Maze and I both love Friday and we don’t get jealous, well, not anymore and we uh want to both be with her. We spend a lot of quality time together...”

“Well, we already knew that from the sounds coming from your bedroom...” blurted out my father.

“TIMBRE!” Scolded my Mom.

I was not one to ever blush or get embarrassed but at that moment, I turned scarlet. My cheeks and neck burned.

“It’s true! They aren’t exactly quiet! Especially not Friday though she’s meek as a mouse at dinner,” Protested my father. “We knew some kinky stuff was going on but we figured you’re young and that might be just party stuff you know. We thought you both would

want to win her over,” my father explained. “And someone would undoubtedly get rejected by her and get hurt.”

“It was like that. We each wanted to win, but now we’re...like a family. Maze and I aren’t twins but we might as well be. It’s a lot easier than it sounds and it’s not awkward and no one is cajoled into it,” I said, shrugging.

“Oh, Honey, I can’t say I’m not surprised because I am! You seemed so possessive of her, but if this is what the three of you have agreed on and everyone is happy then I’m happy for you,” she said, hugging me tightly.

“You’ll have to get a paternity test for every kid to make sure you crown the right alpha of Berryndale and Marigold respectively,” my father reasoned.

My mother pursed her lips.

“Well, Thaddeus and Maze look totally different,” Mom protested. “They’ll know.”

“No way, what’s the new little one’s name...Maelynn? I could’ve sworn that child was Farris’. Now I know she’s Malachi’s, I can kind of see it. Gotta go scientific with these things. Paternity. DNA. Make sure who is who. I’ll buy the little Maze ones Christmas and Birthday gifts, give them money whatever, Grandpa stuff you know, but only my direct line sits on the throne of Berryndale and Malachi will feel the same about Marigold trust me...” My Dad had gone off on a tangent now.

My mother ignored him and smoothed my hair. She kissed my forehead. I was so relieved.

“Last chance!” Said my father. “Sure you’re not gay for Maze?!”

“NO, DAD! GOOD GRIEF! We’re...fraternal twins!” I said, rolling my eyes.

My parents laughed. They were pulling my leg.

“Yeah, we know you like girls. Your cousin Titan on the other hand...” began my father.

“Timbre! That’s none of your business. The young man isn’t open about it yet. You’re not supposed to say...” exclaimed Mom.

“I’ll say what I want. I don’t have a problem with it. What’s the big secret?” Said Dad.

“You have to wait until Titan is ready! That’s how it works!” Mom insisted.

“I changed his diapers when my brother had a back injury. I’m practically his second father!” Said Dad indignantly.

"I'm gonna go, guys, thanks!" I said, backing out of the room. I turned around and ran right into my brother from another mother and father, Maze!

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0 6 minutes read

Maze's POV

I knocked on the door to the room where my father and Felicity were staying. My Dad opened the door. He seemed still half-asleep.

"Maze, are you all right?" He asked groggily,

"I need to tell you something!" I said, my anxiety rising.

"Ok," murmured my father.

I led him to the empty Alpha Dining Room. We sat across from each other.

"I don't know how to say this," I mumbled.

"Just say it. Get it off your chest!" Said my father encouragingly, her eyes growing worried.

"Ok," I said with a sigh.

"I proposed to Friday," I said.

"Congratulations!" Exclaimed my father, beaming. He got up with his arms outstretched to hug me.

"Thaddeus also proposed to her," I said quickly.

My father sat back down. "Who did she say yes to?" My father asked, concern evident in his eyes.

I took a deep breath. "She said yes to both of us."

My father furrowed his brow, frowning.

"She...couldn't choose?" Asked Dad.

"No! She did choose! She chose both of us!" I said.

"Who did she choose first?" Asked my father, still looking confused.

"She chose us both simultaneously..." I explained but my father interrupted me. He was getting exasperated and impatient.

"Maze! Stop beating around the bush! What is it that you're saying? Tell the whole story from beginning to end!" Insisted my father.

I sighed. I took a deep breath.

"At first...Thaddeus and I were very competitive. That's how the Challenge was. We disliked each other and we were naturally jealous and possessive, wondering how much of a threat the other one was..." I stopped talking and looked at my Dad closely to make sure he was following. He nodded encouragingly.

"Then Friday broke her foot! We finally saw eye to eye on something! And that something was Friday's safety. I got Thaddeus to back me up when I did not want Astrid dressing Friday without supervision. Friday's heat came and Thaddeus and I needed to stay away from her for her own good so we stayed in her old cottage and we actually became friends, close friends. It felt...brotherly.

My father was listening intently. His expression remained impassive. I tried to read the rest of his body language but he really wasn't giving anything away.

"So, of late, Thaddeus and I have both courted Friday. All three of us would hang out together," I said sheepishly. "Like a little... family! Like twins!"

"But you are neither family nor twins for that matter," drawled my father.

I fidgeted nervously.

"True," I mumbled. "But Thaddeus and I were fated to the same Luna.

"What are you saying, Maze?" Asked my Dad.

"We planned to both propose to Friday yesterday and we did. She said yes to both of us at the same time," I said, reiterating what I had tried to explain earlier.

My Dad was quiet. He seemed lost in thought.

"Are you truly ok with that?" He asked softly.

"Yes," I admitted.

"Where will Friday live?" He asked incredulously.

