

CHAPTER 22

Edward

After eight hours of no luck, Jackson and I called it quits for the day. I'm not sure who was more excited about getting out of there, me or him. Our father's record room was no joke. We hardly made a dent in the first pile. This was going to take much longer than anticipated. We left feeling defeated, Jackson's hair was tousled from the number of times he ran his fingers through his hair. Mine probably looked the same.

"Same time tomorrow?" I half joked, but was mostly serious.

"f**k you." Jackson snipped back, heading back to the elevator that led to his floor.

I waived goodbye, Jackson flipped me off in return just as the elevator doors were closing. I looked at the clock, it was a quarter to five. I had just over an hour to get things ready for tonight. I started with myself, taking a quick shower and grabbing a clean looking pair of dark blue jeans and a button-down gray dress shirt.

Ella had linked me earlier in the day asking what my plans for Sierra were so she knew what kind of outfit to pull for her, reassuring me she wouldn't tell Sierra. I was grateful that she was still with her. I didn't expect Ella to be there that long. Sierra likes to shut people out, so for Ella to have been there for the better part of 5 hours was impressive, though it was hard not to like Ella. I was pleased that the moon goddess picked someone like her to be my brother's mate. She kept him in line and was a fantastic assistant to Hope. If Sierra and I can work things out, I know she will be great for her as well.

"Alpha." Anita gave me a curt nod as I approached.

"Anita, can I ask a favor of you?"

"Anything my king." She stopped wiping down the counter, giving me her full attention.

"Do you think you could throw a few sandwiches together for me?"

"Of course." She laughed at my request. "Any particular kind?"

"Ugh, no, whatever you think is good."

She eyes me warily before heading to the refrigerator and grabbing a few things.

"Do...do we have a picnic basket and blanket as well?" I struggled to ask. My hand went to the back of my neck, Anita turned to look at me, eyeing me up and down.

"Why, yes. We do. May I ask the occasion?" She said with a knowing smile.

I smiled back, my face feeling heated. Was I blushing? Goddess help me!

"I see. Give me ten minutes and I'll take care of everything. Her beaming smile and lighthearted spirit did nothing to help my rising anxiousness. I wanted tonight to go perfectly. I wanted Sierra to give us a chance. I would fight to the death for her. And hopefully, Jackson and I would find out who was after her.

"Alpha." Ella greeted me as she walked through the kitchen, grabbing a bottle of water from the refrigerator.

"Ella, how did today go?" I tentatively asked, looking around to make sure there were no eavesdroppers.

"Sierra is amazing. She is so strong and is going to make an amazing Luna. I love her." She beamed.

"So the girl talk went well then?"

"Fantastic. I think I might have a new bestie." She half snorted to herself.

"And regarding our conversation this morning?"

"Well, she certainly didn't regret last night." Ella laughed. "Just...go easy on her, she has been through a lot. I promised her I wouldn't share her story with anyone. That means you too." She pointed a finger at me. "She is our Luna, whether she knows it or not, and I will not disobey her orders."

"Understood. Thank you, Ella."

"Here you go King Edward, its all set for you." Anita said as she hauled a massive picnic basket onto the counter, pushing it in my direction. "I hope you and your special friend have a wonderful time tonight."

"Oh I'm sure they will." Ella snickered, making Anita light up even more. I needed to get out of here.

I shot Ella a glare before grabbing the basket and hopping into my SUV. I had just enough time to finish setting up our date. I hope Sierra responds well to it. She has made it very clear that she plans on rejecting me, that she doesn't want to get too close. Although her body tells me differently, I suppose I have the mate bond to thank for that. It's probably the only sliver of hope I have to salvage our relationship. If only I knew more, I could put an end to whomever was after her, and every other hybrid for that matter. I would like to think if she wasn't being hunted down, if she didn't worry about me getting hurt, we would already have been mated and marked. But there is still the matter of whoever killed Hope. Will they come after Sierra as well? I'm not ever sure who they are and it's been years since her death. I couldn't risk that happening to Sierra. I don't think I could survive losing two mates. Maybe I could lock her in the basement, keep her hidden from everyone, keep her safe.

"Yeah that doesn't sound like the start of a horror film at all..." Edmund chimed in.

"I'm open to any better suggestions you might have." I rolled my eyes.

"We need to mate and mark her."

"We need her consent first, dummy."

"Her wolf wants it..." Edmund said very coyly.

"Yeah, well, it's not happening until they both want it."

I pulled up to the lake house and headed towards the lake with my picnic basket.

"There, perfect." I said to no one after spreading out the picnic blanket across the grass by the side of the water. I waited to pull the food out but did find a few wildflowers in the meadow next to the lake and picked her a bouquet.

The lake house and lake were far enough from everything that no one came near it, not to mention it was also private property. I didn't have to worry about any prying eyes. The fewer people who knew about Sierra, the safer she would be. Plus, I didn't need gossip to spread either. Now, time to go get my girl.

I arrived back at the house with a minute to spare, perfect. Standing on the porch, I hoped that Sierra had figured out my puzzle or I might be standing out here awkwardly for a while. To my delight, at precisely 6:00pm, my mate opened the front door with a beautiful smile on her perfect face. Her eyes raked up and down my body, seeming pleased at the sight. Edmund was preening in delight at our mates' look of approval.

Sierra was dressed in a long blue dress that highlighted her eyes, her hair had soft curls, and she was even wearing makeup. She always looked beautiful, but right now everything in me wanted to carry her up to our bed and make sweet love to her. She looked breathtaking.

"Hi." I said in a husky voice.

"Hi yourself." She shot back in a sultry voice.

Goddess, we were going to be in trouble.

"These are for you." I handed her the bouquet of flowers, which she took appreciatively and placed them in a vase after smelling them and thanking me. "Ready to go?" I asked. I would have offered her my arm to walk with but the crutches made that difficult.

"Ready." She smiled and followed me down the front steps. "Where are we going?" She asked.

"It's a surprise." I winked at her, earning a blush in return.

It wasn't long before the rowboat came into view at the end of the dock.

"We are going on a boat ride!?" Sierra exclaimed in delight.

"Only if you want to." I smiled, already knowing the answer.

"Yes!"

"Here let me help you." I grabbed Sierra by the waist and lowered her down into the row boat at the end of the dock. She let out a squeak that went straight to my already hardening d**k.

We leisurely paddled around the lake, making a big half circle around the still waters. It was a perfect night for this. Sierra eagerly jumped in to paddle, only to let me take the lead again after a few minutes of spinning us in a circle. I don't think I've had this much fun in a while. Sierra was laughing hysterically at herself, spurring on my own laughter at the situation. Her face dropped in disappointment when I docked us, but it didn't last long when her eyes laid on the picnic I had ready for us.

"You did all this?" She asked sweetly.

"I may have had a little help." I answered sheepishly as I helped her climb out of the boat, careful not to get her wet...well, with water at least.

"You didn't have to." She said quietly, and I swear I saw her wipe a stray tear from her eye.

"I wanted to." Wrapping my arms around her from behind, I nuzzled into her neck and gave her a quick kiss. Her breath hitched and goosebumps cluttered her skin, but to my surprise, she grabbed ahold of me and tilted her head away from me, giving me more access. I nipped at her skin then followed up with a hot wet kiss.

"Edward" She moaned my name, bringing her arm up to cradle my head. I loved how responsive she was to my touch.

"As much as I want to continue, and believe me I really do, we should probably eat before the food gets cold." I released her from my grip.

Sierra wasted no time in sitting on the red and white plaid picnic blanket. "Can I open it?" She asked.

"Absolutely," I said, taking a seat next to her.

"Mmm, something smells good." She licked her lips. "Ooo, whats this?" She opened one of the containers, revealing chicken and broccoli alfredo. It seemed that Anita had gone all out. She got a bit on her thumb but took care of it quickly by sucking the sauce off with her beautiful little mouth.

"You're killing me Sierra." I groaned in frustration, trying to conceal my boner while I watched her continue to lick her thumb clean.

Her innocent looking eyes stared at me for a moment before it clicked in her head. "Oh, sorry." She flushed bright red but recovered quickly, dishing out our meal as a distraction, I think.

"What was your favorite thing to do growing up?" I asked, taking a bite of garlic bread.

"Hmm. I loved playing with the little animals that followed my mother. I don't think they liked it very much though." She answered almost immediately, laughing to herself at the last part.

"Animals followed your mom?" I was shocked she was being so open with me.

"Yeah, just about every kind imaginable. She was a werewolf/witch hybrid. Her gift was over animals." She said between bites of food.

"So you are a werewolf witch hybrid yourself then. Huh!"

She nodded in agreement.

"I don't know much about witches. Werewolves typically don't typically interact with other species, so forgive me if I'm asking a stupid question, but do you have any abilities?" I asked while pouring us both a glass of champagne.

"Um, kinda, I think. But only during dangerous experiences. But I want to learn more." She said, taking a drink.

"What happens when you use your powers?"

"Um...I level buildings sometimes." She winced.

"I'm sorry, did I hear you correctly, you level buildings?" I laughed nervously.

"Only once!" She reassured me.

I broke down laughing. Our situation couldn't be any more f****d up.

"And here I thought you'd be running for the hills from me." She smirked.

"Never." I smiled back.

Our conversation continued, lighthearted and fun. I learned that Sierra was a twin, a twin hybrid. What are the chances of that? One in a million I would guess. She spoke very highly of her deceased family. It's a shame I'll never get to meet them, but I can at least try to avenge them.

Sierra

Goddess, this man was amazing. I hadn't been treated this well in quite some time. I decided earlier that I would open up to Edward more, no matter the consequences, he was my mate after all. Speaking with Ella made me realize how lonely I really was inside and how good it felt to talk about things. Alcohol helped with that also. Sienna was purring in my head the entire night, completely content being with our mate. We were currently lying back on the picnic blanket, staring up at the crystal clear night sky. I was tucked into Edwards' side while he lazily traced circles on my back.

"This is nice." I hummed.

"Mhm." He agreed.

"It reminds me of when I was little. My father would take me and my brother outside on a clear night and we would try to find as many constellations as we could."

"Big dipper," Edward pointed.

"Little dipper." I played along.

"The Hunter."

"The Twins"

We continued for a while, enjoying our little game. It was moments like these that kept me going. If I could freeze time, I would, right here, right now. Snuggled up next to my mate, not a care in the world.

"We should be heading back soon, its getting late." My mate said after my third yawn.

"Five more minutes?" I asked.

He grunted in approval, continuing to rub circles on my back. We packed up shortly after and made our way to the row boat. He helped me back onto the boat and we watched the breathtaking view of the galaxy on our way back to the house. I don't know what came over me, if it was the fireflies that greeted us on our way to the house, the champagne, the mate bond, or the fantastic night we just had, but as soon as we got inside and Edward shut the door, I crashed my lips into his, taking him by surprise.

"What is this for?" He asked between kisses.

"Shut up and take us upstairs." I said while unbuttoning his shirt.

"You don't have to tell me twice." He broke our kiss and picked me up bridal style before hauling ass up the stairs.

He set me down on the edge of the bed, heaving for air, just like me. The s****l tension in this room could be cut with a knife. I broke our staring contest and reached for his belt. My hands were shaking, nervousness coming over me, but not stopping me. Unbuttoning his pants, I slowly pulled both his jeans and boxers down at the same time, letting his erect manhood spring free.

"Holy shit." I whispered to myself.

"You don't have to do this." Edward said, giving me an out, but by the way he dripped with pre-cum, I think that is what Ella called it, I knew he wanted it.

"I want to." I said, looking him in the eye. I started with my hands like Ella had suggested, rubbing my thumb over the tip of his d**k and then pumping his full length with my hand, maintaining eye contact the entire time. Edward growled in approval and I continued, using my other hand to gently massage his balls.

"Fuck...Sierra." He moaned.

I took the tip of his head in my mouth next, swirling my tongue around it before taking as much of his length into my mouth as I could without gagging. I continued at a slow pace, getting used to the feeling of him in my mouth and 'properly teasing him', Ella's words, not mine. Edwards' hands gently grabbed onto my head and guided me at a faster pace, I was able to take him a bit deeper, his d**k getting harder in my mouth, a confirmation that I was doing something right.

"I'm going to cum." He warned me, taking his hands off my head and finding stability with the bedpost. I sped up, determined to finish what I started.

Edward growled fiercely, his hot seed hitting the back of my throat and filling my mouth. I choked a little from how much of a load he let loose, trying to swallow as much down as I could.

"Goddess." He sighed in contentment, still bracing himself against the bed. "I haven't busted a load like that in...ever." He said, pulling me up off the bed and crashing his lips into mine. He slowly lifted my dress over my head, leaving me in just my matching bra and panty set.

"What are you...?" My words fell short as soon as he picked me up and laid me down in the middle of the bed.

"Your turn." He smiled wickedly.

CHAPTER 23

Edward

Sierra just gave me the best blow job of my entire life. Sparks erupted wherever she touched me, she seemed nervous, almost like she didn't know what she was doing, but I never came so hard before. I practically choked the poor girl with my load and she just took it like a champ. Now, it was my turn. I could smell her arousal while her head bobbed up and down on my d**k, she was ready to play. We hadn't talked about having s*x yet, and I wouldn't push her on that. But that didn't mean I wouldn't try to eat her out like I was on a deserted island for weeks and she was a juicy steak.

Sierra wore a matching bra and panty set, which, from personal experience, meant she anticipated this to happen. Good girl. I trailed kisses up the inside of her leg, climbing my way up her perfect body. I stopped when I reached her lips, darting my tongue inside and taking everything she would give me. My fingers played with the waistband of her thong, breaking free from our kiss.

"Take it off." My breathless mate practically growled. Her eyes were pitch black, minus the occasional shimmer of silver from her wolf peaking through.

I sat back on my knees and slid her panties off her long legs. She immediately closed her legs back together, her face flushing red.

"Open up baby, I wanna see you." I coaxed her legs apart, giving me a full view of her dripping wet p***y. I could feel myself getting hard again. Adjusting my position, I laid between Sierra's legs, my arms coming around either side of her legs keeping them apart, pressing down gently on her pelvis to keep her in place.

"Is this okay?" I asked before slowly licking the full length of her slit. Her hips bucked beneath me.

"Yes!" She moaned.

Goddess what I would give to listen to her moaning my name all day long. I licked her again, slower this time, before I darted my tongue into her tight p***y, claiming what was mine. She grinded her pelvis against my face, always so responsive, seeking a quick release. Little did she know I was going to draw this out, I wanted her to beg for it. I removed my tongue and nipped at her, leaving a hickey or two in my wake. I found her clit and gave it some much needed attention, licking and sucking at it while I slowly slipped a finger into her tight hole, twisting it around, driving her wild.

"Edward!" She gasped when I added the second finger and spread her open, giving my tongue full access. My thumb went to her clit and began its slow assault. Sierra cried out in pleasure, taking

everything I gave her like a champ. I could feel her legs getting shaky from working overtime to keep her composure. My tongue mercilessly f****d her p***y, lapping up all of her sweet nectar, her body squirming beneath my touch. "Please!" She begged, trying to ride my face. I held her in place, determined to give her the best orgasm of her f*****g life. I pumped my fingers in and out of her tight hole, my tongue replacing my thumb on her clit, sucking hard on her tiny bundle of nerves. I gave her bud a quick spank, soothing it immediately after with my tongue. I could feel her p***y clamping down on my fingers, she was so close. Quickening my pace, I finally allowed her to find her release.