“Um,” I said. We hadn’t discussed it properly yet. She could move back and forth but that would mean a lot of time without her for both of us. I couldn’t let my father know we hadn’t worked out any of the details. He wouldn’t take it seriously then.

“We plan to build a third pack house!” I said, making stuff up. “A Peace Treaty Pack House,” I named it. “To honour our alliance and facilitate the new arrangement,” I said, bullsh!tting.

My father looked at me with raised eyebrows. He folded his arms and leant back in his chair. He knew I was full of it. He called my bluff.

“Seeing as this is already in the works...you must have chosen a location for this new pack house,” said my father, smiling.

“Yes,” I said in a serious tone.

He raised his eyebrows again.

“Um, right between our borders,” I said, feeling idiotic. Where else would it be? If it were to exist? My father looked shocked.

“So you plan to break down the fortress then? The Marigold wall that runs the perimeter of the entirety of our pack lands, Son, would be in the way of your Peace Treaty Pack House...would it not?” Asked Dad.

I made a face as though I had already carefully considered this.

“When you see the plans we’ve drawn up it’ll all make sense! The architects are very talented and they don’t wanna disturb any existing structures!” I said. What the hell was wrong with me?

My father made a strange movement as if he was stifling a snort of laughter.

I looked at him indignantly.

“Very well, Maze,” he said in an equally serious tone. “When will I be privy to the plans and architectural designs of this modern masterpiece?”

“Soon,” I said vaguely.

“And Friday and Thaddeus have both agreed to live in this third house with you?” Asked my father.

“Of course!” I said, as though that were obvious.

“Marvellous!” Exclaimed my father.

“Seems as though you have everything under control!” My father commented.

“Naturally,” I said nonchalantly, leaning back in my chair, lounging.

My father got to his feet suddenly. I stood up quickly too. He came over and gave me a hug. He ruffled my hair. He sighed.

“This is a very weird arrangement,” he said, staring into my eyes.

This was the most honest thing said between us so far in this conversation.

“Yeah,” I mumbled sheepishly.

“An arrangement like that makes no sense!” Snapped my father.

I opened my mouth to protest.

“Unless it makes everyone involved truly happy,” he continued, sighing. He looked at me. He rolled his eyes and then smiled.

I chuckled nervously.

“I want to see those plans you told me about,” he added. “This needs to be done carefully. Details worked out. Fine print. Etcetera,” my father said with a flourish of his hand.

I nodded.

“I will show them to you soon,” I said again. Why couldn’t I just shut up?

My father looked doubtful. I desperately wanted to prove him wrong. I hated when he was right about my shortsightedness. I hadn’t worked out the details yet but I should have. My father turned on his heel and walked away. I breathed a sigh of relief. Then, he stopped just short of the door, prompting a sharp intake of breath from me. He turned to face me again, hovering near the doorway.

“There’s one more thing,” said my father.

“Yeah?” I said, my tone worried.

“You...share...Friday?” He asked.

“Well...yeah,” I answered.

“What actually happens then?” He asked.

I looked at him with a quizzical expression. "What do you mean, Dad?"

"Well, you know, what happens...among the three of you? He said with a complicated hand gesture.

"Dad!" I said indignantly.

"You walked in on me and Felicity and refused to leave!" He said pointedly.

Ugh! He was right.

"We just...we...I don't know," I said.

"I don't need too much detail," he said. "But what happens between you and Thaddeus?"

"Nothing!" I hissed, shocked.

"You just ignore each other?" He asked incredulously.

"No...but it's not like that...we talk like regular friends," I said.

"It's like a frat thing...like a frat party? You and Thaddeus are like frat brothers or something?" He asked.

"DAD! I'm not talking about this with you!" I said.

"You're the one who mentioned twins!" He said, annoyed.

We were both silent, staring at each other in mutual annoyance.

"You would tell me if you were gay right?" He said slowly.

I walked away from him but he followed me.

"I'm not gay, Dad," I called, refusing to stop walking.

"I'm know you think I'm...judgemental...but you're my son...and I love you," he said.

I stopped walking. I turned around and hugged him. He hugged me back.

"Are you gay?" He asked quietly.

"No!" I mumbled. "The focus is very much on Friday."

"Well, she must be thinking she won the lottery right about now!" He said.

I chuckled.

“I want to see those building plans tomorrow,” he said sternly. I frowned. He walked away.

sh!t!

I ran upstairs to go get Thaddeus and Friday and tell them all the stuff I just made up before my Dad asked them and realised how made up it all was. I bumped right into Thaddeus. We both grabbed each other by the shoulders.

“Maze!” He exclaimed just as I exclaimed, “Thaddeus!” We grinned, laughing.

“I told my parents everything! I’m so relieved!” He said and he truly sounded relieved.

“I still have to tell my Mom, but I told my Dad everything and I’m already in deep sh!t!” I said.

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07 minutes read

Friday’s POV

I woke up on the twenty-ninth day of the Challenge feeling so euphoric. I showered and put my robe on. Astrid had come to help me get ready. She was really making an effort to be a good lady-in-waiting and sister-in-law these days. She was truly grateful to me for forgiving Fang and encouraging my alphas to do the same. She styled my hair in loose curls today and I chose a short cornflower blue dress with short sleeves and bejewelled buttons down the front to the waist. There was a sash at the waist to tie into a bow at the back. Astrid was tying it when I decided to test-drive a difficult conversation I’d be having with my whole family soon enough.