"Come for me." I commanded.

"Edward!" She screamed, her thighs clamped around my head, trembling through her orgasm, coming hard over my fingers. Slowly, I removed my fingers and gently licked her now overly sensitive folds, getting every last drop of my sweet mate that I could. "That was...wow." She heaved for air.

"The pleasure was all mine." I smirked and crashed my lips down onto hers, letting her taste her own arousal. "So sweet." I said before nipping at her neck. She closed her eyes, catching her breath, enjoying the high. We fell asleep shortly after, naked and sated.

Sierra

Two weeks have passed since Edward took me out on our date and things have only gone up from there, in more ways than one. I smirked to myself thinking about last night's shenanigans, and the night before that, and the one before that. Goddess, we can't seem to keep our hands to ourselves. We went as far as third base, so it's called, but I hadn't cashed in my V card just yet and Edward was good at not pressuring me into it. At this point, I wasn't necessarily opposed to it, he was my mate after all. If I was going to lose it to someone, it might as well be him, though I didn't tell Edward that. I wanted to wait until my cast was off, which should happen tomorrow.

Edward was gone for the better part of the day most days, he would always return around dinnertime though. That gave me plenty of time to practice my spell book. I don't have much to compare myself to, but I definitely felt like I had improved. I could feel the magic running through me. Adaline had not come to me since she gave me the spell book. I don't know if that was a good or bad thing, she was always so cryptic. I hoped that I was improving according to her standards. Maybe one day I will be able to protect myself and actually have a chance at a life with my mate. I didn't dwell on the thought very long though. I couldn't afford to get my hopes up.

"Sierra!" I heard my name being called from the house. Edward must have left work early.

"Over here!" I yelled from the lake where I had been floating on my back for the better part of an hour.

I swam closer to the dock, waiving towards the tiny figure that was my mate. His figure got bigger and bigger the closer he jogged to the dock. I swam to the end to meet him.

"What are you doing?" He asked, dumbfounded.

"Swimming, floating, basking in the sunlight." I smirked and pushed back off the dock. It wasn't especially hot outside, but I had been having hot flashes all week and finally caved.

"But your leg?"

"Is covered and feels fine. If anything, it's helping me float more." I laughed "Come join me." I half expected him to decline, but to my pleasant surprise, Edward started kicking off his shoes and stripping down to his boxers, a sight both me and my wolf appreciated. "Hurry up!" I encouraged. He gracefully dove in and disappeared under the water.

I broke out in a fit of squeals when I felt myself being lifted out of the water and dropped back in. When I came up, Edwards back was to me, I put my hand on his shoulder before he turned to face me.

"My Luna." He smiled and petted my cheek with his thumb. I took in a sharp breath. "What's wrong?" He asked.

"I-I think I have seen this before. Like some weird deja vu." I shook my head.

"It was a vision, remember the dream we had in the woods?" Sienna chimed in.

"You think so?" I asked, remembering back.

"Definitely. You read the spellbook, they talk all about that in the first chapter alone." Sienna snorted in annoyance.

"Why did you call me your Luna?" I asked Edward.

"You are my everything. And I have no Luna, you're it." He answered solemnly. "Now let's get you back to the house." He kissed my forehead before taking my hand and swimming us towards the house.

I guess I never thought that the kingdom was missing out on having a Luna, but apparently they were to some degree. It was surprising that King Edward never had to take a chosen mate after all these years. Packs would suffer without both an Alpha and a Luna. The fact that the king didn't have a chosen Luna by now was practically unheard of. I thought my father once told me that kings were governed by a counsel of ancient werewolves to make sure the kings stayed in line and played by the rules so the little guys like us wouldn't suffer from their reign.

"Are you hungry?" Edward broke my train of thought.

"I could eat." My stomach growled in agreement.

"Good, I hope you don't mind, I invited Jackson and Ella over for dinner. They should be here in half an hour." He said, holding the door open for me.

"Not at all, they are so nice. I would like to see them more often in all honesty. I won't have many friends once I leave; once I pay you back, of course," I answered. I saw Edward go still from the corner of my eye, but he didn't say anything. I hoped that meant he respected my decision to leave still. "Goddess, is it hot in here?" I fanned myself. I was still wearing my black bikini that Ella had picked out for me. Edward couldn't seem to peel his eyes away from my barley-covered wet body.

"No, I've even got the AC on." He said in a husky voice.

"How long until they get here?"

"Just enough time." He threw me over his shoulder and gave my ass a sharp swat, making my core clench in delight.

He took us to our bedroom and threw me down on the bed, Edward immediately stripping me and himself of what little clothes we had left. "Sixty-nine, lets go." He breathed heavily into my neck, working his way down to my pebbled n****s, pinching and sucking on them before he laid on the bed and I climbed on top of him. I took his already hard c**k in my mouth, savoring every inch while I played with his balls, while Edward spread my wet folds and plunged two fingers into me and used his tongue to play with my clit. It wasn't long before Edward was f*****g my mouth and I was riding his face, on the edge and ready to shatter.

"Knock knock, anyone home!" Jackson called from downstairs.

"In a minute!" I practically growled out. Where did that come from? Edward chuckled against my core, sending a delicious vibration through me. I moaned onto his d**k and in record time, we found our sweet release.

"We had better get ready," Edward said. I nodded in agreement and we quickly got dressed.

"I just need to brush my hair."

"Ill go greet them. Take your time."

I continued running my hairbrush through my wild-looking wet matted hair. I could hear Edward go down the stairs and some hushed conversation, undoubtedly regarding what we were just doing. I wish I could say I felt guilty about kinda being caught, but I really didn't care at the moment. I took my time going down the stairs, when suddenly my vision went blurry.

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"What a beautiful Luna she will be." A woman I didn't recognize commented.

"I didn't know he was seeing anyone." Another woman added.

"He could have done better," a snotty one said.

I looked around the massive gold and white ballroom filled with guests dressed in formal suites and massive ballgowns. In the center of the room was a man wearing a crown, a king undoubtedly. "I would like to introduce you to your new Luna." He said.

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"Woah." I said, my vision coming back. Dizziness came over me and I lost my footing, falling the rest of the way down the stairs.

"Sierra!" Edward yelled. I could hear Ella gasp in the background. I barely made it to the bottom before I was carefully lifted off the ground by my mate and Jackson.

"What happened?", "Are you okay?", "Should I call a doctor?"

The questions came flooding in. "I'm fine, I-I just lost my footing."

"Are you sure you are okay?" Ella asked.

"Did the King find a new mate?" I asked, dismissing her question and asking the question burning into my brain. This was not the first time I had a vision, according to Sienna, but it was the first time I had one while awake. From what Adaline's spellbook had said, visions weren't uncommon among witches. Most have them every now and then actually. Whether they came true or not was a different story. People change their minds and outside factors have influences as well, which could easily change the vision. I also was not a professional, so my visions were lacking in some areas.

"What did you just ask?" Ella chipped in, the room falling eerily quiet.

"The king, did he find a new mate? Is there a ball or event or something happening? A gold and white room?" I looked between the three of them, they were all exchanging nervous glances and, from the way their eyes glazed over, told me that they were linking one another. Ella huffed and rolled her eyes, heading back towards the kitchen with Jackson in tow.

"We don't discuss the Kings personal life." Edward answered me. "Where did you get such an idea?"

"I had a vision, I think."