“Astrid, what do you think of Thaddeus and Maze being friends?” I asked.

“I think it’s cute,” she said, smiling.

“You know how Fallon and Fargo are both fated to Katrina?” I asked.

“Yeah,” she said absentmindedly.

“What if I’m fated to both Maze and Thaddeus for a reason?” I asked her.

“You look stunning!” She exclaimed as she finished the bow and sprayed my hair with something to make it glossy.

“Um, thank you!” I said. “What about me and Maze and Thaddeus?” I asked.

"If it were me," she said slowly. "I'd try to have both of them," she said with a laugh.

I gasped, looking up at her hopefully.

"Just hide one!" She said.

"Wait, what?" I said, confused.

She looked at me like I was slow on the uptake.

"Marry one! And keep the other as a lover, a sidepiece!" She said nonchalantly.

I blushed scarlet. "I can't do that," I said sheepishly.

"Why not?" She muttered, fussing over my curls.

"Um...what if they were cool with being um...both fated to me?" I said.

"Alphas like them! Never!" She exclaimed. "They're so...possessive! They'll kill each other!"

They used to be like that.

"Let's say they weren't like that after a while and they really like each other, like brothers, like...twins?" I asked. "Who have to share a mate?"

"A girl can dream I guess," she mumbled, pinning a few curls back and bringing some to the front.

"Well...they are!" I said matter-of-factly.

"What?" She said.

"They're cool with me picking both of them," I said hesitantly, gauging her reaction.

"Huh?" She said. My chair had wheels so she spun me around to face her.

"They're...sharing you?" She asked.

I nodded.

She frowned. "Hmm, but who will you be Luna to?" She asked.

"Both!" I said.

“So Marigold and Berryndale are being joined together? Does that mean getting in and out of Marigold will be easier?” She whispered excitedly. Marigold was a fortress with strict travel laws.

“Um...I guess...” I asked. My Marigold pack members should at least be allowed to go to Berryndale without hassle if they wished.

Astrid squealed.

“That’s so cool! This was my first time leaving Marigold you know? Travel laws are a b***h back home!” She said.

What about me?

“What about me?” I whined, immediately regretting how childish I sounded. I should be focused on things like reform and amending laws as a future Luna to two huge packs and territories.

“What about you?” Said Astrid flippantly. “Girl, you’re good. You’ve got two good men. Some barely have one. Some have none!” She said offhandedly with a laugh, fixing her own hair in the mirror and shimmying a little.

“Being pregnant is stressful,” she said to me.

Astrid was a bit scatter-brained.

“Ok,” I said. “I hope you get some rest. Let me know if you need any-...”

She waved and walked out the door with a smile before I could finish my sentence.

I sighed. I went to the Alpha Dining Room and no-one was there. I grumbled inwardly. Where were my two men when I needed them? I went looking for them. I ran into Fang on the Beta floor with my Mom. My Mom looked a bit puffy eyed. I knew they had decided not to have an official funeral for Dad but she and Fang had arranged his burial. Ezra and Raelynn were with them. Ezra and my Mom had mutually decided to have a small joint ceremony to bury both Ezekiel and my father, Farris. Guilt overtook me. Here I was fussing over getting exactly what I’d wanted which was both my alphas. I’d forgotten I was a killer. I didn’t even recall the fight clearly.

“Mom! Fang! Raelynn!” I exclaimed, hugging each of them tightly in turn. “Please get the twins and meet me in my room, please!” I added another “please” because I knew it wasn’t the best time but tomorrow was the ending ceremony so there wasn’t time to delay telling them.

“Ok,” said Fang slowly. I quickly hugged Ezra, a little worried he wouldn’t want a hug from me. He hugged me and then held me by my shoulders at arms-length.

“Friday!” He said. “You know I don’t blame you, right?” He asked trying to meet my eyes.

I avoided his gaze. “Right,” I said softly.

About ten minutes later, all three of my brothers, my Mom, my half-sister Raelynn, her mate Ezra and the twins’ mate Katrina were all in my room some standing, some sit-in on the bed.

“Should I get Malachi?” Asked my Mom. I shook my head. He should hear this from Maze.

“Should I get Astrid?” Fang asked. She already knew.

“I spoke with her this morning,” I said.

“Well, out with it, I hate suspense!” Said Fang impatiently.

“Is everything all right, Friday?” Asked Raelynn worriedly.

“Yes, yes!” I said.

How should I tell them? I looked at Katrina where she sat on my bed, flanked by Fallon and Fargo.

“Fallon and Fargo are twins,” I began, feeling idiotic. “Identical ones.”

“Very good, Friday,” said Fang. “And they’re sitting on a bed. What colour is the sheet?”

Ezra snickered. Raelynn swatted Ezra and then glared daggers at Fang, silencing him. He was a lot more respectful of her than me even though our relationship was miles better than it used to be.

“And they’re both fated to Katrina,” I continued as if Fang hadn’t said anything.

“Honey, are you all right?” Asked Mom. “No one blames you, really, darling!”

“I know, I know!” I said, putting my palms up.

This wasn’t going smoothly.

“Thaddeus and Maze are ok with sharing me so I’m marrying both of them ok. Here, look at my two engagement rings!” I blurted out, showing them my hand and wiggling the finger with the two joint rings. All of their jaws literally dropped, except for Raelynn.