Edward stared me down for a moment, his eyes said one thing, his face another. "Lets go eat. We can talk about why you are deciding to tell me now that you have visions later, when there is more privacy."

I suddenly felt like a child being reprimanded in school. That's not gonna fly long-term if our relationship does ever take flight, which I highly doubt. But for now, he was right, this was not the time or place.

We ate dinner in an uncomfortable silence, Ella seemed to keep throwing daggers Edwards' way. She was pissed at him about something. Whatever, not my business. If they chose to link one another instead of hashing it out in front of everyone, it wasn't my concern. I was the outsider after all. Always am.

"If you'll excuse me, I think I'm going to turn in early tonight." I said, leaving the table, my appetite gone. "Nice seeing you Ella, Jackson."

I tossed and turned in bed, hot, frustrated, and unable to sleep. I heard Ella and Jackson leave the house over an hour ago but Edward hasn't come up to bed yet. My skin was burning up even though I was lying on top of the covers, making it impossible for me to think. Maybe I should see a doctor. This didn't seem normal.

"We should go see mate." Sienna suggested. She sounded and felt just as fatigued as I was.

"No. He can come to us first. We are seeing the doctor tomorrow morning anyway. We can wait."

Half an hour passed before I started to cool down thanks to my ice shower. I fell asleep soon after and when I woke up, my mate was sleeping peacefully beside me. Maybe it was some weird hybrid thing. I'm not sure, but whatever it was, I never wanted to feel that way again.

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CHAPTER 24

Edward

It took me half the night before I reluctantly decided to go to bed. I didn't want to face Sierra. I had openly lied to her in the most obtuse way possible. She asked me a direct question, one that could have easily been my opening to tell her who I really was, and I blew it. I knew she was no longer a threat, she still had secrets, that I knew for sure. But she wasn't lying about being my mate. Ella was cursing me the entire dinner, her loyalty to her Luna, and rightfully so. I felt like absolute s**t. Not knowing how to face her, I waited for her to fall asleep before slipping into bed. This morning things were better, but I still felt guilty. I knew I had to tell her eventually. I just hoped she wouldn't run when she found out.

"Ready?" Sierra asked.

It was just about time to go to her appointment, actually it was about half an hour earlier than when I had told Dr White we would be there but Sierra was antsy. I don't blame her. I would go insane if I hadn't shifted in weeks. I don't know how she kept it together. Thankfully, I had booked the entire morning appointment slots, ensuring Sierra had plenty of undivided attention and as few onlookers as possible. One doctor, one nurse. That's it. The last thing I needed was for a pack member to see me with a woman and have gossip spread like wildfire.

"Yes, let's go." I helped her into my SUV, her mood lifting the closer we got to the hospital. Our conversation was equally light and cheery, distracting me from my sour mood.

"Wow, this place looks empty..." Sierra noted when we walked into the clinic attached to the hospital.

"I guess that's a good thing." I smiled at my beaming mate.

"Hopefully, we can get in and out. I'm dying to stretch my leg out."

"Claire?" A nurse called. I'm pretty sure she delivered me as a pup, or so my mother would tell me on our rare visits to the hospital. Judy was her name. She was a saint. And also under strict orders to not refer to me as her Alpha or King for the moment, same with Dr White.

"Yup. That's me." Sierra lied. Still not trusting many people I see.

"You two can follow me right this way." Judy escorted us down a long hallway to a massive exam room. It was reserved for the Alpha's family and fully stocked in case of an emergency, but Sierra didn't need to know that.

"Wow, this place is huge," she noted.

"Yes, they made sure it was fully stocked with, well, everything, in case of an emergency." Judy said. "Please have a seat, I have just a few standard questions for your new patient profile. It seems most of it was missing from your last visit." She said while typing on her laptop.

"Um...okay." Sierra answered hesitantly.

"It's okay." I reassured her.

"Do you have a primary care physician?" Judy began asking.

"No." Sierra answered, as I figured.

"When was your last physical?"

"Um...I was twelve maybe?" She blushed. Goddess, she hasn't received proper maintenance care in over half her life?

"Your last vaginal exam?"

"Never." Her face blushed even harder.

"Are you up to date on your vaccines?"

"Not since I was twelve." She shook her head. Werewolves didn't need many vaccines to begin with, given our rapid healing and immunity to most things. The major ones were for rabies and worms for our wolf counterpart. We didn't get those until after we shifted.

"Note to self, we kill the Alpha bastard who was supposed to see that she was being taken care of," Edmund chimed in.

"Agreed." I felt my temper rising.

"Any complaints?"

"I have been feeling very hot lately, it comes and goes though." She shrugged.

"You never said anything." I looked at her for an explanation.

"When was your last heat cycle?" Judy ignored me and continued her questions.

"Never." Sierra's attention went back to Judy.

Never? NEVER? How was that even possible? I guess that worked out in her favor. If she had been living by herself for so long, not going into heat would have helped her hide better. I wonder if she will be able to have pups? Did she even want pups? We never spoke of it. I wanted my mate no matter what, pups or not, but it did make choosing an heir more difficult when the time would come for me to step down as king.

"Okay, there is a disposable gown on the counter you can change into and the doctor will be in shortly." Judy said, taking her laptop and standing to leave.

"Thank you." I nodded to her.

"Yes Alpha", Judy linked me privately, then winked on her way out, shutting the door behind her.

"This is like a mini hospital inside of a hospital." Sierra said, hopping down from the table while looking around curiously. She grabbed the hospital gown and changed into it behind a privacy curtain on the other side of the room that surrounded a bed and TV. "Um. I know I'm new to all of this, but is this supposed to be wide open in the back?" She shuffled around the curtain, using both hands to try to keep her gown closed.

"Turn around." I chuckled. "There are ties in the back, but yes, it is supposed to be easily accessible." I said before tying her together.

"Hm. Maybe I should get one for home." Sierra said in a sultry voice.

I felt my d**k twitch at the thought. What I wouldn't give to bend her over and shove my c**k in her tight-

"Edward, Claire, how are we today?" Dr White entered with a swift knock, redirecting my less than pure thoughts.

I stepped away from my barley dressed mate, adjusting myself so my boner was less noticeable. I took a seat in the uncomfortable chair in the corner of the room while Sierra returned to the exam table.

"Good, ready to get this cast off." Sierra answered.

"I'll do a quick X-ray first to verify you're all healed up." He said, grabbing a portable x-ray machine from the corner of the room. "Any chance you could be pregnant?"

"No." Sierra snorted comically. I suppose I should take that as good news. She hasn't been with anyone else recently, even though it's at the expense of my blue balls.

It didn't take long for Dr White to do the x-ray and confirm that my mate was fully recovered. He removed her cast and tested her range of motion, which she passed each test with flying colors.

"It says here you haven't had any regular checkups in a while, and you are not up to date on your shots. With your permission I would like to change that."

"Um. Sure, I guess." Sierra agreed.

"I'll listen to your heartbeat and lungs first, deep breaths." Dr White said. He took his stethoscope to her chest, front and back, moving it to specific spots, seeming satisfied with the results. "Good. If you don't mind lying back, please." He palpated her stomach briefly and then helped her sit back up. He checked her eyes, ears, nose, and throat. He had her touch her toes and balance on each foot like he

would when we were younger pups. He wasn't missing a thing. Good. I appreciated him being through with his future Luna.

"Okay miss, if you wouldn't mind shifting, I'll check your wolf over." He said, moving to the open center of the room. There was enough room in each exam room for even a lycan to shift if it was ever needed. Although this wasn't how I imagined meeting my mate's wolf, Edmund and I were still very excited.

"I can't." She retorted, shaking her head.

"You can't? Since when?" I asked, dumbfounded.