“Well, I , for one, thought that was common knowledge that you were a threesome!” Exclaimed Raelynn.

“A threesome?!” Exclaimed Ezra.

“No! No! Not a threesome! Um...we’re...they’re like twins you know like Fallon and Fargo. They don’t mind sharing! Their relationship is platonic,” I informed them.

“Well, it’s still a threesome, just with you in the middle,” Ezra retorted.

“Ezra!” Hissed both my Mom and Raelynn in unison indignantly.

I blushed deeply.

“And you’re ok with this?” Asked Fang sternly.

I nodded.

“I want a verbal answer,” Fang specified.

I could feel my inner wolf rolling her eyes at the new and improved protective Fang. Although, he was genuine now.

“Yes, I am ok with it,” I said, nodding.

Silence.

“Are you ok with it?” I directed that question to Fang.

“It’s not my decision to make,” Fang said. “I’m not all that surprised! I knew something strange happened in the hospital bathroom during your heat while I was parting that fight between Mom and Elizabeth.”

I blushed as the vivid memory flashed through my mind. Me n.aked, slung over a n.ude Thaddeus’ shoulder while Maze spanked my behind. I bit my lip.

“Well, I’m glad we had this talk! Thank you for coming! I...”

My mother interrupted me.

“Two of them?” She said incredulously.

“Yeah,” I said tentatively.

My mother frowned. She folded her arms. “You’re not a little toy for them to play with. I don’t like the sound of it at all!” She said firmly.

My eyes widened in surprise. Of all people, I hadn’t expected my Mom to care much. She’d been so distant growing up.

“Well, it’s what I want,” I mumbled.

“Well, I need to have a serious chat with Thaddeus and Maze then!” She retorted.

“What?!” I yelped.

“If they’re going to both be my son-in-laws, I want to lay down some ground rules!” She said.

“Mom, you can’t tell them what to do! They’re alphas!” I protested.

“Like hell I can’t!” Snapped my Mom, shocking me.

The twins looked surprised but amused.

Fang’s expression was totally blank.

Katrina hadn’t really reacted at all but she spoke for the first time. “I have two mates, well, two predestined ones. Your sons, Felicity!” Said Katrina, reminding my Mom of that.

Mom shrugged. “They’re twins.”

“It’s a similar concept!” Said Katrina.

“I have every right to speak with Maze. He’s my step-son already!” Mom said defiantly.

Wait, what?

“What do you mean already?” I asked.

Mom looked like a deer caught in the headlights.

“I...with everything these days being so...intense. Malachi and I didn’t want to wait. We’ll have a big proper reception, like a party eventually, but we’d already waited so long so...we tied the knot,” she admitted, showing me where a wedding band had been placed above her engagement ring on her finger.

I was shocked. Everyone else was quiet. I had really wanted to be at that wedding. Raelynn looked upset.

“You got married without me there?” She said, frowning. She was my Mom and Malachi’s only biological child.

“We weren’t there either,” said Fallon, speaking for himself and Fargo, in an attempt to comfort Raelynn.

“Neither was I,” added Fang gently. “I’m sure Maze wasn’t there too.”

Raelynn nodded but she had a point. Both Malachi and my Mom were her parents. My Mom looked really apologetic. She smoothed Raelynn’s hair.

“It was quite spur of the moment, Sweetheart!” She cooed.

“I promise you’ll all be at the proper reception!” Mom said. “As bridesmaids and groomsmen if you don’t mind? Malachi and I discussed it. Maze will be a groomsman also of course, the best man, actually. Katrina and Ezra, you’re welcome to be in the wedding party too, if you like?” Asked my Mom.

“I’d love to, Mom,” said Raelynn smiling. They embraced.

“Count us in!” Said Fargo. Fallon nodded, grinning.

“Yeah, sure,” mumbled Fang.

“And Astrid too of course!” Added my Mom.

“Thank you, Felicity,” said Katrina smiling brightly.

“We’d love to be a part of it!” Exclaimed Ezra.

Maybe I could just tiptop away while they were distracted.

“Where are you going?” Asked Mom before I could get to the door.

“Bring Thaddeus and Maze here so I can talk to them!” Instructed Mom. My stomach churned. Uh Oh.

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09 minutes read

Friday’s POV

My mother's eyes went dark. I knew she was mind-linking Malachi and perhaps, Maze and Thaddeus.

"Malachi says Maze already told him!" My Mom said, her eyes lightening.

"What about Thaddeus' parents?" I asked.

Her warm brown eyes turned black again.

"Thaddeus told Timbre and True," Mom said.

I drew a sharp intake of breath. I wondered what my future in-laws had to say about all of this.

"So Maze didn't tell Elizabeth yet?" I asked nervously.

My mom seemed to understand immediately what I was nervous about. Elizabeth wasn't a fan of hers either! I went over and sat on the bed next to my Mom.

"It doesn't seem so, Sweetheart," said my Mom, patting me on the head.

I sighed. I hoped that Elizabeth wouldn't make this extra hard for Maze.

My Mom waited patiently for my alphas to arrive. The door opened and Maze, Thaddeus, Malachi, Timber, True, Timothy, Titus and to my horror, Elizabeth walked in.

Elizabeth immediately demanded an explanation for this impromptu meeting. She stood there, arms akimbo, tapping one of her feet. Maze looked a little apprehensive.

"Mom...Thaddeus and I have mutually decided to both be with Friday," Maze said. "And Friday has consented to it."

Elizabeth laughed humourlessly.

"Well, of course, Friday is ok with it!" Said Elizabeth snidely. "She gets to have her cake and eat it too!"

Elizabeth was glaring daggers at me. Mom narrowed her eyes at Elizabeth.

"She didn't ask to be fated to both of them. It just happened!" Retorted Mom.

Elizabeth snorted. "Kind of like how you just happened to be sleeping with my husband all those years. Like mother, like daughter. One man is never enough for either of you!" Snarled Elizabeth.

"Mom!" Exclaimed Maze indignantly.

“If you have a problem with me, that’s fine! But Friday doesn’t deserve your venom!”
Said Mom.

Malachi wrapped an arm around Mom, pulling her away from Elizabeth and close to him.

I saw Maze’s grey eyes darken. He was talking to someone. Almost instantly, someone hurried into the room. It was Cody!

Quick thinking, Maze! Complimented my wolf. That’s my alpha!

I was thankful too. Cody would calm Elizabeth down. No one particularly wanted to quarrel with her as she was pregnant. Cody embraced Elizabeth, hugging her tightly just as Malachi was doing for Felicity.

If anyone, especially my Dad, asks, we plan to live in a third new pack house that we’re building between the borders of Marigold and Berryndale without disturbing the Marigold Wall! Said Maze over mind-link to me and Thaddeus.

Thaddeus chuckled.

What? I said.

Maze was trying to impress his father and ended up building an imaginary pack house!
Said Thaddeus.

I couldn’t have my father thinking we hadn’t decided on a place of residence for the three of us! Whined Maze.

A third pack house sounds wonderful though! I said, hoping that Maze and Thaddeus would really do that for me. I didn’t want to be sent back and forth from one territory to the other.

So, is everyone up to speed now? I asked.

My parents know and now so do my brothers. I mind-linked Theo and he would have told Ida but they’re with the baby at the park, said Thaddeus.

My father knows, and now so does my mother. Raelynn knows, Maze said.

All my siblings know and my Mom knows, I said, trying not to automatically think of my father.

Everyone was talking amongst each other in little groups. Fang addressed the room.

“So, will you announce what you’ve said to us at the ending ceremony of the Challenge?” Asked Fang, looking at both alphas.

My alphas looked at me.

“That’s for Friday to decide,” said Thaddeus.

“The verdict has to be hers,” said Maze.

I had to address the whole Berryndale pack! Lots of visitors from Marigold would be there as well. I felt lightheaded just thinking about it.

Felicity’s POV

I knew I was in no real position to tell Friday what to do with her life. Yes, she was my daughter but I hadn’t been a very present mother and I’d subjected her to her psychopathic father, unbeknownst to me but still, I could have had better judgement. There were definitely signs that he was not at all a good father. He disliked Friday just for being a girl and being wolf-less, both things beyond her control. He often put the twins against Fang, saying even two of them added together didn’t add up to one Fang and thus they could never be Beta. Fang had to be the Beta.

I had gotten tired of arguing with him behind closed doors about his hate-filled comments. I had sort of given up on that marriage before it ever really got off the ground. I knew or at the very least, I hoped that I would be with Malachi soon and that was all that mattered to me at that time. Despite all of this, I wanted to be a better mother to Friday, Raelynn and their brothers now. Even to Maze, my step-son and my future son-in-law, Thaddeus.

I motioned for the two alphas to follow me into the next room. We exited into the hallway and went to my bedroom that I shared with Malachi, my new husband.

“Boys, I wanted to talk to both of you,” I said in earnest.

They sat in the chairs near the table and I sat on the edge of my bed.

They were fidgeting nervously.

“Why have you decided to both marry Friday?” I asked.

“We’re in love with her,” said Thaddeus simply.

“You know firsthand how awful it is to have to be without your mates,” said Maze.

I nodded.

“Malachi mind-linked me and said you intend to build a third pack house and live there with Friday?” I asked, my expression doubtful.

Maze stiffened. Thaddeus looked at Maze.

“Yes,” said Maze, nodding.

“And Friday is ok with that?” I asked.

“Yes,” said Maze confidently.

“What about children?” I asked.

“Um...what about children?” Asked Maze.

“Don’t you intend to have any? If Friday is to be a proper Luna to both of you then she will be the mother of two future alphas at least,” I said.

Maze nodded fervently. “Oh, yeah,” he said.

“Of course, I want kids,” said Thaddeus.

“Will you do paternity tests on all of them?” I asked.

“Yes!” Said Maze.

“Yeah, that would make sense,” agreed Thaddeus.

“What if Friday divorces one of you in the future? Will that cause a war?” I asked.

They both looked aghast.

“There will be no divorce!” Said Thaddeus.

“We don’t plan on separating,” specified Maze.

“Well, no one plans on separating,” I said matter-of-factly. “But if Friday changes her mind about one or both of you, what will you do?”

“Try to change it back,” said Maze as though that were obvious.

Thaddeus nodded, agreeing with Maze.

I chuckled.

I looked at their eager faces. I didn't want Friday to be strung along at all like I had been. I only wanted her to accept serious offers. They both had to be serious about this.

"My Friday isn't a doll so don't play games with her, ok, boys!" I said, my tone austere.

They nodded.

"Say yes," I said.

"Yes," they said in unison.