"I have only ever shifted twice, and not by choice. Both were life or death scenarios and, I don't know, I guess my wolf just took over. But I haven't been able to since."

"Can you communicate with your wolf?" Dr White asked.

"Oh yeah, she can be really mouthy sometimes." She laughed, trying to break the concern that filled the room.

"Huh. That's a new one for me. I'll need to do some research." Dr White mumbled to himself. "It says here you have been feeling hot lately? But never had a heat cycle?" He mulled over her record on his computer.

"Yes. Its been on and off but this past week has been the worst, mostly at night."

"I would like to perform a vaginal exam as well as a sonogram to make sure everything is in order. Its highly unusual that a shewolf of your age hasn't had a heat cycle yet. Are you okay with that?"

"Um. Do I have to?" She asked, her face flaming red.

"No, you don't have to do anything. But as your doctor, I highly recommend that we get to the bottom of this."

"Will it hurt?" Her arms crossed over her stomach.

"It shouldn't. There might be some mild discomfort but nothing unbearable."

"O-okay." She agreed, sounding very unreassuring.

"You don't have to do this." I said, giving her another out.

"Its fine." She refused to look at me.

"Okay then, if you wouldn't mind lying back and putting your legs in the stirrups, I'll make this as quick and painless as I can." Dr White said, pulling a set of stirrups out of the exam table and turning on the exam light next to the table. He grabbed a portable internal sonogram device as well as some lube. It looked like a sad excuse for a dildo if you asked me. He quickly hooked it up to the monitor and turned on the screen, then squirted the lube onto the wand.

"Where the hell is that supposed to go?" Sierra's firm choice of words brought everything to a halt. Her legs were closed firmly together and her eyes were practically bugging out of her head.

"Its an internal sonogram, so it goes, internally." Dr White spoke carefully.

"Oh hell no, I'm good." Sierra crossed her legs, her face flushing red once again.

"Mate is upset." Edmund whined.

"And I don't know why."

"Dr White, could you please give my mate and I a moment alone?" I asked. He nodded and left the room like he was on fire.

"What's wrong?" I turned to Sierra once we were alone.

"Nothing, its nothing." She said in a small voice.

"Its obviously something. Sierra, I'm your mate. You can trust me. Did...something happen to you?" I carefully approached the situation, placing a hand on her arm and rubbing small circles into her skin. When mates touched it usually aided in soothing one another, I hoped I had made the right choice here.

"What? Oh, no. Nothing like that. I mean I've had a lot of s**t thrown my way but I have never been..." She trailed off shaking her head.

"Then what is it?"

"Its just...I don't want you to think I'm a freak." She played with her fingernails, her head hung in shame.

"Why on earth would I think that?"

"Why wouldn't you?" She laughed sarcastically, throwing her arms up in defeat.

"Sierra." I took her hands in mine. "Whatever it is, you can trust me. Freak or not, you are my mate and I love you."

"s**t. Did I just say that out loud?"

"Way to throw out the premature 'I love you' genius," Edmund said. I could practically feel him rolling his eyes at me.

Her cheeks turned a sweet shade of pink, a smile creeping up on her. "If you must know, I don't want to do it because...Because I'm still.."

"Your still what?" I continued the conversation, grateful that we didn't dwell on the premature 'I love you'.

"I'm still...I've never..." She huffed.

Is she trying to tell me what I think she is? "You've never what?" I pushed in disbelief.

"I've never been with anyone, and I didn't want my first time to be by a doctor's stupid machine."

"You're a virgin?" I asked for final clarification, still in disbelief.

She nodded. "I didn't want you to think something was wrong with me because I've never been with anyone."

It was as if the heavens opened up and a choir of angels started singing. "Are you kidding me?" I smiled bigger than I had in a long time.

"See! I told you you would think I was a freak!" She exclaimed, throwing her head into her hands.

"Sierra, I can't possibly begin to explain how overjoyed I am that you have never been with another man." I grabbed her hands and placed a kiss on the palm of each. "But why? Most wolves don't bother to wait."

"I guess I just only ever wanted my mate. I only ever wanted...you. And if I'm being completely honest, I was hoping we could...move forward, physically. Now that I have my cast off."

I stared at her for a moment, letting her words register in my brain before my lips crashed into hers, my hands cupping her face. She kissed me back with just as much fury as me. Our kiss was sloppy, needy, loaded with promise. I picked Sierra off the table, her legs instinctively wrapping around me. My hands kneaded her bare ass, her dripping core unknowingly grinding against me.

"Not here." Sierra said between kisses when she came up for air. "I don't want to do it here."

"Don't worry, baby, I'm just having an appetizer before the main course." I growled into her neck, right where my mark would go one day. Her heavenly moan made my c**k twitch in excitement, more than ready to step up to the plate. I tore the front of her paper gown open, pulling down on the cups of her bra, freeing her full, perky t**s. I took one in my mouth and grabbed the other with my free hand, pinching it just hard enough to make Sierra cry out in ecstasy.

A knock sounded at our door. "Everything okay in there?" A voice came a moment later.

"Fine, we'll be out in a moment, doctor." I said calmly and as composed as usual while still playing with Sierra's t**s. I snuck two fingers through her weeping core and slowly sank them into her tight little hole. Sierra did everything she could to keep quiet, squirming underneath my touch, practically biting my shoulder to keep her moans contained.

"I have some papers for you at the front deak. And I would like to see Claire back when she is ready for further testing. A few weeks maybe?"

"That will be fine. Thank you."

"Anytime." I heard him walk away.

I finger-fucked her until I felt her tighten around my thick digits and come all over them, her sated body clinging to mine. Slowly, I sat her back down and removed my fingers from her core and stuck one in my mouth. "So good," I hummed. "You try." I stuck my other finger out for her to lick clean. Sierra took it in her mouth and sucked hard, pulling it out with a pop, her eyes completely black, filled with lust and lit up with mischief. "You have thirty seconds to get dressed before I throw you over my shoulder and take you out of here. Dressed or not." I growled at her.

"Yes Sir." Sierra untangled herself from me and hopped off the table, letting her now completely torn paper gown fall to the floor, giving me a full view of her perfectly curvy figure. Her hips swayed back and forth, her t**s jiggling with each step, purposely taunting me.

Goddess give me strength to make it home without f*****g her completely senseless in public.

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CHAPTER 25

Seirra

I was shaking with anticipation or with nerves or both. I wasn't really sure anymore. I quickly dressed and we left the clinic, bee-lining it to the lake house.

"Are you sure you want to do this? It's okay if you are having second thoughts." Edward said from the driver's seat, taking a quick glance my way.

"I'm sure." I nodded. "Drive faster." I nearly growled.

"Yes, ma'am", Edward smirked and put the pedal to the metal.

I wasn't usually so bold or so bossy. I don't know what has come over me. I rolled down my window, the air feeling stifling. My skin was crawling, it felt like it was on fire. I needed to get out of these clothes. Edward thankfully got us home in half the time, seeming to be just as excited as I was about what was about to happen. The lake house was set far away from everything and everyone so I wasn't worried about what I was about to do. Kicking my shoes off first, I climbed out of my seat and straddled Edwards' lap, taking him by surprise. My lips crashed into his, savoring his taste and scent and the way his bludge felt between my aching core, only breaking for a moment so I could rip his shirt up over his head, while he took mine off just as aggressively.

Edward fumbled with the car door but managed to get it open, out toughts still fighting for dominance. He lifted us out of the car, his hands grabbing hold of my ass to keep me supported while I wrapped my arms and legs around him like a boa constrictor. He kicked the door shut and carried me to the house. Our kisses were raw, messy, primal, feral, goddess, they were just down right f*****g hot. I landed against the side of the house with a thud, Edwards body pressed firmly against mine to keep me from falling while he unlocked the house.