Thaddeus' POV

We returned to the room where everyone was still chatting. I finally managed to extricate my little Friday and my bro, Maze, from the group. I wanted to go on our last date. It was Maze's date day but he'd already specified he wanted to go to the Winter Faeries' Valley or the Winter Faeries' Dale as Maze called it. I drove them myself. Maze was in the passenger seat. My little fiancée was very quiet in the backseat.

"Little Luna?" I said, looking at her in the rearview mirror.

She looked a bit forlorn.

"What's the matter, Baby?" Asked Maze.

"I'm kinda scared to address the pack members," she admitted with a heavy sigh.

"Baby, you have to become accustomed to addressing the pack!" I said. "You're gonna be Luna of two packs."

"It'll be ok," said Maze soothingly to my surprise.

She nodded but continued to sulk. We reached the valley. The air was cold and crisp here. There was a colossal building with windows that sparkled brilliantly. There was a placid lake behind the building and a garden of human-sized beautiful flowers surrounded it. Maze and Friday got out and ran up to a giant flower.

"This one is a Marigold!" Said Maze excitedly, sniffing the flower. It was bigger than the alpha's face and the stem was almost as tall as he was.

"Shall we walk through the gardens?" I asked them.

"Nope!" Said Maze.

I looked at him, confused.

Maze grinned.

“I want to take you guys to the top of the Dale’s Inn!” Said Maze pointing to the huge building. “At the very top floor is where we’ll have our date!” Said Maze.

“What’s there, a restaurant?” Gussed Friday.

Maze shook his head. I hadn’t been to the top myself though I knew what was up there. My parents loved going there. We entered the lobby of the Faerie Inn. They were expecting us. Maze had called ahead. I could see Friday marvelling at their appearances. The Winter Faeries typically had pointed ears, pale silvery and platinum hair with violet eyes. The Autumn Faeries who were also human-sized usually had pointed ears, gleaming golden skin and dark hair with amber eyes.

I managed to pull Friday away from the faeries. I knew she had a ton of questions for them. We took the elevator all the way up. Friday was shocked at how many floors there were. We got out at floor 111. The top floor. My little Luna gasped.

Maze’s POV

On the top floor, floor 111, there was a hallway with sparkling glass walls, a glass ceiling and a glass floor. It felt like walking through a prism of light. At the end of the hallway was what I had been excited to take Friday to see. We walked out onto the rooftop which was level with the mountain-top. We crossed a thick sturdy bridge also made of sparkling glass. It looked as though it were made of ice with the way it glistened in the light along with the slight blue tinge to the otherwise colourless glass.

The bridge led us to a relatively flat surface on the snow-topped mountain where there were hot springs known for their healing and mood restoration properties. The steam rose slowly from the hot springs. Friday eagerly put her cold hands over the rising vapour to warm them.

“Let’s get in!” I said.

Thaddeus grinned. He didn’t need to be told twice. He stripped down to his boxers and slipped right into the spring with a splash. I got down to my swimming trunks. Before I entered the springs, I extended a hand to a hesitant Friday. She took my hand. She kicked off her ballet flats and tested the water with her foot. I pulled her dress over her head. I quickly wrapped my arms around her as she instantly started to shiver.

“Come on, little Luna,” encouraged Thaddeus in his rumbling deep voice, extending a dripping hand to her. She held my hand from where we were on the shore and grasped Thaddeus’ hand. We helped her carefully into the spring. She squealed.

“It’s really warm!” She said, giggling.

“Too hot?!” I asked, slipping in after her.

“Too hot to handle?!” Asked Thaddeus wagging his eyebrows at her. She blushed.

We soaked in the hot springs. There was an area of stone that jutted out like a seat underwater. We all sat on it, Friday in the middle, with the water coming up to her breasts. The water level reached Thaddeus and me around our navels as we were both more than a foot taller than little Friday.

Friday sighed contentedly.

“Happy?” I asked her.

She didn't respond. She just kissed me. I savoured her taste, tangling my fingers in her long dark waves. She nipped my bottom lip, eliciting a growl from me. Before she could wiggle away, I made her pay for that little love bite by tickling her sides. She shrieked and tried to wriggle out of my grasp. Thaddeus gripped her, hugging her from behind while I tickled her mercilessly.

“You monsters!” She breathed, breathless from laughing. I chuckled. Thaddeus roared with laughter. We stayed in the springs until our fingers were all wrinkled from the water. The faerie attendants brought out platters of food and drinks for us occasionally. Everything was quite healthy and yet it all tasted sinfully delicious. The sun began to set.

“Happy Challenge Eve!” I announced.

Friday giggled.

“Happy Challenge Eve, Maze,” boomed Thaddeus raising his mug of beer.

“Happy Challenge Eve, Friday, my little Luna!” Rumbled Thaddeus, kissing her gently.

“I love you, Baby,” I murmured against Friday's damp cheek, gripping her waist from behind.

“I love you, Maze!” She said so softly and sweetly in my ear. Her breath tickled my skin.

“I love you, Luna,” said Thaddeus in his deep timbre voice.

“I love you, Thaddeus,” she whispered back as the last few rays of golden sunlight dimmed and the silver stars came out to shine.

The Challenge Two Alphas, One Girl Chapter 90 - Tips

09 minutes read

Katrina's POV:

It was late but Friday, Maze and Thaddeus weren't back from their date yet. Elizabeth had been fuming since their announcement that both alphas wanted to be with Friday. I could hear her complaining in the hallway as she waited up for Maze. I didn't see what the big deal was. Of course, I was a bit biased as I had been fated to two mates myself. I was lying between them currently, spooning Fallon while Fargo spooned me. I kept tossing and turning. Things between me and the twins had moved quite quickly but we hadn't actually mated yet. I wanted to make sure that they really cared first.

"What's wrong?" Groaned Fargo groggily.

My tossing and turning had woken him up.

"Sorry I woke you," I whispered.

"That's ok," mumbled Fargo.

"What's bothering you?" Said Fallon softly.

I had woken him up too!

"Sorry, guys! Please go back to sleep," I implored them.

"Katrina," groaned Fargo, nudging me a little.

"What?" I said sleepily.

"Turn around," he said simply.

I turned around to face him and his lips found mine in the darkness. I moaned into his mouth as he coaxed my mouth open with those skilful movements of his. He wrapped his arms tightly around me. I could feel Fargo, behind me, lifting my hair to kiss the nape of my neck. Fallon's hands snaked under my blouse, squeezing my most sensitive areas while Fargo and I deepened our kiss. They were so hot, literally. I was burning up because of their combined body heat. I flung the blanket off of us to get some relief. I sighed when the chilly night air hit my skin, a welcomed contrast between their furnace-like heat, not that I was complaining. I knew I was a lucky girl. Fallon was trailing kisses down my back and slipping my night gown off in the process. Now would be about the time where I would stop them so we didn't go too far. I didn't have to because the noise in the corridor made the twins pause.

Thaddeus, Friday and Maze were back!

Maze's POV

My heart almost stopped when I ran right into my mother as soon as I got to the Berryndale Alpha Floor.

“Hey, Mom,” I said softly.

Her face was contorted with anger. She was in a fuzzy pink robe over her floral nightgown and fuzzy pink slippers with a matching night cap. I could tell she had been pacing the hallway. Cody was there with her. He gave me an apologetic look.

“Tell me you’re not really going through with this?!” She said, her tone grave.

“Mom!” I whined softly, hoping she wouldn’t do this in front of Friday and Thaddeus. It was almost midnight.

“Goodnight, Friday,” said Thaddeus pointedly, kissing her on the forehead and pointing her in the direction of her room.

She looked at me with her doe eyes. I kissed her forehead too and pushed her gently towards her door. She grumbled to herself and went to her room, throwing one last disapproving glance at Thaddeus and me. Friday sighed sadly and shut the door leaving us with my Mom.

My mom gave a sigh of relief.

“Good, she’s gone!” Exclaimed my Mom in a dramatic stage whisper that I knew Friday could hear from her room.

“Mom!” I exclaimed indignantly.

“What?” She replied offhandedly with a dismissive wave of her manicured hand.

“Lizzie, time for bed, ok,” said Cody in what I thought was meant to be a stern tone but my Mom ignored him.

“Mom,” I said in a serious tone, cupping her face gently in my hands. “Friday is my mate. I hate myself for saying this but you know all too well the pain I could cause another girl if I marry another instead of Friday! Would you want that for someone? I can’t do that to anyone, knowing that I love Friday. I can’t do that to Friday and I can’t do that to myself. Dad really hurt you and I refuse to do that to anyone. I have to be honest with myself. I’m always gonna want to be with Friday so why would you have me pretend otherwise? For whose benefit? It would just be delaying our relationship not ending it,” I said.

My Mom sniffled. There were tears brimming in her eyes. I knew she still hated talking about how my father had used her essentially. I nuzzled her and she sighed. Her tears rolled down her cheeks.

"You look just like him," she whispered. "But you're twice the man he is," she said, her nose stuffy. I took out my handkerchief and helped her blow her nose.

"I just want what's best for you," she mumbled.

Her tears continued to fall. I wiped them away.

"I know," I said softly.

"How 'bout a night cap?" Said a deep rumbling voice that I initially thought was Thaddeus.

I realised the voice was too deep even for Thaddeus. I looked around, confused, and spotted Timbre and True who had just come up the stairs. It had been Thaddeus' Dad.

"What do you say, Lizzie?" Boomed Timbre with a laugh that shook the Alpha Floor.

"Yeah," said Thaddeus, agreeing to the night cap.

"Yep," I said.

"Not you two! Go to bed! Both of you!" Ordered Timbre gruffly. True giggled.

I was an alpha in my own right and could not be commanded but I was so shocked by the fatherly order that I actually went to my room. Even though Thaddeus was the Alpha of Berryndale now, he went to his room too, grumbling the way Friday had earlier.

Friday's POV

I woke up on the thirtieth and final day of the Challenge with my mind filled with racing thoughts. I was still guilty over killing my own father and Ezra's father although we would have never been safe with them alive. I was thinking about the fact that Prophetess was still at large. Ezra had assured me she wouldn't act alone so she was supposedly a non-threat now that Ezekiel was dead. Above all else, I was incredibly nervous to address the pack members of Berryndale and Marigold. I was also ecstatic about the prospect of finally being with both of my alphas. It was a lot to feel all at once. I had the whole day to be a bundle of nerves too as the ending Ceremony was to be at nighttime under the glow of the full moon.