He set me down on the kitchen counter and unbuttoned my shorts, sliding them and my panties off of me. The cold countertop sent a delicious chill up my spine when my hot bare skin touched it. Edward rid himself of the remainder of his clothes while I unhooked my bra and peeled off my socks. Our clothes were unceremoniously thrown all around the kitchen. Good thing we lived alone.

Edward stepped back, taking a good look at my naked form. "So beautiful," he said. Scooping me up off the counter, he tossed me over his shoulder like a caveman, giving me a sharp swat on my ass, earning a squeal from me, and led us upstairs. I got a good look at his firm, toned rear end on the way up, the Goddess outdid herself with him. He gently set me back down on my feet at the foot of the bed. He kissed my forehead longingly before tilting my chin up so our eyes would meet.

"Are you sure you want to do this?" He asked again. I nodded, my nerves feeling jittery once again. "Tell me." He said, searching my eyes.

"Edward, I want you." I breathed heavily.

"How do you want me?" He pushed.

"I want you to...make love to me." I felt a blush creeping up on me.

His face broke out into a perfect smile. "You got it." He kissed me softly.

Goddess, I loved his sweet side, just as much as his aggressive side. His hand came to my chest and he pushed me back, guiding me to lay back onto our bed. He climbed on top of me, his body flush with mine, skin on skin. Edward supported most of his weight so I wasn't being crushed, which I was thankful for. We spent a few minutes kissing, slowing things down in anticipation of what was to come. He trailed a path of kisses down my neck, pausing at my marking spot to nip at it a little. My breathing was heavy, waiting for the main attraction.

"I'll go slow. Tell me if you need me to stop." He spoke gently, continuing south with his kisses.

"Mhm." I hummed, my words running dry.

He sat back on his knees and ran his hard c**k through the outside of my dripping p***y. Goddess, it was f*****g huge. How the hell was that going to fit?! He adjusted my legs, opening them up wider to him.

"Ready?" He asked.

"Yeah" I said, barely audible.

He guided himself in, his tip slowly penetrating me. My fingertips dug into his forearms, nearly drawing blood. I slammed my eyes shut and winced a few times, my body protesting at the large foreign object stretching me. I had him stop once or twice so I could catch my breath, the feeling overwhelming. Edward whispered sweet nothings to me and gave me soft kisses to try to distract me

from the pain. When he was fully sheathed inside of me, he stopped and let me fully acclimate to his massive size. I could feel my core clenching around him. But as the pain began to subside, my body craved his friction.

"Okay" I said, opening my watery eyes, nodding for him to continue.

He moved slowly at first, pulling almost all the way out and then back in, out and in. When I started to feel more comfortable and confident, I wrapped my legs around his waist, encouraging him to go deeper and faster. His eyes never left mine, it felt as if we were peering into each others souls. I even caught a glimmer of silver in his eyes, his wolf undoubtedly connected with mine.

His pace increased, our bare skin slapping against one another. He broke our eye contact, bringing his mouth to my breast and sucking on my n****e before he hiked my leg up under his arm, going even deeper than before. I could feel something starting to build inside of me, my body clenching around Edwards d**k even harder than before. It felt as if he was getting bigger too. I started moaning unintelligibly, coming to my peak.

"Dont stop!" I begged.

He pounded into me even harder until I finally let go and shattered beneath him. He sucked hard on my neck, lengthening my orgasm and leaving a hickey no doubt. It was only a few pumps later that I felt Edward go still, his hot seed spilling inside of me. He collapsed on top of me, our naked bodies tangled together.

"That was...the best sex...I've ever had." Edward said, catching his breath from his own orgasm.

I laughed but instantly regretted it, my sensitive parts clenching up on him, causing an uncomfortable feeling. "Ah" I winced.

Edward had a devilish smile playing on his lips. His lips captured mine while his tongue invaded my mouth. I could feel his d**k getting hard in me again. I guess that's wolf's stamina for you. His hips started to toy with me, his c**k moving in circles, tormenting me.

"Again?" He asked while still moving his hips and now massaging my pebbled n*****s.

"Mmm, yessss" I moaned. A familiar fire burning within me. "But this time..." I flipped our positions so I was riding on top of him. "I wanna be on top."

A glint passed through Edwards' eyes. I wasn't sure if he loved the idea or wanted to f**k me into submission, or both. He helped me keep my balance, directing me to place my hands on his chest while he steadied my hips, guiding me up and down his length. His mouth came up and latched onto my n****e and I quickened my pace, ignoring the sensitive feeling I had deep inside from the new position. He smacked my ass a few times, making me clench and moan even harder than before. I could tell we were both getting close. Edward took the reigns back and slammed into me from beneath while bringing my hips down hard on him. My head fell back in ecstasy, my t**s jiggling, our skin slapping together once again.

"Edward!" I screamed his name, practically twitching from the orgasm he gave me.

He roared through his own, filling me to the hilt again. I could feel our mixed arousal dripping out of me and down my thighs. He kissed me again and gently pulled out of me, swallowing my painful wince. Our room smelled like him and me and s*x and...blood? s**t, Ella warned me about this. Quickly, I dismounted Edward and to my horror I saw red.

"Goddess, I'm so sorry!" I apologized frantically.

"For what? You just gave me the best s*x of my entire life. You have nothing to be sorry for." He sat up, looking at me confused.

"For the...mess." I blushed.

"Sierra, please do not apologize. This gives me so much joy, knowing you saved yourself. I'm not a sadist, but I do love knowing I'm the one, the only one, who did this." He said, pointing to his bloodied d**k.

"Yeah?"

"Absolutely." He scooped me into his arms. "Why don't we go get cleaned up and then find some food?"

I nodded and he carried me to the bathroom. I didn't realize how spent I was until he set me on my feet and my legs trembled. I guess that puts a new meaning to being 'weak in the knees'. He turned on the hot water and let the bathroom fill up with steam, then guided me in, following closely behind. Our shower was less than productive, having spent most of the time groping each other,

inevitably leading to shower s*x. We eventually got cleaned up. Edward washed my body and I washed his, then we dried off and headed back to the master bedroom in search of clothes.

"What would you like for dinner? We could order in if you'd like?" He asked, rummaging through his side of the dresser.

"I'm not exactly hungry for food." I said, watching his chiseled form flex while he dressed. He looked my way and I let my towel drop to the floor, exposing myself to him, ready to go again. Goddess better have given him lots of stamina.

Edward

I sat in my office reading through another useless report three days later. We had been screwing each other for three f*****g days. I don't think we stopped to eat, nor did we get a full night's sleep. Goddess, it was incredible, she was incredible. I lost count of the number of places Sierra and I had s*x. We were worse than bunnies. The girl was insatiable. I'm pretty sure she tapped me dry. Part of me wanted to hire a cleaning service because if anyone were to bring a blue light to the lake house, it would light up like a Christmas tree. But the other part loved knowing what we did and wanted everyone to know she was mine. My wolf wanted to mark her so badly but I didn't want to push it. I knew she didn't want to, not because she didn't want me, but because she wanted to protect me. A sweet but unnecessary notion. I had to tell her who I was and fast. But how the hell was I going to do that?

My mind drifted while I read through report after report, thinking about the last three days we had together. Sierra had given herself over to me, almost completely, body, mind, and spirit. My wolf was head over heels for her just as much as I was, if not more. There was one moment that kept playing in my head though.

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"What are your dreams?" I moved a stray lock of hair out of her face, while we laid facing one another on the bed.

"My dreams?" Her face scrunched up.

"What do you want out of life?"

"I haven't thought about it in years." She said, lost in thought.