I showered and got ready methodically, focusing completely on one task at a time so my mind wouldn't wander too much. I was relieved to see Astrid when she came to help me get dressed. She was a welcome distraction. She insisted I dress up today and dress up even more tonight. She put me in a shimmery black satin dress with a flower crown of red roses. She styled my hair in loose curls again and did my makeup. I smiled at my reflection. I gave her a thumbs-up.

I practically skipped to the Alpha Dining Room. My face fell when I found it empty. There were some staff members of the pack house in there.

“Can you guys let me know when Thaddeus and Maze come to breakfast please? I’ll just be in my room,” I told them.

“Luna Friday, they won’t be joining you!” Exclaimed one of the head staff members.

“What?!” I said, a little panicked. Had they changed their minds about me? It was too good to be true! I should have known.

“It’s customary on the final Challenge day for the Luna and Alphas to be kept apart,” said the staff member.

Oh. Overreaction much.

I blushed.

“Of course,” I said as if I’d known that but had only momentarily forgotten.

I sat down and they served me breakfast. I made my own sweet, milky coffee but I was too jittery to drink it properly. I could barely eat my breakfast. I paced around my room. The time couldn’t go fast enough.

Thaddeus’ POV

Being away from my little Luna for a whole day was exceedingly difficult. I wondered if she was thinking about me. Maze and I were confined to our separate rooms at first for the day while the soon-to-be Luna had free rein of the pack house. There was no explicit rule against the challengers seeing each other on the day of the ceremony before nightfall so I asked for Maze to come to my room. The servants escorted him here while Friday was in the Dining Room so they wouldn’t cross paths and see each other before dusk. Maze was pacing up and down.

“What time is it?” Asked Maze.

“Five minutes later than the last time you asked me,” I responded.

I was lying on my bed pretending to read a book but none of the information was registering. I was consumed by thoughts of my Luna. “What if she says something crazy tonight?” Asked Maze, his eyes wide.

“Like what?” I asked, a little worried now too.

“Like she chooses neither of us or chooses only one of us after all?” Maze wondered aloud.

"I don't think my little Luna would do that," I said. "She seemed thrilled that she didn't have to choose between us."

Maze nodded. He slumped down on the bed.

"What time is it?" He asked me.

"Seven minutes after the first time you asked me," I said with a chuckle.

Fang's POV

The full moon cast a silvery glow over the field behind the pack house where the Ending Ceremony of the Challenge was being held. She was not alone in the sky. Countless stars accompanied her adding their own glow to the night. There were long tables, with twelve chairs at either side, placed in columns along the field. The centrepieces were crystal vases filled with long-stem white roses. All the guests were asked to wear white to the Ceremony. I was in an all white tuxedo. Astrid was beaming in her white gown, greeting all the pack leaders and top warriors from both the Marigold and Berryndale packs.

Maze and Thaddeus were both downstairs already, also in white tuxedos. They both wore jackets with their coat of arms on it along with their family crests. Maze looked incredibly nervous and seemed distant while people milled around him chattering excitedly. Thaddeus seemed a bit more relaxed than Maze but he wasn't his cool as a cucumber usual self. I spotted Theo discussing something with the event planners. All the dignified guests in their finery were asked to take their seats. There was a platform at the far side of all the tables with a throne on it where Friday would be crowned Luna. The white was symbolic of her innocence. She would relinquish her flower crown of white roses for a golden crown of red rubies. I hadn't seen her yet. She would be the last to arrive. I knew Astrid had helped her get ready.

"How was she?" I asked Astrid.

"She was so nervous! You know how shy she is! I hope she doesn't faint," said my mate, looking at the platters of wine glasses wistfully.

"You'll give birth soon enough," I told her.

Astrid smiled. She nodded.

Theo stepped up to the podium on the platform. I noticed there were important vampires, humans and even Winter and Autumn Faeries among the crowd. There were pixies and Spring and Summer faeries fluttering overhead. They added to the beauty of the scene.

“Welcome to the pack leaders of our neighbour and Aly, Marigold!” Said Theo in a powerful voice.

Cheers erupted.

“Welcome to our very own pack leaders of Berryndale!” Theo announced.

Cheers and whoops of delight were heard. Almost everyone was seated now. I led Astrid to our seat up front.

“Welcome to all of our dear distinguished guests!” Said Theo.

There was another round of applause amongst loud cheering. Some of the dignitaries seemed to have indulged on the way there and were tipsy already.

“Tonight we celebrate the ending of the CHALLENGE!” Boomed Theo.

The cheers were deafening.

“Welcome to the stage, the Marigold Challenger, Alpha Maze Mason!” Yelled Theo to another round of loud screams and whoops.

Maze walked up the stairs to the platform. He gave a little wave. Many she-wolves were screaming and swooning. Maze grinned though he seemed quite anxious.

“Welcome to the stage, the Berryndale Challenger, our very own Alpha Thaddeus Hawthorne!”

Thaddeus bounded up the stairs and stood on the opposite side of Maze with the throne between them. He grinned and nodded in acknowledge to the crowd further intensifying their earsplitting screams.

“Let’s revisit and recap the story that started the Challenge shall we?” Said Theo.

The spot light on Theo was shut off. The stage went dark for a few moments before all the stage lights were turned on. Theo, Maze and Thaddeus were gone, replaced by actors. Oh good grief! A play! Berryndale werewolves were certainly known for their theatrics. I’d have to sit through a whole comedic play based off the actual events that led up to the challenge. I groaned loudly and Astrid swatted me playfully. I readied myself for a train wreck.