"Think about it now. In a perfect world, what would you want your life to be like?"

"Hmm...I would love to live in a big old building with lots of rooms, filled with our children, of course. I would want you, my mate, by my side. Maybe I would take up knitting or gardening or some other hobby just for the enjoyment of it because I could, because I felt safe enough to do so. I would continue to explore my abilities as a hybrid. And we would all live happily ever after." She said dreamily.

"I'll make sure that dream becomes a reality, you have my word." I kissed her forehead.

She looked at me sadly but only for a moment before she climbed on top of me and rode me into the night.

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I would find whoever was trying to kill her and put an end to them. Then I would find who killed Hope and why. Once I knew I could keep her safe, she could have the world.

"Brother, Laurne is here to meet with you." Jackson linked me.

"Thank you, send her up."

A few minutes later, Lauren Cook, Ella's younger sister, came into my office. She seemed uneasy, understandably so, I did summon her out of the blue with no explanation. Not something I normally do unless someone is in deep s**t. I had William check her records and she was as clean as a whistle and perfect for what I needed.

"Lauren, please come in, have a seat." I ushered her into my office.

"King Edward." She bowed, keeping her eyes cast down and neck barred as a sign of respect.

"Thank you for coming over so quickly. I had something important that I wished to discuss with you." I sat at my desk, which was messier than usual.

"Y-yes your majesty." She shuddered in fear, sitting uncomfortably across from me.

"There is nothing to be afraid of. I was hoping you could help me. You still own and operate your father's bakery, correct?"

"Its all mine now actually. My father retired and I bought out my siblings." She smiled proudly.

"Perfect. What would you say about having an extra set of hands on board?"

"It would be fantastic if I could find anyone who wanted to work. I can't pay top dollar like other bigger companies. And at the moment, it's just me and Nina filling all of the orders. We have had to turn away business because of the lack of help."

"I have someone, someone very important to me who is looking for a job. She is a fantastic cook, she seems to enjoy it as well and I think it would be a perfect fit."

"Oh? Who is this woman, someone I know?" She lit up.

"Her name is Sierra. She is not from around here and we are trying to keep her under the radar for the moment. If she were to come on board she may choose to go by another name, which for now is fine. She does not know I am her king and that needs to stay that way for now. If anyone comes asking for her, you tell me immediately and anything you discuss with her is to be kept between you, her, me and the floorboards, got it?"

"Yes, King Edward, of course," she said seriously.

"Perfect. Today is what, Wednesday? Is Monday too soon for her to start?" I asked.

"No, that would be wonderful!"

"Good. I'll have her there at nine. That should be all for now." I excused her.

She got up to leave, stopping briefly in the doorway. "If its not too bold, may I ask about your relationship to her?" She said with a knowing look.

"Have a nice day Lauren." I smiled, not directly giving her an answer.

I got back to my paperwork, having finished most everything on my never-ending list. Today turned out to be a great day. I was lost in thought when I heard the elevator ding. Odd, the only person who has a key is Jackson and I wasn't expecting him. He normally doesn't come unannounced since the time he caught me and a she wolf in the act.

"Hey Alpha." A sultry voice said from my doorway.

Heidi. s**t. I had forgotten about her. She was a semi-regular lay of mine up until meeting Sierra. I hadn't even given her a thought since the last time we hooked up. Well, I guess now is as good a time as any.

"Heidi, I wasn't expecting you, but I'm glad you are here. I need to discuss something with you." I opened the door all the way for her to come in.

She shamelessly strutted inside wearing a sharp looking pair of black high heels and a black trench coat. She sat on my desk and crossed her legs and arms, giving me a pouty look.

"You haven't called me in weeks, and now I see Lauren Cook of all people leaving?!" She pouted annoyingly. Ah, that must have been how she got in. She was waiting by the elevator.

"Yes, about that. We can't see one another any more." I stood far enough away from her dangerous grasp. She might seem innocent on the outside, but inside she is a treacherous snake looking for its next victim. I now wish I had listened to Jackson and never started anything with her to begin with.

"Edward, you cant be serious." Her attitude immediately changed. There it is.

"Thats Alpha or King Edward to you from now on. I am serious. And it is time for you to leave." I shut her down.

She sat at my desk, her mouth hanging wide open in shock, though she recovered quickly. "I think you're just forgetting what we had together." She stood up and let her long black trenchcoat fall to the ground, revealing her in nothing but silver star n****e covers and a matching silver thong.

"GET OUT!" I roared. Edmund even came forward, our combined alpha voice shaking the light fixtures.

Heidi left in a hurry, thank Goddess. I can check that off my list now too. I looked at my watch and it was nearly five. I packed up my desk and headed out to go see my beautiful mate, excited to tell her she had a new job. I knew she was adamant about finding a job and I wasn't stupid enough to try to stop her, but I could try to control the situation. She would be working in the back of a small building with two other workers with clean records on the edge of town, a twenty minute walk at best, doing something she already seemed to like to do. Hopefully, she won't be offended by my helping hand in the matter. I didn't care if she worked or not, I just wanted her to be safe and happy. I guess I'll find out soon.

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CHAPTER 26

Sierra

It was so nice being able to practice my magic without a cast now. There were a few spells I was hesitant about trying up until this point because they wanted me to specifically be sitting cross-legged. After only a few weeks of practice, I was able to move rocks and other small objects, fully conceal myself for longer periods of time, heal myself, and manipulate water. Part of me hoped Adaline would show up soon so I could pick her brain for more information. I still didn't know what kind of a witch I was. I knew animals weren't too fond of me, so I wasn't like my mother in that aspect.

I flipped through the old book, trying to decide what to try next that was within my realm of practice. I found one that caught my interest. It was different from anything else I had tried. It was listed under the weapons section of the book. The spell mentioned a maddive burst of power that would take down one's enemies. It seemed similar to what I had done all those years ago to Brandon and his crew at the bar. It came with a warning, several actually, which I chose to dismiss in my excitement to try it.

"Well, here goes nothing..." I said to no one.

"Goddess help us." My wolf chimed in.

A massive burst of energy and light flooded out of me, throwing me back onto the grass. The last thing I remember was the forest spinning around me.

"What were you thinking?" Adaline said, crouched down next to me, looking both worried and annoyed. "You must never use that spell again, not until the right time!"

"Sierra?! Sierra!?" A frantic voice called in the distance.

I fluttered my eyes, a splitting headache taking over me. How long had I been out for? I tried to sit up but soon regretted it, feeling like a ton of bricks were on top of me. All my muscles ached as if I had just run a marathon.

"Sierra!"

"Where are you?"

Two more voices called. I could hear the footsteps getting closer.

"Sienna? What happened?" I tried to ask my wolf, but got nothing in response, it was as if she was completely gone.

"There!" Someone called.

"Get away from her!" I could hear my mate growl.

A multitude of footsteps came running my way. I cracked my eyes open long enough to see my mate drop to his knees and come to a skidding stop next to me. He gently lifted the upper half of my body, frantically checking me over. A slew of questions were being thrown my way by my mate, Ella, and Jackson, who weren't far behind him.

"What happened?"

"Are you okay?"

"Did she do this to you?"

I scrunched my face together, the noise overwhelming my overly sensitive senses. "I'm okay." I managed to muster out. Everyone grew silent.

"Your mate was practicing some dangerous magic." Adaline spoke up, grabbing the spellbook and closing it.

"Who the hell are you?" Jackson snipped. Edwards' grasp on me tightened.

"Everyone, this is Adaline, she is my teacher, kinda." I said, holding my head and trying to sit up. Edward helped me, his expression unreadable. All eyes were on me.

"Why the hell are you associating with a witch, Sierra?!" Edward finally broke the silence, his venomous tone making me jump.

"Because I am one Edward!" I shot back. "I'm a hybrid, remember?!"

"You have no reason to fear me dog, I am not the enemy," Adaline said.

"And why should I believe a thing you say?" He shot back.

"Because the enemy of my enemy is my friend." She said cryptically. "Sierra is in great danger, she needs to practice her magic if any of us stand a chance at surviving."

"What does that mean?" Ella spoke up, worry in her voice.

"There is a common enemy looking to destroy all that we know. I have foreseen it. Past, present, future. She is the only chance we have of living in peace, together as one."

"Wow, I must have hit my head really hard. There is no way I'm that important." I laughed.

"You might wish to encourage her training, or she will end up just like your former Luna." She said looking directly at Edward. "Sierra, I will see you again soon." with a wave of her hand, a portal opened up in front of her and she stepped inside, both her and the portal disappearing immediately after.

I looked around, my vision getting better by the minute. I laid in the middle of the clearing, the surrounding grass burnt in a nearly perfect circle, everything within it completely obliterated. What did I do?

"Lets go." Edward said in a clipped tone, picking me up and heading towards the direction of the house.

"Where are we going?" I asked when he changed direction and started heading for the car.

"First, I'm having Dr White check you over to make sure your little stunt didn't do permanent damage. Then me and you are gonna have a long conversation." He said, staring forward.

"Is that supposed to intimidate me?" I shot back, not caring for his tone. He shot me a look back and I held his glare.

Jackson and Ella joined us in the SUV and we all sat in silence on the drive-over. Edward immediately took me back to the same giant exam room that I was in before and slammed the door behind me, leaving me alone. It wasn't long after that Dr White came in and took my vitals, giving me a clean bill of health, minus not being able to talk to my wolf or shift, that is. Edward had told him in passing that I was a hybrid, which Dr White said at least helped him narrow his search for answers. He took some blood from me and said he would run it off the books and see if anything popped up, good or bad. After our visit, I left the way I had come in, but stopped short when I heard yelling from behind a supply closet door.

"You don't think that it would have been helpful to tell me she was studying under a witch?!" Edward yelled.

"I-I'm sorry, I promised her I wouldn't say-" Ella's shaky voice started to apologize.

"Save it, you've done enough!"

"Go easy on her man," Jackson said, sternly defending his mate. "How were we supposed to know she would nearly blow herself up?"

"And you! Care to explain how a witch has been coming and going in our own f*****g territory?! Where the f**k were the patrols?!"

"Edward!" I interjected, storming into the room. He stared me down, fire in his eyes.

"Need I remind you, Brother, I'm not the king. And everything is ultimately his responsibility," Jackson shot back, ignoring my interjection. "Lets go Ella." He grabbed his mate's hand and then quickly left the supply closet where this pow-wow was happening.

I could feel anger boiling in our mate bond, though I'm not sure if it was more from me or him.

"How dare you speak to Ella and Jackson like that!" I started. "My actions were my own, Edward, mine!" I pointed to myself.

"You're right. They were. Why the hell didn't you tell me about any of it?! How long have you been sneaking off to meet strangers in the woods to wield magic?! Do you realize the kind of danger you could be in!? You are lucky you're not dead!" He yelled back.

"I'm learning to protect myself! I know the dangers out there Edward! I'm tired of running, I'm tired of living in fear and there is nothing you can say or do to stop me! You heard Adaline, something big is coming!"

"Oh, you are so quick to trust a witch, but not your own mate! I told you I could protect you!" His arms flared up.

"You don't know a thing about those who are after me! You don't know who they are, where they come from, or how to stop them! So please, tell me how you plan on keeping me safe?!"

The room grew quiet except for our heavy breathing.

"That's what I thought." I said, my shoulders dropping. I turned to leave. I needed some fresh air.

"Where are you going?" He asked above a whisper, something in him sounding broken.

"I don't know, I need some air. I'll catch you later." I left the hospital and broke out into a sprint hoping the jittery feeling from my adrenaline rushing through my veins would wear off shortly.

Unknown POV

I have waited years for this moment. I didn't think it would ever come true. I finally found her. If those idiots had been more prepared, they would never have lost her in the first place, nevermind a

second time after she killed Dr. Andres. What a shock that was. She had grown remarkably stronger from the description Brandon had given me all those years ago. It was impressive, really. No matter. Now that I have found her, I will move forward with my plan. Nothing would get in my way. I don't care if it took me years, I would have her blood.

"Sierra?! Sierra!?" A frantic voice called. I hid myself in the shadows, watching from a distance. A witch and three lycians came to her aid. I guess they all felt the burst of power too. I watched everything play out. The witch I didn't recognize warned her of danger coming. Although I was hidden, she looked my way and was glaring at me, like she knew I was there, but didn't let on to anyone else. b***h. She must be pretty powerful herself if she could see through my cloaking spell. I would need to get rid of her before she helped Sierra become too powerful.

I took a better look at the lycans at her side once the witch was gone. I recognized him. The Northern King, King Edward. He held Sierra close to him like they were lovers. But as far as I knew, there was no announcement of a new luna. A secret lover perhaps? He is smart by trying to keep her hidden. She was a prize to be had. The doctor would be thrilled when he got his hands on her.

I followed them to a quaint little lake house. That must be where he is hiding her. How perfect. They got into the vehicle parked outside and took off. I followed closely behind, careful not to be seen. They headed to the hospital, probably making sure Sierra is okay. I would need to get one of my men in there pronto. Her medical records could prove to be useful. What was most shocking was seeing her leaving the hospital by herself, obviously pissed off. They were making this far too easy. No matter. Now was not the time. If she was as powerful as I expected her to be, we would need more time to prepare ourselves. I was in this for the long run.

Sierra POV

I left the hospital in a fury, ready for a fight. Even though my body felt weak from the blast earlier, not to mention the fight Edward and I just had. I was spent. I took a sharp left turn and made my way in that direction for some time until I came across the palace. It was massive, built of stone and surrounded by the most beautiful pristine gardens I have ever seen. There was a perimeter gate around the entire property made of black rod iron. It was stunning to look at, but also intimidating.

"Something I can help you with dear?" A sweet voice asked from behind me, making me jump.

"Oh, no, I'm just looking. I went on a walk and ended up here. I have never seen the palace up close before." I turned to her.

"Oh, you should see the inside, it's even more beautiful. I'm Anita, by the way, and you are?"

"Oh, I'm Claire. Nice to meet you."

"Would you like to come inside, Claire? I'm sure the King wouldn't mind."

"Oh, no thank you. Maybe some other time." I turned back to the palace. "But if you don't mind me asking, is there a gold and white room in the palace? And did the King find a new luna?"

"My oh my, what a bold question to ask." She laughed. "There is a gold and white room, several actually. The thrown room for one, there is also a banquet room that is similar in design, and a few guest rooms. As for a new Luna, I cant say, but I do think the king is preoccupied with someone. But you didn't hear it from me." She winked. "I must be getting to work now, lots of meals to make for some very hungry warriors. Good day." She smiled and headed towards the gates.

Sienna was right, it had to have been another vision. I wish I could talk to her right now. I missed her sarcastic and chastising banter we shared. I needed a friend to talk to right about now. I continued on my walk for another hour before heading home. The lights were on inside, someone was home.

I shuffled up the steps, reluctant to go inside and face Edward again. I didn't want another fight. I stopped at the back door and took in a deep breath, exhaling slowly.

"Hey" His voice made me jump. He sat in the shadows on the deck with a bottle of whiskey. He took a swig straight out of the half-empty bottle. He looked like s**t.

"Hey" I answered back carefully.

"Can we talk?"